

LEVELED BOOK • K

What Lives in This Hole?



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Written by Kira Freed

• What Lives in This Hole?



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www.readinga-z.com



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Animal Burrows

I found a big hole in the ground two months ago. I thought it might be an animal's **burrow**. I took a picture with my phone to show my teacher.



4



My teacher and I work together.



She helped me find out what lives in the hole. Now I study the burrow of a different animal every week. Then I write about it on our class blog. Check out what I've learned!

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Do You Know?

Some burrows are only a little bigger than a desert tortoise's shell.

PACIFIC OCEAN

N W S E

California Nevada Utah Arizona New Mexico MEXICO

Desert tortoise range

A large desert tortoise hangs out in a burrow.

Stayin g Cool

A desert tortoise lives in this hole! This animal lives in a desert. It digs a burrow to get away from the heat. It spends most of its life in the burrow.

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Goliath bird-eating spider range

CARIBBEAN SEA

SOUTH AMERICA

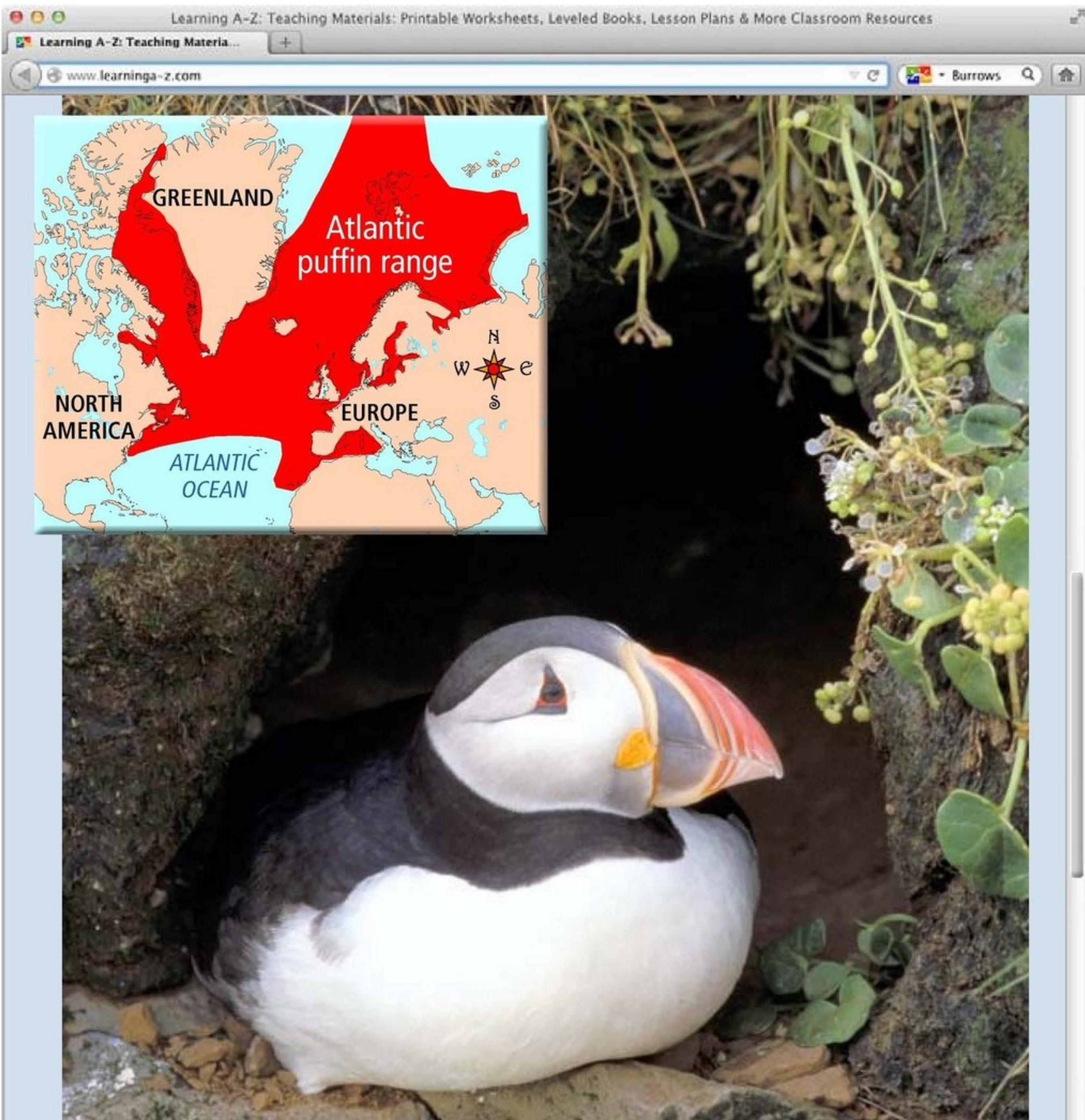
Wowser!

The goliath bird-eating spider is the biggest spider in the world.

Goliath bird-eating spiders live in rainforests in northern South America.

Keeping Eggs Safe

A huge spider lives in this hole! It lives in a deep burrow. A female lays about fifty eggs in a little bag. She takes the bag with her if she leaves to hunt.



Atlantic puffins nest along the coasts of Europe and North America.

🔊 Making a Nest

This hole belongs to **puffins!** These birds spend most of their life at sea. They use their strong wings and webbed feet to fly and swim. Puffins swim better than they fly.

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Burrows



A puffin feeds its chick.



Wowser! 🔊

Atlantic puffins have brightly colored bills at certain times of the year. Some people call these birds "sea parrots" or "clowns of the sea."

🔊

Puffins use a burrow as a nest. They dig the burrow on a high cliff. Both parents care for the egg and then the chick.

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Learning A-Z: Teaching Mater... www.learninga-z.com Burrows

The image shows a map of East Africa with a red shaded area indicating the 'Naked mole rat range'. The map includes labels for 'AFRICA', 'INDIAN OCEAN', and a compass rose. To the right of the map is a large, high-resolution photograph of a naked mole rat. The rodent has a pinkish, wrinkled skin texture and long white whiskers. It is shown from a front-on perspective, with its head slightly tilted down and its front paws visible as it moves through a dark, textured environment.

Naked mole rats live in dry grasslands in East Africa.

🔊 Living in the Dark

Naked mole rats live in this hole!
They spend their whole lives in the dark. They dig tunnels to find roots to eat.



Naked mole rats work together to build tunnels. One animal digs through soil at the front. Several others sweep dirt toward the back. An animal at the back kicks the dirt out of the tunnel.

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Wowser!

Japanese giant salamanders can grow as long as 1.5 meters (5 ft).

A Japanese giant salamander comes out of its burrow.

🔊 Hiding and Laying Eggs

A big **salamander** lives in this underwater hole! It lives in rivers and streams. It hides in a burrow or under rocks during the day. It comes out to hunt at night.

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Burrows

A close-up photograph of a male marbled salamander (Ambystoma opacum) guarding a clutch of eggs. The salamander's body is covered in dark brown, mottled patterns on a lighter background. It is positioned over a cluster of approximately 50 translucent, light-blue eggs, which are attached to a submerged plant root. The eggs have small yellow spots on them. The entire scene is set in a dark, moist environment, likely a burrow.

A male salamander protects the eggs.



In late summer, males and females gather at burrows. A female lays up to five hundred eggs there. A male watches the eggs to make sure no fish eat them.

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AUSTRALIA

N
W E
S

Tazmania

SOUTH PACIFIC OCEAN

Wowser!

A wombat's burrow may be as long as three school buses!

Three kinds of wombats live in parts of Australia and some nearby islands.

Taking a Nap

A **wombat** lives in this hole! This animal digs a burrow with its huge claws. It sleeps in its burrow during the day. At night, it comes out to find plants to eat.

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Learning A-Z: Teaching Mater... www.learninga-z.com Burrows

These garter snakes live in burrows, too!



The image shows three garter snakes with yellow bodies and dark heads and stripes, emerging from a dark, narrow opening between light-colored rocks. One snake is at the top left, another is at the top right, and one is in the center.

More to Come

I'm going to study more animals that live in holes. Next, I will write about rabbits, snakes, and ants. It's so fun to learn about animals!

Glossary

burrow (<i>n.</i>)	a hole dug in the ground by an animal for use as a home (p. 4)
naked mole rats (<i>n.</i>)	burrowing, almost hairless rodents that are nearly blind and live in Africa (p. 10)
puffins (<i>n.</i>)	any of three kinds of diving seabirds known for their brightly colored beaks (p. 8)
salamander (<i>n.</i>)	a kind of amphibian that has smooth, wet skin, a long tail, and short legs (p. 12)
tunnels (<i>n.</i>)	underground passages (p. 10)
wombat (<i>n.</i>)	a burrowing mammal with a pouch and short legs that looks similar to a small bear (p. 14)

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Back cover: Hermit crab

Title page: Yellow armadillo

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