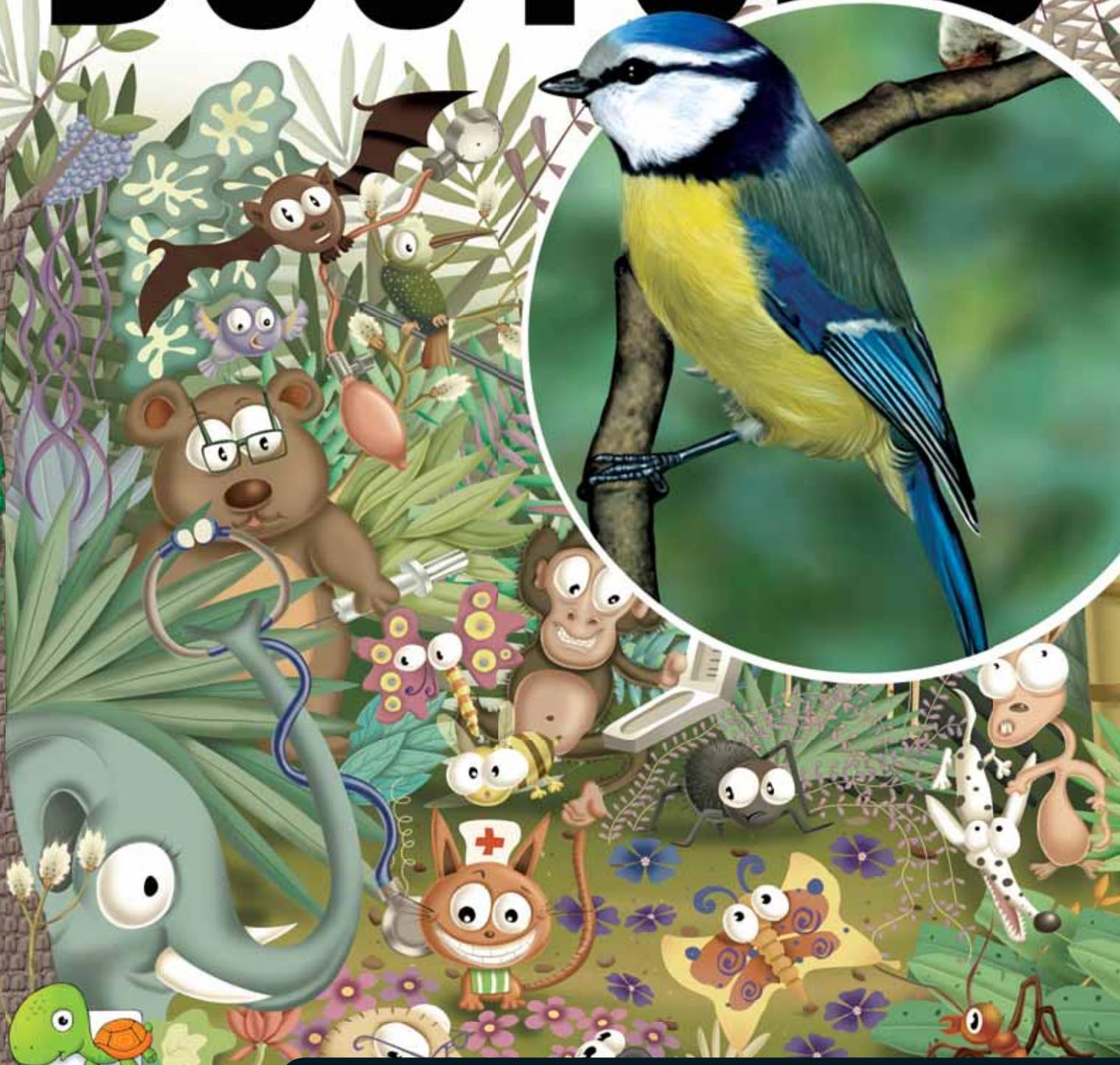




NATURE'S

DOCTORS



Getting to know nature's little helpers!



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The Energy and Resources Institute

A note from Dr R K Pachauri

The world of animals and insects is truly wondrous. If we delve a little deeper, we will be amazed at the similarities between their ways and ours. In fact, at times their industriousness, skill, resourcefulness, and knowledge are awe-inspiring.

This series focuses on the unique world of animals and insects, revealing their incredible habits and amazing skills. Ants that build colonies, worms that produce light, tiny polyps that build huge reefs under water—these are just some of the myriad examples to show that nature never ceases to amaze.

While revealing little-known facts and amazing secrets of the animal world, these books will entertain and enrich young minds. I hope that as they leaf through the pages, readers will also feel inspired to protect the beautiful world brought to life within these covers. More importantly, I look forward to these books making young readers realize that the world of animals is meant to be explored and appreciated rather than destroyed for selfish reasons.



R K Pachauri
Director-General, TERI
Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

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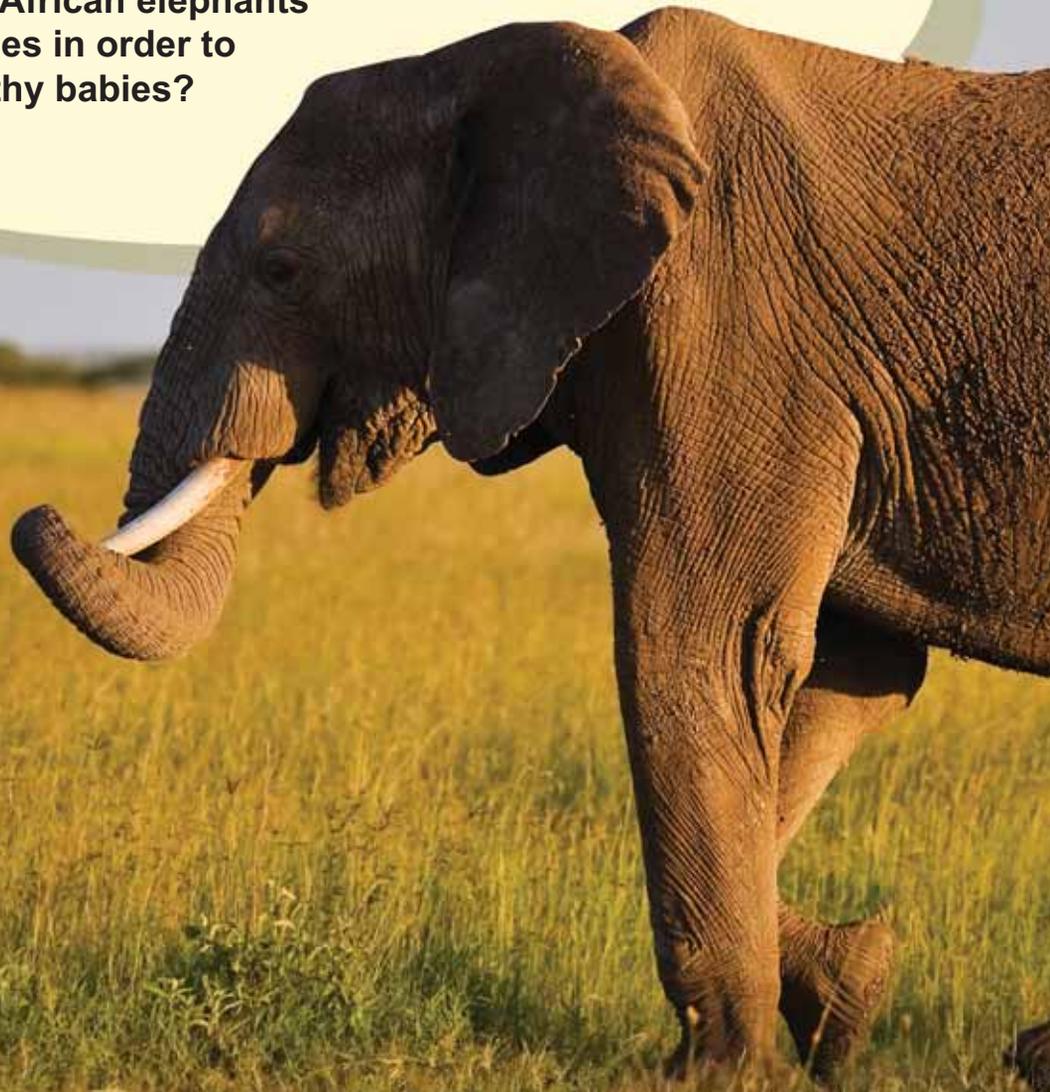
Name: African elephant

Wonder medicine: Borage tree

Home: Forests of Africa

BRainY Beasts

Elephants are considered to be extremely intelligent animals. They live in herds, or families, have excellent memories, and the elders in the family take care of the babies. But did you know, the female African elephants also take medicines in order to give birth to healthy babies?



PLant CuRe

When a female African elephant is getting ready to give birth, she takes very good care of herself. She eats different kinds of green plants and grasses to become stronger. She also takes a lot of rest. She does not walk too much and stays where she can find food easily.

After twenty-two months, when the elephant is about to give birth, she goes off looking for her medication, the borage tree. She eats every part of this tree—leaves, fruits, and branches. This tree food helps her become stronger and also lessens the pain she may have while giving birth to her calf.

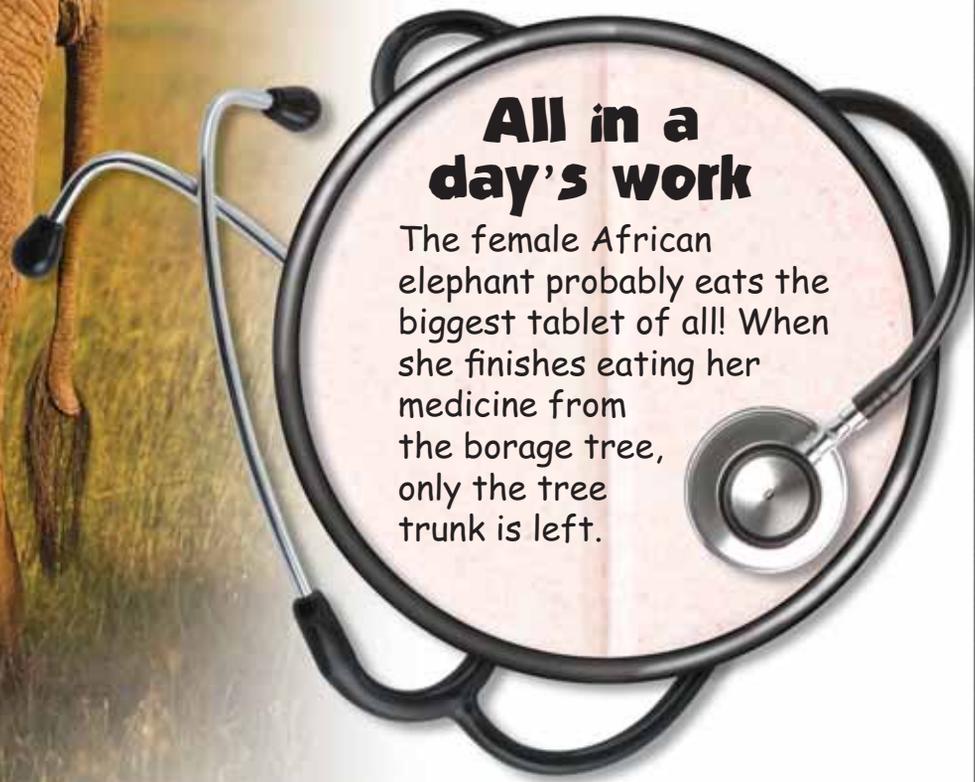


Walk the Distance

The pregnant mother gets tired easily, and that is why she usually walks short distances only. But to find herself the borage tree, she can walk more than twenty kilometres at a stretch.

All in a day's work

The female African elephant probably eats the biggest tablet of all! When she finishes eating her medicine from the borage tree, only the tree trunk is left.



Name: Fruit-eating bat

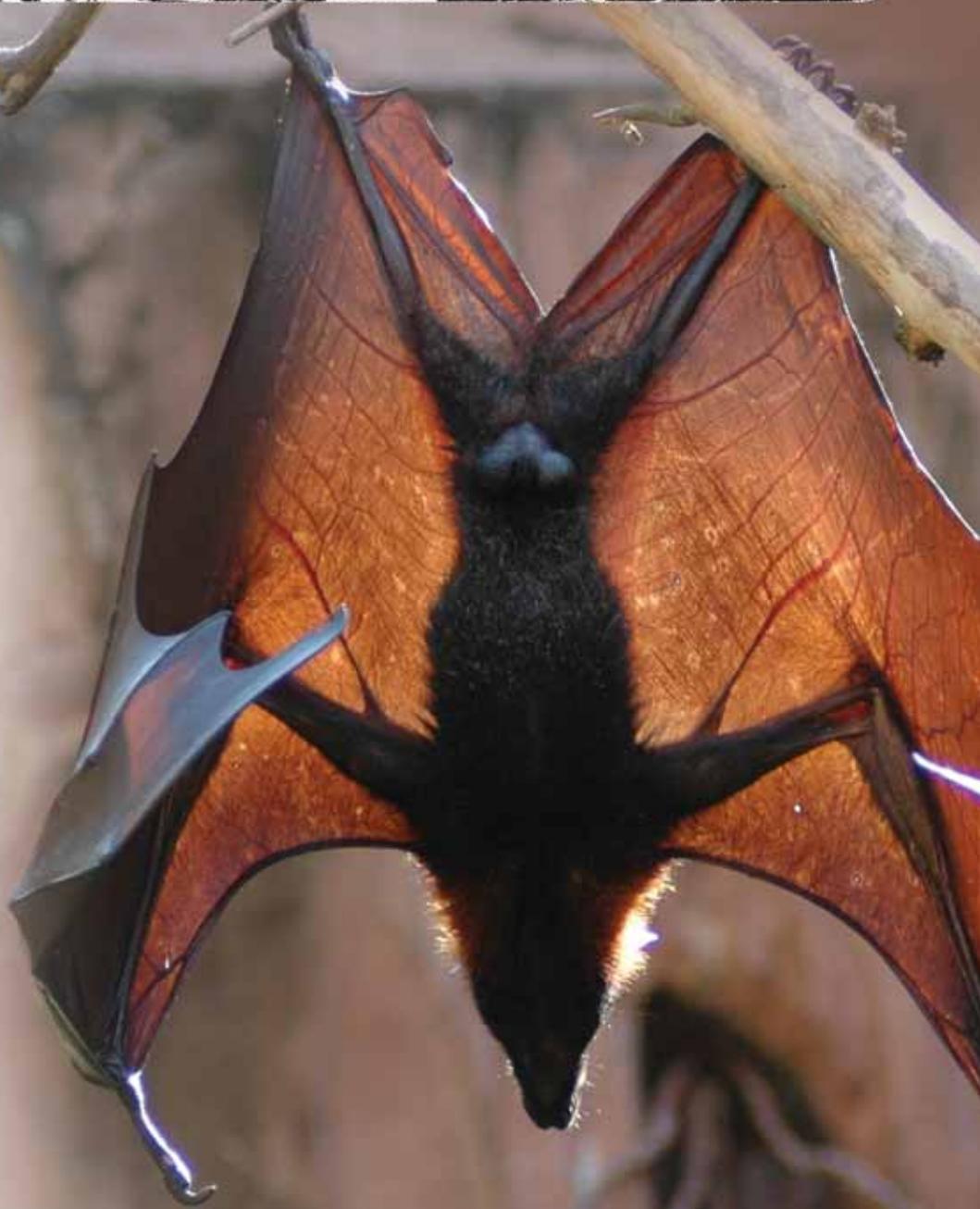
Wonder medicine: Mud

Home: Tropical rainforests

DOCTOR Bat

Bats are among the most amazing animals in the world. They are the only mammals that can fly. They cannot see very well and use sound signals to find their way around.

The fruit-eating bats are one of the largest bats in the world. They also happen to be excellent doctors! They eat something very unusual to fight food poisoning—mud!



Muddy Medicine

The fruit-eating bats love to eat fruits. They happily chomp off all parts of the fruit tree, even its flowers and leaves.

However, a huge meal of flowers and leaves can leave the bats feeling full and sick. That is when they go off looking for salt licks, a naturally occurring deposit of mineral salts in mud. When the bats lick this mud, they also swallow the salts present in it. These salts soak up the poison in their stomach. This unusual salty medicine also helps the bats digest their food. Some minerals found in this mud are also found in our medicines!

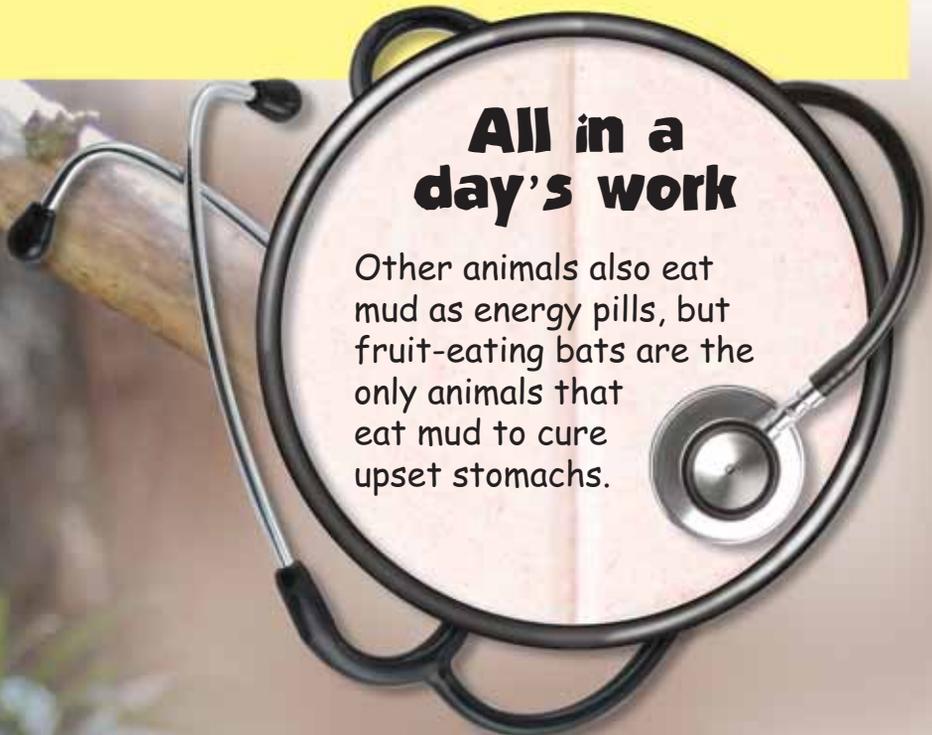


Salt Licks

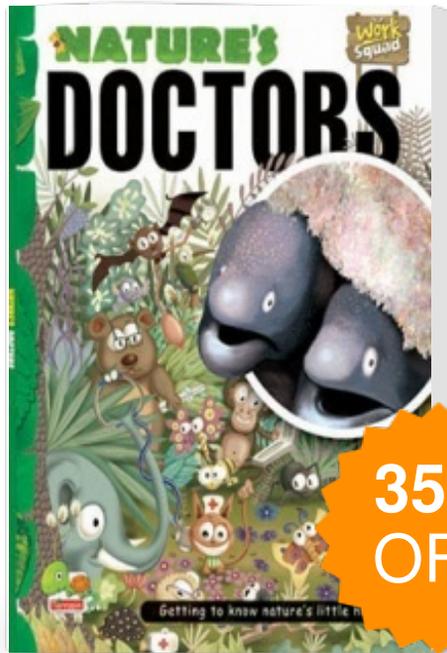
Salt licks are commonly found in tropical rainforests, in water bodies with salty water or in areas with mineral-rich clay. They contain some essential nutrients required for the bat's growth. The fruit-eating bats regularly visit these sites to eat their grainy, anti-poison, digestive pills of mud.

All in a day's work

Other animals also eat mud as energy pills, but fruit-eating bats are the only animals that eat mud to cure upset stomachs.



Work Squad : Nature's Doctors



35%
OFF

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