A CHILD'S GUIDE TO THE ANIMAL KINGDOM
Wild
Jack Ashby
Sara Boccaccini Meadows
MAGIC CAT

A CHILD'S GUIDE TO THE ANIMAL KINGDOM
Wild
Jack Ashby
Sara Boccaccini Meadows
MAGIC CAT

Wild

Written by
Jack Ashby

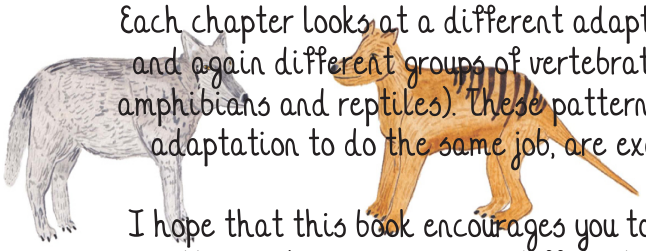
Illustrated by
Sara Boccaccini Meadows

I am very lucky - I work in a natural history museum, where millions of ani
from across the world have been brought together into one place. Museums
similarities and differences between species, which can tell us about how t
and how they are perfectly shaped to live their lives.

One thing that fascinates me is when animals look incredibly similar, but
related. I find it completely mind-blowing, for example, that a predator evo
which looked exactly like a stripy wolf, but it's not a member of wolf famil
thylacine, and it's a marsupial, related to koalas and kangaroos.

Thylacines and wolves look the same because they do the same thing in the
so they evolved the same adaptations, separately, on opposite sides of the
explores other examples of animals that have the same adaptation even th
to different groups.

Each chapter looks at a different adaptation and shows how similarities c
and again different groups of vertebrates (animals with backbones: birds, r
amphibians and reptiles). These patterns in nature, when different animals
adaptation to do the same job, are examples of something called converge



I hope that this book encourages you to look closely at nature, to spot othe
patterns where species are different in many ways, but also have somethi
in common.

—J.A.

CONTENTS

2 — The HERO of BEING PRICKLY
- the EASTERN LONG-BEAKED ECHIDNA

6 — The HERO of ENDLESS TEETH
- the GREAT WHITE SHARK

10 — The HERO of GLIDING
- the GREATER GLIDER

14 — The HERO of VENOM
- the FIERCE SNAKE

18 — The HERO of WARNING COLOURS
- the GOLDEN POISON FROG

22 — The HERO of LURKING IN WATER
- the AMERICAN ALLIGATOR

26 — The HERO of HORNS & ANTLERS
- the MOOSE

30 — The HERO of FISH-CATC
- the COMMON DOLPHIN

34 — The HERO of ECHO-LOC
- the COMMON PIPISTRELLE

38 — The HERO of COUNTER
- the GENTOO PENGUIN

42 — The HERO of ANT-EATIN
- the GIANT ANTEATER

46 — The HERO of the PADDLI
- the PLATYPUS

50 — The HERO of WOOD-PE
- the AYE-AYE

54 — The HERO of the TRICKS
- the HUMPBACK ANGLERFISH

58 — The HERO of HAVING AI
- the TREE PANGOLIN

62 — GLOSSARY

HERO OF BEING PRICKLY

the EASTERN LONG-BEAKED ECHIDNA

Animals can have many different coverings, from hair to scales, and feathers to smooth skin. Some have modified their covering to form defensive spines, and long-beaked echidnas are among the very largest prickly beasts.