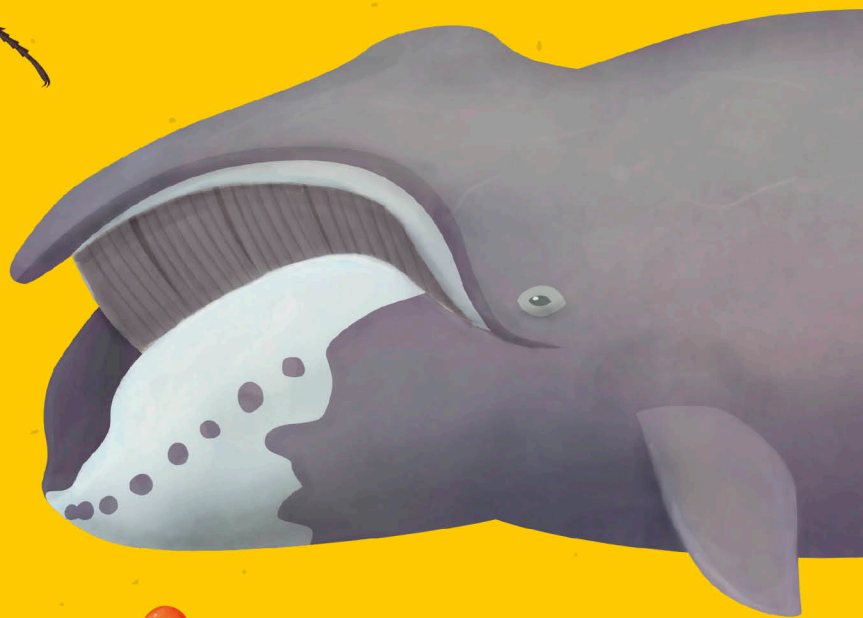
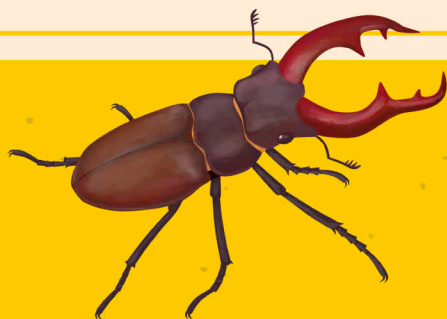
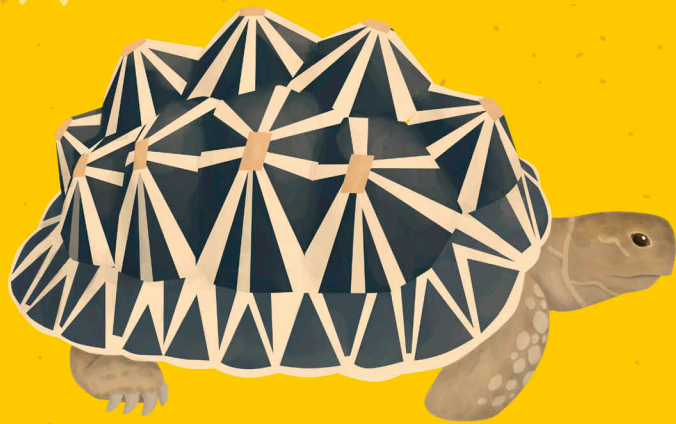
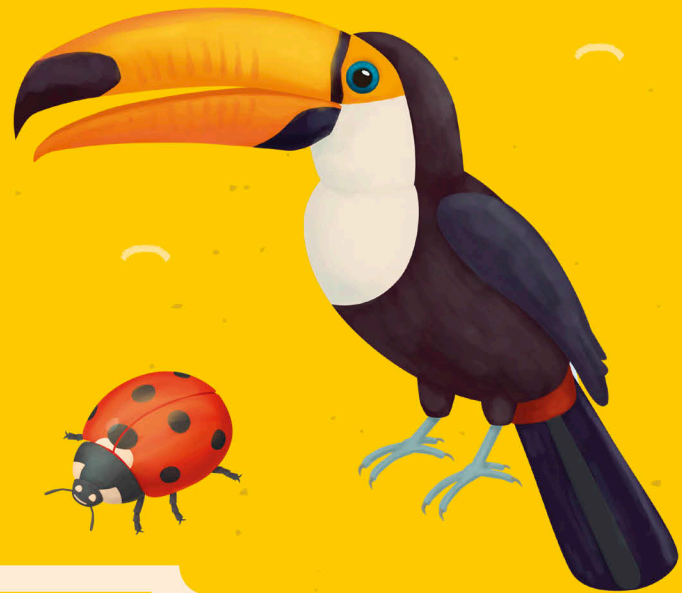


# Encyclopaedia of Animals for Young Readers



Tomáš Jůma



# Predators

No vegetarians over here.

Many predators are feared hunters due to their strong, agile bodies and robust jaws with sharp teeth. Their preferred lunch takes the form of a large chunk of meat. There are exceptions here as well, tough. Panda, for example, opts for bamboo, giving steaks a pass.

## ★ Brown bear

The main characteristic features of the brown bear are long claws and a muscled hump. Its diet is rather diverse: it includes both plants and animals, and on occasion honey.

## ★ Spotted hyaena

A single hyena doesn't dare attack anything larger than a hare, but a pack of them will easily bring down a zebra. Hyenas look like dogs, but are more related to cats.

## ★ Lion

Lion males are studier than females and rely more on their strength than cunning which makes them worse hunters. Additionally, they boast a large mane. The females are smaller, but more skilled.

Brown bear

Grey wolf

Short-tailed weasel

Amur tiger

Eurasian otter

Spotted hyaena

Lion

Giant panda

Walrus

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## ★ Grey wolf

Intelligent predators, wolves live and hunt in packs. They even dare to attack prey that's larger than them. When humans and wolves got closer, wolves turned into dogs as a result of long breeding.

## ★ Giant panda

The extremely rare panda is a predator as well, even though its diet consists of bamboo leaves. You can't find it in the wild, with the exception of a few natural reserves in China.

## ★ Short-tailed weasel

The small short-tailed weasel is very agile. At night, it likes to go hunting mice, birds, or rabbits. The northern version has a white fur coat.

## ★ Amur tiger

This mighty feline inhabits ever-smaller regions in Asia. The males of the largest tiger species – the Siberian tiger – can weigh up to 300 kg.

## ★ Eurasian otter

This predator from the Mustelidae family is well equipped for catching fish. Its thick fur protects it from the cold. It also has webs between its toes.

## ★ Walrus

Just like any other pinniped, the walrus seems a little bit clumsy when on dry land. But once it gets in the water, it becomes a skilled swimmer that can dive almost one hundred meters below the surface.



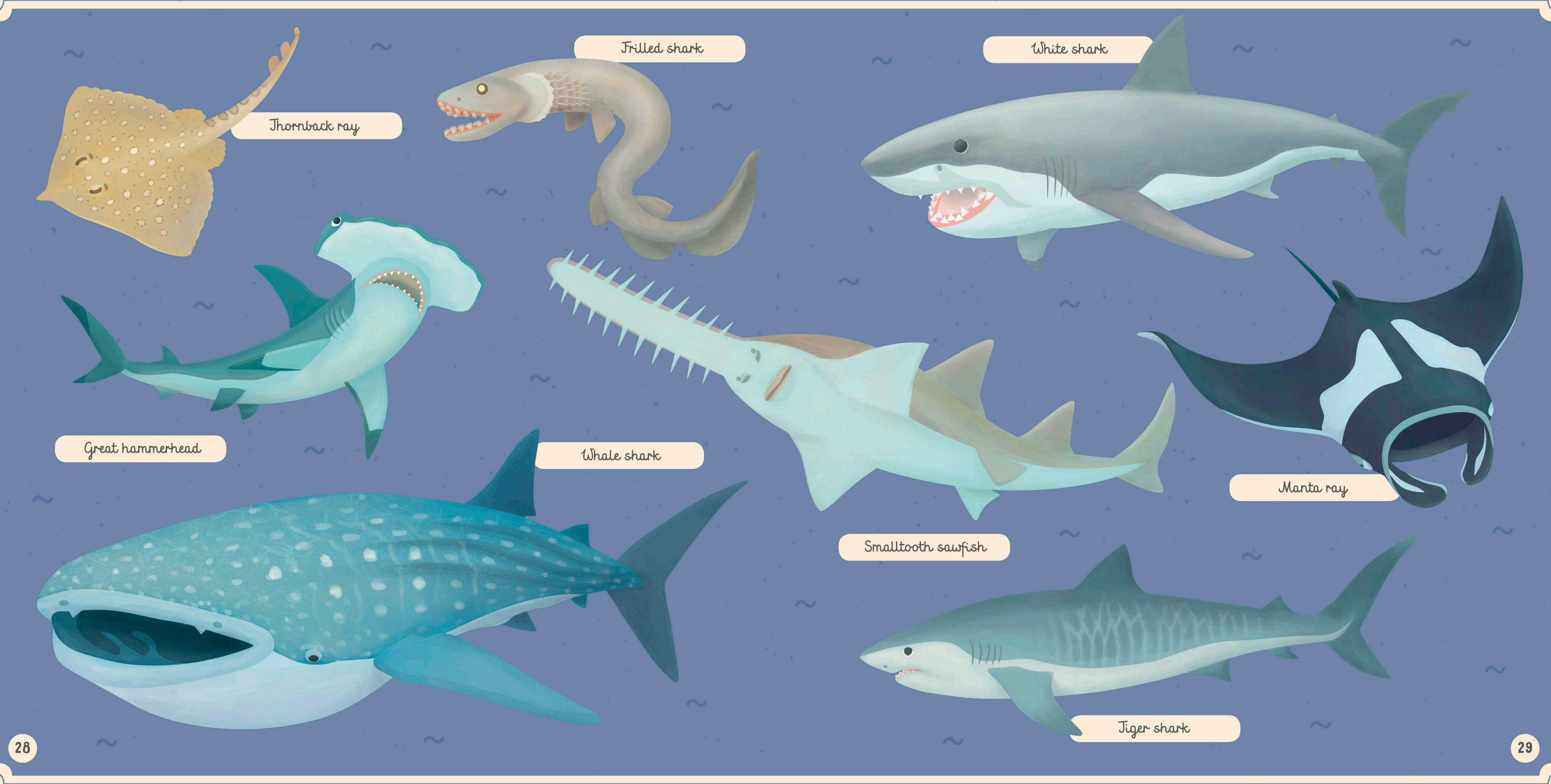
# Cartilaginous fish

I look like a fish.

Well-known sea predators, sharks are categorized as cartilaginous fish. This group of animals, equipped with a cartilaginous skeleton, also includes rays and chimaeras. These animals never need to see a dentist because their teeth are constantly replaced with new ones.

**Thornback ray**  
The pattern on the upper part of the ray's body makes it blend in with the bottom of the sea where it spends most of its time. The thornback ray frequently occurs in European coastal waters.

**Frilled shark**  
The frilled shark looks like a species gone long extinct. It lives in deep waters. Its grills consist of a single slit, distorted to resemble a collar.



**Great hammerhead**

This shark can be up to 6 meters long. The unusual shape of its head makes it hard to miss.

**Whale shark**

Although this is the largest shark in the world, you really don't have to fear it. This calm giant likes to swim around with its mouth open, filtering tiny organisms out of the water.

**Smalltooth sawfish**

They have a protrusion which is surrounded by teeth on both sides. It uses this protrusion to dig up food from the bottom of the sea and sometimes to cut into a shoal of fish in order to kill or wound them.

**White shark**

Even though the huge, toothy jaws of white sharks scare people to death, these animals attack people only very rarely. White sharks prefer fish and seals.

**Manta ray**

Manta's elegant, large, strong fins make it look as if it flies like a bird. Its diet consists of plankton.

**Tiger shark**

The tiger shark is easily recognizable by the typical stripes on its sides. It's not a picky eater and often sinks its teeth into a carcass. You can also encounter it in shallow coastal waters.



# Tortoises

I'm not getting rid of my shell.

*The bony shell is directly connected to the body which is why a tortoise or turtle can never shed it. When in danger, it doesn't have to bother with trying to escape (it's bad at escaping, anyway). Instead, the tortoise pulls its head and limbs in, out of the predator's reach. Although tortoises don't have teeth, their sharp jaws allow them to snap off a lot of things, even your finger.*

## Leatherback turtle

This noble traveller across the oceans is the largest turtle in the world. Its thin leathery shell is shaped in a way that allows it to move as easily under water as possible. It lays eggs in the holes it digs on a beach.

## European pond turtle

The diet of this European freshwater turtle consists of small animals, fish, and insects. The European pond turtle survives cold winters by burying itself in the muddy beds of water courses.

## Star tortoise

The terrestrial star tortoise lives in India. Its arched, conical shell with a pretty pattern makes it impossible to miss.

Leatherback turtle



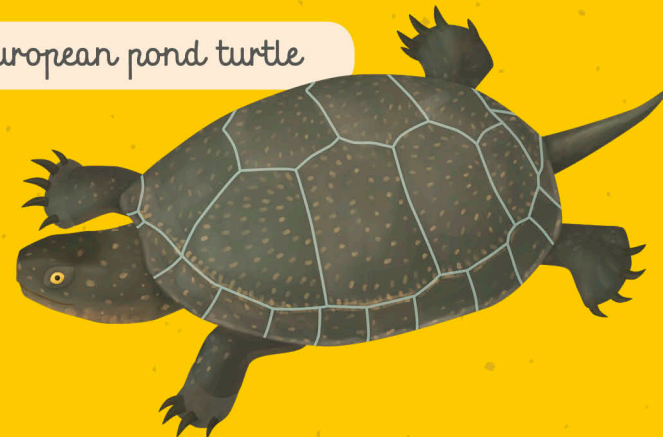
Eastern long-necked turtle



Green turtle



European pond turtle



Red-eared slider turtle



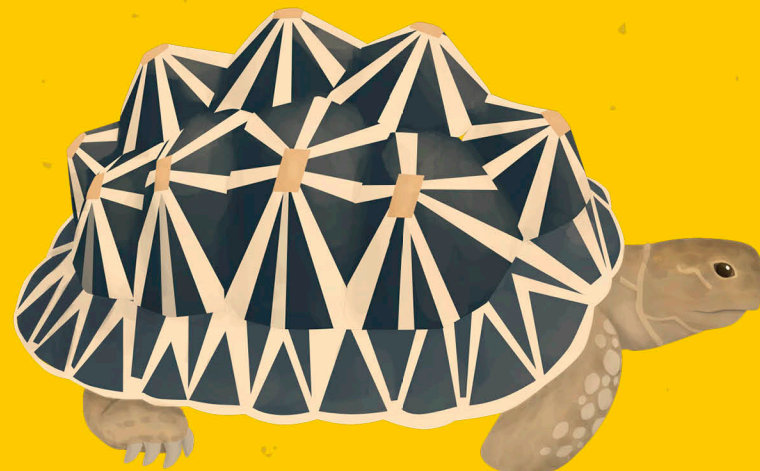
Red-footed tortoise



Galapagos tortoise



Star tortoise



Snapping turtle



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## Galapagos tortoise

With its weight of up to 200 kilograms, it is one of the largest tortoises in the world. Grazing on vegetation, not hurrying anywhere, and occasionally rolling around in the mud must be a good recipe for long life.

## Eastern long-necked turtle

Its exceptionally long neck allows this turtle to walk on the bottom of water currents while occasionally emerging above the surface in order to take a breath. With a neck like this, it's pretty easy to catch fish, too.

## Green turtle

The green turtle is well-adjusted to long travels across the world's oceans. Just like the leatherback turtle, it lays eggs on sandy beaches.

## Red-eared slider turtle

This freshwater turtle that lives in the water courses and lakes of North America is recognizable by the red stripe on its neck. People like to keep it in captivity.

## Red-footed tortoise

About half-a-meter long, this South American tortoise has an elongated shell, decorated with orange spots. Adult specimens prefer to eat plants.

## Snapping turtle

The large, predatory, freshwater snapping turtle lives along the Mississippi river. It sometimes lures fish into its very sharp, beak-like jaws by using a worm-resembling protrusion on its tongue.



# Beetles

We shield our wings with wing-cases.

*The membranous wings of insects are thin and fragile. That's why beetles figured out a way to protect themselves. Hard shards cover their wings and back, allowing beetles to inspect even narrow spaces without getting themselves in danger.*

## Colorado potato beetle

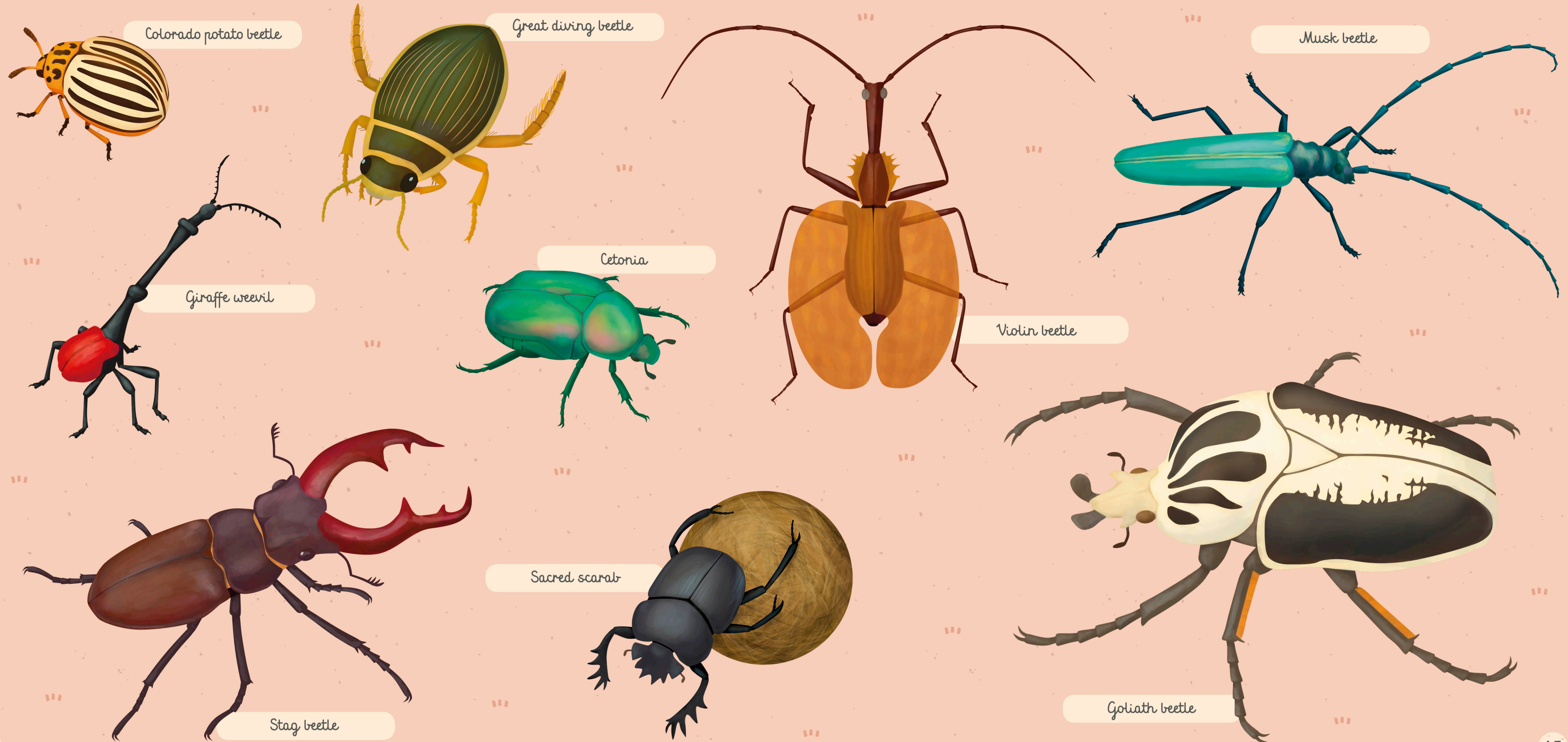
This well-known beetle has a distinct striping on its shards. It feeds on potato haulms. Gradually, the Colorado potato beetle has gradually spread from America to Europe and Asia.

## Great diving beetle

The great diving beetle dives in ponds in order to get food. It also hunts insects and other small animals. While diving, it has a supply of oxygen hidden beneath its shards, similarly to human divers.

## Giraffe weevil

The giraffe weevil uses its long neck to build a nest from leaves and to engage in fights. It can be found only in the island of Madagascar.



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## Stag beetle

The largest European beetle, the stag beetle has huge mandibles on its head. The males use them when fighting one another.

## Cetonia

The Cetonia genus includes species which look like gem stones or polished metals due to their colourful shiny shards. These shards are closed during flight.

## Sacred scarab

As the name suggests, the sacred scarab was considered sacred in the ancient Egypt. The greatest treasure it owns is a ball of dung it knocks together and then rolls to a place that's suitable for laying eggs.

## Violin beetle

Ground beetles boast some remarkable specimens as well. As the name suggests, the violin beetle that can be found in the tropical rain forests of South East Asia looks like a violin due to the shape of its body.

## Musk beetle

The adult musk beetles gather pollen from flowers or suck nectar and sap from plants. The larvae – well-known wood pests – hatch from eggs that were laid under tree bark.

## Goliath beetle

One of the largest beetles in the world, the Goliath beetles live in the equator rainforests of Africa. Their larvae live in rotting wood and are remarkably large as well.





There's a huge amount of animals living on Earth, from tiny insects to large mammals. The animal world is sundry and very interesting. This encyclopaedia will introduce you to at least several hundreds of the best known and most interesting animals from the whole planet, and to top it off, it will help you put each one of them into the right group. This book will show you an attractive selection of mammals, rodents, ungulates, primates, predators, cetaceans, birds, fish, cartilaginous fish, amphibians, reptiles, insects, and other animal groups that can be found all over Earth. Beautiful illustrations and simple texts make this book an indispensable and very useful helper to any child.

