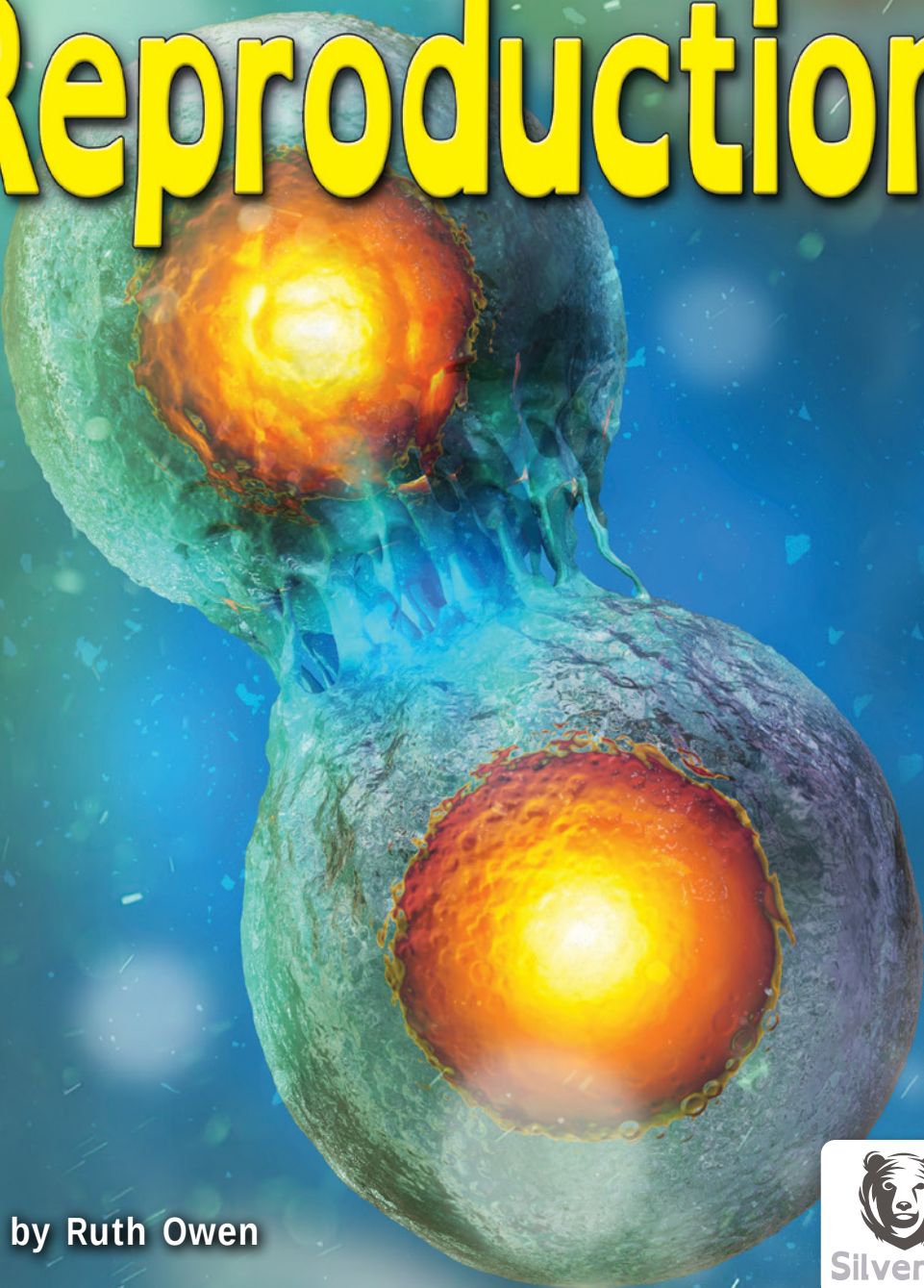


BIOLOGY BASICS Need to Know

Reproduction



by Ruth Owen



SilverTip

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A New Season

In spring, fresh buds pop open from bushes and trees. Flowers poke their way through newly green grass. Young chicks chirp in their nests, and little calves tramp through fields. The world is full of new life as the season changes.

Some animals build special homes for their babies. This keeps the young animals safe from harm. Birds make nests. In these small, tucked-away beds, birds care for eggs and chicks.



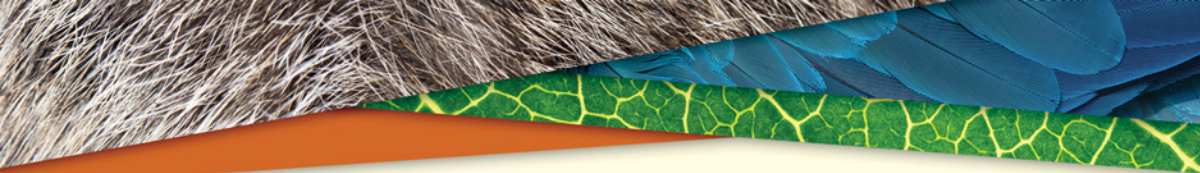
All living things **reproduce**. Animals, plants, and other living things make copies of themselves.

Animals have young and plants make new plants. As they die, the younger life grows. Soon, this life makes even more life and then dies, too. The cycle continues, keeping life on Earth going.

When animals stop reproducing, they die out. There were once many Pinta Island tortoises. Eventually, only one was left. His name was Lonesome George. When George died in 2012, there were no more Pinta Island tortoises.



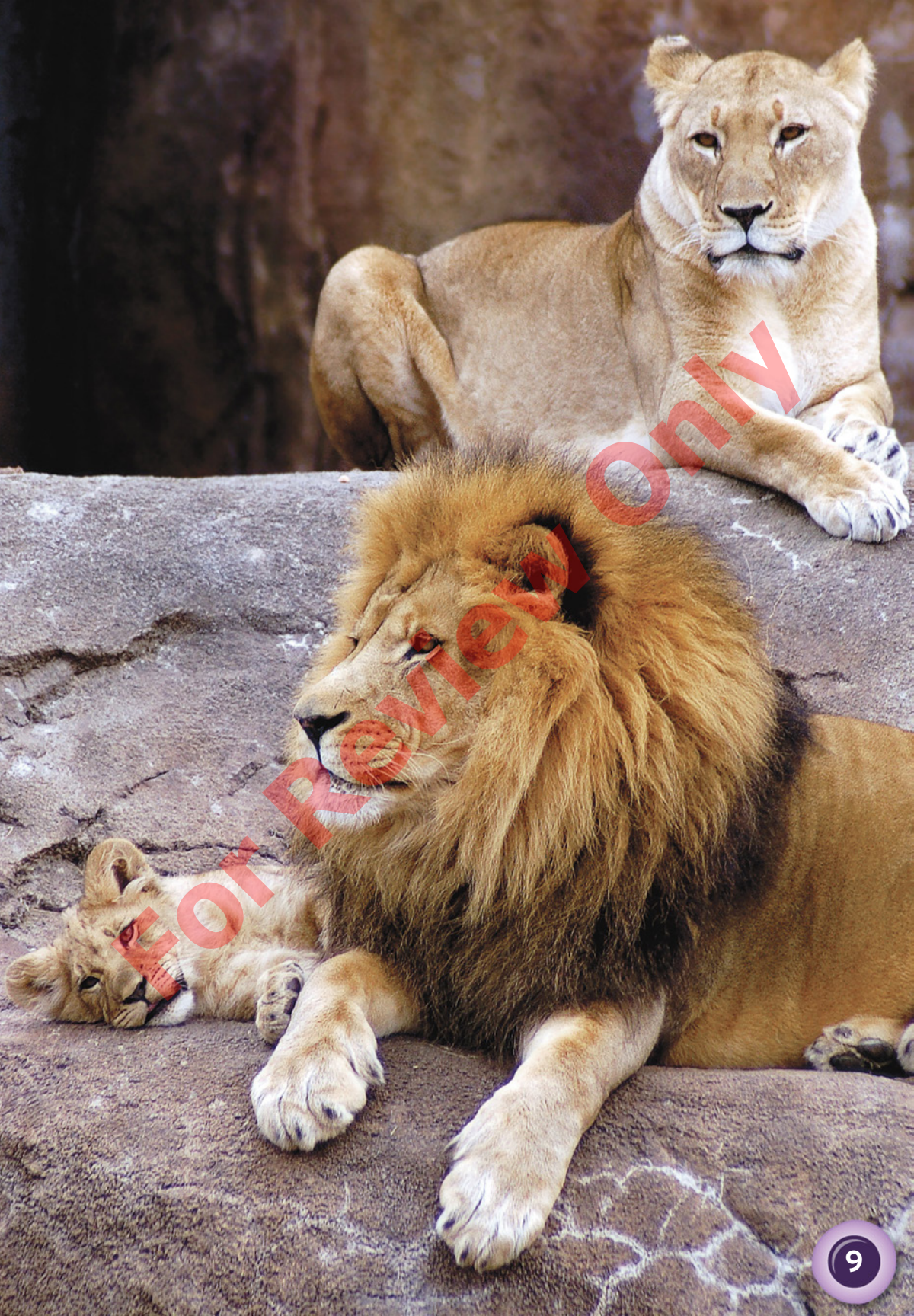


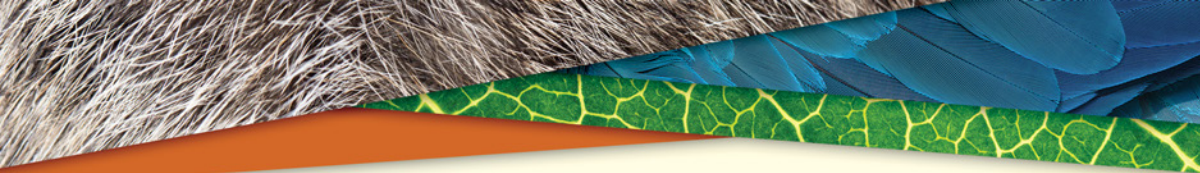


Reproduction Two Ways

There are two ways that living things can reproduce. These are **sexual** reproduction and **asexual** reproduction. During sexual reproduction, two parents come together to make new life. For asexual reproduction, a single living thing can make a copy of itself without another parent.

We call a human mom or dad a parent. But the word can be used for any living thing that reproduces. There are all kinds of plant and animal parents.





A New Life Begins

Most types of animals and plants go through sexual reproduction. Sexual reproduction needs to have one male parent and one female parent. Why? Because males and females have different special **cells**, or tiny living parts of themselves.

Living things can reproduce only with their own kind. An oak tree can make new life with another oak. It can't reproduce with a pine tree. Likewise, an elephant and rhino can't have a baby.



Sometimes, male
and female parents
look different.