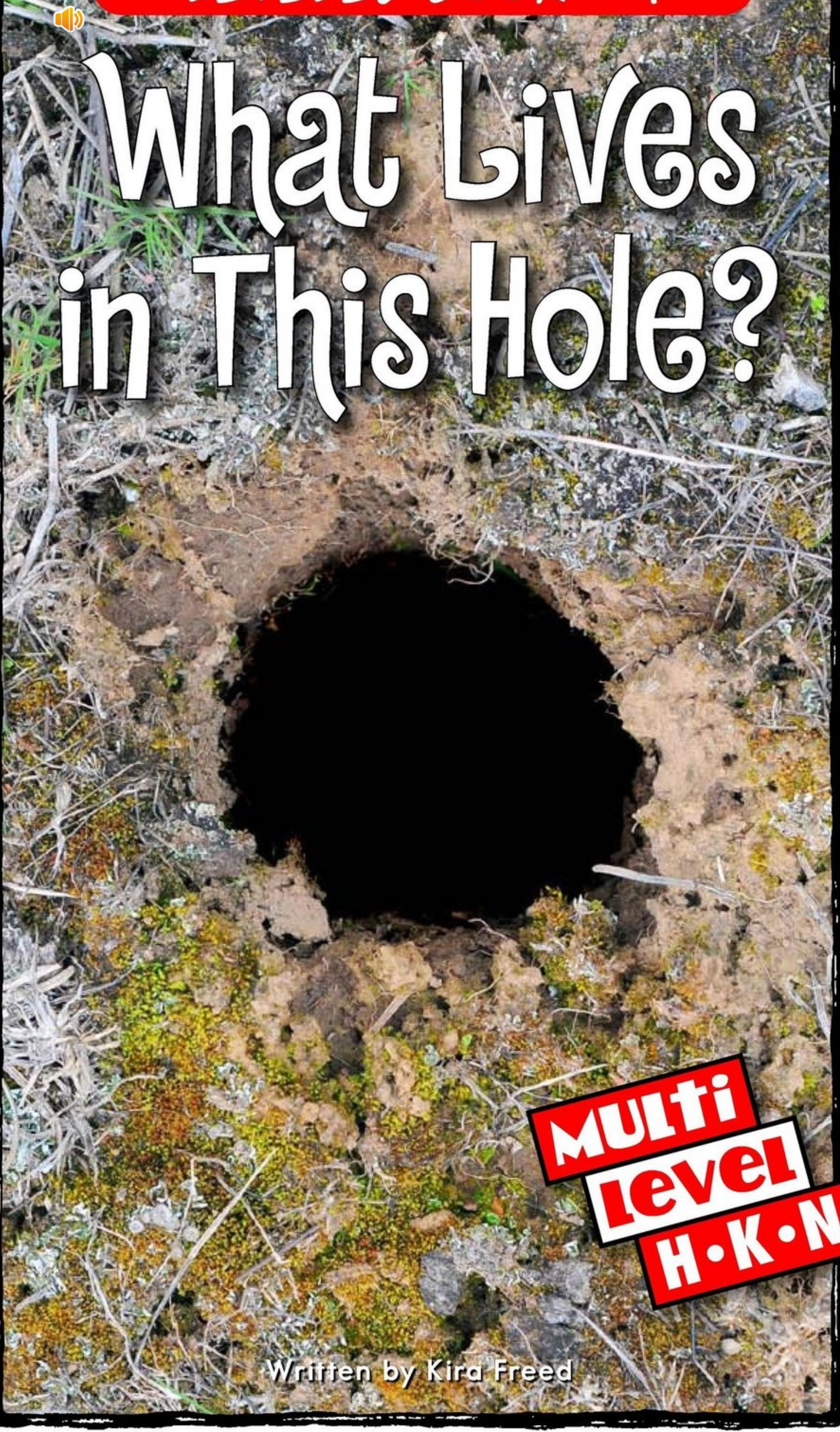


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What Lives in This Hole?

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Written by Kira Freed



What Lives in This Hole?



Written by Kira Freed

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🔊 My First Post!

I found a big hole in the ground two months ago on a hike. I thought it was the opening to an animal's **burrow**. I had no idea what kind of animal lived there, though. I took a picture with my phone and asked my teacher if she knew.



This is the hole that I found.



My teacher and I work together. 

My teacher taught me how to **research** to find the answer to my question. Before long, I started blogging! Every week, I research the burrow of one animal. I post my work on our class blog. Some of my classmates have started blogging, too. Check out my blog posts!

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Do You Know?

Desert tortoise burrows can be up to 1.8 meters (6 ft) deep. Some are only a little bigger than the tortoise's shell.

Desert tortoises live in the United States and Mexico.

Staying Cool

A desert tortoise lives in this hole! This reptile lives in a desert. It can only stay alive by digging a burrow to escape the heat. The desert tortoise spends almost all of its life underground. It sleeps all winter to stay warm.

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Goliath bird-eating spider range

CARIBBEAN SEA

SOUTH AMERICA

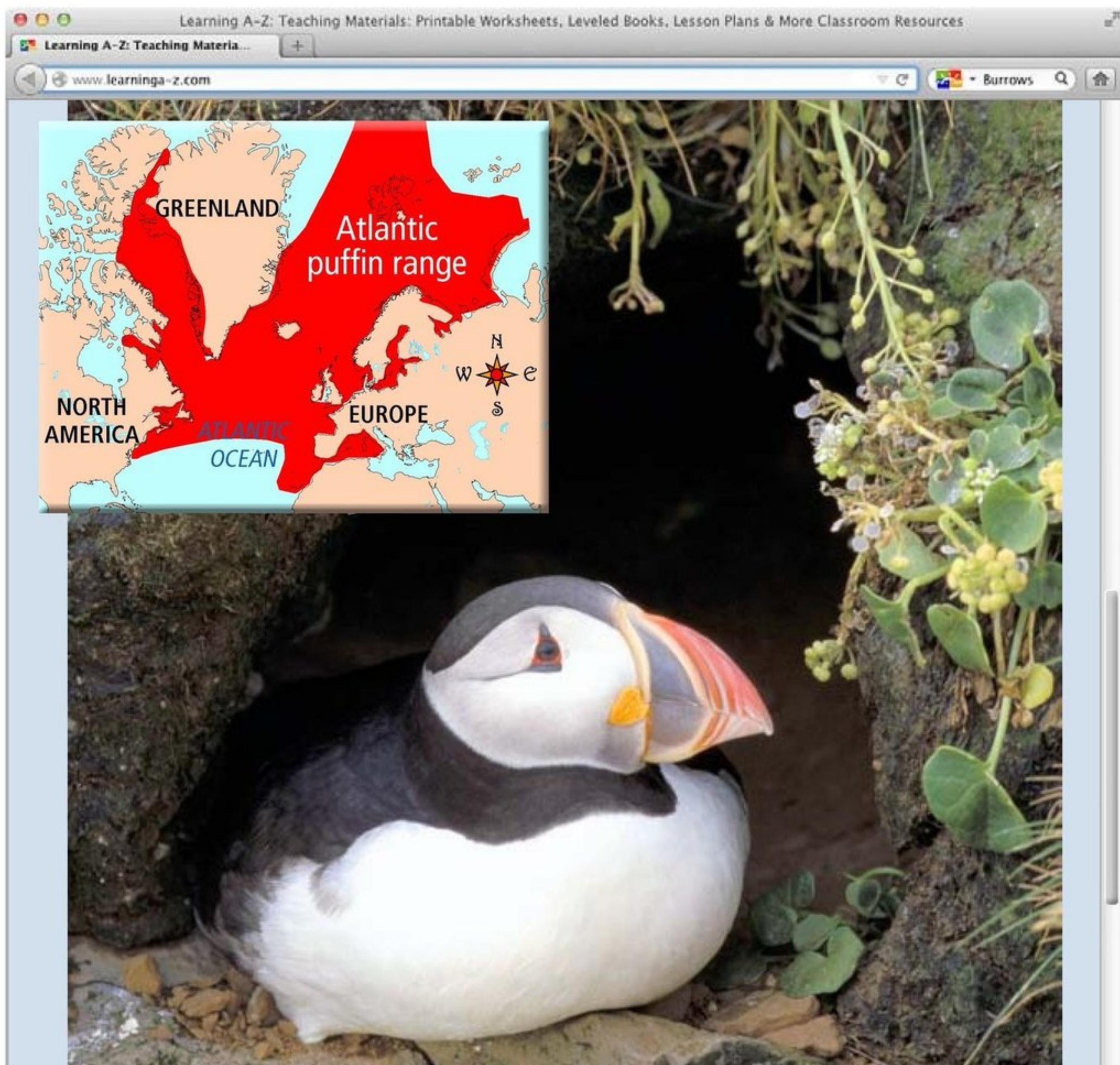
Wowser!

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

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

Keeping Eggs Safe

A *huge* spider lives in this hole! The goliath bird-eating spider lives in a deep burrow. It may dig its own burrow or use one that another animal no longer uses. A female stays in her burrow for most of her life. She lays around fifty eggs in a little silk 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 Atlantic puffins! These birds spend most of their life on the open ocean. They use their strong wings and webbed feet to fly and swim. Puffins swim much better than they fly.

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Burrows



A puffin feeds its chick.



Wowser! 🔊

Adult Atlantic puffins have brightly colored bills during the breeding season. Their nicknames are “sea parrots” and “clowns of the sea.”

🔊

Atlantic puffins raise their chicks in a burrow. They dig the burrow on a cliff near water. They line the burrow with seaweed, plants, or feathers. Puffin parents take turns caring for a single egg until it hatches. Then one parent leaves to get small fish to feed the chick. The other parent keeps the chick safe.

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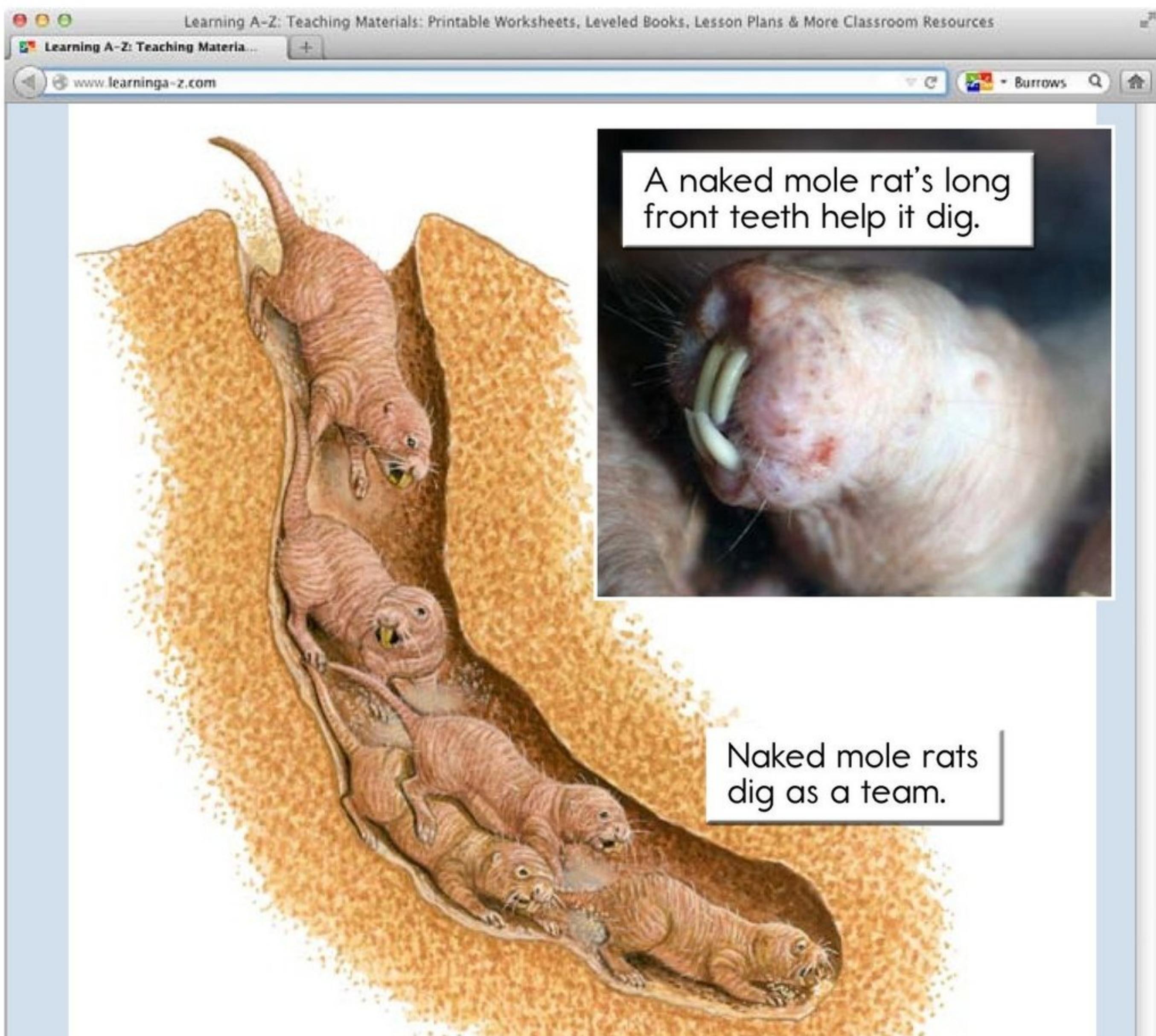
Wowser! 🎧

The tunnels of one naked mole rat colony can cover as much land as twenty football fields!

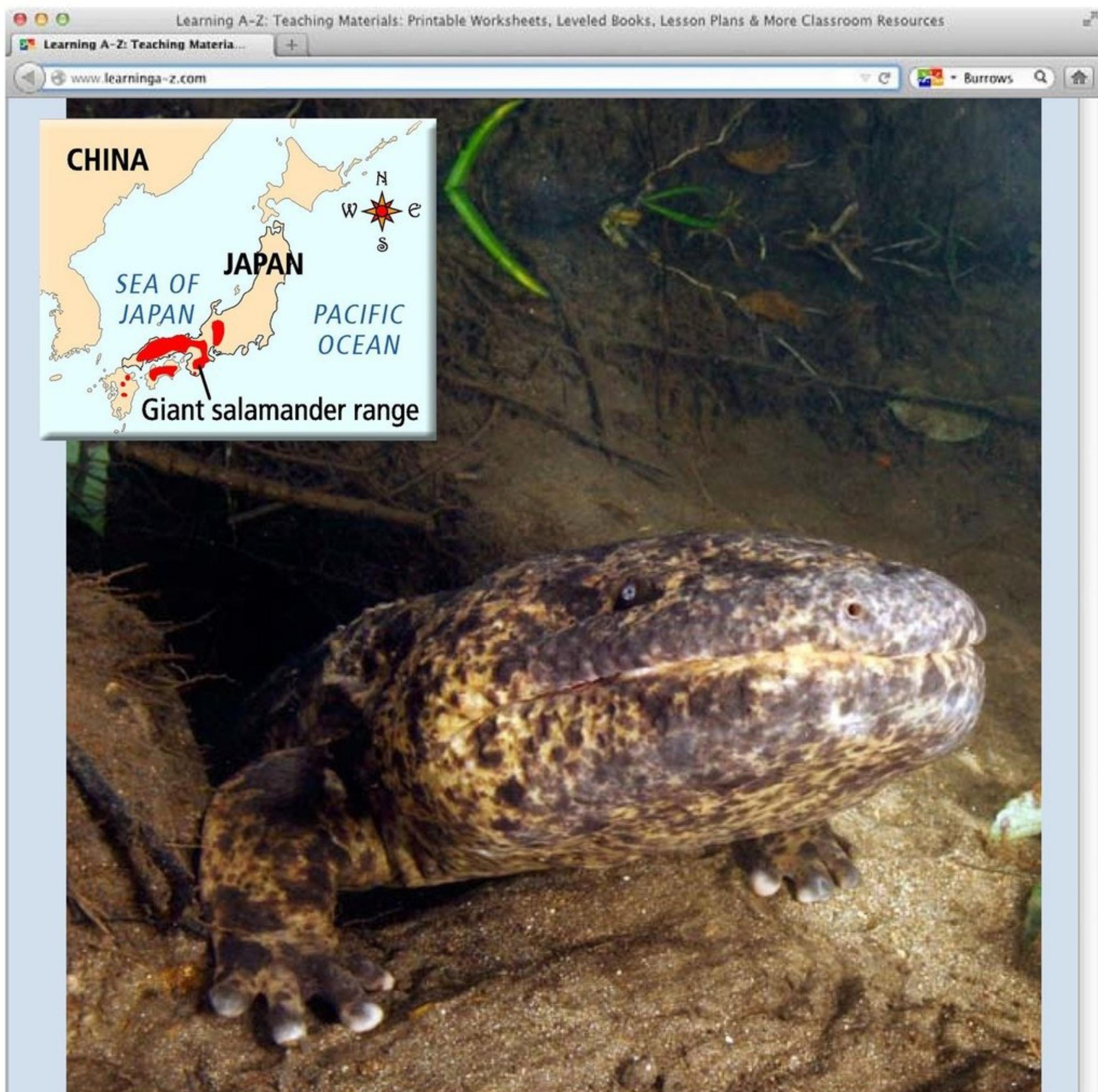
Naked mole rats live in dry grasslands in East Africa.

🎧 **Living in the Dark**

Naked mole rats live in this hole! These small animals spend all of their lives underground in the dark. Small hairs on their face and tail help them find their way. They dig tunnels to find roots and other plant parts to eat.



Naked mole rats work as a team to build their tunnels. One animal breaks new soil at the front of the line. Behind it, several others use their feet to move dirt backward. A worker at the back kicks the dirt up to the surface. Different parts of the tunnels have different uses, such as food storage or nest areas.



A Japanese giant salamander comes out of its burrow.

🔊 Hiding and Laying Eggs

A Japanese giant **salamander** lives in this underwater hole! It lives in cool mountain rivers and streams. During the day, it hides in a burrow or under rocks. At night, it comes out to hunt for food.

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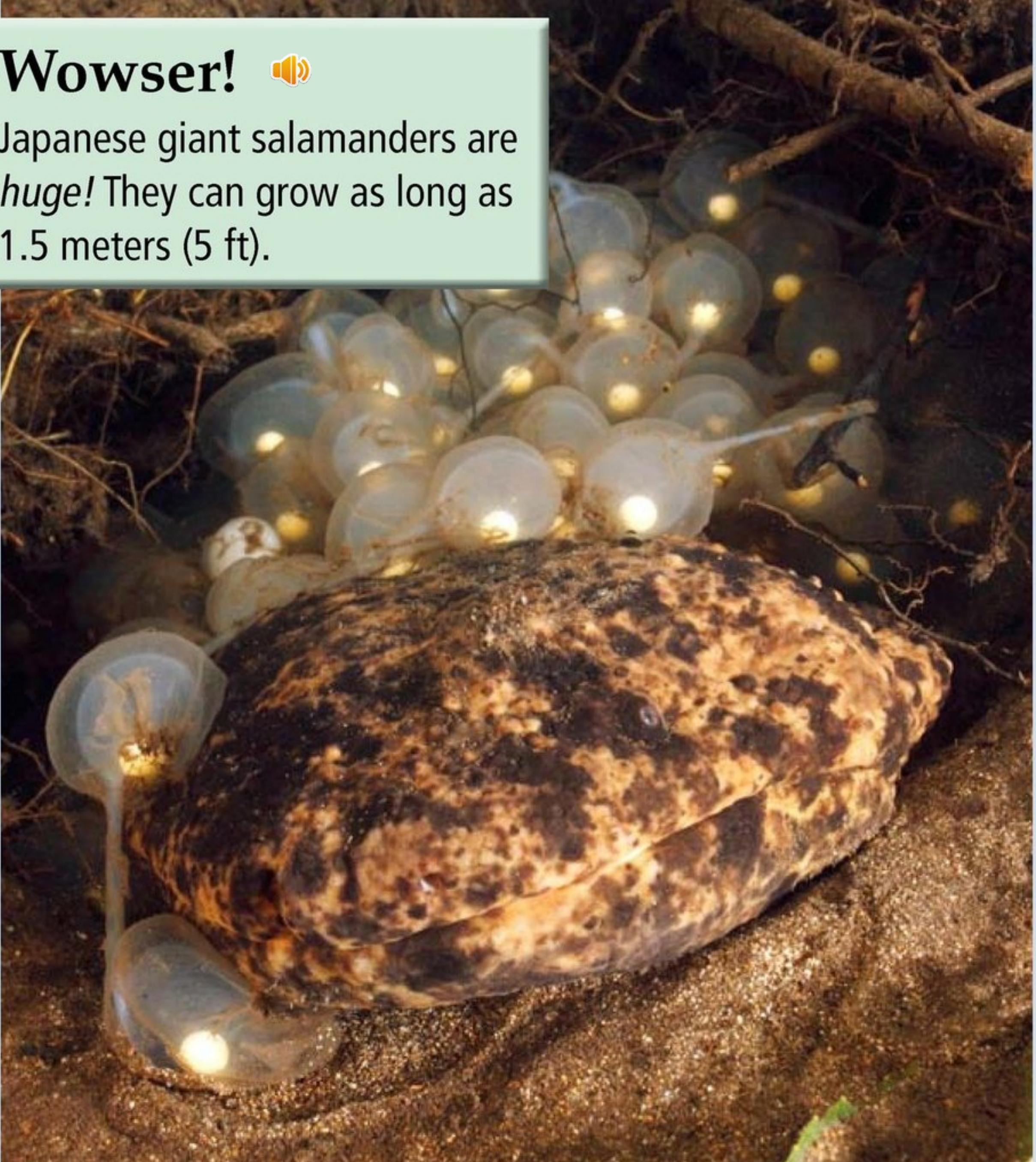
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Burrows

Wowser! 

Japanese giant salamanders are *huge!* They can grow as long as 1.5 meters (5 ft.).



A male salamander protects the eggs.

 In late summer, males and females come together at long burrows. Females swim into the burrows to lay their eggs—up to five hundred! A male watches the eggs to make sure no fish eat them.

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Wowser!

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

A mother and baby wombat look out of their burrow.

Staying Safe

A **wombat** lives in this hole! It digs a burrow with its huge claws. Wombats stay in their burrows during the day. At night, they come out to feed on plants. They run to their burrow if an enemy chases them. They may also protect themselves by fighting.

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Burrows

Do You Know?

Animals on every continent live in burrows. Burrowing sea urchins live in Antarctica.



This Antarctic burrowing sea urchin hides itself while it digs.

More to Come

So far, I've blogged about animal holes on six continents. Are you wondering about Antarctica? I just learned that sea urchins live in burrows there. Check back soon for a post about them.

I'm going to keep doing research on animals that live in holes. It's so fun to learn about the natural world!

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)
research (<i>v.</i>)	to study or investigate, especially to discover new information or to find facts (p. 5)
salamander (<i>n.</i>)	a kind of amphibian that has smooth, wet skin, a long tail, and short legs (p. 12)
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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