



101 Questions & Answers

EXCITING ENVIRONMENT

The quickest way to increase your Green Quotient



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A note from Dr R K Pachauri

Human society has reached a stage of prosperity, which was not expected several decades ago. Yet, a large number of people live in poverty and are barely able to keep alive. It appears that they have not been touched by human progress at all. At the same time, what we regard as progress has resulted in damage and destruction of our natural resources and caused serious problems such as human-induced climate change, which threaten all forms of life in different parts of the world in the form of sea-level rise, heatwaves, floods, droughts, and melting of glaciers.

All of this provides a strong reason for us to re-examine what we have mistakenly believed as human progress and change the way we have been pursuing human activities. For instance, we must now use renewable sources of energy and eco-friendly methods of production and consumption, make efficient use of water in every activity, and protect biodiversity.

It is in the hands of the children to try to change their own lives towards greater protection of the environment and all our natural resources. They can also take active part in changing the thinking of adults. Children can take the lead in organizing actions, which support conservation of resources, recycling of waste water, and greater use of renewable sources of energy, at the community level.

This series of children's books is aimed at providing children with knowledge on what needs to be done in all these areas. I hope those who read these books will not only enjoy them greatly but also feel inspired to implement actions that are described in these pages, so that we create a beautiful, peaceful, and healthy future for the human race.



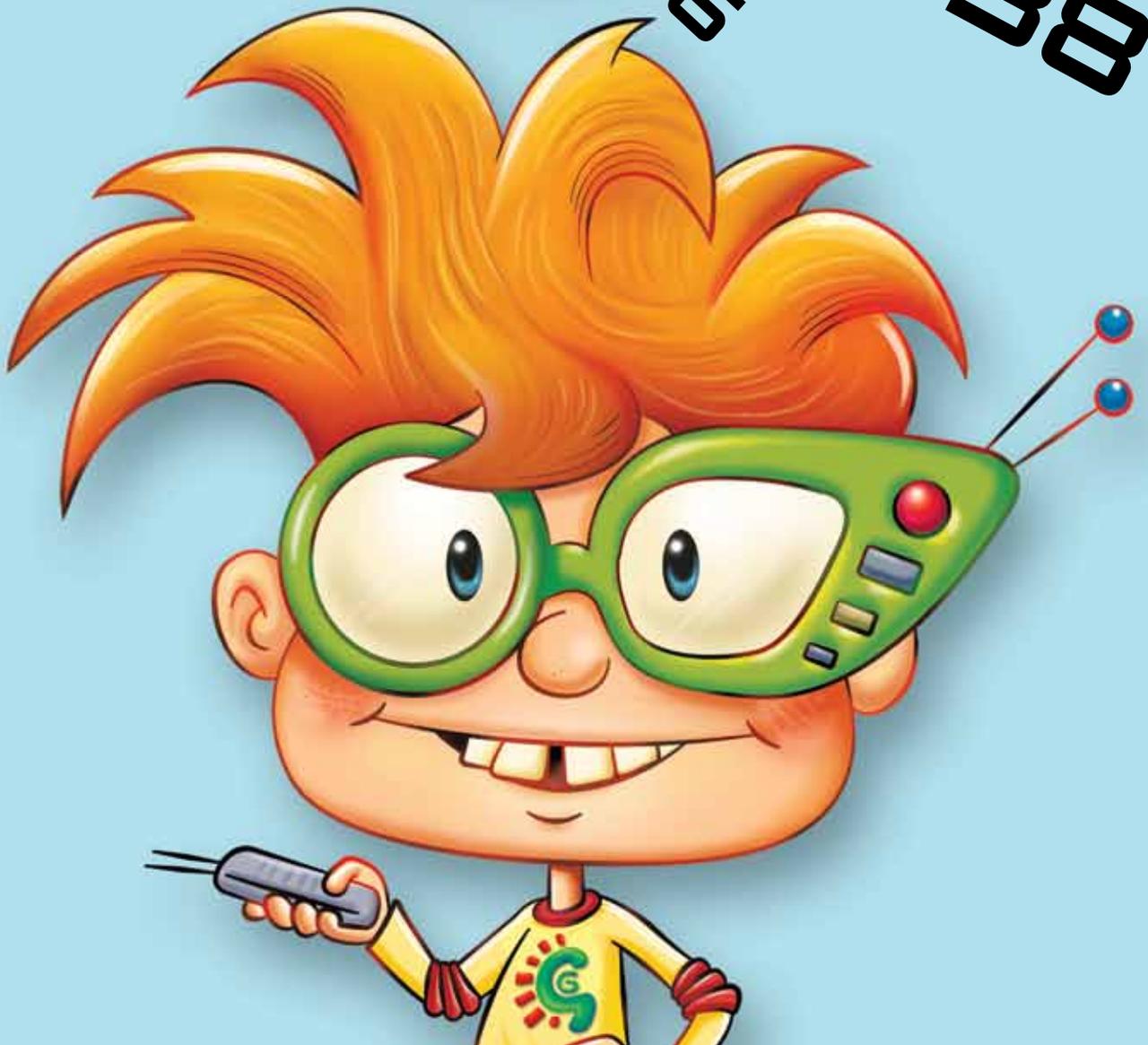
R K Pachauri

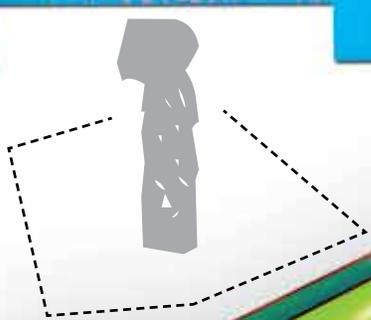
Director-General, TERI

Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

CONTENTS

6	ANIMALS	14
	PLANTS	
	HABITAT	22
28	PHENOMENA	
	CONSERVATION	38
	INDEX	46





What is common among insects, jellyfish, and octopuses?

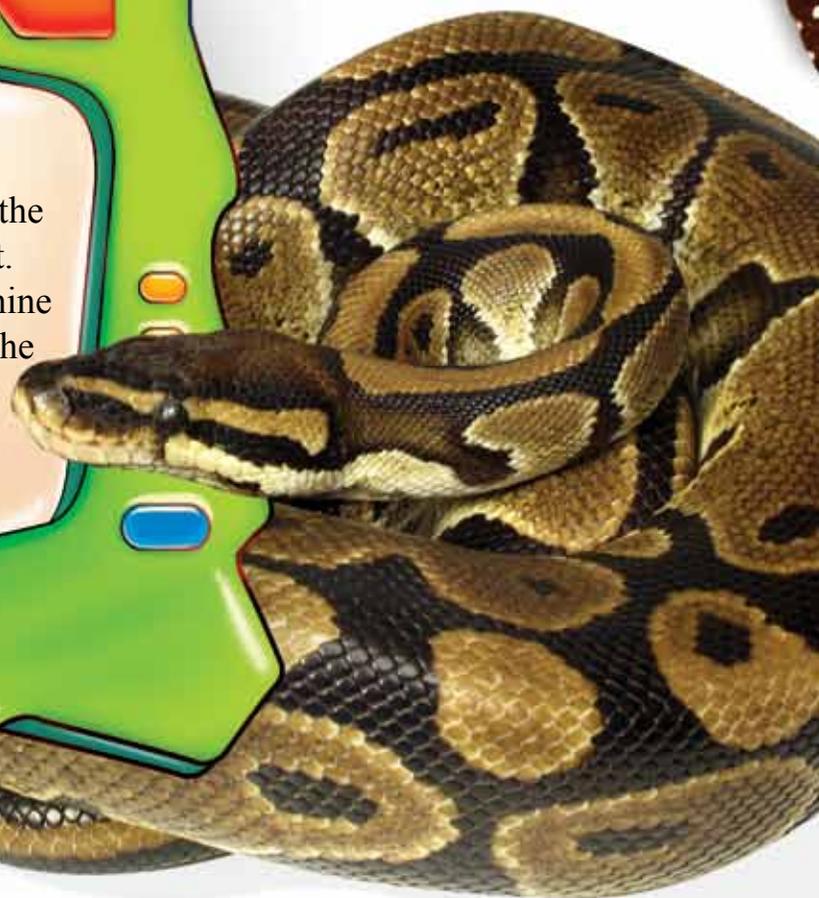
Insects, jellyfish and octopuses – all fall under the category of invertebrates. What is common among them is that they do not have a spine, or backbone. In scientific language, the spine is called vertebra. Animals without a spine are called invertebrates.



Which is the longest living snake?

The Asiatic reticulated python is the longest living snake on the planet. Believe it or not, it is more than nine metres long! Did you know that the Andaman and Nicobar Islands in India are the natural home of this spectacular reptile?

2

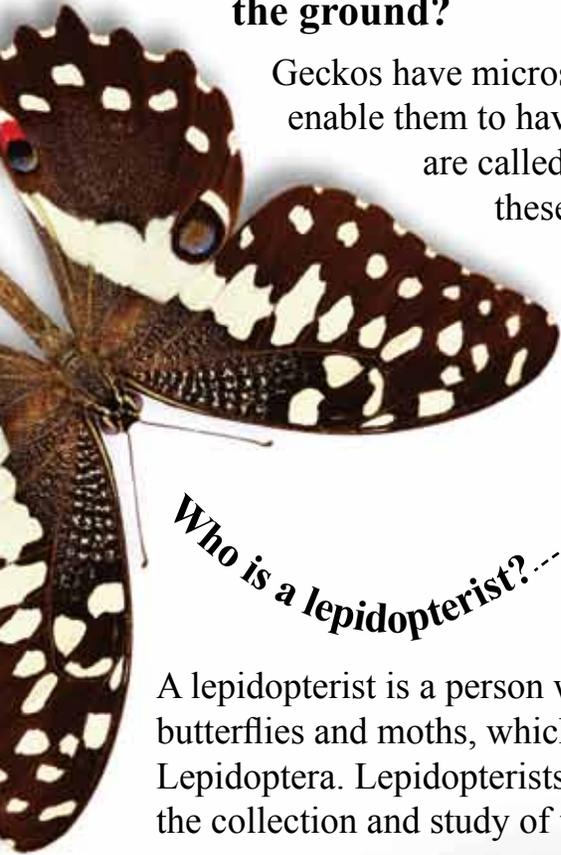


How are geckos able to climb smooth vertical surfaces so easily, without falling to the ground?

Geckos have microscopic plates on their toes, which enable them to have a better grip. These plates are called lamellae and it is because of these lamellae that they are able to go against gravity and climb up walls and ceiling with so much ease!



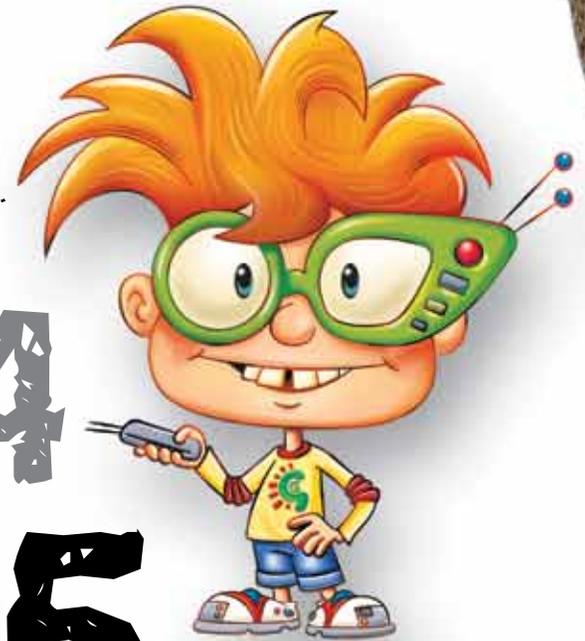
3



Who is a lepidopterist?

A lepidopterist is a person who collects and studies butterflies and moths, which belong to the order of Lepidoptera. Lepidopterists devote their lives to the collection and study of these pretty creatures.

4



5

Name the marine creature that has no bones and has liver oil rich in vitamin A?

This fascinating marine creature is the shark. There are as many as 250 species of sharks. Some sharks are as small as sixty centimetres, while some grow as large as fifteen metres!





Name the creepy, crawly creature that has survived environmental and atmospheric changes for millions of years.

The creatures that have been around for millions of years are cockroaches. These can survive in extremely cold or hot temperatures and can withstand abnormal atmospheric changes. Do you know that there are four thousand species of cockroaches around the world? These carry disease organisms that can cause allergy and asthma in humans!

Which is the largest seabird? _____

With an astonishingly large wingspan of more than three metres, the albatross is the largest bird in the sea! It is generally found in southern seas and oceans. Did you know that sailors believe that killing an albatross would bring them bad luck!



8

What are parasites? What are the different types of parasites?

Parasites are organisms that feed on other organisms called hosts and harm them. There are two types of parasites – endoparasites and the ectoparasites. Endoparasites live inside the body of the host while ectoparasites live outside the body of the host. A good example of parasitism could be mosquitoes feeding on human blood.

Why were sperm whales hunted?

Sperm whales were hunted for ambergris, which is secreted from their intestines. Believe it or not, this secretion was used to add scent to perfumes! So much so that these whales had become nearly extinct! It was then that a ban was imposed on hunting them.

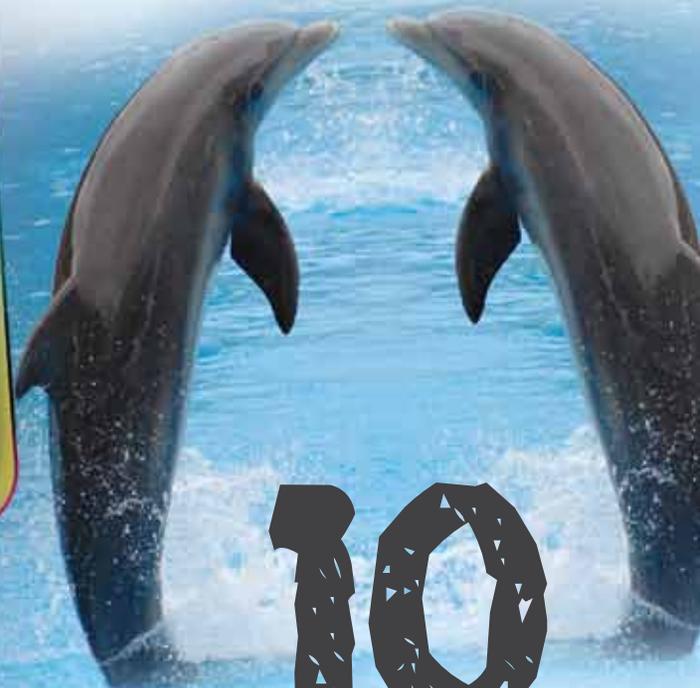
9



How do experts find out the age of a dolphin?

There are different ways in which experts are able to find out the age of a living being. Believe it or not, scientists can determine the age of a dolphin by looking at and studying the rings around its teeth!

age of a dolphin?



10



Which sea creature found in the waters around Australia is able to change the colour of its body according to its emotions?

It is the blue ringed octopus. Its body responds to the emotion it is feeling by changing its colours. When the octopus feels threatened, scared or angry, small fluorescent blue spots appear all over its body. The blue-ringed octopus is known to be very dangerous because its bite can cause severe poisoning in the body, leading to death.

What is the significance of the phrase 'grey blanket over Australia'?

This phrase refers to the spread of rabbits in Australia. Annually agricultural crops worth more than 300 million dollars are damaged because of foraging by rabbits.



12

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