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THE WORLD AROUND US

In this book, you will:

discover interesting things about the world around you.

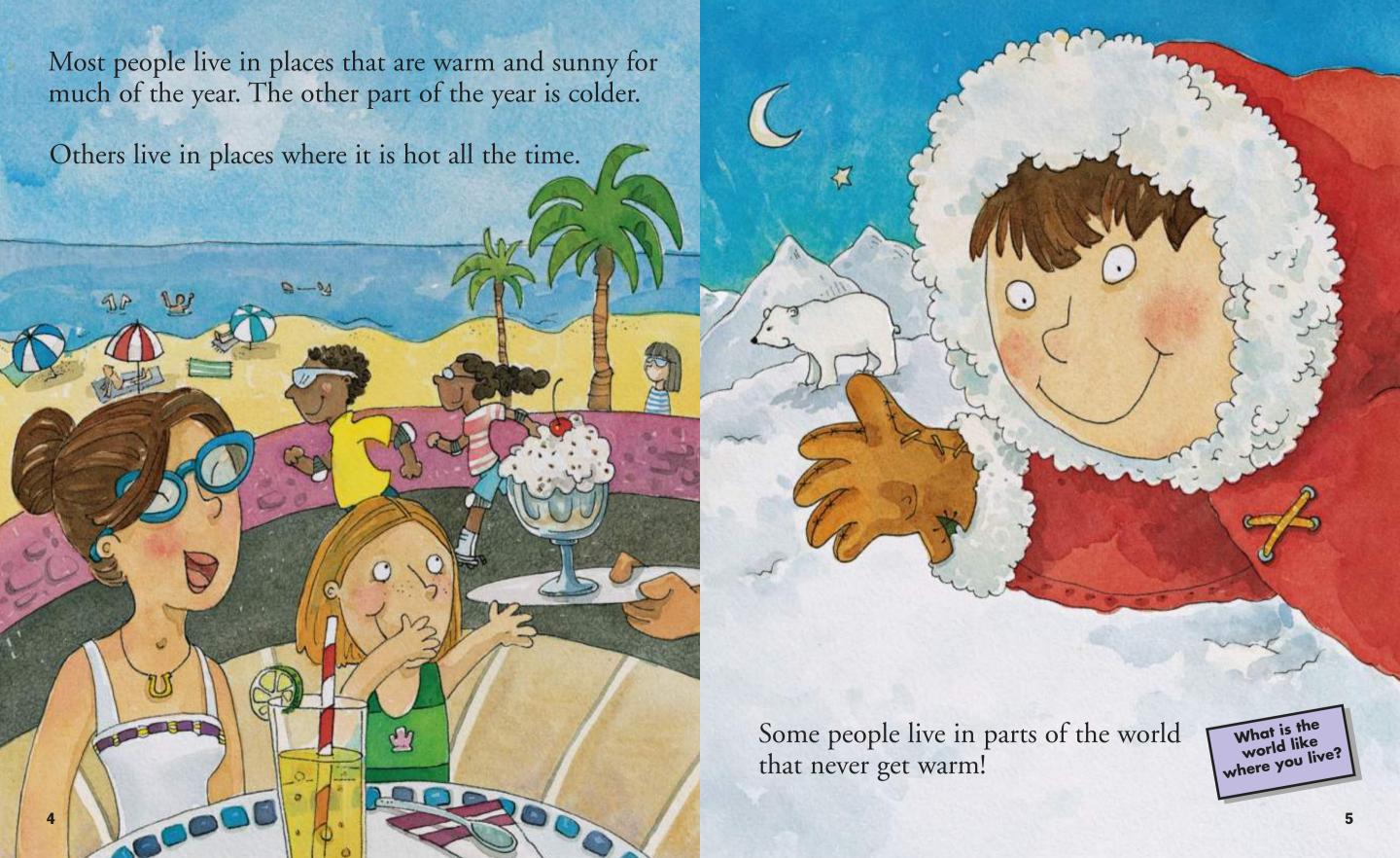
learn new words.

answer fun questions.

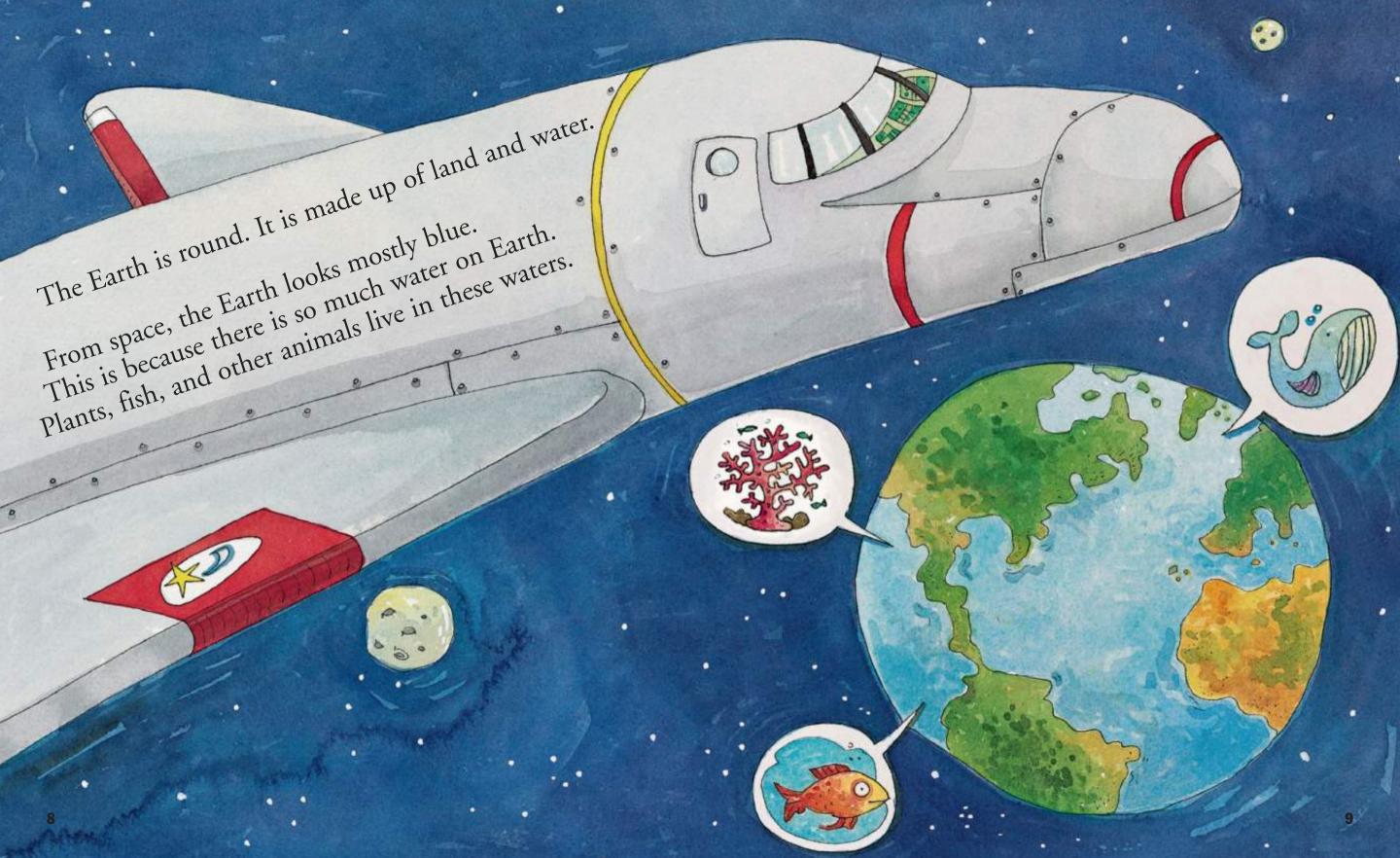
find lots of activities to learn about the world at the back of the book.

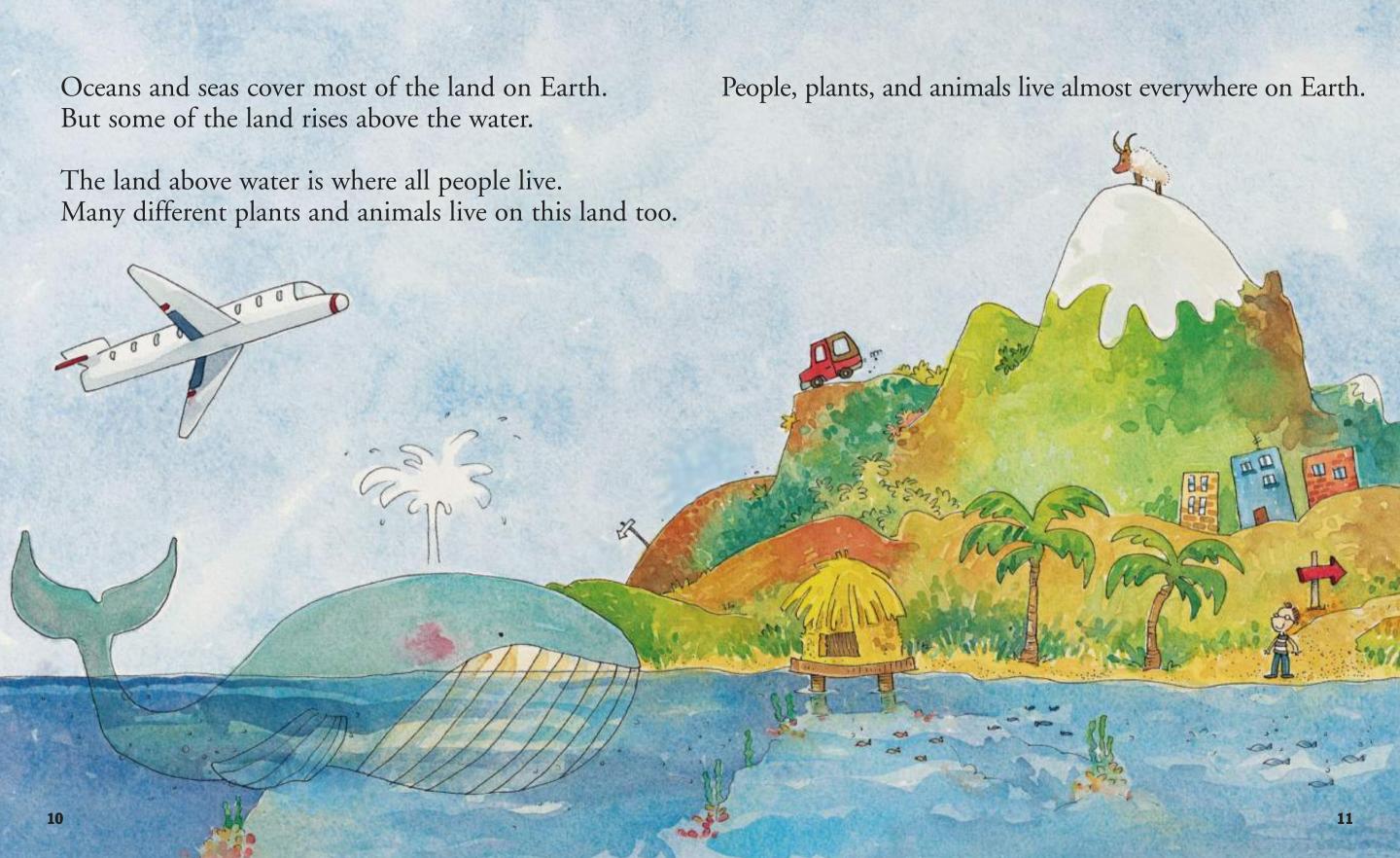
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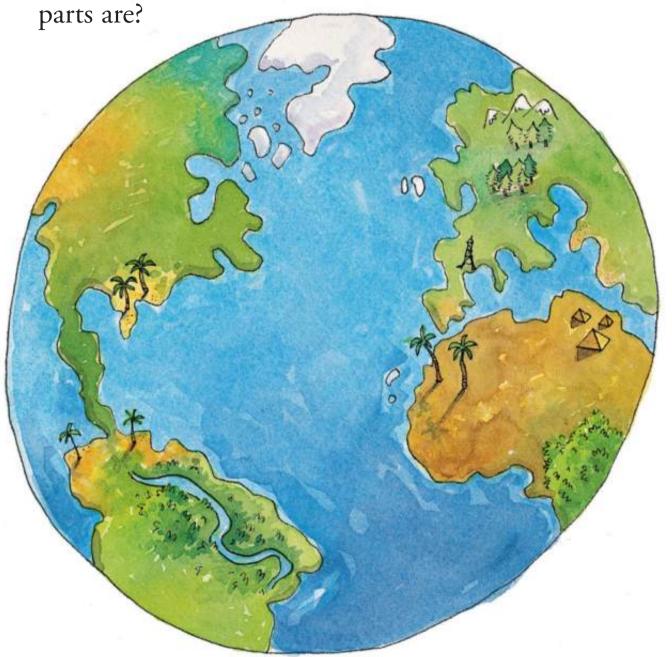


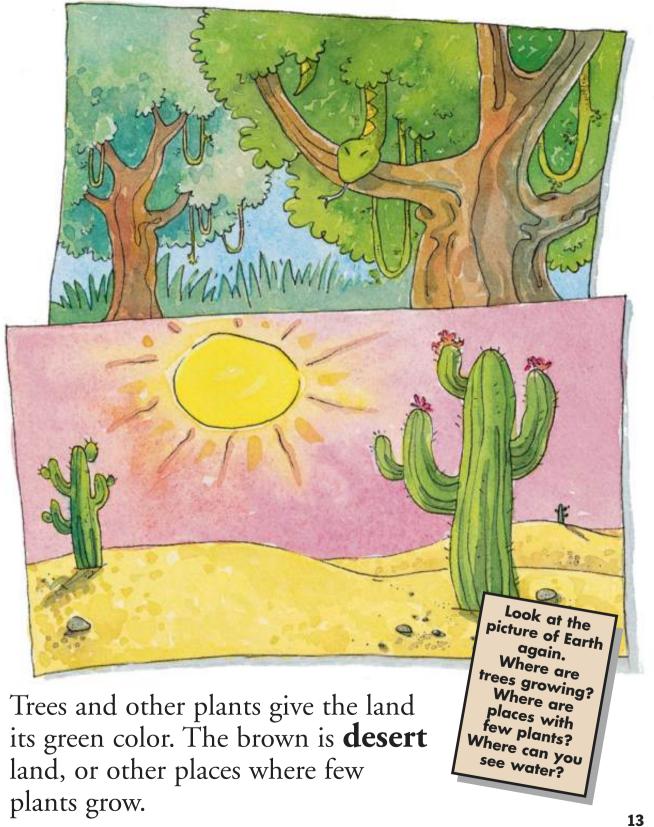


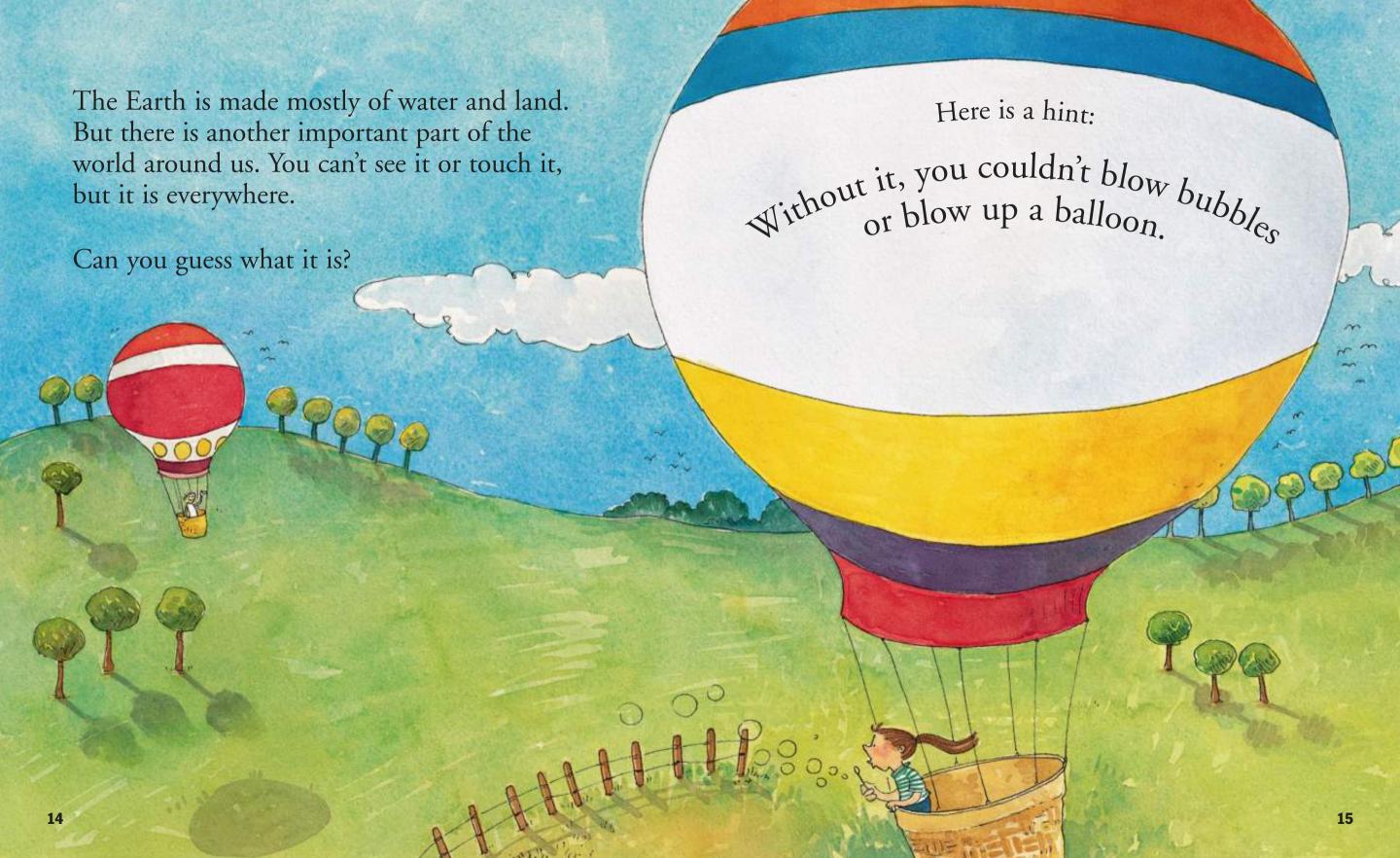


From space, much of the land on Earth looks green. Other parts look brown. Do you know what makes

the land look green? Do you know what the brown

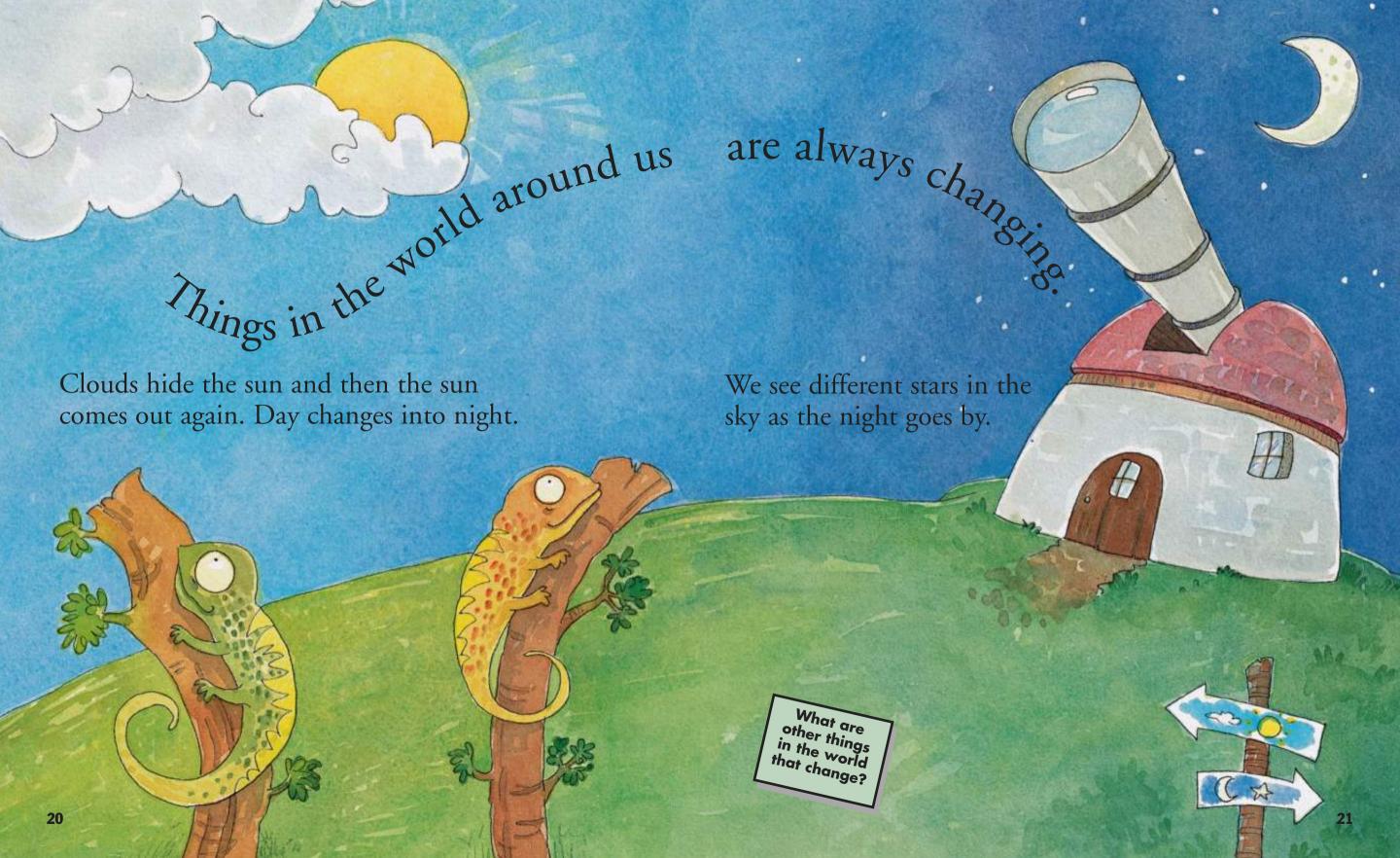












The weather is always changing too.

Weather can change quickly. When you wake up in the morning, the sun may be shining bright outside. The air is warm.





Later, clouds may begin to fill the sky, like big, dark pillows. The air cools off. The wind comes up.

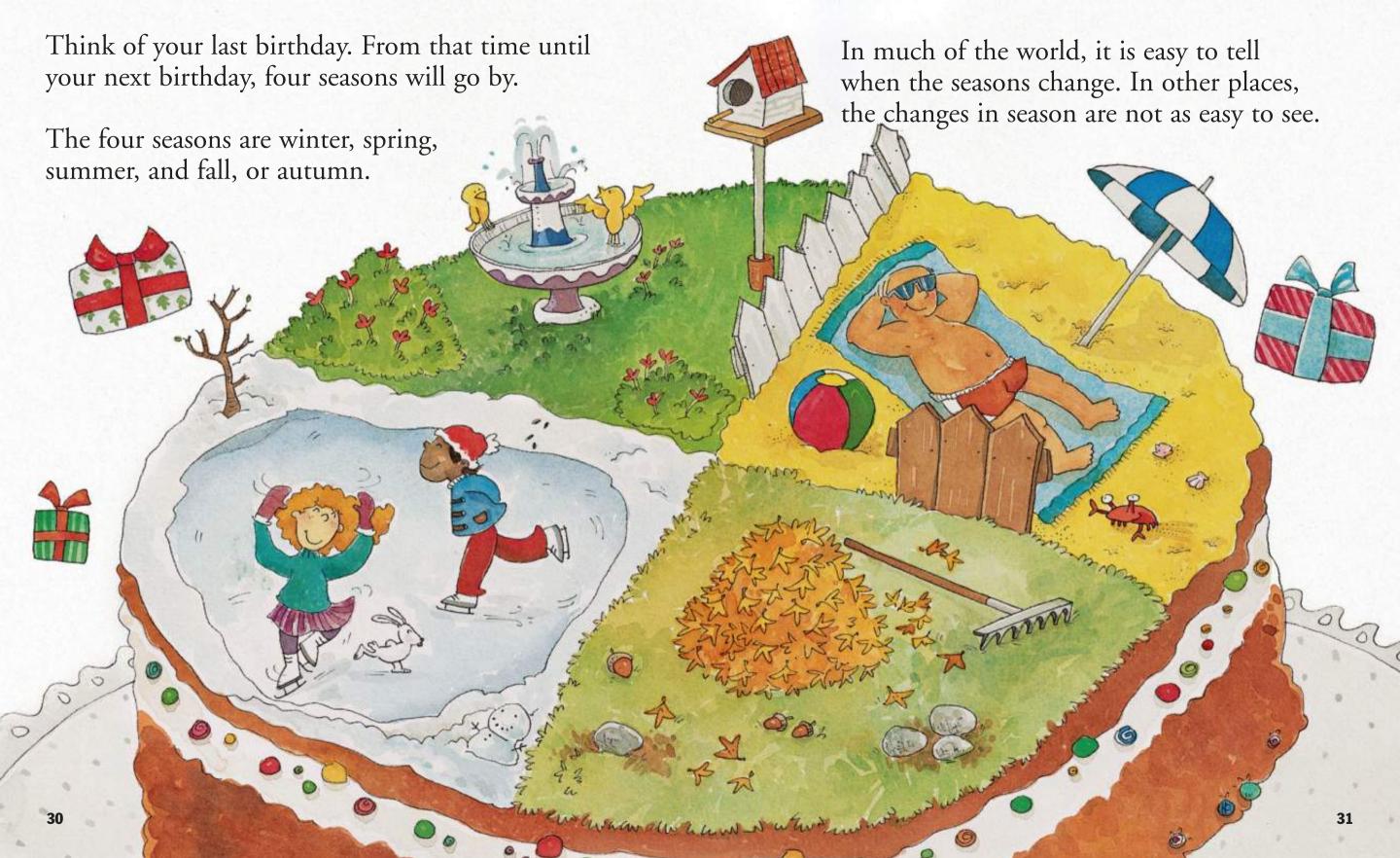












The world, winter the world, winter

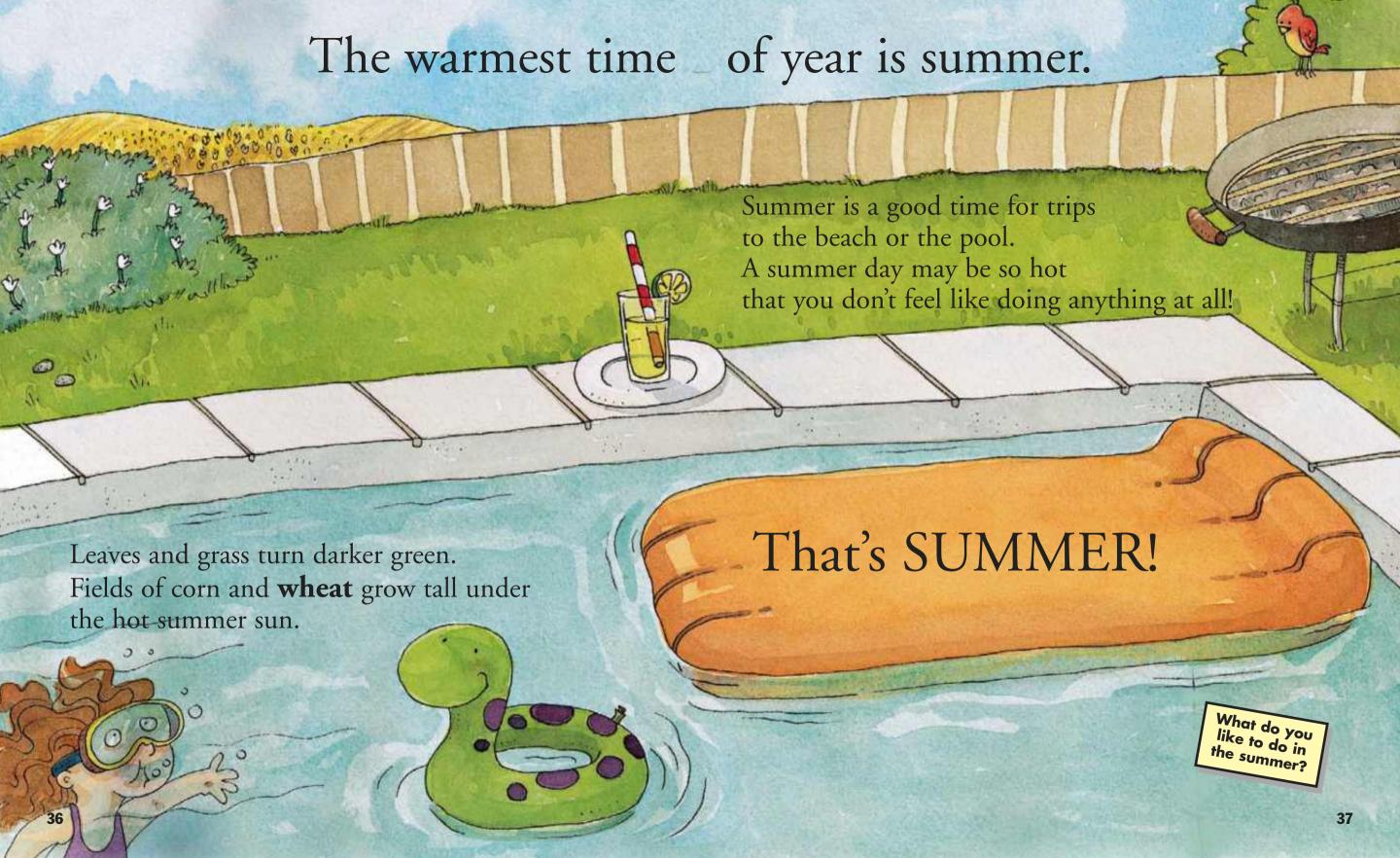
By wintertime in some places, many trees have lost their leaves. Their branches are bare, like bony arms in the cold.

Sometimes snow falls. You might see your breath if you go outside. You might catch a snowflake on your tongue!

B-r-r-r-rr! It's WINTER!



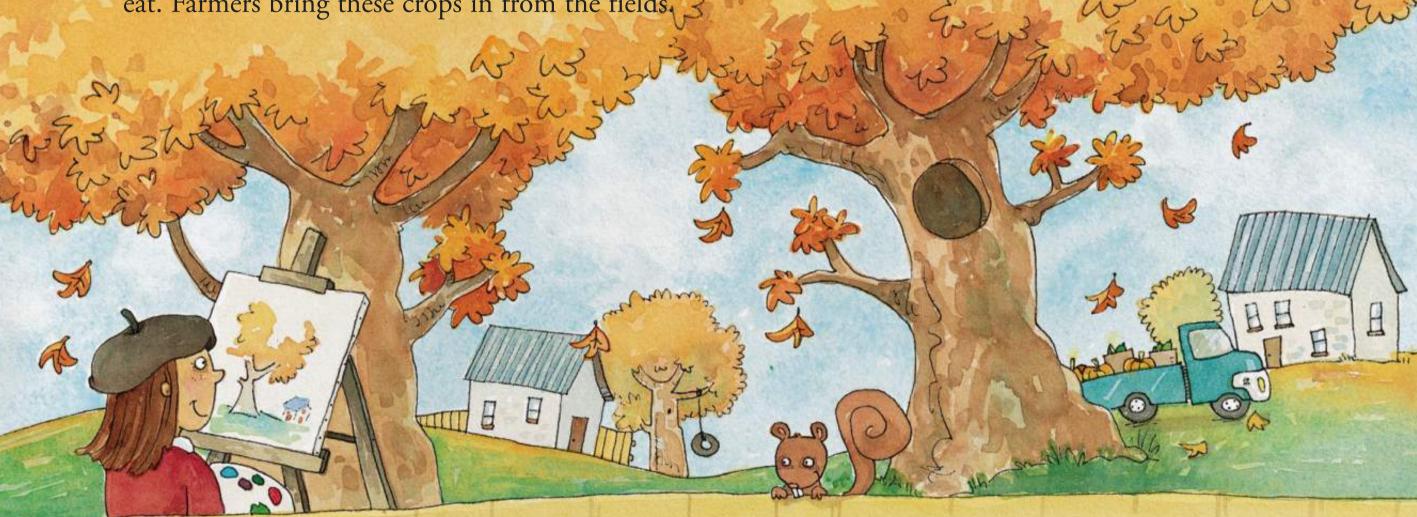




The weather grows cooler
The leaves die and fall from many trees
and other plants. Some crops of food that
have grown through the summer are real. have grown through the summer are ready to eat. Farmers bring these crops in from the fields, 3

again when fall comes.

Many animals gather food to eat through the long winter too.

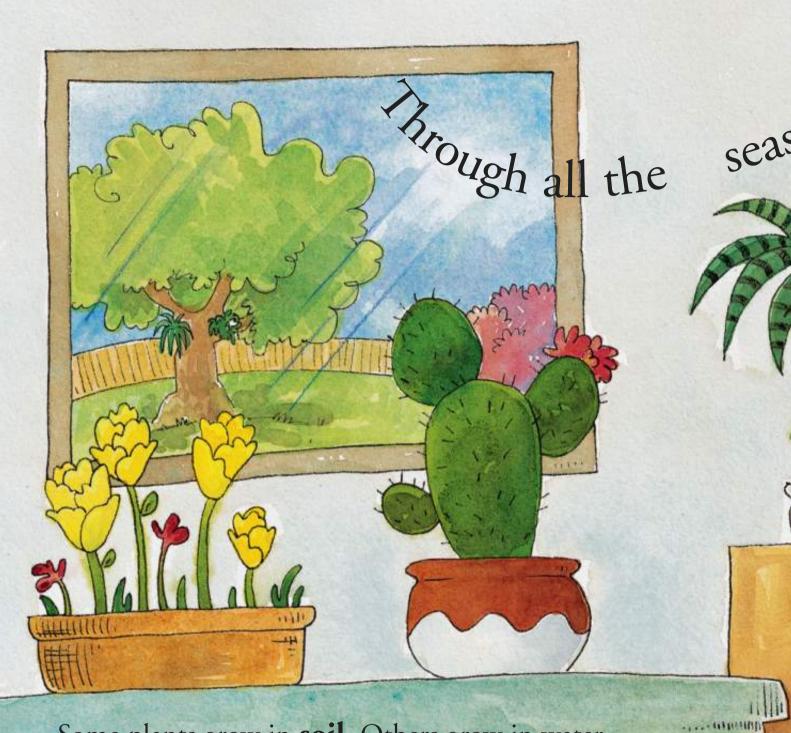


What do you like best about the fall?

This is the season

called FALL!





Some plants grow in **soil**. Others grow in water. Some plants even grow on trees.

seasons, plants grow and change.



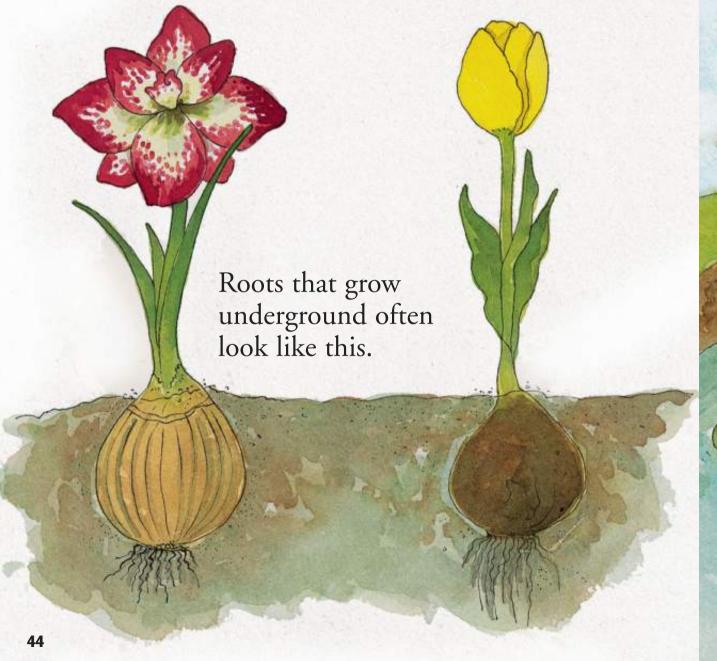
Plants that grow indoors may look very different from outdoor plants. But all plants are alike in some ways.

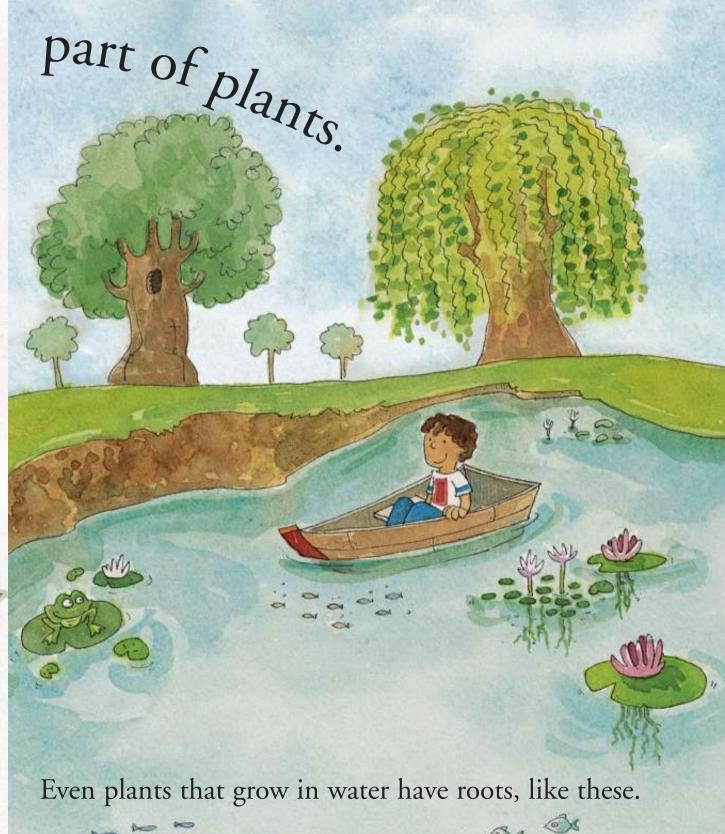
Almost every plant has leaves, roots, and seeds. Many have flowers too.



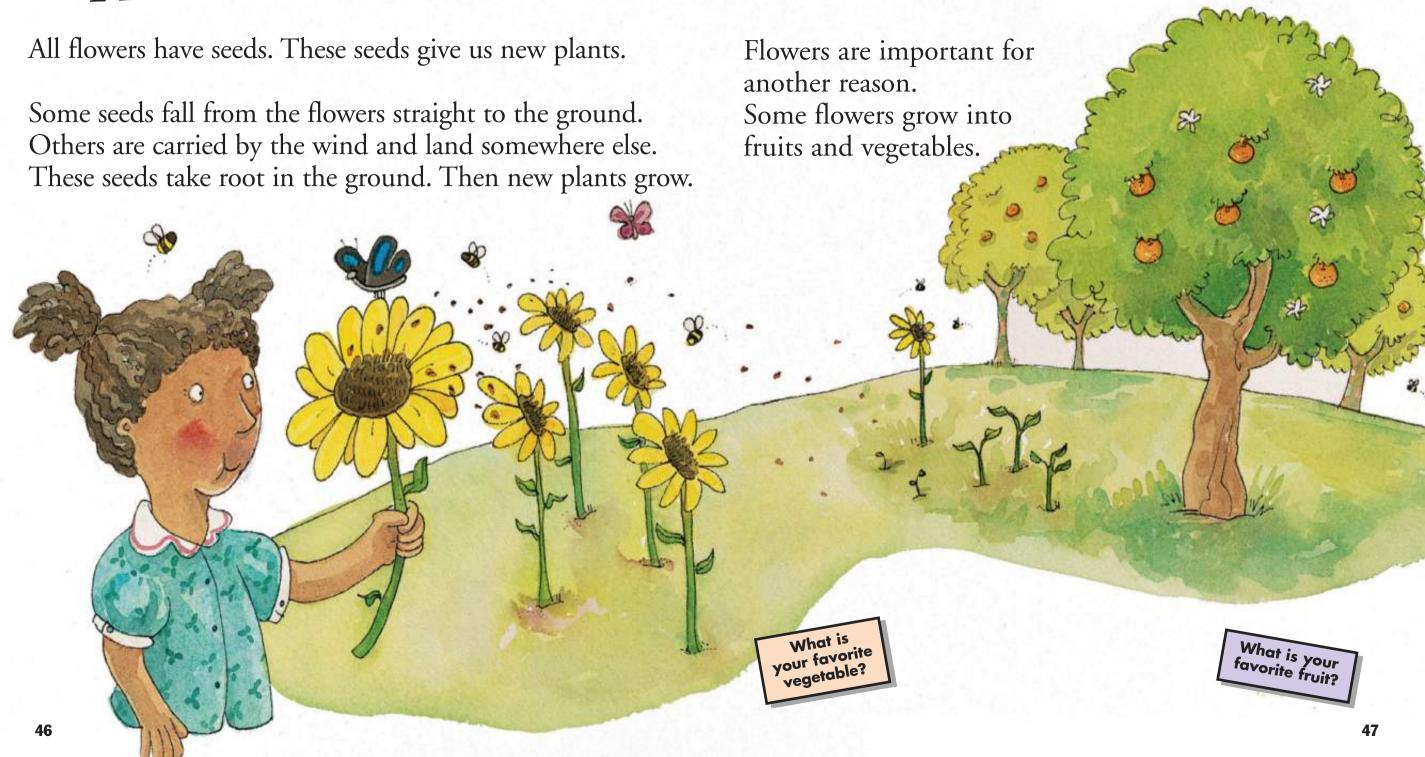
Roots are an important

Most plant roots grow in the ground. The roots help the plants get food from the soil.





Flowers are important too.











crops (krops) plants grown usually for food, such as cereals and corn



desert (DEZ ert) a hot, dry, and usually sandy area with little water and where few plants or trees grow

droplets (DROP litz) tiny drops

soil (soyl) the ground or earth in which plants grow

wheat (hweet) a crop that can be made into cereal or ground into flour, which is used in baking breads and cakes

Fun Ways to Learn about THE WORLD AROUND US

Nature's Paintbrushes

Take a walk in nature with a friend.
Collect two or three fallen tree
branches of different kinds and
sizes. Look for leafless branches.
You might want to collect a pine branch with
lots of needles still on it too, if you can find one.
When you get home, get out your paints!

Ask a grown-up to hammer the thickest end of the branch until it is flat. This will cause the ends to fan out like a small paintbrush. Use your paintbrush branches to create a colorful painting! For the pine branches, just dip the needles directly into the paint.

What other things can you think of to paint with?

Sparkly Snowflakes

Even if there is no snow where you live, you can have snowflakes! Ask a grown-up for several white paper coffee filters. (Use plain white paper cut in large circles if you don't have coffee filters.) Flatten the filters as much as possible. Using watercolors or watered-down tempera paints, paint the coffee filters in snowflake colors—gray, pale blue, dark blue, silver.

Meanwhile, have a grown-up help you add lots of salt to a cup of hot water. Stir to mix it together and let the water cool. Now dip your brush in the saltwater and paint a thin layer of it over the paper filters.

When they are dry, fold each paper filter in half. Then fold each one in half again. Finally, fold in half one last time.

Cut into the folded sides and the edges to make patterns. Be careful to leave some of the folded edges uncut. Now unfold your snowflakes.

The dried saltwater should make them sparkle!

Adopt a Plant!

changes in the living world around you? Here is a fun way to see changes you might not have noticed before. To start, pick a plant somewhere near your house. You will be watching what happens to it over time. For instance, adopt a small, young tree whose leaves you can see up close, or choose a tomato plant, a rosebush, or other growing thing. Visit your adopted plant every few days and see if you see anything different about it. Does it have new flowers? Is it losing leaves? Are more insects

How good are you at noticing

Use a small notebook or make your own by stapling blank pages between a construction-paper cover. Put the date at the top of the page every time you write down something new about your adopted plant. You could include drawings of the changes. You might even add photographs. How does your plant look different as the season passes? If you watch your plant for a whole year, you will probably see a lot of changes!

crawling in it than last time you checked?



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Helping Children Get the Most out of THE WORLD AROUND US Volume

"Play is a child's work." It is through play that children learn, as they are often much more receptive when the activities are fun, engaging, and things they have chosen to do. Being outside provides them different opportunities to sharpen their senses by seeing, touching, smelling, and hearing, all while moving around freely. Here are some ways to enhance the activities on the previous page.

Nature's Paintbrushes. Small branches and twigs can be dipped in paint to be used almost like pencils. But by flattening the end of the branch, the fibrous insides will be exposed, making a great little paintbrush. If your child has collected long branches, cut them down so that they are very short and easy to use. A bit more messy but a lot of fun for children is to dip other plant parts in paint too. They could paint using the bushy stem of a plant, a small fern, or a palm frond, for instance. Older children might enjoy arranging different shaped leaves on a piece of paper and then painting over them. After your child has painted over the leaves and the paper is dry, carefully remove the leaves. The leaf silhouettes make a great piece of children's art!

Sparkly Snowflakes. Younger children may need a bit of help folding and cutting the snowflake patterns for this activity. If they want to cut their own shapes, however, let them do so, even if the shapes don't end up perfect. To get the most sparkly effect, make sure the hot water is heavily saturated with salt. Experiment to see how much salt you will need per cup of water. For younger children, either cut some snowflake shapes for them or just let them paint on plain paper and then add a saltwater layer last. Hang the snowflakes with thread or craft wire or just tape them to your windows.

Adopt a Plant! This activity is a great way to help children increase their powers of observation and learn about the cycles of plant life at the same time. Take a walk with your child, even if just around the yard, down the street, or to a nearby park, and explain the object of the activity. If possible, guide him or her to plants that might go through more rapid changes so that the changes will be apparent more quickly, but don't insist. The younger your child is the more you'll want to pick a plant that will go through changes quickly—or perhaps do this activity during a time of year when there are obvious changes in the foliage around you.

Illustrations by Johanna Boccardo.

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