

Chapter 1 : Usborne Mysteries And Marvels Of The Animal World by Karen Goaman

*Mysteries & Marvels of the Animal World (Usborne Mysteries & Marvels) [Rick Morris] on blog.quintoapp.com *FREE* shipping on qualifying offers. Examines how mammals cope with different climates around the world and describes the strange behavior of a variety of mammals.*

Share Shares Well-known mysteries have been debunked in the past, and many more have yet to be discovered. Every night, they prowl through the arid landscape to fasten their fangs into livestock and drain their bodies dry. According to most, they possess long claws, terrifying red eyes, and a row of spikes running down their spines. There is no actual footage of their existence, but there are a handful of photos with images of the alleged creatures. Dead ones, at least. The legend of the chupacabra began circulating in Puerto Rico and Mexico after reports that dead sheep were found drained dry with puncture wounds. Then came sightings of the goatsuckers, which were described as being like dogs, rodents, or reptiles. However, according to science, the real chupacabras could be nothing more than wild dogs afflicted with severe mange. Mange is a disease that causes extreme hair loss. As mites burrow underneath the skin, inflammation thickens the skin, cuts off the blood supply to the hair follicles, and leaves the animal hairless and leathery. And since mange leaves animals greatly weakened, it would be easier for them to attack livestock than to hunt down faster prey, such as rabbits. In short, the legendary goatsuckers are nothing more than a pack of mite-infested coyotes. According to a veterinarian that had examined one of the bodies, there is just no way that a predator could be the culprit. The cuts were clean, almost surgical, with no blood or other bodily fluids surrounding the area. Furthermore, footprints around the corpses were completely missing, almost as if the cow had dropped from the sky. These mutilations are not new, either. They have been happening since Could extraterrestrial beings or mysterious cults be the culprit? There may be a more logical answer. Flies and their larvae will then feast on the softer body parts, such as the reproductive organs and tongues, making the wounds appear precise and surgical. Furthermore, a body lying in the sun will eventually burst open, leading to more surgical-looking tears. The blood that gathers at the bottom will be consumed by maggots. To top it all off, an Arkansas sheriff named Herb Marshall proved this by filming a cow decomposing in the sun, with the end result similar to the mutilations. But just what do they need those stripes for? For the longest time, scientists have hypothesized that they are used as camouflage or perhaps to confuse predators. At the University of Calgary and UC Davis, scientists have carried out experiments to measure the distances at which predators and the zebras themselves can distinguish the stripes at different times of the day. Their discoveries were different than what many scientists had expected. For example, zebra stripes cannot possibly be used as an effective form of camouflage. The experiment showed that beyond 50 meters ft in daylight or 30 meters ft at twilight, when predators are active, the stripes are hard for them to distinguish. Additionally, in treeless areas, lions could detect the outlines of zebras just as easily as they could see other grazing prey such as buffalo or deer. So what are the stripes really used for? Instead of warding off jaguars or lions, the stripes are actually effective in protecting against a different opponent: In a different study, flies were shown to be more attracted to horses of a dark color rather than white because of the type of light waves bouncing off them. Actually, for the first time, their whistles have been decoded by a computer. Dolphins are complex, social creatures that express their feelings through movements and sounds. Denise Herzing built a translatorâ€”called the Cetacean Hearing and Telemetry deviceâ€”that was able to decode a whistle into a human word that we know. So what was this specific dolphin trying to say? The machine translated the whistle as Sargassum, a type of seaweed, although it is uncertain whether the dolphin actually saw the seaweed or was merely communicating with another family member. So how do sharks manage to find their way through the unyielding seas? Scientists once believed that it might be through their sense of smell or magnetic fields, but no one knew for sure. To find the answer, researchers gathered some wild leopard sharks and led them about 10 kilometers 6 mi away from their homes. Some of the sharks had their nostrils stuffed with cotton balls, and some did not. Then all the sharks were let loose to see how well they managed to find their way back. After heading the wrong way for 30 minutes, the unclogged sharks were eventually able to swim back to their shores. It was likely that they had

sniffed out the increasingly higher doses of chemical molecules found near land. The sharks with the clogged nostrils, however, moved slowly and aimlessly. But how are we sure? More studies found it unlikely that the sharks were following a scent that grew stronger near land. Instead, they may have used water temperature or light levels to guide them. Fossils show that it had teeth at the end of a rodlike appendage on top of its head, eyes on either side of a rigid bar, and a stiffened notochord to support its body. Scientists have finally been able to identify the strange specimen after more than 50 years. Found in masses of hard rock, the million-year-old fossils are only 0. Although much of its lifestyle remains a mystery, we can conclude that it was a predator due to its many teeth.

Stephan Getzin Fairy circlesâ€™round circles of bare sand surrounded by grassâ€™are born in deserts and vanish in an eternal life cycle. Maybe these impossibly perfect circles are the work of aliens or burrowing bugs. But the answer could be much simpler. The cause is neither dragons nor gods but quite possibly the plants themselves. With little water in a desert, it is impossible for grass to grow and carpet the entire area. Instead, the plants organize into clumps. These clumps can soak up water from the ground even months after the last rain. This also explains how vegetation can flourish around the circles even when the land surrounding them is dry and arid. Certain spots become drier than others, and these areas become bare and impermeable. When it rains again, the water skims over the areas of dried clay toward the places where plants are growing. The plants survive and increase the size of their roots, pulling more of the rain away from their weaker neighbors. The smaller plants wither and die, resulting in a bare spot that becomes bigger over time. As individual plants compete randomly for water, a pattern is repeated all across a vast landscape. This process is known as the self-organizing theory because the plants formed the circles on their own without outside help. Some tortoises have been known to live even longer. So what is the secret to their healthy, seemingly endless lives? The answer may lie in the enzyme telomerase, which keeps chromosomes from wearing out. It is uncertain how increasing telomerase activity can relate to aging and disease. Although there are correlations between the size of telomeres and longevity in shellfish, many types of cancer cells grow because they increase the length of their telomeres. Unfortunately, the long lives of these animals can be drastically cut short. However, there are no studies showing that it prevents cancer in humans. Additionally, tortoises can live for more than years while staying cancer free. According to many, dodos are overweight and stubby, and they do not possess the brightest brains in the flock. What we know about them, however, could be wrong. A CT scan of a rare dodo skull suggests that they actually had the body type and size of our typical modern pigeon. Dodos probably also had the intelligence of a pigeon, which makes dodos a lot smarter than we once thought. Pigeons are capable of memorizing human faces and have mathematical abilities that are comparable to rhesus monkeys. The plump dodo that you see in paintings is probably the result of being confined to a cage and eating human food. Wild dodos are a lot thinner. According to the CT scan, the olfactory bulb of the brain suggests that dodos had a keener sense of smell than pigeons. It seems that these extinct birds deserve a lot more credit. Even though the population has fallen due to the disappearance of the milkweed plant, their sole source of food, their journey continues generation after generation. How do they manage to travel that far without getting lost? Scientists have found a compass in their brains. It tells them two pieces of information: The butterflies combine that information to find the right direction to go. Their complex eyes monitor the Sun, and then that information is combined with details picked up from their antennae to send signals to the brain. The butterflies use an internal clock built from the rhythmic expression of key genes. Eli Schlizerman of the University of Michigan. And when that happens, their compass points north-east instead of south-west.

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