Environment

A World of Change

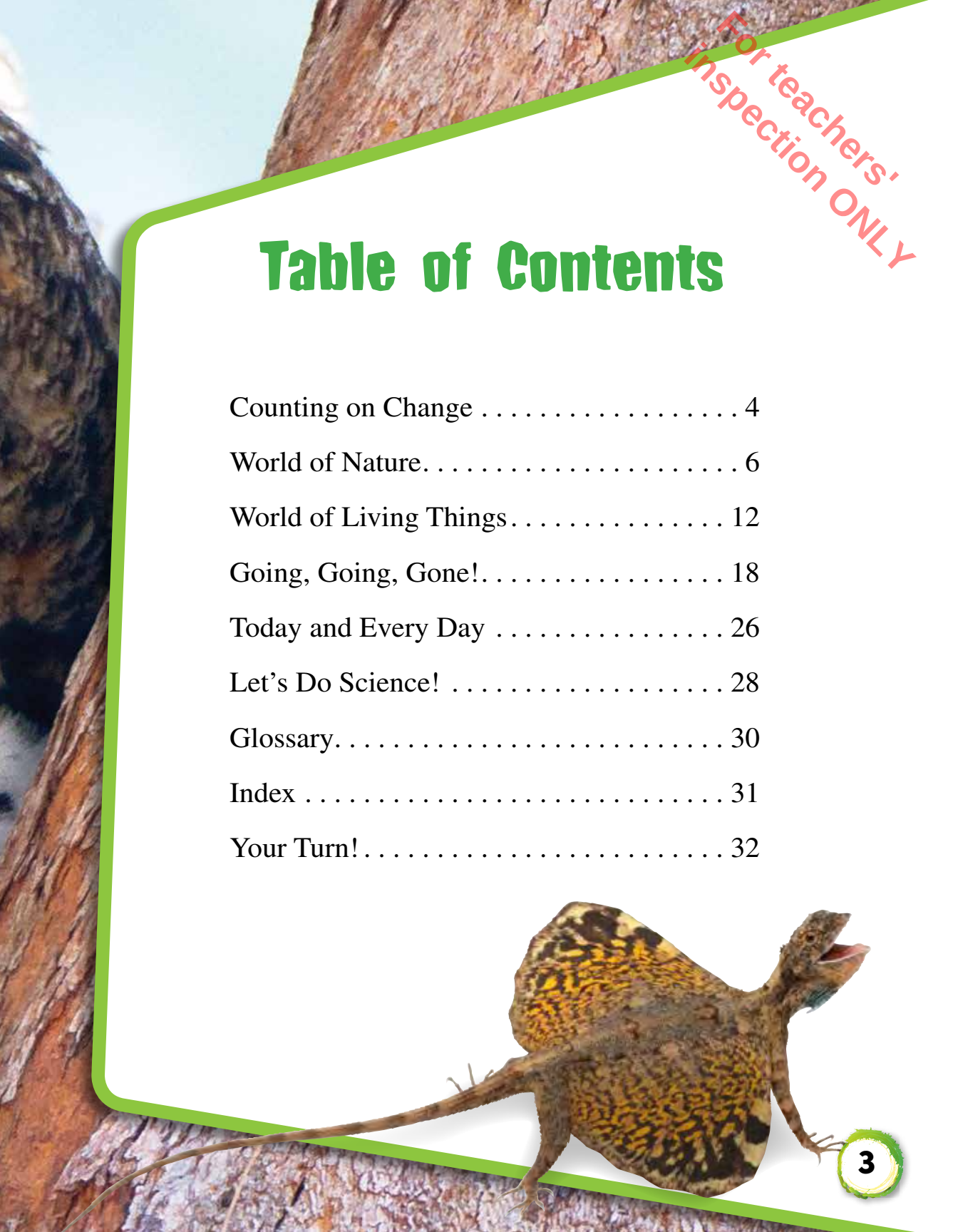


Dona Herweck Rice

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Table of Contents

Counting on Change 4
World of Nature. 6
World of Living Things. 12
Going, Going, Gone!. 18
Today and Every Day 26
Let's Do Science! 28
Glossary. 30
Index 31
Your Turn! 32



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Counting on Change

Some people say that the only thing that stays the same is change.

In this world, change is something we can count on. What is here today may be gone tomorrow. Or if it is not gone, it may not be the same. Day becomes night. Seeds become plants. Food becomes waste. And you grow up and become an adult!

Yes, you can count on it. Change is here to stay!



Night turns into day.

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Kids grow up and become adults.

Seeds grow into plants.

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World of Nature

Let's start with the big world around us. Our land, water, and air seem pretty set as they are. It is hard to imagine them changing. But they do.



Water changes the land.

Water Cycle

The water in the water cycle is everywhere—on, below, and above Earth.

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Water

Water is part of a cycle that is constantly changing. Water in its liquid form heats up and becomes a gas. The gas rises into the air. It cools and comes back to Earth as rain and snow. Or it freezes and becomes ice. **Temperature** changes water's form. It changes and changes some more. Who knows? The water you swim in today may partly be made of the water you bathed in last year!



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Rocks

Rocks seem pretty solid, don't they? It's hard to imagine them changing. But they do, of course. They break down, and they come together.

Rocks can be broken down, bit by bit. It happens through **weathering**. That is the process by which wind and water break away at rocks. They become **sediment**. These are rock bits and pieces, such as gravel, sand, and dust. When wind or water moves the sediment, it is called **erosion**.

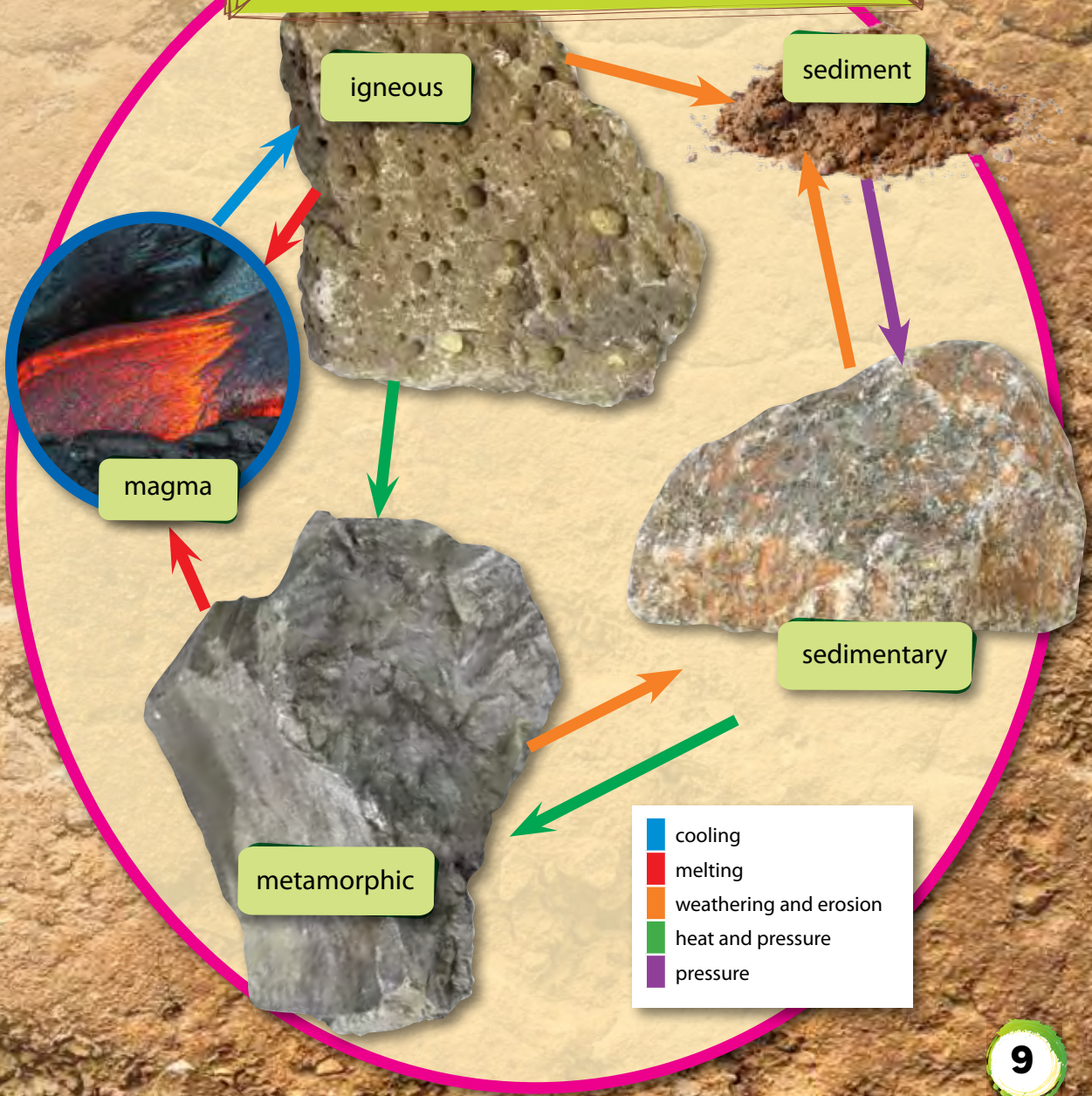
Heat and pressure also can change rocks. Some rocks melt into magma when heated. Some change from one type of rock into another. Sediments also can be pressed into new rocks.



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Rock Types

There are three types of rock: *igneous*, *metamorphic*, and *sedimentary*. Rocks can change from one type to another through the rock cycle. The rock cycle is shown in the chart below.



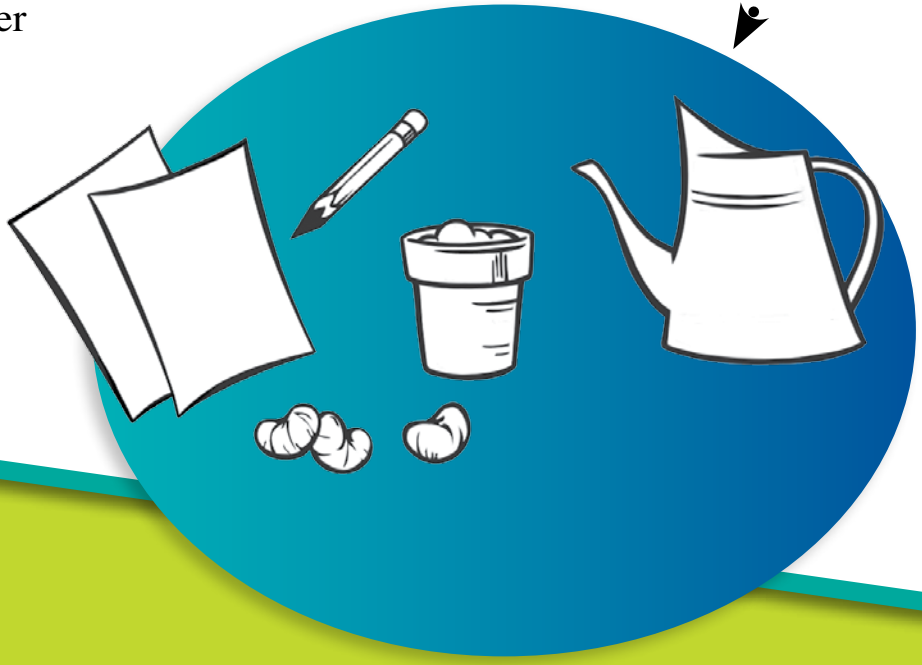
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Let's Do Science!

How do living things change? See for yourself!

What to Get

- ❍ fast-growing seeds, such as lima beans
- ❍ paper and pencil
- ❍ pot with potting soil
- ❍ water



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What to Do

1. Plant a few seeds in the soil, and add water.



2. Put the pot in a sunny place.



3. Observe the pot each day at the same time, and add some water as needed. Draw what you see.



4. Keep observing and drawing daily. What changes do you notice?

