ANIMAL DESCRIPTIONS

The Cassowary Bird

Fact #1: The Cassowary Bird is a large bird that lives in Australia and New Guinea.

Fact #2: The Cassowary Bird is the biggest bird in Australia and the second biggest bird in the world.

Fact #3: The Cassowary Bird can grow to be 6.5 feet tall and weigh 130 pounds but it can not fly!

Fact #4: The Cassowary Bird has three-toed feet with sharp claws. The Cassowary kicks these feet for protection.

Fact #5: The Cassowary Bird can run up to 35 mph.

Fact #6: The Cassowary Bird eats mostly fruit but it cannot digest big fruit seeds.

Fact #7: There are big seeds in the Cassowary poop and the poop is responsible for helping the rain forest survive.

The Queen Alexandria's Birdwing

Fact #1: The Queen Alexandria's Birdwing is the largest butterfly in the world.

Fact #2: The Queen Alexandria's Birdwing lives in Papua New Guinea.

Fact #3: The wings of the Queen Alexandria's Birdwing can reach up to one foot.

Fact #4: When the Queen Alexandria's Birdwing is still a caterpillar, it eats a poisonous plant called the Pipevine plant. This plant makes the butterfly toxic to all predators. Any predator that eats the butterfly will get very sick.

Fact #5: The Queen Alexandria's Birdwing lives for three to eight months.

The Tree Kangaroo

Fact #1: The Tree Kangaroo lives in Australia and New Guinea.

Fact #2: The Tree Kangaroo lives in the trees of the rain forest.

Fact #3: The Tree Kangaroo is a large marsupial with a heavy body, strong arms and legs, and a long tail.

Fact #4: The Tree Kangaroo's average head and body length is 26 inches and it weight is up to 23 pounds.

Fact #5: The Tree Kangaroo has long sharp claws and rough footpads for climbing trees.

Fact #6: The Tree Kangaroo uses its tail to leap ten to twenty feet from branch to branch.

The Giant Wood Spider

Fact #1: The Giant Wood Spider lives in many places from Japan to Australia and West India.

Fact #2: Some people of Papua New Guinea eat the Giant Wood Spider as a tasty snack.

Fact #3: The Giant Wood Spider has large yellow spots under its legs.

Fact #4: Sometimes the spider's web is about three feet wide, big enough to trap small birds or bats.

The Slow Loris

Fact #1: The Slow Loris has great big eyes.

Fact #2: The Slow Loris can be eight to twelve inches and weigh up to four and a half pounds.

Fact #3: The Slow Loris' ears are small and hidden in their fur.

Fact #4: The Slow Loris sleeps during the day and is awake during the night.

Fact #5: The Slow Loris can protect itself against enemies by producing a toxin that is mixed with their saliva.

The Bird-of-Paradise

Fact #1: Birds of Paradise live in Eastern Indonesia, Torres Strait Islands, Papua New Guinea, and eastern Australia.

Fact #2: Birds of Paradise can range in size from 6 to 43 inches. They can weigh from 1.8 ounces to 15.2 oz.

Fact #3: Birds of Paradise have short or long bills and very strong feet.

Fact #4: Birds of Paradise make their nests out of soft materials, such as leaves and ferns.

The Long-Snouted Echidna (Spiny Anteater)

Fact #1: Long-Snouted Echidnas are about the size of small dogs.

Fact #2: Long-Snouted Echidnas have long, strong claws.

Fact #3: When the Long-Snouted Echidna is scared it lies down on the ground, tucks its head in and digs its long claws into the dirt so it can't be tipped over.

The Cuscus

Fact #1: The Cuscus is the largest of the opossums and looks a little like a lemur.

Fact #2: The Cuscus has small ears and beady eyes.

Fact #3: The Cuscus's fur is thick and woolly with a gray to rust color.

Fact #3: The Cuscus is about 25 inches long and weighs about 13 pounds.

Fact #4: The Cuscus is a slow moving, sluggish animal.

Fact #5: The Cuscus sleeps during the day and is awake during the night.

The Green Tree Python

Fact #1: The Green Tree Python is endangered in its native countries.

Fact #2: The Green Tree Python can be up to seven feet long.

Fact #3: The Green Tree Python is green and coils itself around branches.

Fact #4: When the Green Tree Python coils up it can look like a cinnamon bun.

The Fruit Bat

Fact #1: Fruit Bats have very long, webbed fingers that act as their wings.

Fact #2: Fruit Bats can see and smell very well.

Fact #3: Fruit Bats sleep during the day and are awake during the night.

Fact #4: Fruit Bats hang with their wings wrapped around themselves, or if it is hot they will fan themselves with their wings.

Fact #5: Fruit Bats can fly very well; however they cannot land very well. Sometimes they crash into other bats.

Fact #6: Fruit Bats eat fruit and flowers. They suck out the juice and leave the pulp.

Please note: More information about each of the animals may be found on pages 33-36 of the book. Brief information about each of the trees Cassowary makes is included on the book jacket.