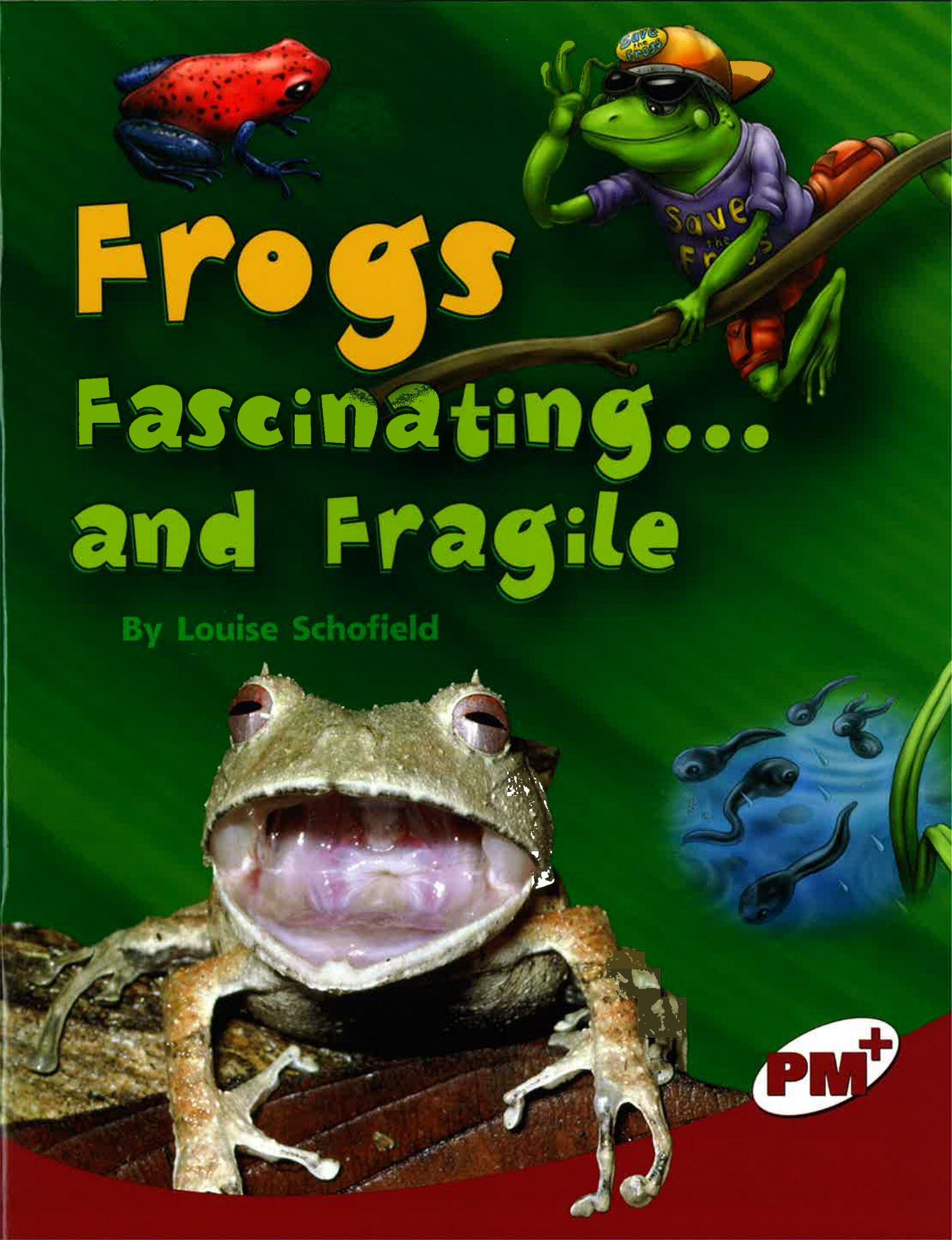

Frogs
Fascinating...
and Fragile
By Louise Schofield
PM+

For teachers' inspection ONLY

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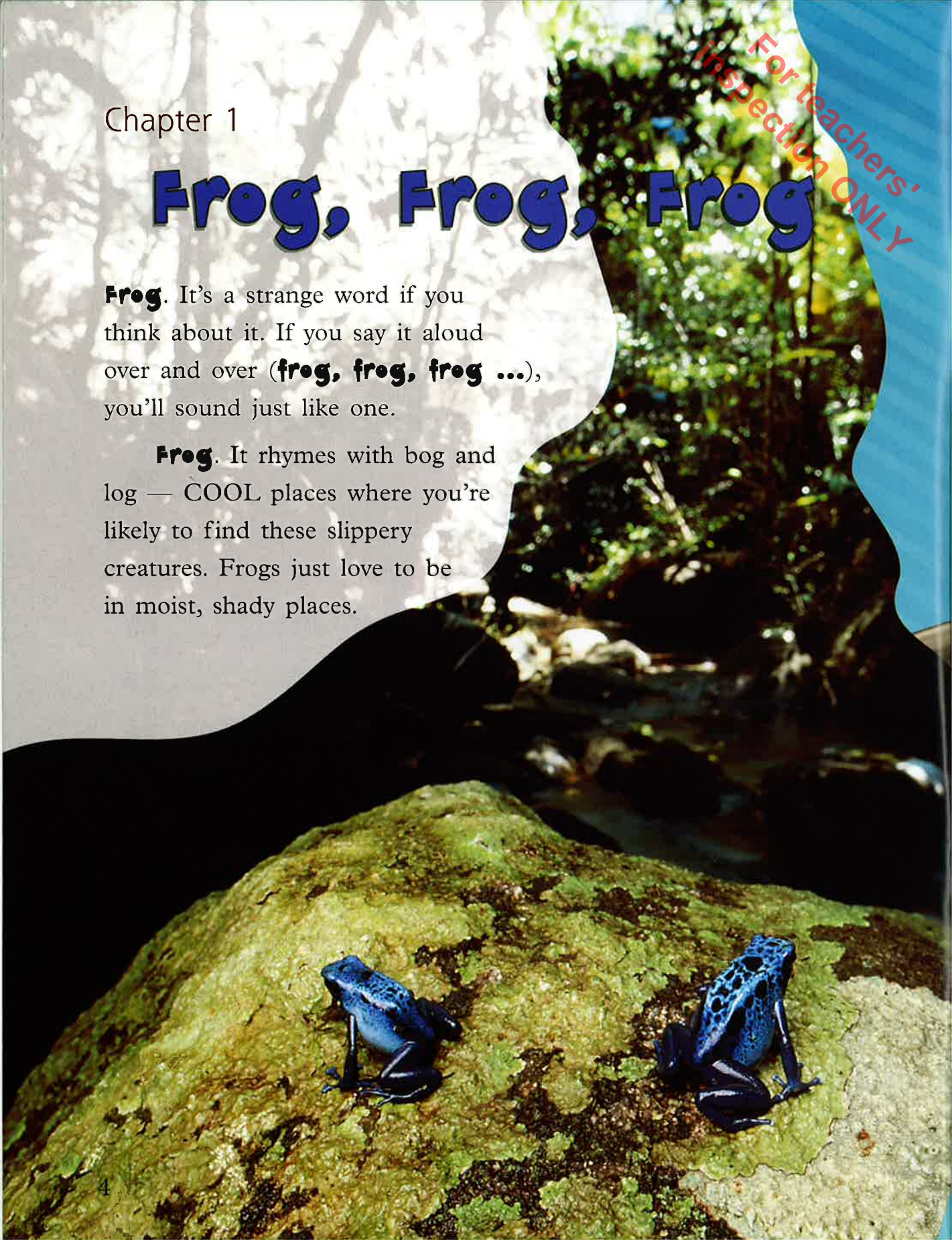
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Chapter 1

Frog, Frog, Frog

Frog. It's a strange word if you think about it. If you say it aloud over and over (**frog, frog, frog ...**), you'll sound just like one.

Frog. It rhymes with bog and log — COOL places where you're likely to find these slippery creatures. Frogs just love to be in moist, shady places.



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I'm a tree frog, so I prefer forests where I can climb and get a bit of a view as well.



Sadly, my frog friends are struggling to survive in changing environments all over the world. Pollution and new diseases make us sick, and our **habitats** are being destroyed. People should learn to care about frogs, or we might disappear and never come back.

"So what?" you might say. But maybe you've never thought about frogs before. You may not realise that you can learn a lot about the environment from us.

And many of my friends have special abilities — they're fascinating! I'd like you to meet some of them, so I've created my own 'frog awards' to recognise their outstanding talents.

Hop this way. I'll tell you more and introduce you ...

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Chapter 2

As Old as the Dinosaurs

Frogs have been around for a long time — much longer than people. Scientists know because they have studied fossils found in every continent of the world. Frog fossils have even been found in Antarctica, but frogs don't live there any more.



This frog fossil from Spain is 6 to 8 million years old. The frog was very like today's Common European Frog.



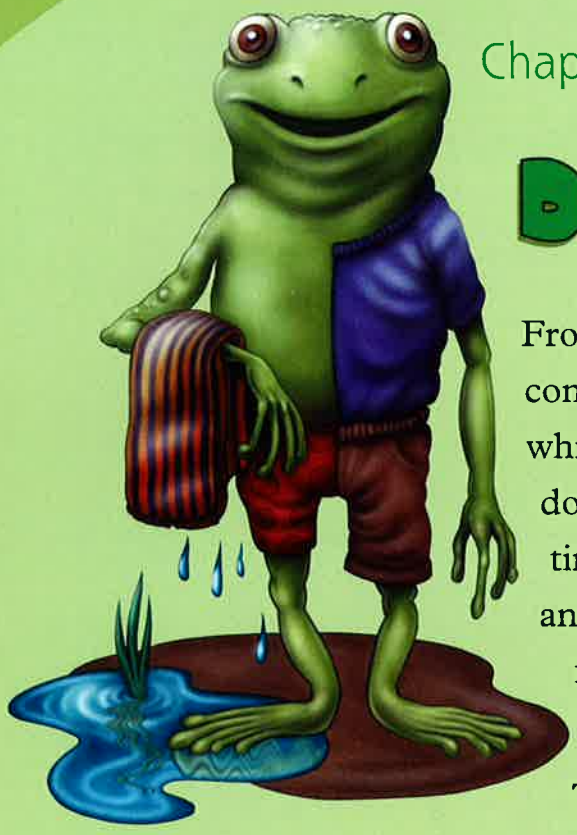
Common European Frogs

The oldest frog fossil was found in the Arizona Desert in America. Scientists believe that it is almost 200 million years old! That means frogs have been hopping around since the **Jurassic** period, one of the eras of the dinosaurs.

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Chapter 3

Double Lives

Frogs are amphibians. The word *amphibian* comes from the Greek word 'amphibios', which means 'double life'. Frogs have double lives because they spend half their time near water breeding and growing, and the other half on land hunting for food and mates.

Amphibians are cold-blooded. They need to lie in the sun to warm themselves or cool off in water or shade.



