
Helping
Each Other
Written by Greg Pyers

Helping Each Other

For teachers' inspection ONLY

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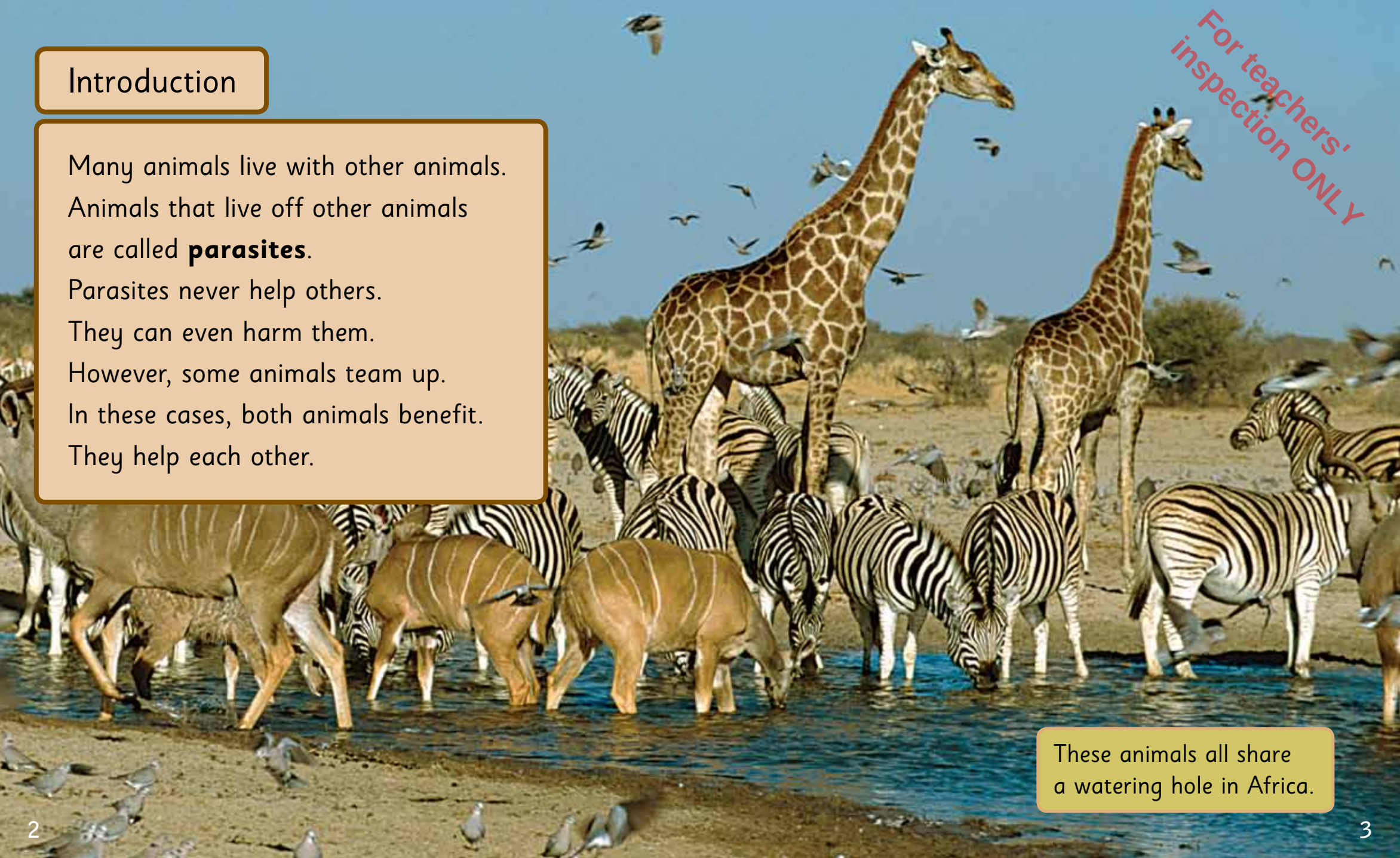
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Introduction

Many animals live with other animals.
Animals that live off other animals
are called **parasites**.
Parasites never help others.
They can even harm them.
However, some animals team up.
In these cases, both animals benefit.
They help each other.



These animals all share
a watering hole in Africa.

Oxpeckers

Oxpeckers are birds.
Guess how they get their name.
There are tiny animals called **ticks**.
Ticks live on large animals.
They are parasites.
The birds peck to get the ticks.
This helps the large animals.
The birds also get a free meal.
Sometimes, the ticks live on oxen.
This is how the oxpeckers
get their name.



Oxpeckers on
the back of an ox



This tiny
tick lives on
oxen's skin.

The ox will even let a
bird pick at its mouth.

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Honey Guides

Honey guides are also little birds.
How do they get their name?
They guide animals called honey badgers to beehives.
The badgers break the hives open to eat the honey.
Then, the birds eat the honeycomb wax.
They also eat the bee larvae.
Without the bird, the badger could not find the honey.
Without the badger, the bird could not open the hive.
They need each other.



The honey badger is strong enough to break open a hive.



The white spots in the honeycomb are the bee larvae that the birds eat.



This honey guide has taken a piece of honeycomb from a hive.

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