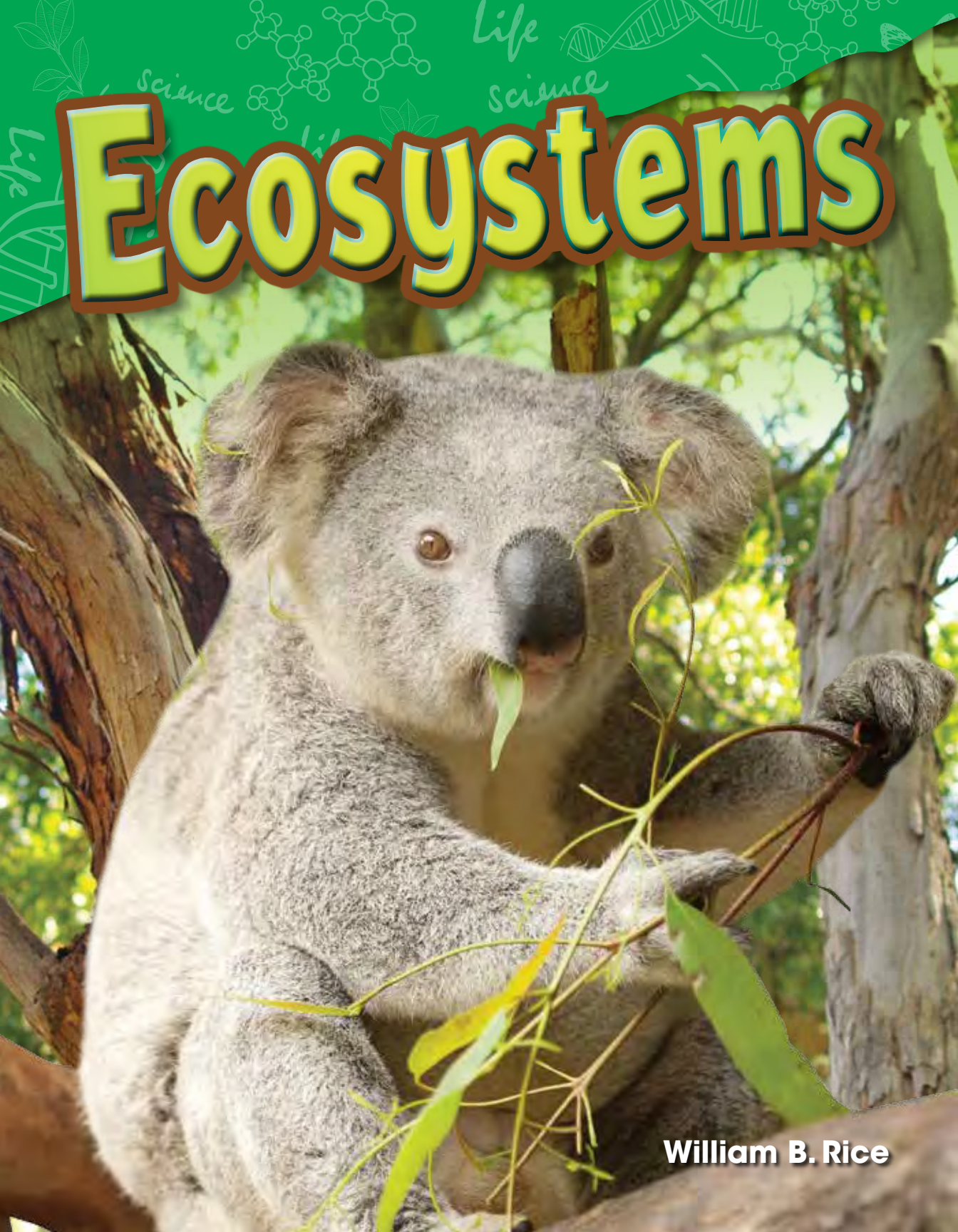
Ecosystems



William B. Rice

For teachers' Inspection ONLY

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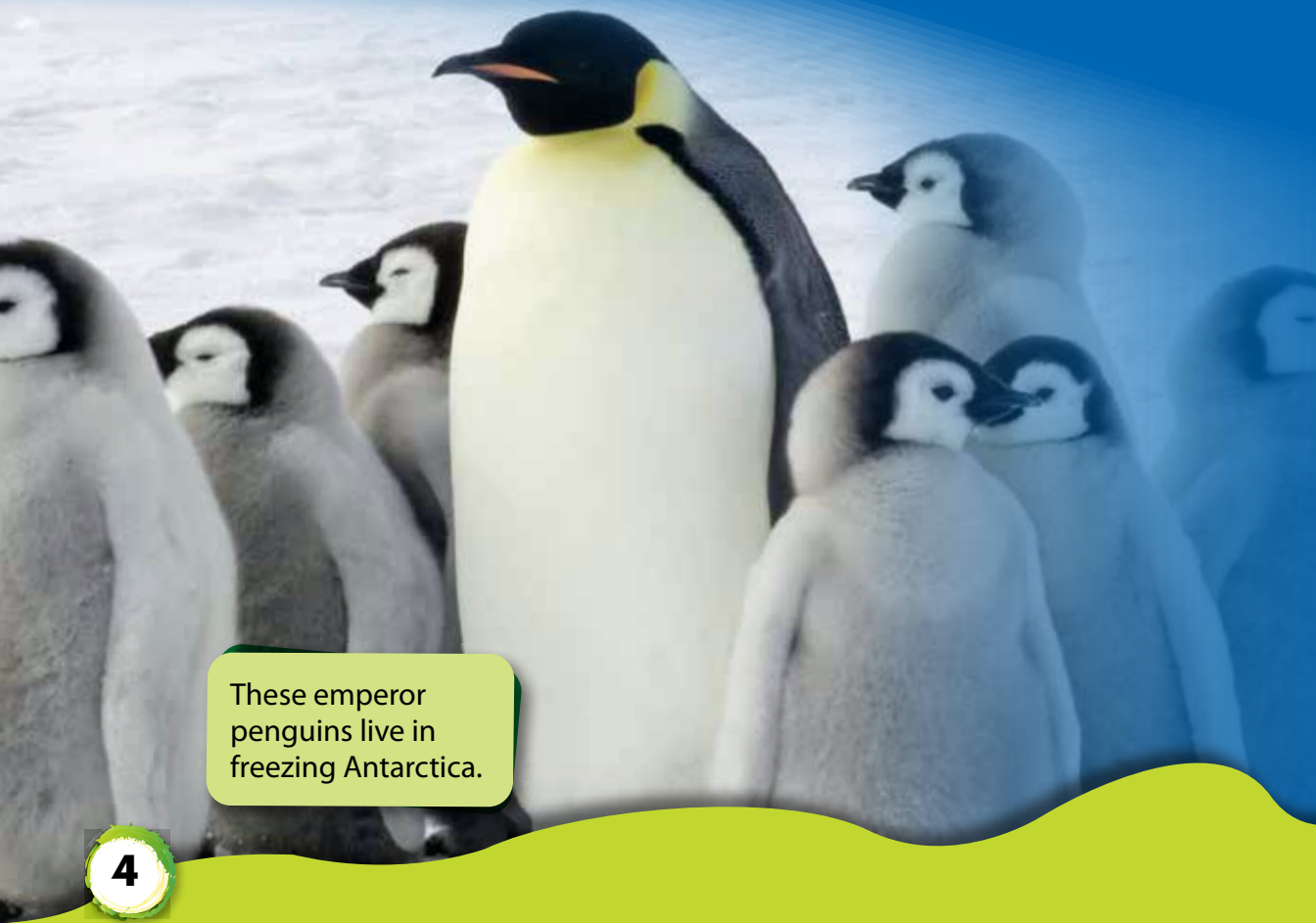
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Earth: The Life Planet

People have been all over Earth. They have been in every type of **condition**. They have seen every type of land. They have been in fierce heat. They have been in raging storms. They have seen land that is soggy. They have seen land that is bone dry.



These emperor penguins live in freezing Antarctica.

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Every place they go, people find one thing: life. Earth is filled with life. In fact, it is the only planet we know that has life on it.



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People study Earth and all it holds. We study the land, water, and air. We have learned plants and animals are alive. We know they use both living and nonliving things to survive.

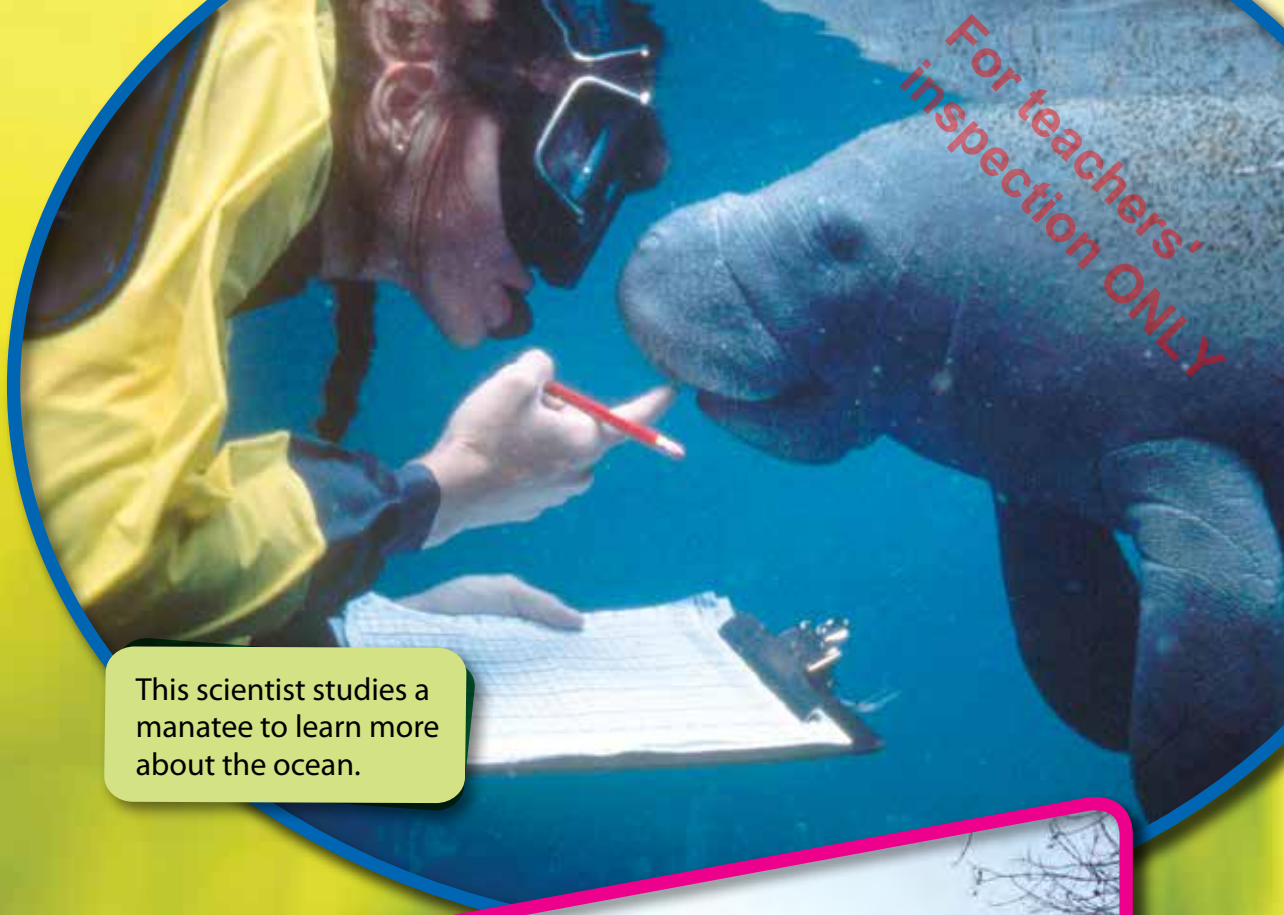
Models help us see how things work. One kind of model is a **hierarchy** (HAHY-uh-rahr-kee). It ranks groups of things together. In nature, it ranks from smallest to largest.



Nonliving Helpers

Living things use nonliving things such as soil, water, air, and sunlight to survive.

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This scientist studies a manatee to learn more about the ocean.



This scientist tests water to see how clean it is.

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What groups are in the hierarchy of life? An **organism** is a single living thing. It is part of a population. That is a group of other things like itself. A population is part of a community. That is all the populations in an area. Communities and nonliving things in an area make an **ecosystem** (EE-koh-sis-tuhm).



Organisms

Every living thing is an organism. Oak trees, ravens, spiders, raspberry bushes, mountain lions, and humans are all organisms.

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ecosystem



community



population



organism

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Let's Do Science!

How can you change the balance of something? See for yourself!

What to Get

- ❍ coins
- ❍ masking tape
- ❍ marker
- ❍ paper clips
- ❍ small rocks
- ❍ yardstick or ruler

