For Scarlett and Esme.

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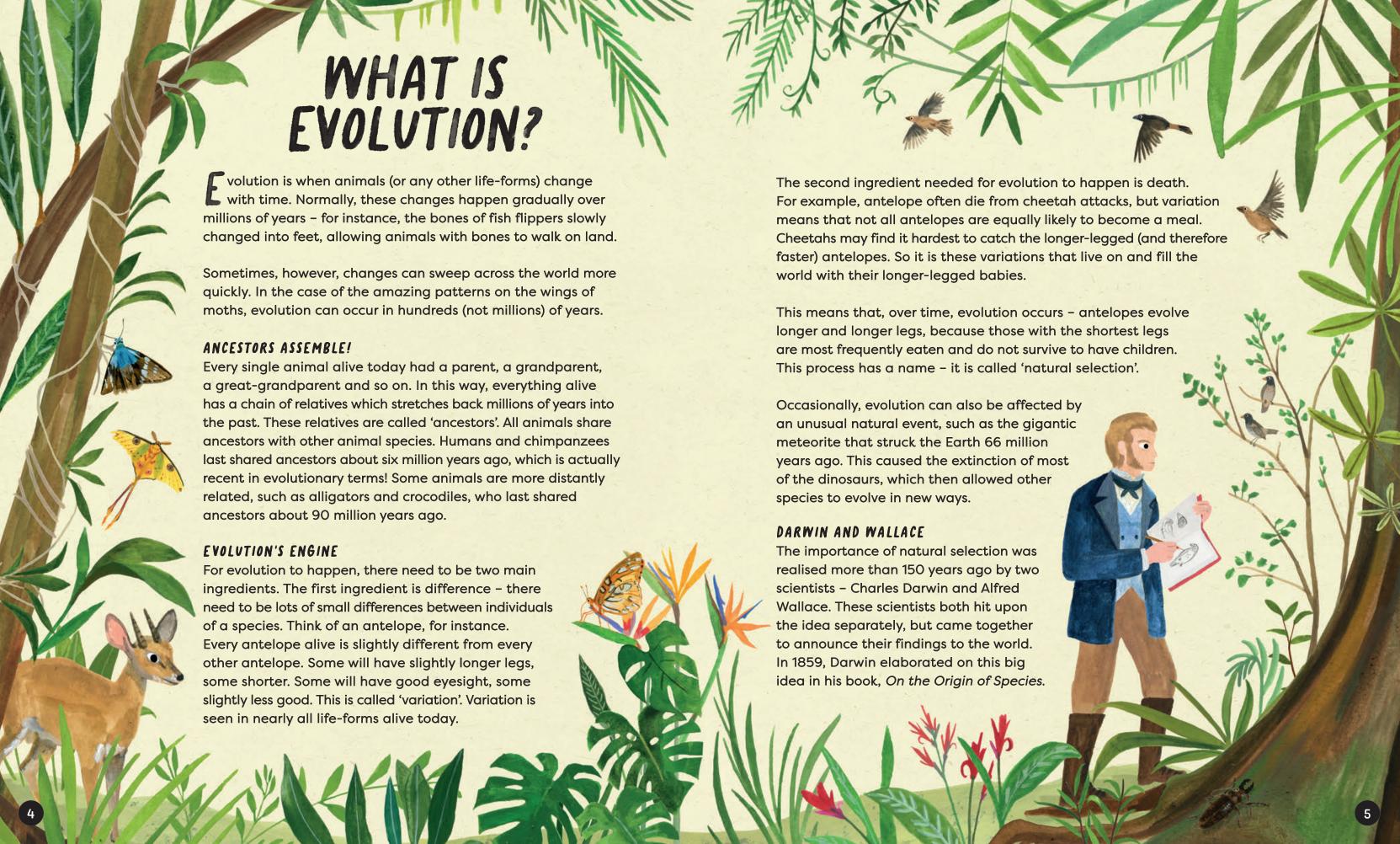
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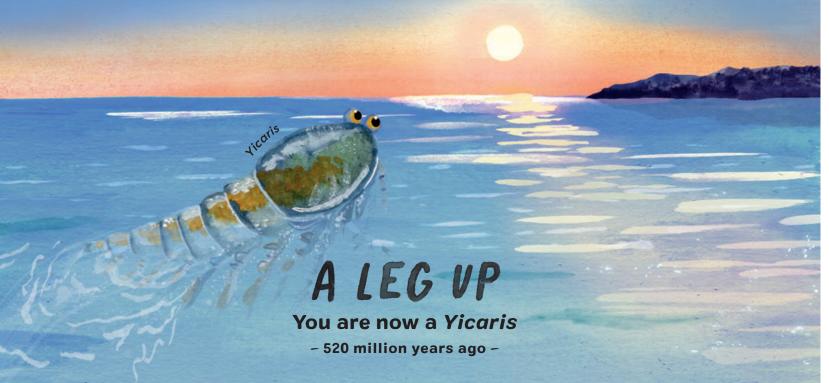
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ou have so many legs! Not six, not eight, but TWENTY-TWO! You scuttle your way through the water in a flurry of activity. You are one of the world's earliest crustaceans.

You wear your hard skeleton on the outside of your body, protecting the soft, squishy bits inside. On each side of your head is an eye, with lots of window-like lenses that pick up movement all around you. Eyes like yours are called 'compound eyes'.

Today, just like every day, you come to the surface of the water to watch the sunrise. You marvel at how the golden sun glides across the morning sky and lights up the bits of seabed that poke out from the water. You decide to call them 'land'. The land is dry and brown. But, looking at it more closely, you notice tiny specks of green upon it. Against all the odds, plants and seaweeds appear to be surviving.

You feel a strong pull to the land. It's strange because, mostly, you are very content with your underwater life. The food here is great. There is plenty of plankton for you to snack on, as well as those little swimming worms with bones known as 'fish'. But there's something about the land that interests you. You can't quite get it out of your head. The sun shines down on you and it feels good. Could a life on land be worth the risk?

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Onwards, to land, go to page 36
- ♦ Stick with the sea, go to page 97

THE FATE OF SQUAMATES

You are now a Megachirella

- 240 million years ago -

afely hidden under a leaf, you wipe your jaws, cleaning away the slime from a beetle grub you've just eaten. You lick your spiky teeth with your long tongue, before scratching the side of your neck with one of your stocky front legs. Your skin is even tougher now. In fact, when you look closely, it seems as if it is made up of rows of tiny scaly beads.

You are one of the world's first squamates, a group of toothy reptiles with armoured scales and jaws that can open incredibly wide. This makes you sound dangerous and scary, but the truth is that you spend most of your life hunting insects and hiding from predators that are much larger than you.

And the worst predators of all are the noisy new nuisances known as 'dinosaurs'. Not all of them eat meat, of course. But a few of them seem to get a lot of pleasure from chasing you and biting you. And there seem to be more of them with every year that passes. The dinosaurs are taking over.

You lean out from underneath your leaf and carefully look around to see if there are any dinosaurs nearby. Luckily, the coast is clear, so you scamper

away, eager to find safety somewhere else.
Little moments like these help guide the
future of your kind. The rise of the dinosaurs
means that you must now live a different, more
cautious life. But that's fine, there are plenty of
options. Like these, for instance . . .

WHAT'S NEXT?

- Go fighty, go to page 48
- ♣ Go bitey, go to page 103
- ♦ Go mighty, go to page 58
- ♣ Go flighty, go to page 29





