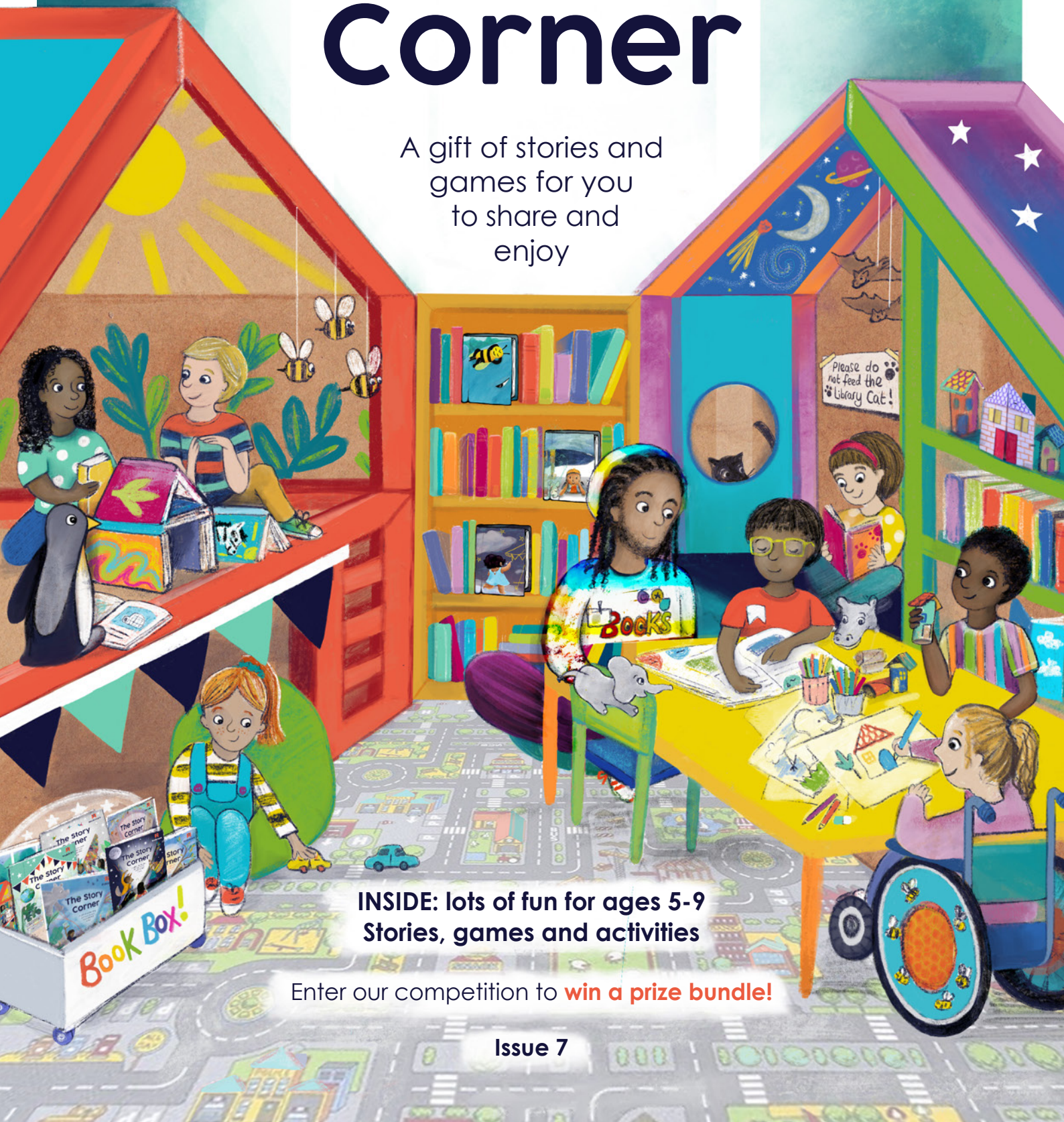




Bookmark

# The Story Corner

A gift of stories and games for you to share and enjoy



**INSIDE: lots of fun for ages 5-9  
Stories, games and activities**

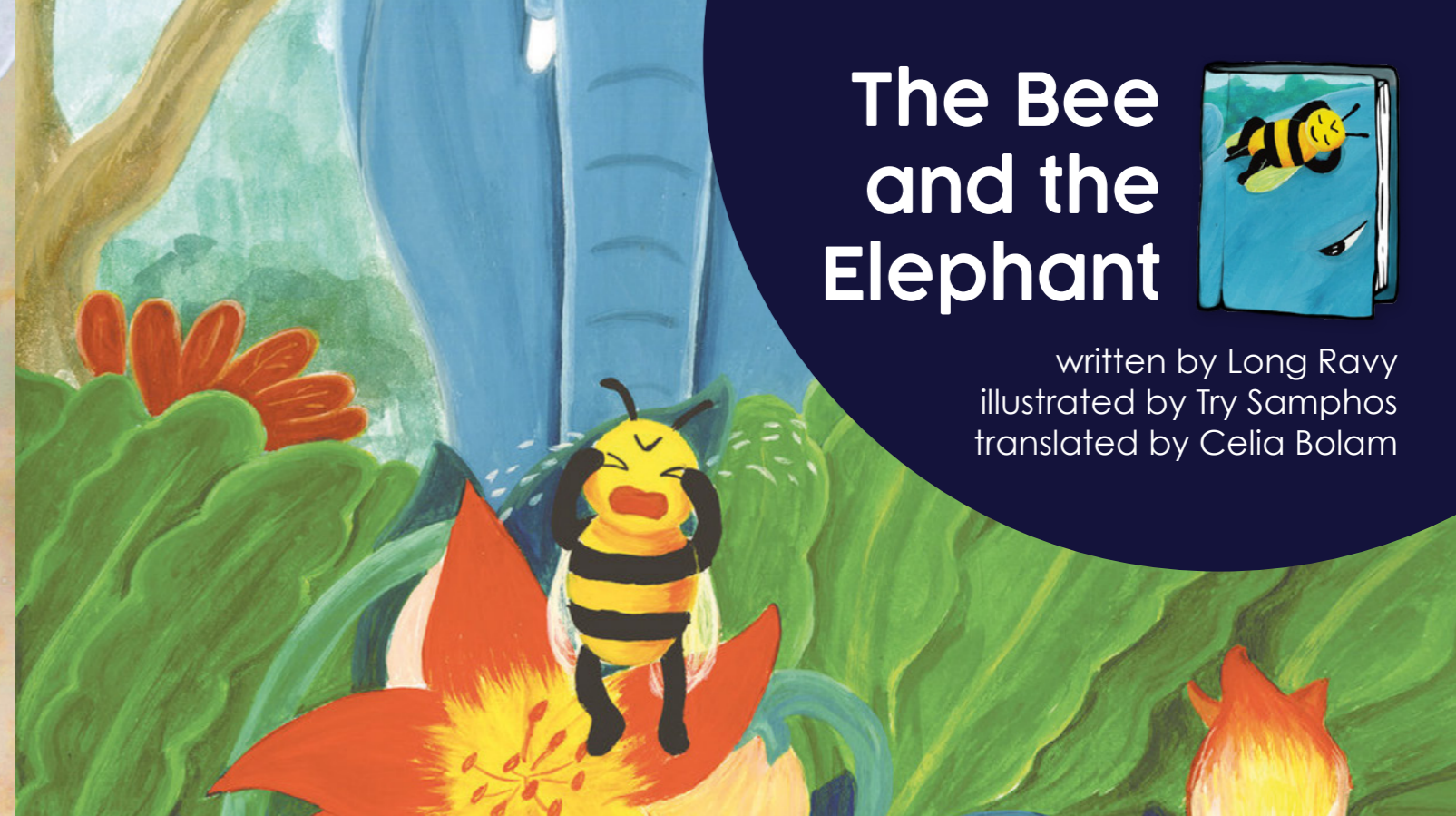
Enter our competition to **win a prize bundle!**

Issue 7

# The Bee and the Elephant



written by Long Ravy  
illustrated by Try Samphos  
translated by Celia Bolam



Hello readers!



My name is Serena Patel. I'm a children's author and books have always been my favourite thing in the whole wide world!

I hope you enjoy reading this issue of *The Story Corner*, it's totally jam packed with lots of fun and interesting stuff and great activities.

Books have been there for me throughout my life, and eventually they (along with my family) inspired me to write my own stories. Now I write the *Anisha, Accidental Detective* series and in the latest adventure Anisha is solving an eco-mystery at the beach. I love going to the beach, so it was a lot of fun to write. Where is your favourite place to go, who do you like to go there with and what do you do there?

Keep reading and remember inspiration for your writing is everywhere!



Illustrated by Emma McCann, published by Usborne

WIN! A copy of Serena's new book in our competition! (p.20)

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"I am lost," said Little Bee. "I cannot find my home!"  
"Can you please help me, Mr Elephant?"

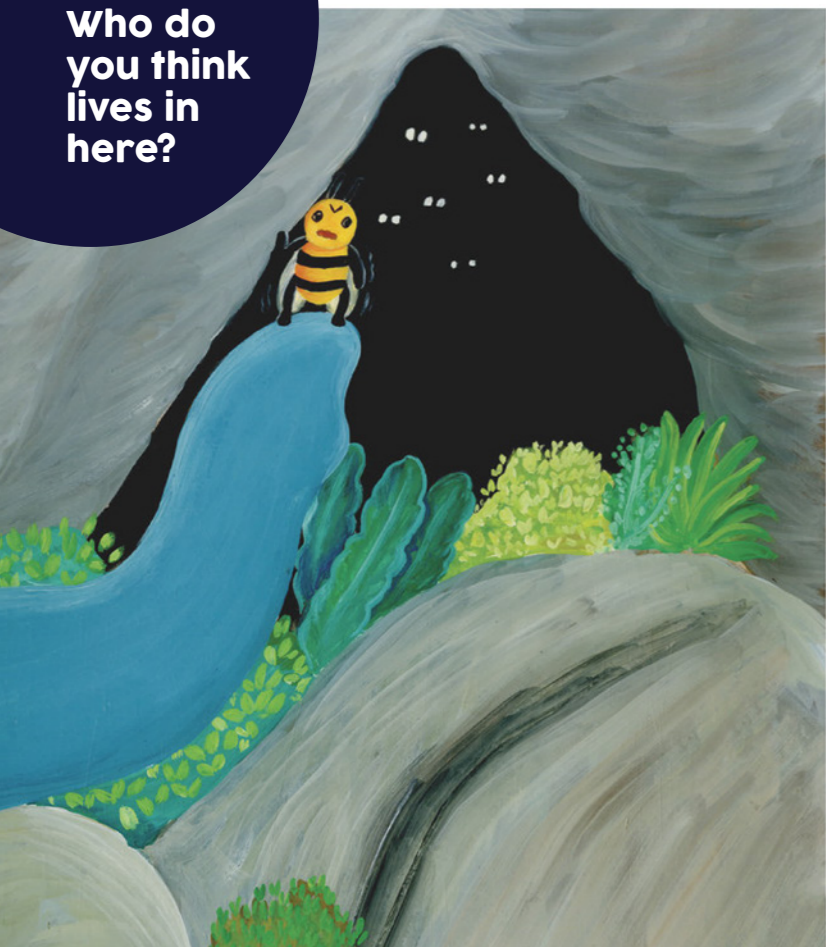


"Is this nest your home, Little Bee?" the elephant asked.



"Oh no!" cried Little Bee. "This is a bird's home."

Who do you think lives in here?



Did you know...

Bats talk to each other through high pitched sounds called sonar



How many Bees can you count in this story?



"Is this cave your home?" asked the elephant.

"Oh no! This is a bat's home."



"Is this hive your home, Little Bee?"

"Oh yes!" said Little Bee happily. "This is my home."

Read left to right



Did you know...

Elephants use their trunks to suck up water to drink - it can hold up to 8 litres of water!



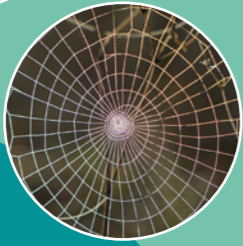
When swimming, elephants use their trunks as a snorkel!

Honey bees let one another know where the best food is by doing a 'waggle dance'. When a bee returns to the hive, it waggles its body to show the other bees which direction the food is in.

"Thank you for helping me, Mr Elephant."

draw a line

# Can you match the animals with their home?



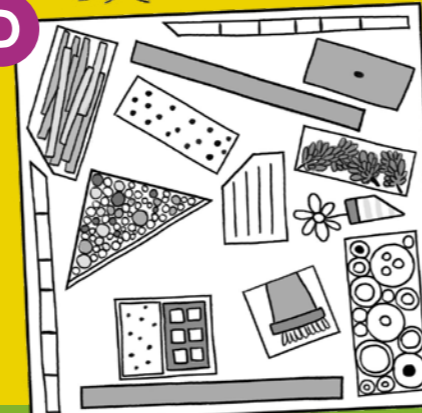
## Did you know...

Different creatures use different parts of an insect hotel. Solitary bees like to nest in the hollow bamboo tubes, while dry leaves or pine cones will provide a cosy home for woodlice and ladybirds.



## BEE-UTIFUL!

Which set (A,B,C or D) contains the exact pieces you need to build this insect hotel?



ANSWER: Set B contains exactly the right pieces.

# WHAT'S HIDING IN THE RAINFOREST?

Join up the dots in number order to complete the image and find out what's hiding in the trees.

My home is under threat due to deforestation. Forests are being cut down to plant oil palm trees for farming palm oil. Palm oil is used to make many household items, from shampoo and cleaning products to chocolate and pizzas.



I'm a natural gardener. I help to maintain a healthy forest by dispersing seeds from the hundreds of types of fruit I eat. This promotes growth of new plants, which provide homes and food for other animals.

Colour me in!



# The Best Thing Ever

written by Melissa Fagan  
illustrated by Lauren Nel  
designed by Stefania Origi  
edited by Helen Moffett



Muzi loves to build things.

He dreams of building the best thing ever.



Did you know...

The tallest building in the world is **828** metres tall, which is the height of **170** double-decker buses stacked on top of each other!

→  
Read left to right

Once, he built a shelter for his toys.

But it wasn't the best thing ever.

Yesterday, he built a bridge for his animals.

It was a good thing, but not the best . . .



Today Muzi is going to visit Ugogo.

He is sad. Without his toys, how can he build the best thing ever?

He sees red things and blue things. Small things and big things. New things and old things.

At the bus stop, Muzi is amazed.

**Ugogo** means **Grandma** in Zulu, a South African language

→  
Read left  
to right



What's the best thing you have ever built?

Muzi has a new idea for building the best thing ever.



On the road to Ugogo's house, Muzi finds many things.

Long things and short things.  
Round things and square things.



By the riverside, Muzi finds more things.

Soft things and pointy things.  
Green things and brown things.



Which is your favourite building?

"Look, Muzi!"

"We are here."



While Ugogo bakes for the hungry travellers...

Muzi builds.



"Look Ugogo, a new house for you."

"Oh, Muzi", laughs Ugogo. This is the best thing ever!

"Ugogo , Ugogo!" says Muzi .

"The world is full of toys. Look what I can build."



Where in the story did Muzi find all the parts of his house?



The author in an inflatable boat called a zodiac off the shore of Antarctica. She's the farthest right, waving. Turn the page to see what she's wearing to stay warm.

**DID YOU KNOW?**  
Antarctica is the coldest, driest and windiest continent on Earth!



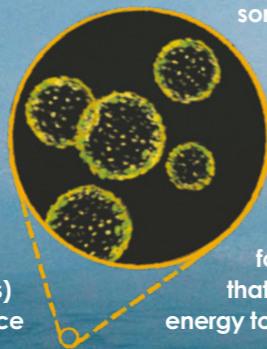
What are penguins' favourite type of food?

# The power of plankton farts

You know humans are changing Earth's climate, and you probably know trees can slow that change. But did you know that tiny plankton are involved, too? Here, in a fascinating article from **Britannica Magazine**, scientist Karen Romano Young explains how...

**M**y job in Antarctica was to help my team of fellow research scientists: Peter 'Pete' Countway, Patricia 'Paty' Matrai, and Carlton Rauschenberg, from the Bigelow Laboratory for Ocean Science in the United States. This team was at the bottom of the world to track down invisible, microscopic beings in the rollicking sea off the Antarctic Peninsula.

You might not realise it – I certainly hadn't! – but plankton (which include algae, protozoa, microbes and even tiny animals) living at the surface



of the sea play an important role in the way that clouds are formed above it.

From our small inflatable boat lurching in waves that tossed up icy spray, I helped launch a rosette of tubes that would sink below the surface, then suck in water samples full of plankton.

These microscopic floating plankton live near the shore at the edge of the Antarctic ice. They hold

some of the secrets of how Antarctica changes, and its future.

Like plants, some plankton photosynthesise sunlight to create food. This means that they use the Sun's energy to transform simple

materials into the food and energy they need.

One type of plankton called *Phaeocystis* produce tiny air-borne gases that get churned up and spewed higher by the waves. Some scientists call them plankton farts, others call them seeds for clouds. Water molecules stick onto these gassy 'cloud seeds' and ride them high into the sky. This is what helps make Antarctica so cloudy – a phenomenon that impacts the weather patterns of the rest of the world, as clouds contribute to the cooling or warming of Earth's surface.

This all leads to my fellow researchers Pete and Paty to ask: as the ice retreats and

Continued on next page >



Iceberg-ers!



Continued from previous page

Antarctica warms, what will happen to these clouds? And what will happen to the rest of the Antarctic food chain, the wide range of living things found here in surprising abundance? The scientific research I helped with is aiming to answer those questions.

On the right, you can find out about some of the biggest animals currently living in Antarctica, whose lives are all tied so closely to the tiniest faring plankton.

In the panel running along the bottom of the page, you can see how many layers of clothes I had to wear to stay warm while working in freezing temperatures on the polar ice!

• Extracted from Antarctica: The Melting Continent by Karen Romano Young, with illustrations by Angela Hsieh.



To find out more, go to [britannicamagazine.com](http://britannicamagazine.com)

## GIANT ANIMALS OF ANTARCTICA

### SEABIRDS

#### Wilson's storm-petrel

The smallest bird to breed in Antarctica, measuring 16–18.5 cm long.



**Skua**  
56 cm long. Preys on baby penguins, among other things.

#### Giant petrel

The only petrel of close to 60 species with legs strong enough to walk steadily on land. Its wingspan is 150–210 cm.



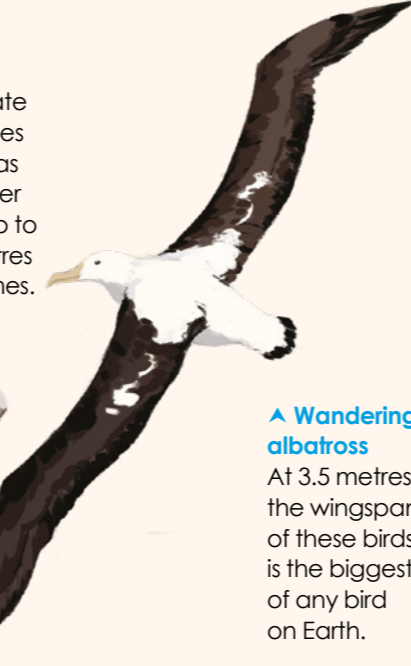
#### Arctic tern

These birds migrate between the poles to stay as much as possible in summer light, travelling up to 2.4 million kilometres during their lifetimes. 33–36 cm long.



#### Wandering albatross

At 3.5 metres, the wingspan of these birds is the biggest of any bird on Earth.

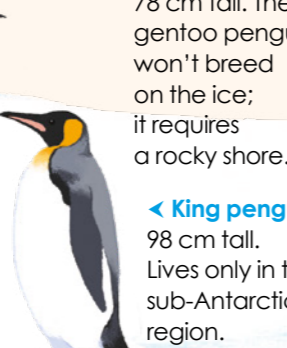


There are 18 species of penguin worldwide, but only 7 live in Antarctica.

### PENGUINS



**Emperor penguin**  
122 cm tall. One of two penguin species that live only in Antarctica.



**King penguin**  
98 cm tall. Lives only in the sub-Antarctic region.

#### Chinstrap penguin

72 cm tall. More chinstraps live in Antarctica than any other penguin – an estimated 8 million.



**Gentoo penguin**  
78 cm tall. The gentoo penguin won't breed on the ice; it requires a rocky shore.

#### Macaroni penguin

70 cm tall. Lives, along with the chinstrap and gentoo, in the sub-Antarctic islands and northern Antarctica.



#### Rockhopper penguin

55 cm tall. Lives in the sub-Antarctic (areas bordering the Southern Ocean) including New Zealand.

#### Adélie penguin

68 cm tall. One of the two penguin species that live only in Antarctica.



#### The elusive colossal squid

Estimated at 14 metres and weighing up to 500 kg – guesswork is involved, since a completely intact adult colossal squid has not yet been found.



### WHALES



**Minke whale**  
9–11 metres long. One of the smallest baleen whales.



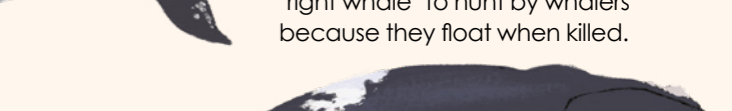
**Orca (killer whale)**  
7–9.4 metres long. The largest of the dolphins.



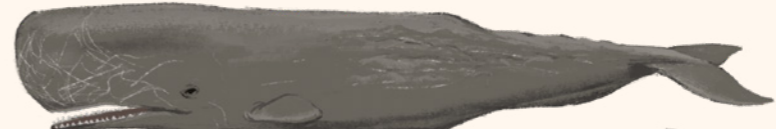
**Southern right whale**  
13.4–16 metres long. Called the 'right whale' to hunt by whalers because they float when killed.



**Humpback whale**  
12–15 metres long. These whales have the longest appendage (or projecting body part) in the world: their flippers, which may reach 5 metres.



**Fin whale**  
20–26 metres long. The second largest of the whales.



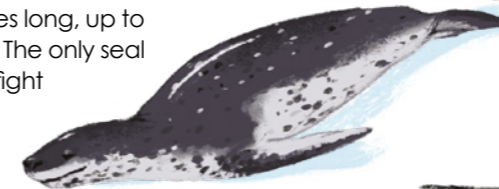
**Sperm whale**  
16–20 metres long. The largest of the toothed whales.



**Blue whale**  
27–33.5 metres long. The largest animal on Earth.

### SEALS

**Leopard seal**  
3.5 metres long, up to 500 kg. The only seal that will fight an orca.



**Weddell seal**  
3 metres long, 450 kg. They have the southernmost range of any seal.



**Southern elephant seal**  
5 metres long, 4,000 kg.



**Ross seal**  
2.5 metres long, 200 kg. They have the shortest fur of any seal.

**Antarctic fur seal**  
1.8 metres long, 150 kg. Among the smallest seals.



**Crabeater seal**  
2.5 metres long, 250 kg. When early explorers were hunting them, they thought the contents of their stomachs were crab, not krill.



## DRESSING UP

Surviving while working in Antarctica requires all kinds of special clothes and equipment, from thermal boots to a balaclava helmet. Follow this step-by-step guide to getting ready for a day on the polar ice.





# SCHOOL CARPOOL

A carpool is a group of people who are all going to the same place, travelling together in one car. Follow the directions below to collect your friends on the way to school and then answer the questions about what you see on the journey.

## DIRECTIONS

1. Start at home in the bottom left-hand corner.
2. Get in the car with whoever is driving you to school and pick up your friends from house number 4.
3. Immediately turn left, then go left again to avoid the traffic jam.
4. Turn right just after the café, then right again at the end of the street.
5. Wait at the traffic lights, then turn left when they turn green.
6. Drive around the park and then into the school car park.

Vehicles emit gases that are harmful to the environment and humans. Cars, buses and trucks produce 74% of carbon dioxide emissions around the world. This is the main contributor to global warming.

Carpooling reduces the number of cars on the road, the amount of fuel used and the quantity of greenhouse gases emitted. If it's safe, walking or riding your bike is an even more environmentally friendly way to get to school!

## QUESTIONS

1. How many houses are on your street?
2. How many bikes do you go past on your way to school?
3. How many shops can you see?
4. How many ducks are on the pond?
5. How many buses can you see?

Left  
Left  
Right  
Right

START

TURN OFF YOUR ENGINE WHILE YOU WAIT



# The Best House of All

written by Natasha Sharma  
illustrated by Kaveri Gopalakrishnan

Read left  
to right



You say  
architect like  
'*arc-ee-tekt*'



I am an **architect**.

Architects love using their imagination to design and build different houses and buildings.

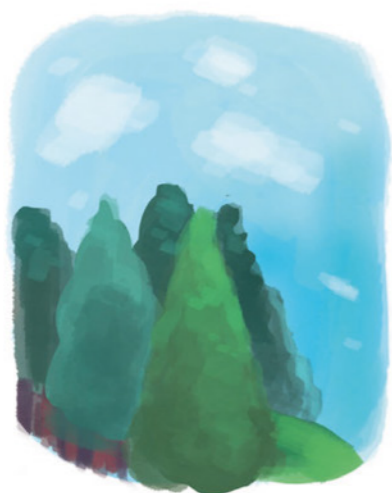
Just like I do. Which is why Ma calls me her 'little architect'.



To build a house, you need space in some place.

Where would you like to build a house?

Your house could be...



... in a full-of-trees forest place,



a hot-hot-hot desert place,



a really-high-up mountain place,



a brrr-it's-full-of-snow place,



a splashy-splshy rainy place,



or a tall-and-big-can't-see-the-end city place.

Or be a house inside a house!

If you want to build your own house, please ask a grown-up for help!

To build a house, you also need stuff. To find stuff, you must look around.

A forest has trees. A mountain has stones. The Arctic has snow. A village has mud, big leaves for thatch, and bamboo. A city has bricks, cement, steel and glass.





Read left  
to right



A house has all kinds of stuff.  
Before you build your house, you must  
know what you want it to do.



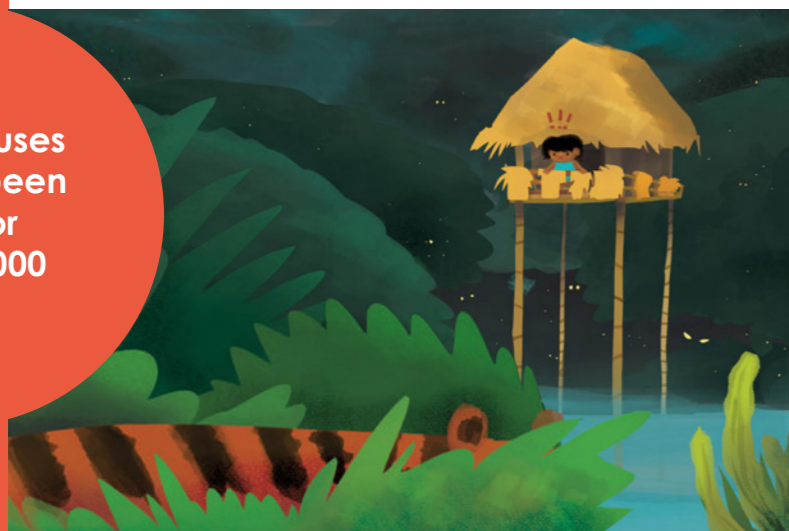
Igloos made of snow keep you warm!

Wood and stone houses, with sloping roofs,  
make the rain and snow run right off.

Native American teepees, made with poles  
and animal hide, keep you cosy. They are  
easy to pack up and carry around.



Houses on stilts keep you away from water...



... and wild animals!

Once you have space and  
stuff, you begin to build.

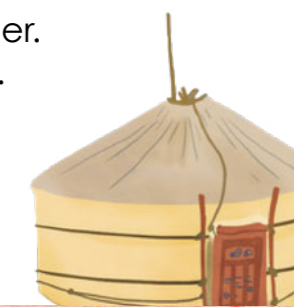


Your house can be any shape and size.

Round and small like a mud house with a  
thatched roof.

Tall-enough-to-scrape-the-sky skyscraper.  
Upside-down-ice-cream-cone teepee.

Round-like-a-cake Mongolian yurt.  
Ball-sliced-in-half igloo.



Stilt houses  
have been  
used for  
over 6000  
years!

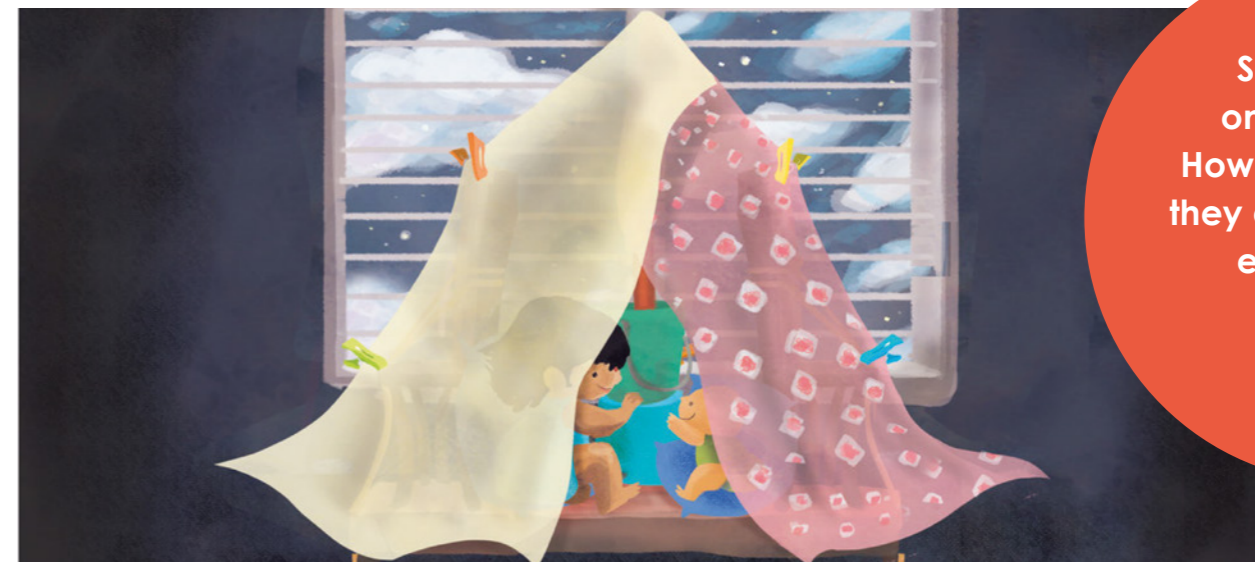
Huge-castle-shaped ...



... castle!



Or a super-fancy house like mine.



But the best house of all... has family to make it a home!

Spot the baby  
on each page.  
How do you think  
they are feeling in  
each picture?  
How do you  
know?

# FACT FILE: Homes from around the world!



## Yurt:

Found in Mongolia, yurts are made with a wood frame and thick mats. The parts of the yurt are light enough to be carried on horses and yaks.



## Stilts:

What do these long legs under the house remind you of? Like a flamingo's long legs, these stilts are designed to help keep the place cool and dry, and are common in South East Asia.



## Igloo:

Did you know that a house made of tightly-packed snow bricks can keep you warm? At least warmer than the -40 degrees centigrade outside! You can find them in the Canadian Arctic and Greenland.

*View of the Earth as seen by  
the Apollo 17 crew traveling  
towards the Moon!*

*Image from NASA .*



## Teepee:

Found in Mongolia, made with long poles and animal hide, used by the Native North American tribes in the plains. This is another house that can be packed up and carried around!



## Toda dogle:

A half-barrel-shaped hut of the Toda tribe, these are made with sticks, bamboo and thatch. They have a tiny entrance to crawl through which helps keep wild animals out. The Toda people live in the Nilgiri hills in South India.

# The Joke Corner

Which animal can jump higher than a house?

Any animal... houses can't jump!

Which type of building is the easiest to pick up?

A lighthouse!

Did you hear about the monster who ate his own house?

He was homesick!

How does a penguin join bricks together for building a house?

Igloos them!

What do you call a soldier that hates recycling?

General Waste!

What did the dinosaur use to build his house?

A dino-saw!

I have a joke about recycling.

But unfortunately it's already been used!

# COMPETITION

## Design your dream home!

Where would you love to live?  
It could be outdoors, on a boat,  
even underground!

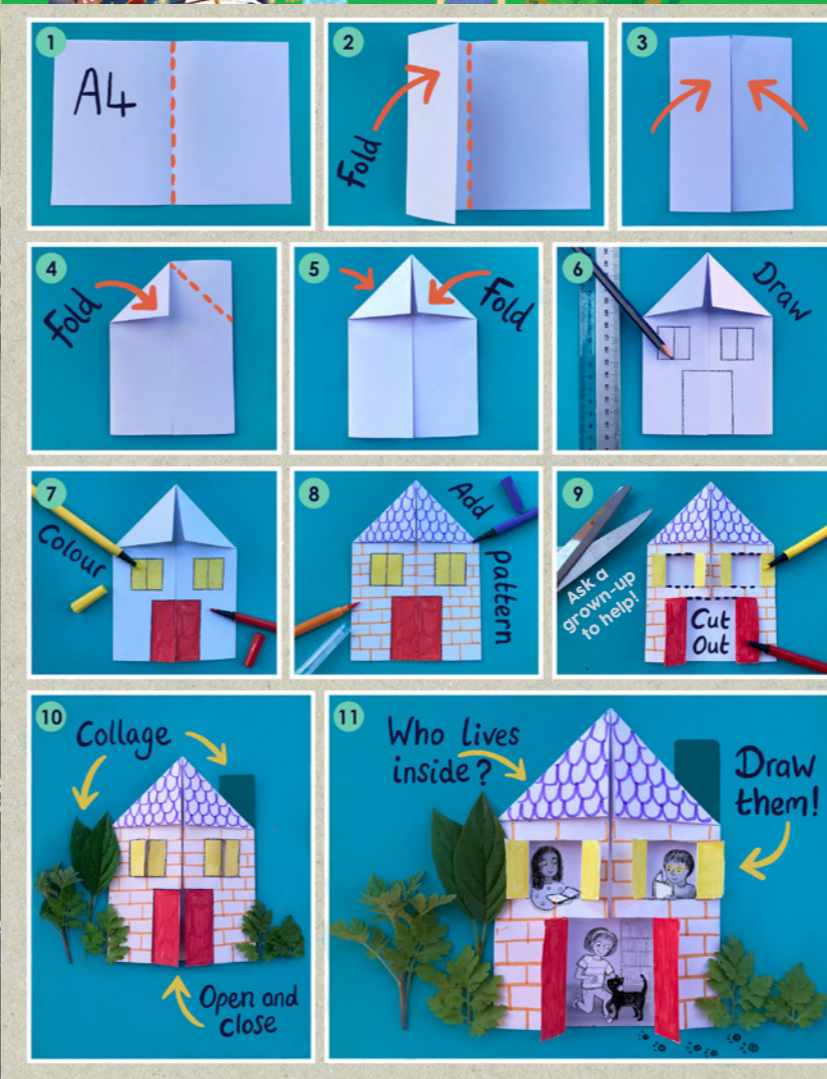
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Green Activity Books - *Anisha, Accidental Detective: Beach Disaster* by Serena Patel

Get creative! Draw your ideas in the space below:



Name.....

Age.....



Once you have finished your home, ask a grown-up to take a picture of this page and send it to:

[thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org](mailto:thestorycorner@bookmarkreading.org)

GROWN-UPS terms and conditions, including closing date, available on our website [bookmarkreading.org/the-story-corner](http://bookmarkreading.org/the-story-corner)



**WINNER** →  
of issue 6,  
'design your  
own den'  
competition!

Name: Esya  
Age: 9



**The Bee and the Elephant** (English), translated by Celia Bolam, based on original story ប៊ែនប៊ែន (Khmer), written by Long Ravy, illustrated by Try Samphos, published by Room to Read (© Room to Read, 2015)\*

**The Best House of All** (English), written by Natasha Sharma, illustrated by Kaveri Gopalakrishnan, published by Pratham Books (© Pratham Books, 2017)\*

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**The Best Thing Ever** (English), written by Melissa Fagan, illustrated by Lauren Nel, designed by Stefania Origi, edited by Helen Moffett, published by Book Dash (© Book Dash, 2016). This work is licensed under a Creative Commons Attribution 4.0 licence (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>). Find out more at: <http://bookdash.org/books>.

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- Andrew & Mark at **Britannica Magazine**
- The Elephant's Trunk**
- The Barratt Foundation** for sponsoring this issue

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### Top tips for encouraging your child to enjoy reading

#### Put on a show!

Make character puppets out of recycled material and help your child tell a story. It could be a story you've created together or a retelling of their favourite tale.

#### Role play as characters

Choose a character from one of your child's favourite stories. Ask your child questions as if they were the character or get them to ask you questions, but stay in role!

#### Play 'Fastest Finger First'

Playing with two or more people, call out a word or picture and the first person to find it on the page gets a point!

#### Home sweet home

Help your child to draw or build a home for their favourite character. Ask them questions about the choices they've made to see how well they understand the character.



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