



Linh Dao & Pavla Hanáčková

UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS IN NATURE



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HIPPOS & FISH

UNDERWATER WASHING MACHINE

Hippos can be found in areas with sufficient amounts of water - they spend a lot of time wallowing in it, coming to the shore only rarely. During the day they bask in the sun, grazing only at night. While they're making these transitions, uninvited guests can easily attach themselves to their skin. Hippos are surrounded by several helpers at once who provide them with a complete cleaning service.

TAXI SERVICE

From time to time, hippos serve a stint as taxi drivers. While moving in the water they transport various animals, for example **herons** or **turtles**. Why should you exert yourself needlessly, when you can hitch such a special ride? ▼



LABEO - DENTIST

Fish are so diligent in their work that they won't even leave the hippo's mouth out. They throw themselves right in between its huge teeth, cleaning its tongue and entire oral cavity as well. ◀



HIPPOPOTAMUS

Although hippos are no lightweights (they can weigh up to three tons), they're great swimmers and even capable of running across the bottom of the river, or remaining under water for ten minutes on one breath. Swimming lessons are a piece of cake for baby hippos! ▼

FISH - WATER VACUUM CLEANERS

A **carp-like fish** uses its fleshy lips to attach itself to a hippo's skin, removing algae, parasites and dead skin cells one after another. Other kinds of species look after less accessible spots. Observe the hungry fish chasing the hippo like it's a movie star! ▶



UNINVITED PASSENGER

Hippos often have another passenger on their bodies, this time quite an unwelcome one. We're talking about blood-sucking **leeches** that specialize exclusively in hippos. ▶



CLEAN FROM THE INSIDE

Because hippos are herbivores, they eat only plants. However, these may sometimes be hard to digest. That's why there are little helpers living inside the hippo's stomach which can digest even very coarse and stringy foods. ▲

SLOTH, ALGAE & MOTH

CAMOUFLAGE IN TREE TOPS

You need to really pay attention if you want to spot a sloth in its natural environment. It lives its slow life in tree tops, very well camouflaged so that it's almost distinguishable from the surrounding greens.



PALE-THROATED SLOTH

Sloths are typically arboreal animals which spent most of their days hanging from tree branches. They have strong claws which prevent them from falling down. Once in a time they climb down to the ground, not staying there for long, however, and immediately dart back up. ◀

SMART DISGUISE

If a sloth lives in the wild, its fur is covered with **algae** which make it turn grey-green. It therefore works like an invisibility cloak in the surrounding mass of green leaves! ▶



IT'S IN THE BAG!

HA, YOU ALMOST HAVEN'T FOUND ME, NOW HAVE YOU?



SLOTH'S FUR

Sloth has a body adapted to suspension. Even its long fur grows in the opposite direction when compared to other animals; this makes the rainwater trickle down more easily. And after a heavy downpour, the sloth has a completely new coat... ▲

YUCK, I DON'T EAT LEAVES.

IN TREE TOPS

Even though sloths live in great heights, once in a while they crawl down from the tree – the reason for this is that they need to pee. Once its paws touch the ground, the sloth becomes incredibly vulnerable. It's because moving on the ground is very hard for sloths – it looks more like they're crawling. This makes them an easy prey for jaguars or harpys. ▶



WALKING ZOO

Algae in a sloth's fur live on its sweat and flakes of skin. But they aren't the only ones living among all that hair! The fur is home to a **small moth** which fares really well there. ▲



SLOW SLOTH

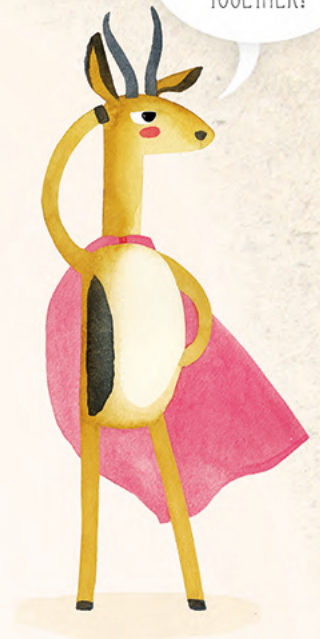
Sloths are slow, moving without any hurry. Even their **digestion** is slow. That is why they go down to answer the call of nature only once in 2-4 weeks! There's a reason for this, however – what's immovable can't be seen by the enemies. Who's up, is safe! ◀



UNLIKELY FRIENDSHIPS IN NATURE

Written by Pavla Hanáčková
Illustrated by Linh Dao

LET'S HAVE FUN TOGETHER!



HOORAY!
I MADE NEW FRIENDS!



Funny book full of beautiful illustrations.

An antelope and a baboon. An ill-matched pair, wouldn't you say? Well, you're in for a surprise: these two go really well together. Each looks out for the other as they protect themselves from their enemies. And these aren't the only two sharp-witted animals to have realized that it's good to have a partner. A zebra has a great understanding with a little bird, a clownfish lives happily in a sea anemone, and a shark is surrounded by a large entourage of cleaner fish. Plants, too, can help other. Come with us on a journey through the natural world and discover that friendship can be found practically anywhere!



Friendship can be found anywhere!



EAN

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