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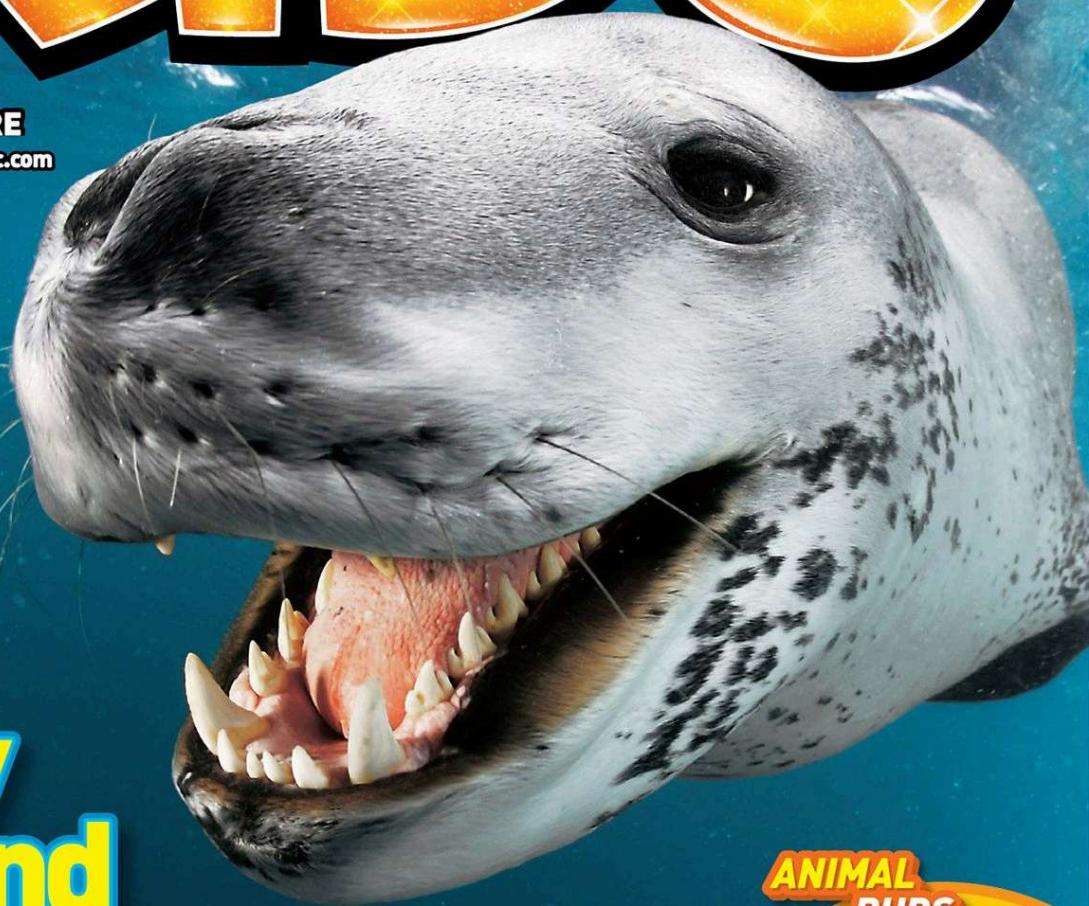
KIDS

DARE TO EXPLORE

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CHOCOLATE!



My
Friend
the Leopard Seal

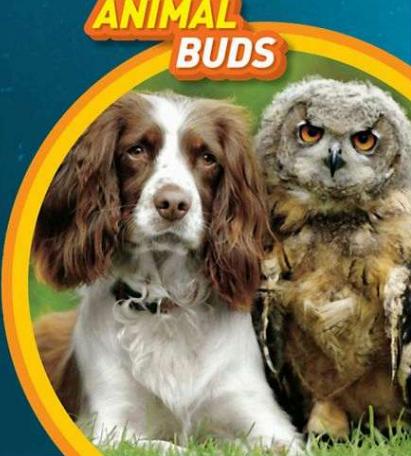
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Just for KIDS online!

Go online to play polar bear hockey, put together snowflake puzzles, and become a member of NG KIDS' My Shot photo community.

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On the Cover

The leopard seal is named for its spotted coat.

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Stupid Criminals

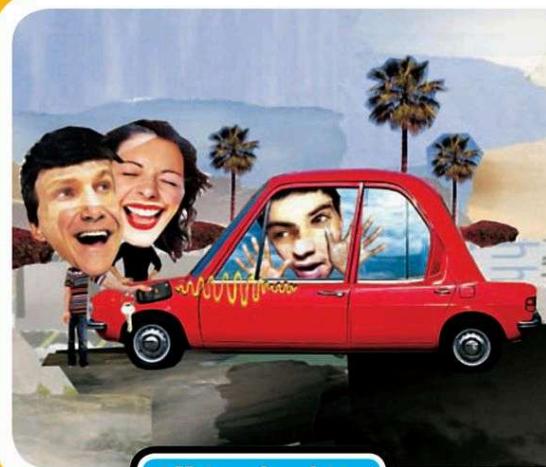
BY ELISABETH DEFFNER



Bank Fraud

FAIRFIELD, CONNECTICUT

Two crooks were in such a hurry for some fast cash, they phoned ahead to tell a bank that they'd swing by to steal \$100,000. Smart bank officials contacted police before the crooks arrived, so when one robber exited the bank with the cash, officers were there to greet him—with handcuffs. Other officers nabbed his partner in the getaway car. Says Sgt. James Perez of the Fairfield Police Department: "They definitely weren't the sharpest tools in the shed."



All Locked Up

LAKE CITY, FLORIDA

Even an electronic key can fight crime. After a thief broke into a car, the owners—alerted to the break-in by a neighbor—grabbed their car keys and hurried outside. When the crook saw the couple approaching, he tried to exit the car. But the owner was too fast. He pressed the automatic "lock" button on the car's remote key system, trapping the crook inside. When the bad guy unlocked the door, the owner locked it again before he could escape. Over and over the crook tried to unlock the door, and over and over the owner relocked it. The crook finally put up his hands in surrender and waited for the police to arrive.

You Hide, We Seek

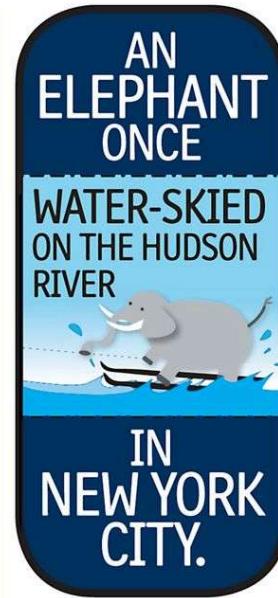
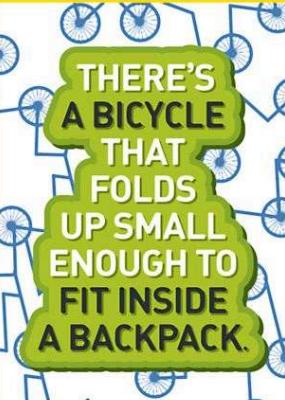
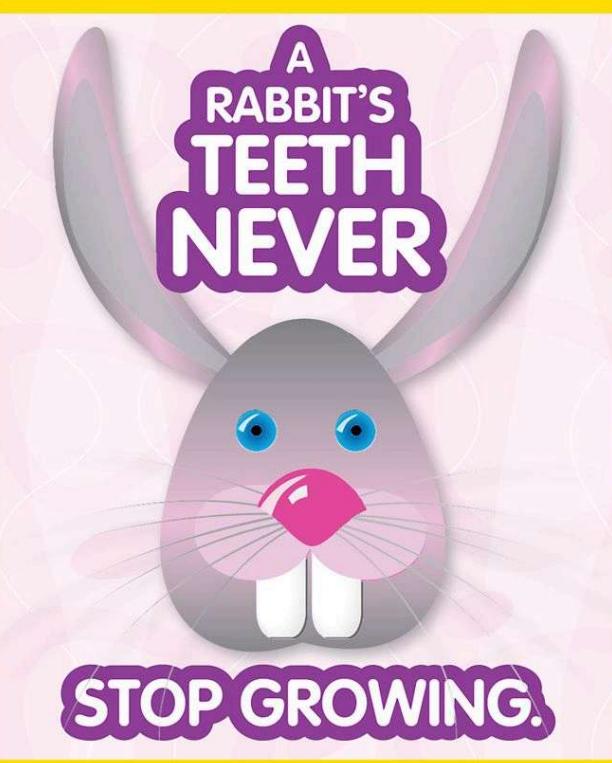
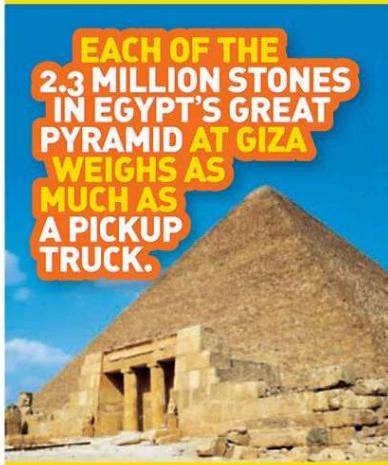
NORTH EAST, MARYLAND

When a convenience store manager arrived at work, he heard a strange sound in the ventilation system—and spotted something even stranger: a pair of legs dangling from an air duct! Turns out the would-be thief got stuck on his way in, but that's not what he told firefighters. "He said he was playing hide-and-seek with friends, which we absolutely didn't believe," says Sgt. Michael Holmes of the Cecil County Sheriff's Department. Guess being trapped in an air duct didn't give this crook enough time to think up a good excuse!



TOM NICK COCOTOS

Check out these outrageous facts.



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A LITTLE ADVENTURE GOES A LAWN WAY.

Gnomeo & Juliet

IN 3D



IN THEATRES FEBRUARY 11

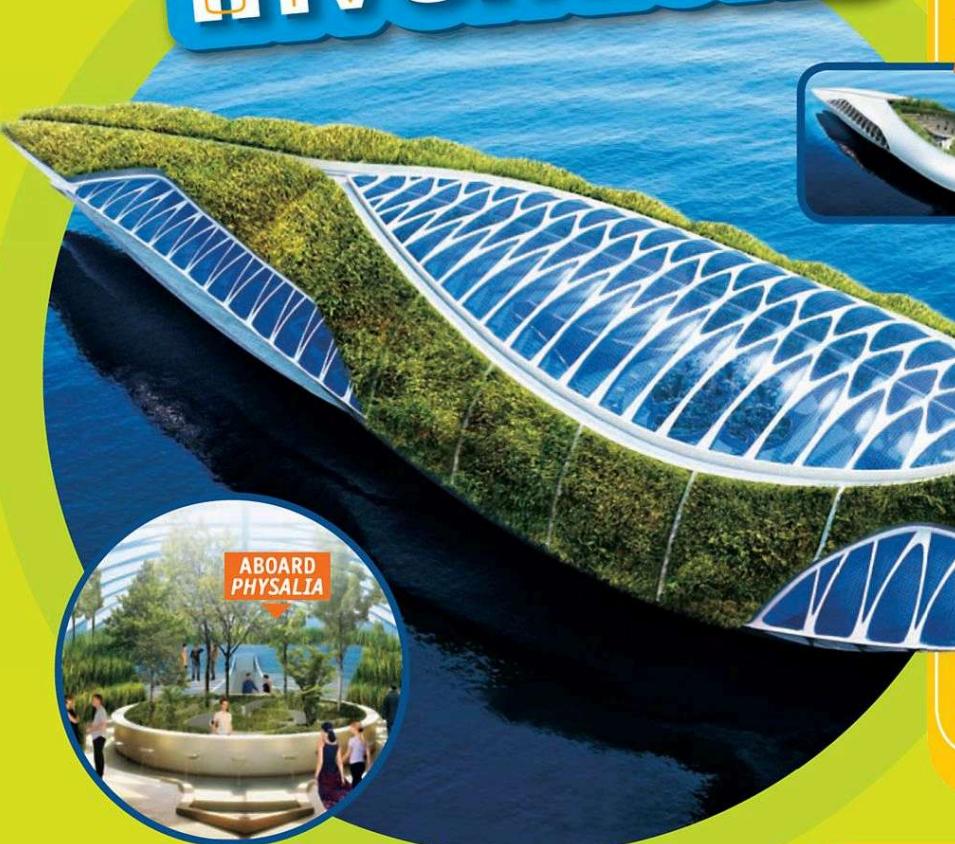
FEATURING THE MUSIC OF **ELTON JOHN** WITH SPECIAL GUEST PERFORMANCES

G GENERAL AUDIENCES
All Ages Admitted © 2011

©2011 Touchstone Pictures

COOL inventions

BY CATHY LU



RIVER-CLEANING BOAT

It may float, but this is not your ordinary boat. The translucent, curvy *Physalia* (just a concept now) is a floating museum and research lab. Its mission: to make the planet greener. How? As it glides down a dirty river, the river water is pumped to *Physalia*'s rooftop garden. Plants filter and purify water, which then flows back into the river. The boat powers itself; solar panels on top capture energy from the sun while hydro-turbines underneath convert moving water into electricity. As the boat's scientists study the river's ecosystem, visitors hop aboard to view exhibits and relax.

VINCENT CALLEBAUT ARCHITECTURES (*PHYSALIA*, ALLI.REX / REX USA (BOOTS)), COURTESY OF ACOUSTICOM (SOUND EGG)

BOOTS CHARGE PHONE

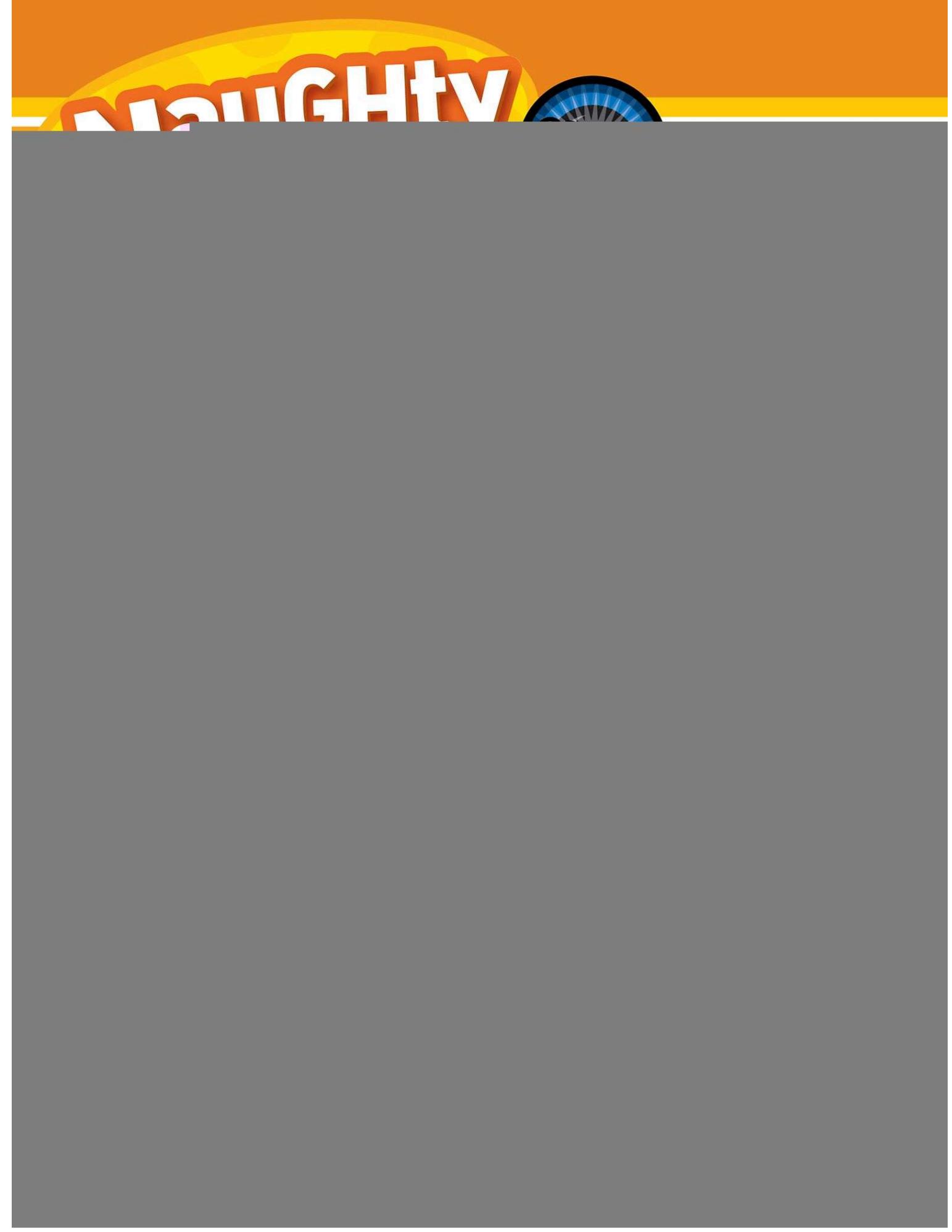
You just saw an awesome movie and have got to call your best friend to gab about it. But as you're walking home from the theater, you realize your cell phone is dead. So you slip it into your boot and walk faster. That's the concept behind the Orange Power Wellies: boots that charge your phone. Your feet produce heat as you walk. A thermoelectric module in the boot's sole uses the difference in temperature between your foot and the cold ground to create electricity. The warmer your foot and the chillier the ground, the more power you produce. So keep walking—it'll keep you and your phone going.



SURROUND SOUND

You'll be sitting in all the action in this chair. The Sound Egg hooks up to your game machine, DVD, or MP3 player and surrounds you with audio during your favorite flicks and games. With five speakers overhead and a powerful subwoofer that vibrates underneath the seat, it gives you the sensation that you're right in the middle of the scene. You'll duck as Harry Potter swoops over your head on his broomstick and shudder as cars scream by next to you. Games and movies will be way more egg-citing!





Incredible Animal Friends

BY KITSON JAZYNKA

>>>> DOG LOVES OWL >>>>

Cornwall, England

Before Bramble the owl takes to the sky for her daily flight, Sophi the English springer spaniel clears her for takeoff by licking the bird's beak.

"Since the owl was a baby, Sophi has cleaned Bramble's beak," says Sharon Bindon, the dog's owner, who also runs a sanctuary for birds of prey. "Bramble returns the favor and 'beaks' the dog, as if he were grooming Sophi."

The Eurasian eagle owl and spaniel became best friends when two-week-old Bramble arrived at Ancient Art Falconry. "Sophi sniffed and licked the chick," Bindon says. "Soon Bramble hopped down, toddled over to Sophi, and started following her everywhere."

Two years later, they're still practically inseparable, even though in the wild this friendship would never exist. A wild owl would prey on small mammals such as mice, rabbits, and even foxes, which are about Sophi's size. "Sophi won't go near most of our birds of prey," Bindon says. But who needs other friends when you've got one that will snuggle down and nap with you in front of the television?

I LOVE
MY BEAK-
TO-BELLY
RUBS.



ENGLISH SPRINGER SPANIEL >>>>>>>>>>

HEIGHT: 19-20 inches tall at the shoulder

WEIGHT: 40-50 pounds

ORIGIN: Probably Spain, but the English came up with the breed name. The breed was brought to North America in 1913.

CLAIM TO FAME: Springer spaniels were traditionally bred as hunting dogs. Their name comes from the fact that they would "spring" at birds to flush them out of bushes.

FUN TO KNOW: Springer spaniels are sometimes called "Velcro" dogs because they're so friendly and stick to their owners.



EURASIAN EAGLE OWL

HEIGHT: 2 feet

WINGSPAN: 5-6 feet

RANGE: Northern Europe through Asia, northern Africa

CLAIM TO FAME:

Aggressive and powerful, Eurasian eagle owls are one of the largest known species of owls.

FUN TO KNOW: Male eagle owls are a little bit smaller than the females.



sports funnies

uh-oh!

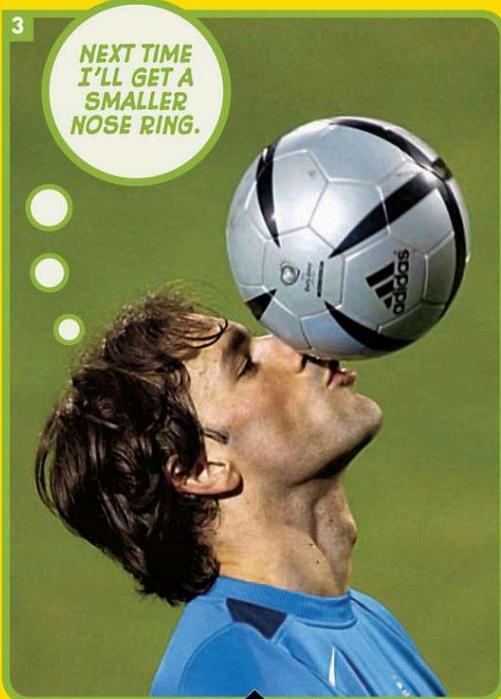
BY KELLEY MILLER



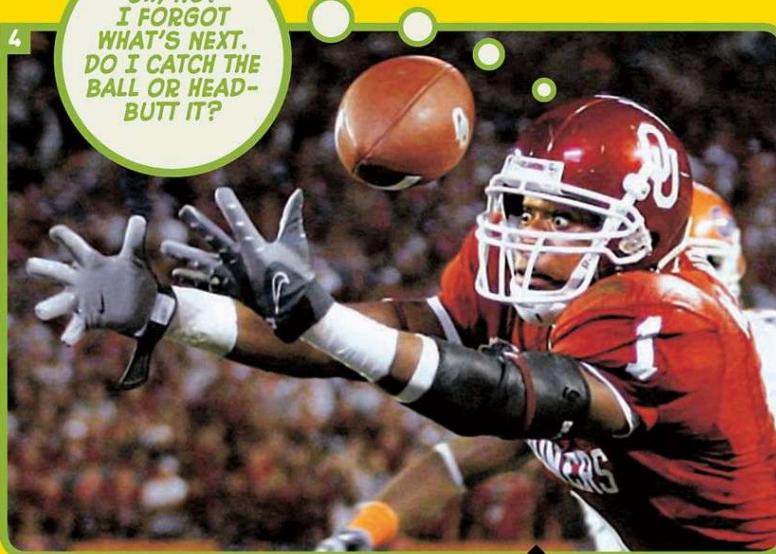
Italy's Martina Guiggi prepares to receive a serve from the Japanese team during the 2008 FIVB World Grand Prix women's volleyball preliminaries in Hong Kong, China.



Mat Rebeaud of Switzerland performs a trick at the 2008 International Supercross in Geneva, Switzerland.



Ruud van Nistelrooy of the Netherlands kisses a soccer ball during a 2005 practice in Bucharest, Romania.



Oklahoma Sooners player Manuel Johnson juggles a pass during the 2009 BCS National Championship college football game in Miami, Florida.

Just Joking

KNOCK,
KNOCK.

Who's there?
Olive.
Olive who?
Olive you.

Q What did the
hat
say to the **scarf**?



A

You go
around
while I go
on ahead.

Q Why are
grapes
never
alone?



A Because they hang out in
a bunch.

TONGUE
TWISTER!

Say this
fast three
times:

A moose
noshes
much mush.



Go on Vacation

POLAR BEAR ADVENTURE

BY AMANDA SANDLIN



The average winter temperature in Churchill is -17°F.

Every winter the aurora borealis, or northern lights, turn northern Canada's night skies into a green, red, and purple glow show.

Forget visiting the zoo. Bundle up and prepare to see the world's largest land-dwelling predator in its natural habitat.

Tundra Buggy Lodge

CHURCHILL, CANADA

You grip your camera and look through the viewfinder. A wild polar bear stares back at you, its nose almost touching the lens. Wait until your friends see this photo!

Standing face-to-face with polar bears is possible when you roam across northern Canada in the Tundra Buggy—an off-road vehicle that looks like a supersize bus. From a deck on the buggy that's safely out of polar bear reach, you can watch the bears stroll by. Just don't be surprised if some curious bears walk right up to the buggy for a closer look at the passengers. Keep a lookout for Dancer, a polar bear known for leaning against the buggy and then shuffling backward on two legs like he's getting his groove on.

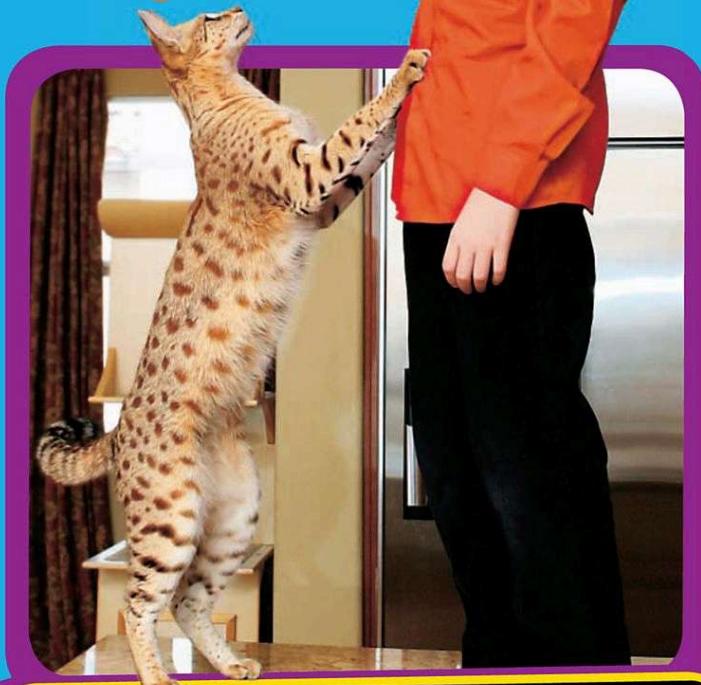
Arctic winds too cold? At Polar Bear Point—an area that's home to nearly a thousand bears—the Tundra Buggy hooks up to a lodge. Once inside, grab a cup of hot cocoa and gaze out at the bears on the tundra. You definitely won't see these sights at the zoo!

ASTONISHING
STORIES FROM
THE FILES OF

Guinness World Records

Go online for more information about Guinness World Records! kids.nationalgeographic.com/Videos

YES,
I'M TALL,
BUT YOU'RE
GONNA HAVE TO
LOWER YOUR
ARM A BIT TO
PET ME.



SUPERTALL CAT

Can't find Scarlett the cat? Try looking up! Standing on all fours, the tallest domesticated cat on record is about 18 inches at her shoulders and has no problem leaping 11 feet from the floor onto the tops of kitchen cabinets. Scar is a savannah, a breed known for its height—and a love of water. "She'll even jump over the shower door to get in with me," says owner Lee Draper. Maybe Scar was a frog in another life.

—Caroline Patek

The savannah is recognized by The International Cat Association. But because the first ones were a cross between wild African servals and domestic cats, some people don't believe they should be pets. Always do research to make sure any pet is right for you.



TINIEST PLANE

It may buzz and flap its wings, but it's not a pesky insect. It's the smallest camera plane. Weighing less than a pencil, the DelFly Micro measures four inches from wingtip to wingtip and has an ultra-small video camera attached. Scientists built the plane to study ways to improve similar unmanned aircraft already flying in areas too dangerous for humans. Those are big plans for this small plane.

—Amanda Sandlin

MAN LIFTS TABLE WITH MOUTH

This is one way to show someone to her seat! Using his mouth, Georges Christen can carry a table with a person sitting on top for nearly 33 feet in 6.57 seconds. That's the fastest time on record. Christen, of Luxembourg, actually has set many records with his mouth, including preventing a small airplane from taking off. The most amazing part? He's only broken one tooth.

—B.F. Summers





THIS SOUP
IS ALL RIGHT,
BUT IT COULD
USE A LITTLE

ONE DAY'S EATEN UP.

1

Each year Americans buy

**48
MILLION**

pounds of chocolate for
VALENTINE'S DAY.
That's the same weight as
128 BLUE WHALES!



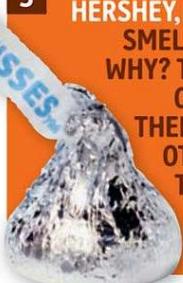
2

WHITE CHOCOLATE IS TECHNICALLY NOT CHOCOLATE. THE PALER TREAT IS MADE WITH ONLY COCOA BUTTER—NOT COCOA POWDER, AS REAL CHOCOLATE BARS ARE.



3

HERSHEY, PENNSYLVANIA, SMELLS LIKE CHOCOLATE. WHY? THE HERSEY'S CHOCOLATE FACTORY THERE PRODUCES (AMONG OTHER THINGS) MORE THAN 20 MILLION HERSEY'S KISSES A DAY.



4

CHOCOLATE-COVERED BACON IS A POPULAR TREAT AT MANY STATE FAIRS.



6

U.S. SOLDIERS SERVING IN WORLD WAR II (1941-1945) WERE THE FIRST TO EAT M&M'S. THE CANDY COATING ALLOWED TROOPS TO CARRY THE HIGH-ENERGY TREAT WITHOUT IT MELTING.

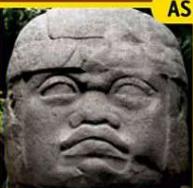


9

THE SCIENTIFIC NAME FOR CHOCOLATE, THEOBROMA CACAO, MEANS "FOOD OF THE GODS."



MMM... CHOCOLATY HISTORY



AS EARLY AS 1000 B.C.

The ancient Olmec (famous for their gigantic head statues, left) of what is now Mexico and Central America are believed to be the first people to use the cacao plant.

7

Ever feel like you'd RATHER EAT CHOCOLATE THAN DINNER? You're not alone: An early advertisement for the candy claimed it was more filling than meat.



10

THERE ARE 30 TO 50 SEEDS IN EACH FOOTBALL-SHAPED CACAO POD—THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE SEVEN BARS OF MILK CHOCOLATE.



8

A MINIATURE STATUE OF LIBERTY WAS BUILT OUT OF 229 POUNDS OF CHOCOLATE.



1300



The Aztec mixed cacao seeds with chilies to make a frothy, spicy drink.



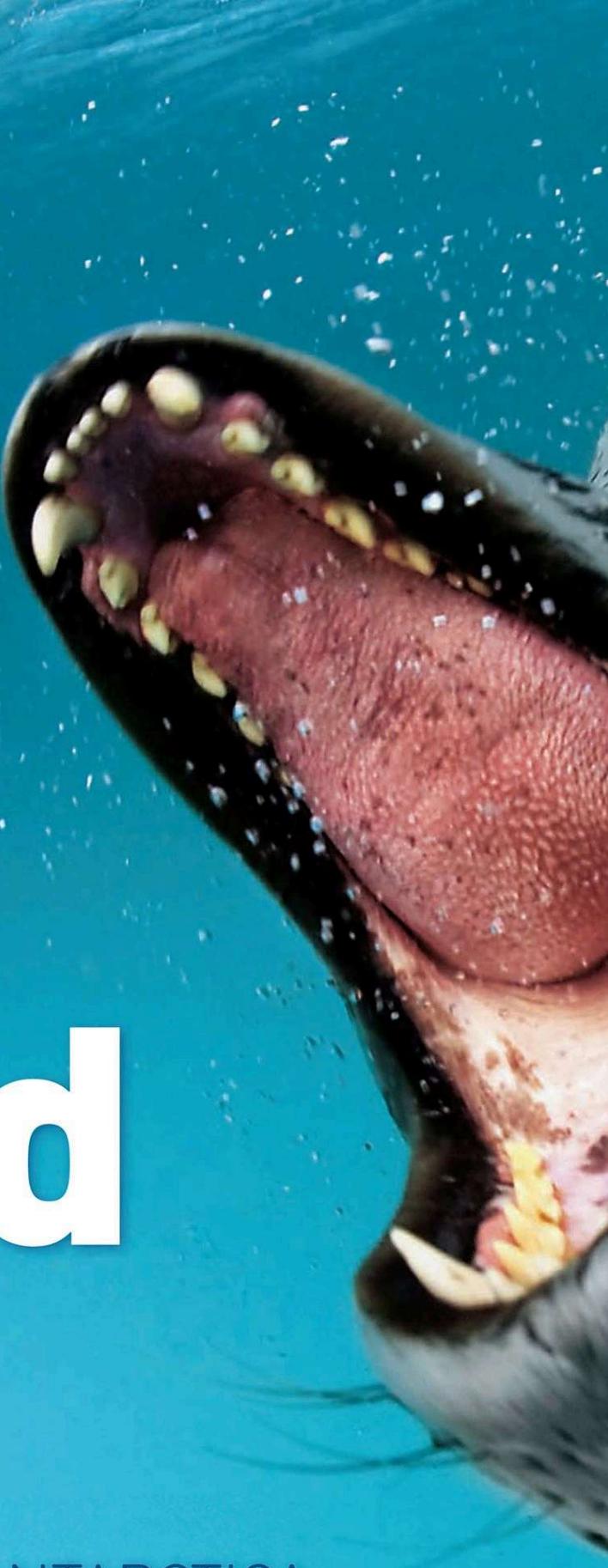
Unlike other big cats, jaguars often eat reptiles such as snakes and crocodiles.

A jaguar's bite is so strong it can



sink its teeth through a tortoise's shell.

Each cat roams its own territory, usually avoiding other jaguars.



The Seal Who Loved Me

MY UNDERWATER
ADVENTURE IN ANTARCTICA



TEXT AND PHOTOGRAPHS BY PAUL NICKLEN

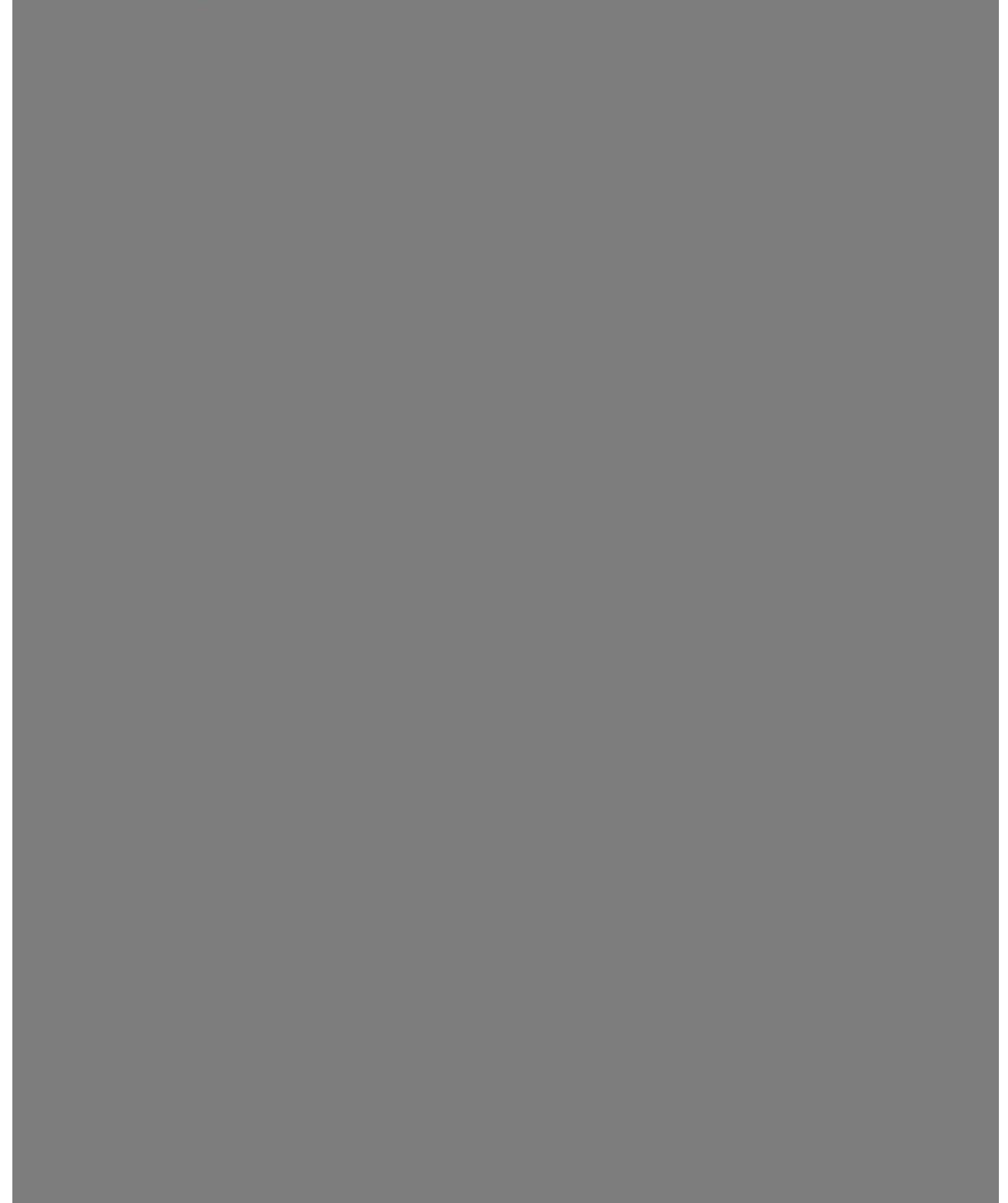
Leopard seals have a reputation for being vicious beasts. That's how they are portrayed in movies such as *Happy Feet* and *March of the Penguins*. As a wildlife photographer, I set out to prove that they are actually misunderstood predators.

With this as our mission my friend Goran Ehlme and I head for Antarctica, where leopard seals live and hunt penguins. When we spot a massive female leopard seal, I quickly launch our Zodiac (an inflatable boat) and set out to get a closer look.

Almost immediately the seal initiates an encounter, swimming over to our 13-foot-long Zodiac and ducking underneath. She is as long as the boat and three feet wide—massive for her species. While I try to come to terms with her size, she swims off, grabs a chinstrap penguin that was swimming out to sea, and comes back with the penguin in her jaws. She starts ramming the bird against the underside of the boat with such force that she lifts the bow out of the water. We sit on the pontoons to brace ourselves.

Goran is comfortable with this level of activity in a leopard seal, a species he has grown to admire and respect. For me, however, this is my introduction to leopard seals, and I am thankful to be safely in the boat and not in the water. After she kills the penguin against the hull of the boat, the seal swims to within a few feet of us. While it is hard to watch the leopard seal kill and skin the penguin, the biologist-naturalist in me understands that she is a predator and the penguin is her prey.

Goran turns to me and says, "It is time for you to get in the water." Even though my goal is to discover if leopard seals are truly vicious, the thought of getting into the water with her makes my adrenaline surge. My mouth goes dry, and my legs are numb; I am momentarily paralyzed with fear. Goran says, "It doesn't get any better than this. Get in the water!" I can barely part my trembling lips to



the last second. She chases it, brings it back, and lets it go again, right in front of me. She does this several times, each time looking me over as she swims by to chase down the fleeing penguin.

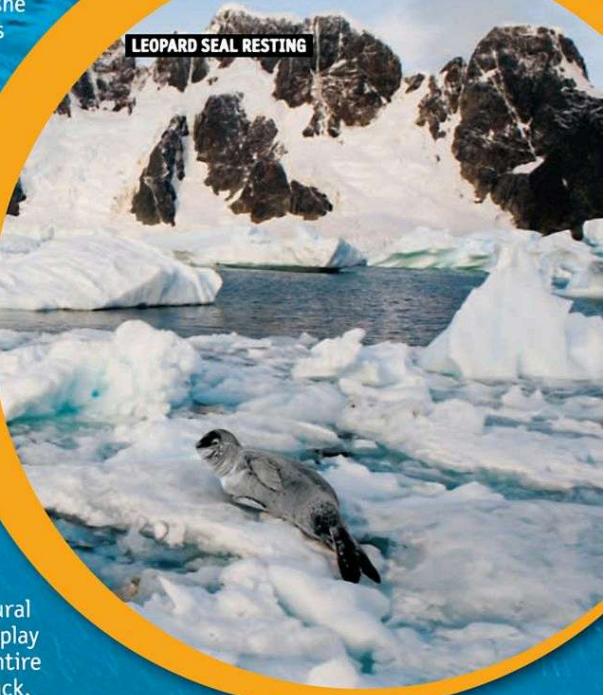
I could swear that she flashes me a look of disgust as she speeds past me to snatch the escaping penguin. I believe that she is trying to feed me penguins because she realizes that I am an absolutely useless predator in her ocean. I believe that she thinks I am going to starve to death if I don't receive her help.

She captures another live penguin and slowly brings it over to me. When she is just inches away, she lets it go, and it immediately takes off. She quickly catches it and eats it right in front of me. She then captures another penguin, plays with it, wears it down, and then offers it to me in this exhausted state. Of course, I do not accept these offerings, but keep photographing, tears welling up in my eyes from the intensity of the encounter. Finally, perhaps realizing the full extent of my incompetence as a hunter, she brings me a dead penguin and leaves it floating in front of my mask. She

then withdraws a few feet, and watches me. When I don't touch her offering, she appears frustrated and blows bubbles in my face, grabs the penguin, and devours it. I keep following her around trying to photograph her. Ultimately, she forcibly places dead penguins on my head and my underwater camera. Throughout these encounters, I often flood my mask because I am laughing so hard that water trickles in the sides.

Over the course of four more days she tries to feed me penguin after penguin, and I keep shooting the whole time. Once during those four days, I become concerned that I'd overstayed my welcome; she seems to have tired of my presence. Suddenly, during one of our "normal" feeding sessions, she visibly tenses and makes a deep guttural jackhammer-like sound—a threat display that I feel reverberate through my entire body. I sense that she is about to attack, but the moment quickly passes. What actually happens is that another leopard seal has sneaked up behind me. Her threat display is intended to protect me, and clearly it works. As if to prove her point, as soon as the marauding seal turns away, she gives chase, takes that seal's penguin, and brings it to me.

LEOPARD SEAL RESTING



Knowing that I will soon leave, I feel heavyhearted

as I join her in the water one last time. My relationship with this magnificent seal, so approachable, so tender, and yet so fierce, is something that will stay with me forever. I don't know if she ever quite figures out who or what I am, or whether some part of her memory retains the experience of my visit. What I do know is that I will never forget her. Sometimes as I'm falling asleep at night I remember this astonishing gift from the sea. These were indeed the five greatest days of my photographic career.

DUP

ROBOTS

HUGGABLE FRIEND

This cuddly teddy bear looks like any stuffed animal. But don't be fooled: It has 1,500 sensors buried in its fur. Its eyes are cameras, its ears are microphones, and its mouth has a tiny speaker. That means it can see and hear you, compute what you say, and respond. Engineers at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology worked hard to make sure this robot doesn't look mechanical because they want it to be a social companion to people.

How will it work? Say you want to call your grandmother on the computer. Instead of having to put on headphones and stare at the glowing screen, you talk to the bear. When your grandmother speaks, her voice comes through the very huggable teddy.

This robot could help kids who are in the hospital. The bear can react like a comforting friend.

DRIVER'S COPILOT

There's no telling what cars will look like in the future. But you may be lucky enough to drive with a robot called AIDA, which stands for "Affectionate Intelligent Driving Agent."

AIDA, a prototype for now, sits on the dashboard of a car and acts like a supersmart copilot to the driver. This robot will know where you're going, how you should get there, and how long it'll take.

Designed with facial-recognition software, AIDA will know when a driver is happy, angry, frustrated, or excited. The robot's expressions change according to the mood of the driver. AIDA will respond to a driver's emotions and offer helpful suggestions in even the most stressful situations. AIDA is the perfect "backseat driver."

Connected to sensors in the car, AIDA will be able to remind a driver to stop for gas or add air to the tires.



HERB, AT YOUR SERVICE

What would be better than a robot in your house? A robot that can clean your room! Introducing HERB, the "Home-Exploring Robotic Butler." HERB is built on a Segway, a motorized two-wheeled vehicle, so it can roll around. It will soon be able to grab and lift your clothes and put them away in drawers. Video cameras show HERB where to go. A spinning laser on top makes an up-to-the-minute 3-D map of the room so HERB can get from one place to another without squashing anyone's feet.

For a person, it's easy to see something, pick it up, and stash it, or open and close doors and drawers. But these tasks challenge a robot. For the vision system alone, HERB needs five separate computers. In the future, HERB may be a very popular member of the household.



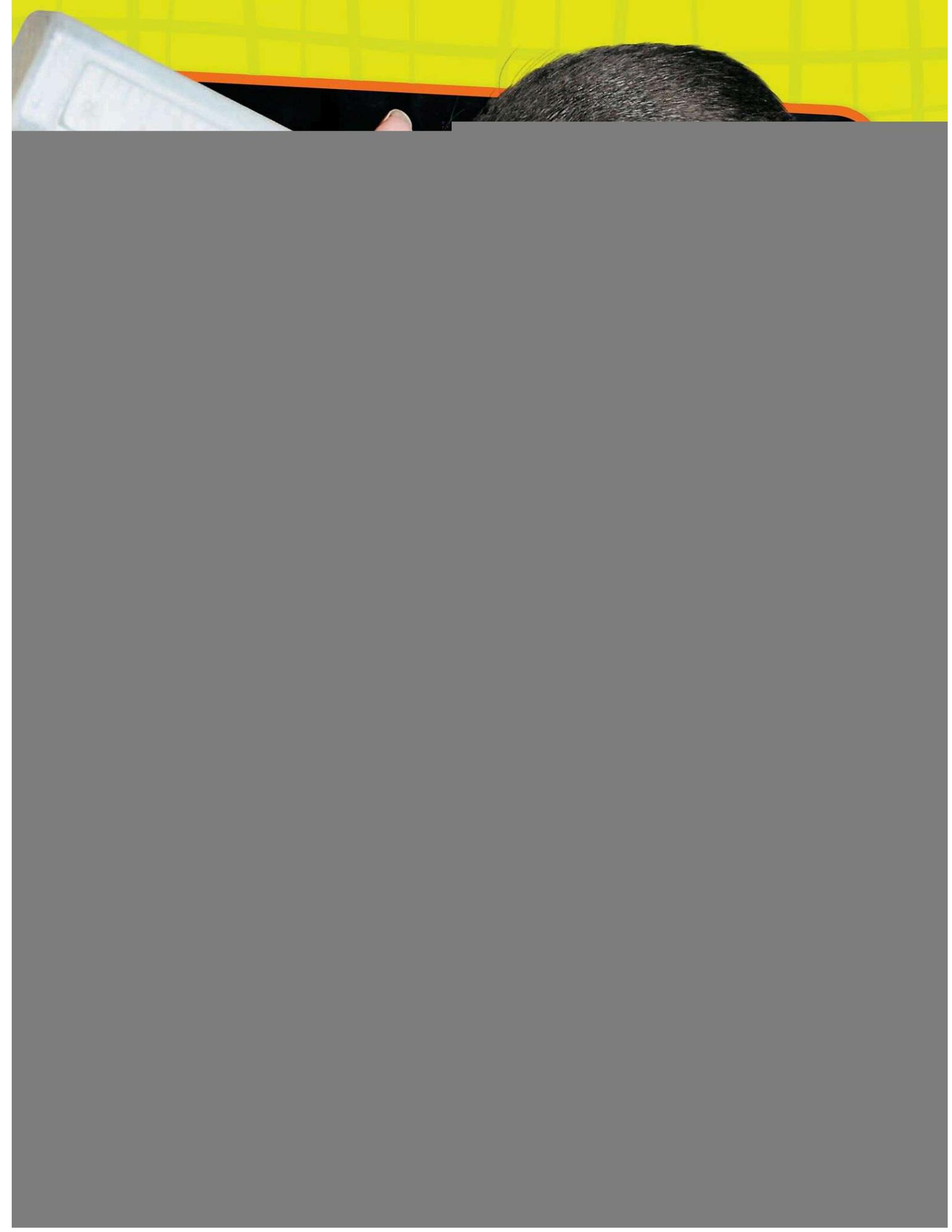
WOMBAT

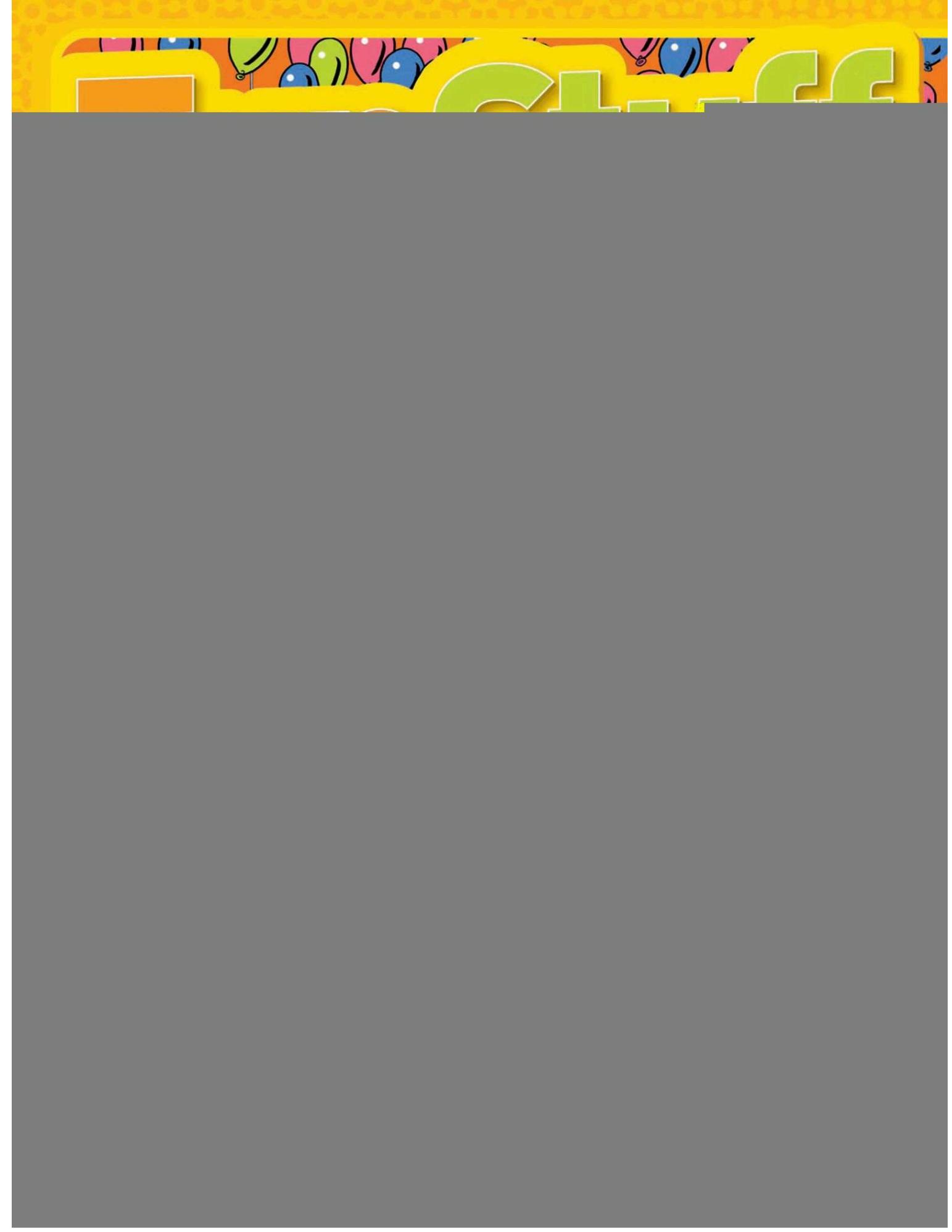
Rescue



Quick-thinking
heroes
saved
an orphan
newborn
hidden in Mom's
pouch.







What in the World?

Play interactive "What in the World?" and other games online.
kids.nationalgeographic.com

STUCK ON STRIPES

These photographs show close-up views of objects with stripes. Unscramble the letters to identify each picture. Trouble reading between the lines?



ANSWERS ON PAGE 35



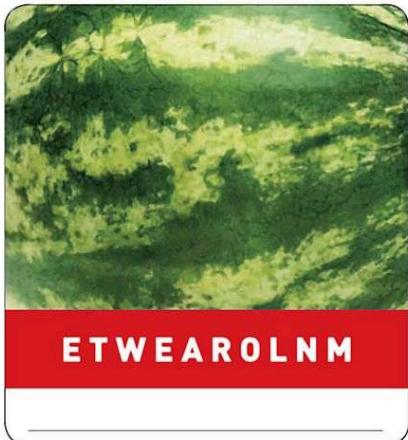
ROGF



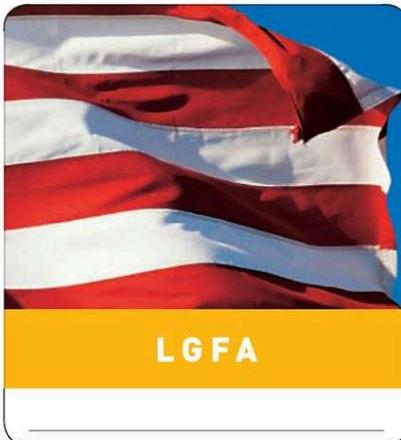
RBA DEOC



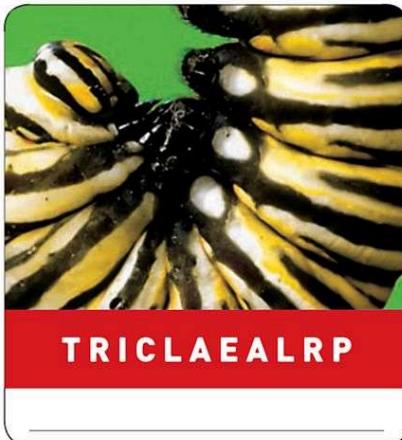
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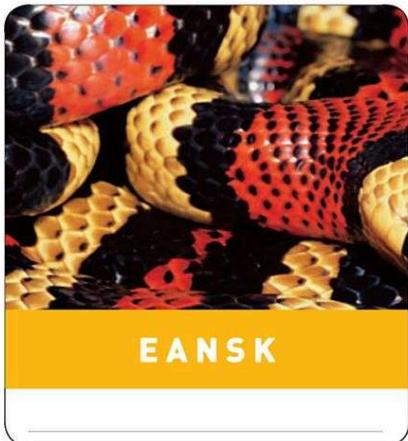
ETWEAROLNM



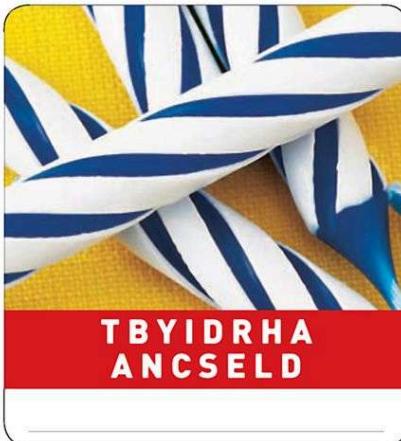
LGFA



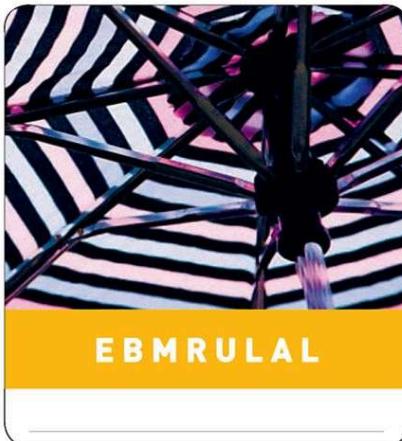
TRICLAEALRP



EANSK



TBYIDRHA
ANCSELD



EBMRULAL



Photo Find

Red Alert!

It's Valentine's Day and everyone is seeing red. Find and circle these:

4 bowling pins	8 lizards
frog	dragon
3 firefighters	3 ladybugs
2 cars	2 paper clips
whistle	ticket
seahorse	3 butterflies
robot	snake

BONUS: Find 12 red raspberry candies.

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