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supernova

The mag for curious kids

EXTREME HOLIDAYS

p.16





FLOWERS OF NAMAQUALAND

CELEBRATING OUR BIODIVERSITY

p.26



Queen Nefertití

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PUZZLES | SCIENCE | NATURE | ACTIVITIES | SPORTS | COMICS



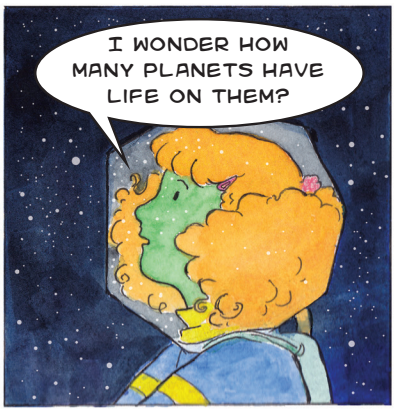
Story and artwork
Maya LeMaitre

MIMI'S LIFE ON MARS

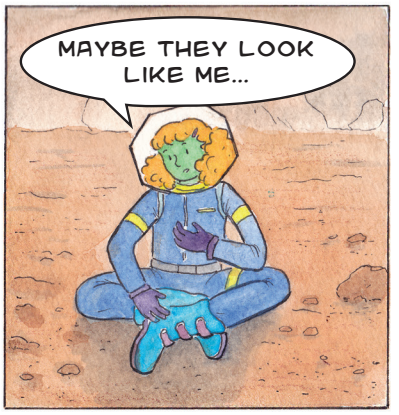


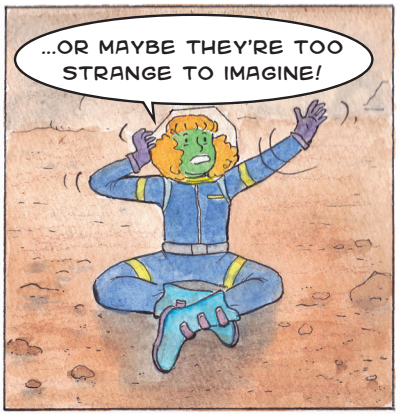


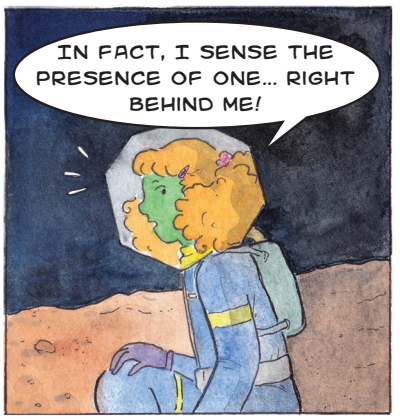


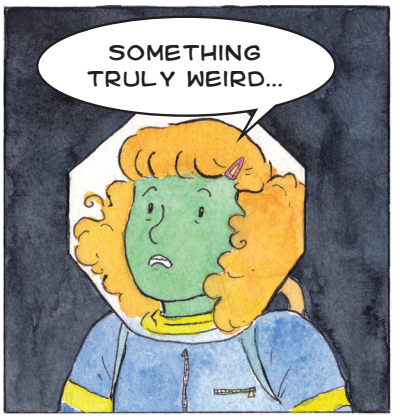














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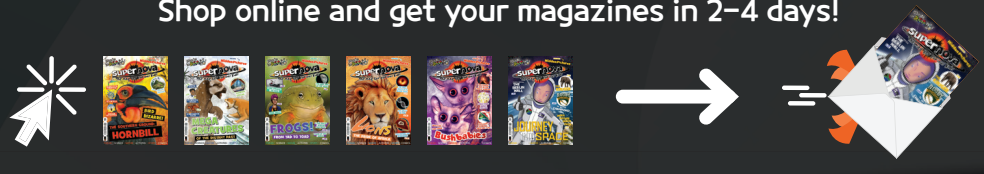

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Hi SuperKids



Benoit

There's no doubt that 2020 has been a hectic year. So much has happened that is out of my control. I can't control Covid-19, I can't control lockdown, I can't control the direction that the world is going in. It sometimes feels as if there is nothing I can do.

But, there are some things I can control – my dreams and ambitions. Just the exercise of thinking about the future and what I want to achieve gives me energy and motivation. My dreams get me up and going and they guide me.

Sometimes dreams change, and sometimes they need to be put on hold. Sometimes a totally different dream comes along. That's OK!

One thing is for certain, my dream for a better world for our readers is what keeps Supernova magazine going and growing and I'm so happy to share my dream with you.

Stay safe, keep dreaming and always be curious.

From our creatives



Candice

I wrote three articles for this issue of Supernova. However, my favourite part of the process was proofreading all of the pages for any mistakes, and making sure everything was perfect for our readers!

I've known about Nefertiti for as long as I can remember, but I didn't know how much I didn't know about her until I dived head first into her history. What a fascinating, powerful woman. I really hope archeologists discover more about her.



Andrea

I particularly enjoyed creating the illustrations for the Namaqualand article. I love learning about the animals and plants as I try my best to show off all of their best qualities for everyone to see and admire.



Vicki



Alexandra

I had a lot of fun illustrating the article! It's a great creative challenge to figure out how to visually represent these language slip-ups. They can be so bizarre!

Su-Mia wrote the article on Malapropisms and Alexandra created the illustrations.

I loved writing this article! I am very interested in language phenomena and learning more about this fascinating topic was marvellous.



Su-Mia

Looking for more? @supernovamag supernovamagazine

Supernova

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In our environment feature, Ant Eco chats to us about the amazing flowers of the Namaqualand and the many creatures that live in the area.



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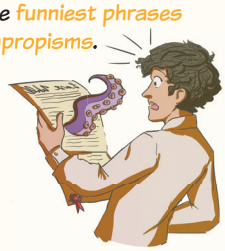
We go deep into the history of ancient Egypt and discover the beautiful woman who ruled with Akhenaten and may have been the mother of King Tutenkhamen.



Amazing facts about dinosaurs that you probably didn't know. 38



Malapropisms 42
Ever hear someone use a word and think, "that can't be right"? Read some of the funniest phrases called Malapropisms.



The Big Picture
Carefully pull out the centrefold posters and put your favourite side up on your wall.



Answers for activity on page 44.

1 – Oil spill fire, page 7.
2 – Protest sign, 5G, page 18,
3 – Tortoise, page 29.
4 – Nefertiti, page 34.
5 – Dog tail, page 43.
6 – Hornbill eye, page 9.
7 – Korean guard, page 11.
8 – Namaqualand flower, page 29.
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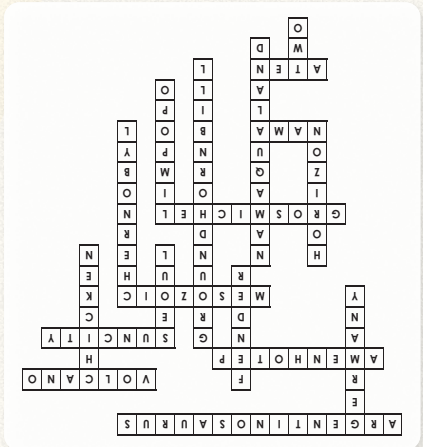
Answers for crossword puzzle on page 45.



Ask Jules?

KYLE (10) from Centurion asked us:

What if everyone on Earth jumped at the same time?

Jules

Rad question, Kyle! It's hard to imagine getting everyone on Earth to jump at the same time - but if you could, nothing spectacular would happen. The mass of people, while pretty large, is nowhere near as large as the mass of the Earth, especially if we're all spread out.

And if we could get all the people on Earth to stand in the same place (which would be more than 7 billion humans in a 805km area), there still wouldn't be much of an effect! In fact, if we all jumped together in the same place, we would move the Earth only a tiny bit (as in, less than the width of a hydrogen atom) as we took off. Then as we all landed again, returning to our same spot, the Earth would do the same — return to the same spot it would have been in had we not jumped at all.

So if you want, go ahead and gather all of your friends together to jump up and down and see if you can make the Earth shake. It'll be great exercise — but don't expect it to move mountains.

Terrific Tie-Dye

Meet Megan (20) and Kelly (17) Muller, two young up-and-coming entreprenuers who are taking the tie-dye world by storm!

KELMEG is the result of many bored hours stuck in the house during lockdown. But now, it's a booming business creating one-of-a-kind clothes that are super comfy and on trend. We asked these sisters all about their new business:

What inspired you to start KELMEG?

We both love tie-dye clothing! During lockdown, we watched a few videos and tried making some pieces. We were surprised when they turned out pretty well, and decided to take it even further and start our own business.



How do you make your tie-dye stand out from the rest?

Tie-dye is very trendy at the moment, and people everywhere are wearing it. We create unique pieces with a special twist, which make us stand out from the crowd. Plus, tie-dye clothing can be pretty expensive! Our products are much more reasonably priced.

What are your plans for the business in the future?

We currently run an online advertising and communication platform through Instagram. We also sell our products at a few local markets in our area. Hopefully in the future we will continue to grow, making it possible for us to attend more markets and meet more people!

Instagram handle: kelmeg._.tiedye

KELMEG TIE DYE

Check out their cool logo!

Behold the Dragons

Jules

Our Dragon Rider competition spurred readers to create some of their best dragon drawings in order to win an awesome hamper and movie tickets! Here are some of their creations:



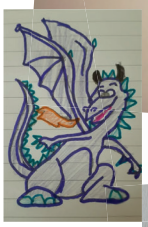
Elizur Kurten, age 8.



Micah Pillay, age 6.



Jordan Prince, age 15.



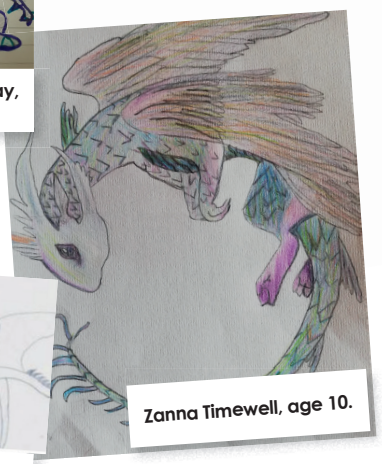
Donell Pillay, age 11



Zephan Kurten, age 5.



Annabelle Timewell, age 7.



Zanna Timewell, age 10.



Shawaal Abrahams, age 11.



Janco van Jaarsveld, age 13.

Ground-Hornbill

2020 Bird of the year



Jules

The 2020 Birdlife South Africa's "bird of the year" was the Southern Ground-Hornbill. We asked Lucy Kemp of the Mabula Ground-Hornbill Project about the highlights and challenges of this year for the project and for the species.

The highlights of this crazy year are that we were able to keep our whole team safe and employed, and that we were able to continue our conservation work as best as possible despite the restrictions. We built many new nests and were able to share our knowledge of the birds with the world through all the virtual platforms available. Sadly the biggest challenges this year were due to lead poisoning of several of our birds. This is a big challenge that all South Africans will need to work hard to change.



Read about the Southern Ground-Hornbill and the threats it faces in *Supernova* Vol 8.1.

Words by Schae Ind

Disaster in Paradise

What happens when disaster strikes at sea? Oil spills are a leakage of petroleum into a big body of water. They are devastating to the economy and are one of the biggest threats to marine life.



Wreck of the MV Wakashio in Mauritius

Photo by the International Maritime Organisation

In July 2020, a Japanese ship called MV Wakashio, ran aground in the south of Mauritius and started leaking fuel. Luckily, a lot of the oil was pumped out before the ship broke in half or the damage could have been much worse. The 1000 tonnes of oil that leaked into the ocean covered 27km^2 of the Mauritian coastline and caused Mauritius's biggest ever environmental disaster.

Oil spills are very bad for the environment and cause problems that can take years to fix. Oil on the surface of the water can stop sunlight from getting through, causing plants to die.

Animals eat it or breathe it in and can become sick and even die. It also makes the seafood in the water unsafe for humans and birds to eat.

When furry or feathery animals get covered in the oil, it can affect their fur's ability to keep them warm or keep them dry. The African penguin population is especially at risk because they're an endangered species.

While there have been some new developments in oil spill cleanup, there still isn't an effective way of doing it.

Deepwater Horizon by Skeeze
Gulf of Mexico



The #DeepwaterHorizon oil spill was the largest oil spill in history. #BPOilSpill

Wreck of the MV Wakashio by IMO
Pointe d'Esny, Mauritius



The MV Wakashio has leaked over 1000 tonnes of oil into the ocean so far. #OilSpill #MarineDisaster

Oil Slicked Penguins by SANCOBB
South African Coast



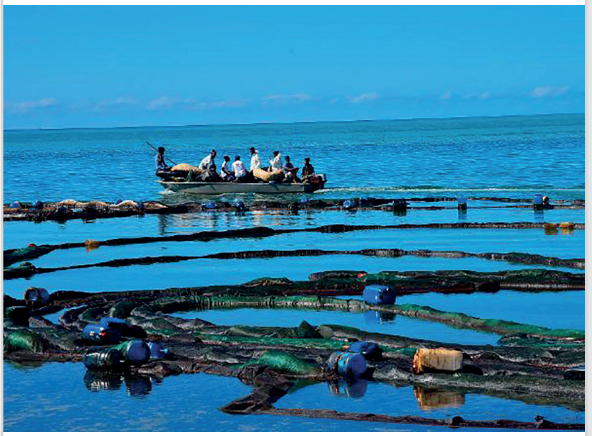
A big oil spill off SA's coast could cause the African Penguin to go extinct! #AfricanPenguin #SavethePenguins

Man Scooping Oil by Jean Aurelio Prudence
Pointe d'Esny, Mauritius



A man tries to scoop oil out of the ocean. #MVWakashio #EveryBitCounts

Cleanup attempt by Beekaash Roopun
Pointe d'Esny, Mauritius



Volunteers on the island have made 'sausages' out of sugar cane and human hair to try and stop the oil from spreading.

Exxon Valdez Oil Tanker by RGB Ventures
Alaska, USA



The Exxon Valdez oil spill is considered to be the oil spill that caused the worst environmental damage. #ExxonValdez

The Electric Guitar



The most expensive guitar was made by Fender. It's called the 'Reach Out To Asia' Stratocaster and was sold for charity. It was signed by famous guitarists and reached almost R40 million.

Every day Fender makes guitar strings long enough to drive between Cape Town and Pretoria a total of 219 times.



Do you want to be a musician? Visit our shop and talk to an expert.

There is love and there is true love. In 2001, the British musician Chris Black decided to marry his guitar.



The world's largest playable electric guitar is over 13 metres long. That's almost as long as a full-sized bus!





Ed Sheeran attracted almost 216 000 people to a single concert. Not bad for a man alone on stage with his guitar.

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Conservation Biologist



Hi, my name is Lucy. I am a conservation biologist who loves to travel as much as possible, experience as many cultures as possible, and spend as many days in the bush as I can. My job involves doing everything I can to save the endangered Southern Ground-Hornbill.

What is a typical day for you?

There is no typical day for me. This keeps my work fun and interesting. Somedays I travel to remote parts of our country. I talk to people who share their land with ground-hornbills about how to keep these birds safe.

Sometimes I climb tall trees to put up artificial nests or nest cameras, or to check on how each ground-hornbill group is doing.

Why did you go into conservation?

I need to be surrounded by wild places and the creatures that need those spaces. I also believe that people need those places too, to recharge and remember how beautiful life is.

I hope my work keeps these places and creatures safe for everyone.

What qualifications do you need?

I have gone on a round-about journey to get where I am today.

I travelled for two years after school to see if working in the bush, like my parents did, was something I really wanted to do.

Turns out that was what I wanted to do, so I studied zoology and marine biology at UCT. Then I completed my doctorate in conservation biology and genetics.

What are some of the challenges of your job?

One of my biggest challenges is to raise funding to look after my amazing team, and make sure we can carry out all the conservation work that ground-hornbills need to survive.





What makes you happy in your job?

Seeing a group of ground-hornbills playing is the best thing – they are so intelligent and the little interactions between each of the birds are really fun and beautiful to watch.



Lucy's Advice

Volunteer as much as you can to get experience and enjoy every second you spend with nature.

Learn more about the Mabula Ground-Hornbill Project at

ground-hornbill.org.za

Gyeongbokgung Palace

Words by Andrea Vermaak



Andy


Mannaa mohamed

I now understand why you can't visit Seoul, South Korea, without visiting Gyeongbokgung Palace. Its traditional architecture stands out as an icon of the country's rich history among the capital city's modern skyscrapers. To me, it's a symbol of resilience. Let me tell you why...


Sjmole

Gyeongbokgung at night.


Nakedsky

Guards at Gyeongbokgung.

Fit for kings

King Taejo of Joseon built Gyeongbokgung Palace in 1395. Also known as the Northern Palace, it's the first and largest of the Five Grand Palaces in Seoul. It was once the home of the Joseon dynasty kings, as well as the kings' government. Kings Taejong and Sejong the Great continuously expanded the palace during their reigns.

Assassination!

In 1895, Japanese agents assassinated Empress Myeongseong. Emperor Gojong, her husband, left the palace and the Imperial Family never made it their home again.

Destruction!

The palace has taken severe beatings over the centuries, but like a phoenix, it always seems to rise from the ashes – literally. A great fire damaged the palace in 1553, but King Myeongjong's restoration was completed the following year, at a great expense.

It burnt to the ground four decades later during the Imjin War (Japanese invasions of Korea). The royals moved to Changdeokgung Palace, leaving Gyeongbokgung in ruins for almost three centuries.

Eventually, the palace was reconstructed in 1867 during the Daewongun regency, incorporating the architectural principles of ancient Korea. The complex had 330 buildings with a whopping 5792 rooms and covered 432 703m² of land.

Then, in the early 1900s, Imperial Japan destroyed most of the palace complex during its occupation of Korea. Only a few structures survived, including the Gyeonghoeru Pavilion and the Throne Hall.



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The re-enactment of Sejong the Great's enthronement.

Restoration

Like I said, nothing seems to keep this palace down. The Japanese General Government Building on the site was torn down in 1995 to reconstruct the impressive Heungnyemun Gate and its cloisters. About 40% of the original structures were restored or reconstructed by the end of 2009. Work continues to restore the palace to its former glory.



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Drummer at the Gyeongbokgung Palace during the changing of the guards.

National Museums

Be sure to visit the National Folk Museum and the National Palace Museum, both located within the palace complex. The National Folk Museum showcases replicas of traditional Korean objects, while the National Palace Museum houses over 40 000 royal treasures and artefacts from the Joseon Dynasty and the Korean Empire.

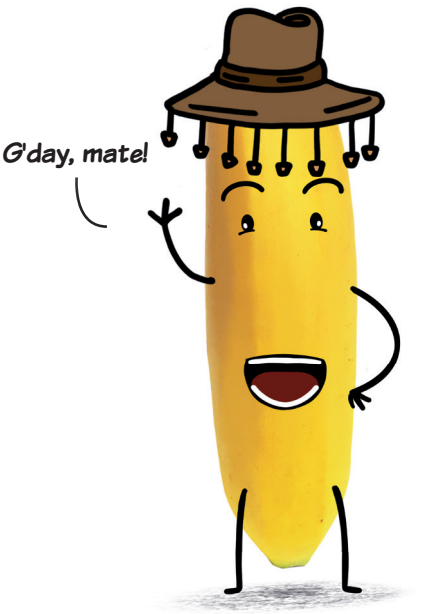
The last of the BANANAS



Supernova

Most of us think of bananas as a yummy, tasty treat rather than a serious science experiment. But the bananas in this field, right outside of a small town called Humpty-Doo in the northern part of Australia, are not so lucky! They are under strict biosecurity protection. And not one of the bananas in this field have been eaten since they were planted here in 2012.

It may seem absurd, but these bananas may hold the key to saving the existence of all bananas worldwide!



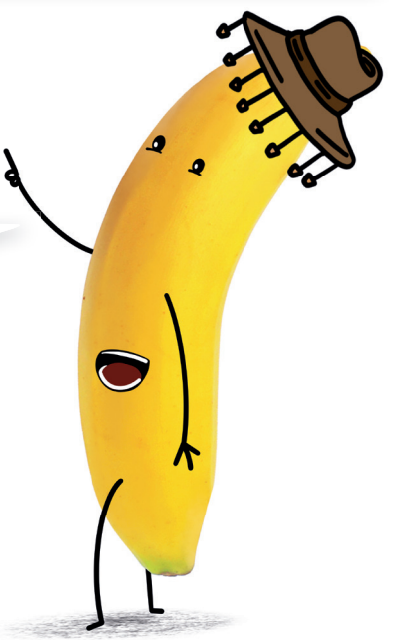


Get this!

*The Latin name for banana is **musa sapientum** which translates to "fruit of the wise men".*

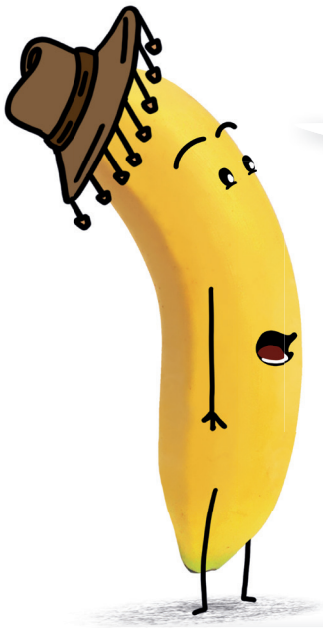
Q: Why are you so carefully protected?

A: We are stuck here because of Tropical Race 4. It's a dangerous fungus. We just call it TR4 for short.



Q: What makes the fungus so dangerous?

A: Well, I was not always the preferred type of banana. There used to be a different one, a type called Gros Michel, that was a little smaller and sweeter. The whole of Europe and America used to go nuts for it! That is, until it got pushed to extinction by TR1 sometime in the 1950's. They all just died and the farmers started farming me instead. Turns out I'm resistant to TR1. Lucky me, I guess.



Q: So you're resistant to TR1, but not the new strain of the fungus?

A: Yes, that's why I'm here. They are doing all kinds of tests on us. The scientists working on us have added some new genes so that we don't get the TR4. But it's causing all kinds of problems.

Get this!

Humans share about 50% of our DNA with bananas.

Q: What problems are the genes causing?

A: Gene modification isn't allowed in food. That means nobody here can eat any of the bananas, not even secretly. They will lose any funding if they do. The main scientist here is trying to change the laws a little, and he hopes that we'll be up on the shelves by 2021. For now, we all get squashed up and thrown out as fertiliser.



Get this!

You really should eat a banana every day! Bananas can help lower blood pressure and protect heart health due to its high potassium and low salt content.

Q: Are bananas facing extinction?

A: Basically, yes! All of us bananas are the same and that makes us very susceptible to TR4. And this time around, there won't be another kind of banana to replace us. Everything balances on whether or not genetically modified food is safe to eat. We won't ever build up any resistance of our own – we need help from the scientists. If they can't help us, we might start vanishing from all grocery stores.

Supernova

In spite of all the odds against them, bananas are a miracle! Their stubbornness and toughness should not be overcome by something as simple as a fungus. It would be a sad, sad world without them. And we know that our brilliant scientists will do everything they can to make sure they stick around for many years to come.



What can't you do without on holiday?

Words by Nikita Abreu

The Chatroom

Holidays are about leaving the city and your worries behind, but there are some things you wouldn't want to be without, like you toothbrush and underwear! What are the things you can't do without on holiday?



LEONARD (14)

My life is worthless without my games so I have to bring along my phone and my PSP. A TV because missing my cartoons would be terrible. Swimming trunks for swimming, a knife for biltong and finally a bicycle to chase after my brother.

SN



TIANO (15)

I like to game so WIFI, my computer and Nintendo Switch are a must. My cellphone will obviously come with me, and every once in a while, I'll bring along a good book to read.

SN



ISABELLA (13)

I bring my swimming gear, a book to read and puzzles to build. My phone comes along too and if I can, I take my bicycle along with me!

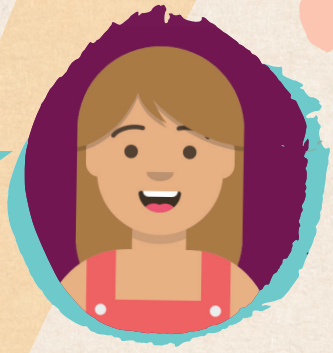
SN



NATANYA (13)

I like to bring my phone along on holiday, my own pillow to remind me of home, sunscreen because it's important when out in the sun, body lotion and a swimming costume for a nice tan.

SN



NICOLE (13)

As daar nie sein is nie, het ek nie my foon nodig nie, so dit hang af. 'n Bordspel om tyd met my familie te spandeer, my borsel om my hare reg to maak, tandeborsel om my wit tande te wys en iemand om saam met my te wees (sodat ek met hulle kan praat).

SN

LEAH (6)

I like to bring my shoes and clothes to wear. My toothbrush and toothpaste so that my teeth are clean. Some toys to play with and snacks to eat!

SN



Norman (17)

My swimming trunks and a towel will come along if I know there is a possibility of me being able to swim. I always need a knife for biltong and braaivleis. My cellphone will come with so that I can take photos, but also so that I can play music on the speakers that will come along too (they need to have a good bass). Oh, and also a bicycle, so that I can ride away from my brother.

SN



Lara (8)

When I go on holiday I like to bring along 2 pairs of sunglasses, 5 pairs of shoes, 1 toy in case I get bored, 4 costumes for each day I go swimming, 3 t-shirts and 3 pairs of pants.

SN







Karla (12)

I bring clothes to wear and money to spend. Transport to get there is also important as well as a place to sleep. Oh, and food!

SN

Danae (11)

Yummy food is my favourite, my teddies to cuddle with before bed, clothes, my swimming costumes and most importantly, my family!

SN

Mion (13)

Ek en my familie is baie belangrik om 'n lekker vakansie te hou. Ek kort ook my swemklere en handdoek om lekker in die water to speel en sonroom om my vel to beskerm.

SN





Annabeth (13)

Dit is nie 'n vakansie sonder my swembroek, 'n paar leesboeke, my kamera om interessante foto's te neem, 'n lekker paar staptekkies, en 'n bordspeletjie om met my familie te speel nie.

SN

Kayleigh (10)

I always bring along snacks and bedding. A costume and sunscreen for swimming and a torch for when it gets too dark.

SN



The Chatroom

Do you want to contribute to the next Chatroom? Follow *Supernova* magazine on Facebook or subscribe to the SN newsletter and look out for our questionnaires.

You can also Whatsapp us on 012 342 5347.

Life, the universe and everything

EXTREME HOLIDAYS

Words by Candice Robertson
Illustrations by Benoit Knox

Bored of beaches? Yawning on your yacht? Think surfing is for sissies? Behold, these awesome extreme adventures for those in search of a decent challenge.



Strand yourself on a desert island

Put your Bear Grylls skills to the test on a small, deserted island in Indonesia. Travel operator Docastaway offers trips to isolated islands from R1500 per person per day. This includes local flights, a boat ride to the island, supplies and the use of a canoe. You'll have to build your own shelter, fish for your own food and navigate the island without a guide during your extreme survival experience.

Death Drop

If you feel up for four glorious seconds of terror as you walk off a 53m high cliff and free fall at 180km/h, then check out the Death Drop at the Batoka Gorge in Zambia.



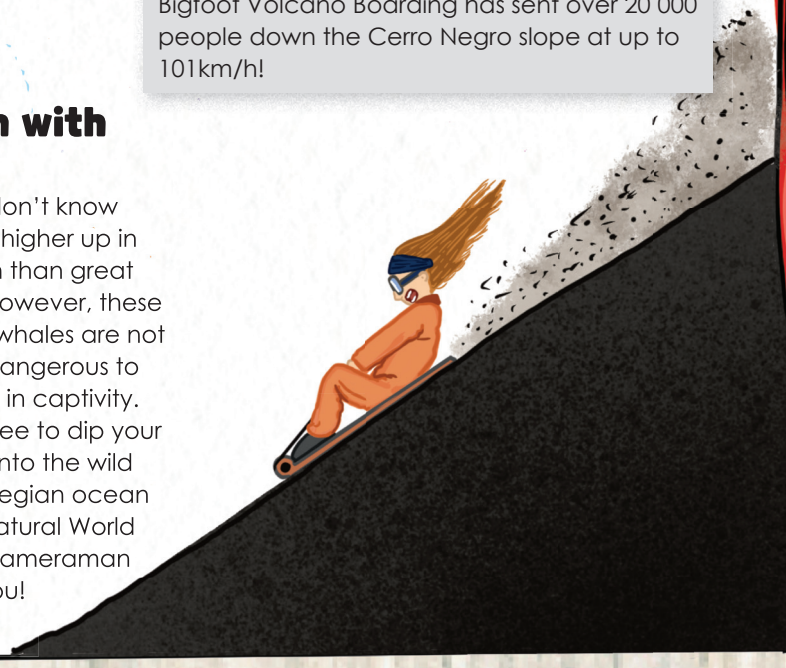


Swim with orcas

Most people don't know that orcas are higher up in the food chain than great white sharks. However, these six tonne killer whales are not known to be dangerous to humans unless in captivity. So feel free to dip your toes into the wild Norwegian ocean as a Natural World Safari cameraman films you!

Surf down an active volcano

Snowboarding is old school. The most extreme way to slide a slope is at Cerro Negro in Nicaragua. Situated in the city of León, this is the only place in the world where you can slide down the side of an active volcano. Bigfoot Volcano Boarding has sent over 20 000 people down the Cerro Negro slope at up to 101km/h!



Africa's highest zipline

Pull together your courage and become a human torpedo on Africa's highest and fastest zipline! Check out the Zip 2000 at Sun City where the zip line is 280m high and 2km long. You can even hit 160km/h on the ride!



Bounce into an active volcano

Bungee jumping is scary. But dangling over a bubbling lava lake inside an active volcano? Petrifying. Here's your chance to do just that over Villarrica Volcano in Chile. This is one of Chile's most active volcanoes. So remember to buckle up tight when you drop from a helicopter and leap right over it.



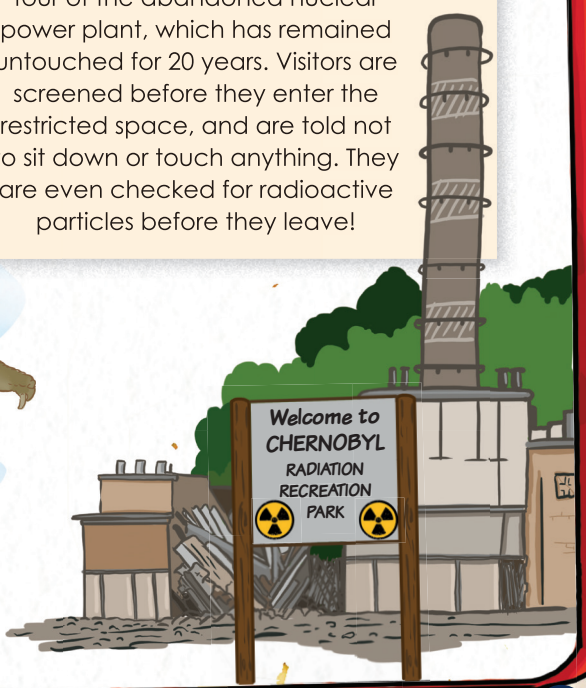


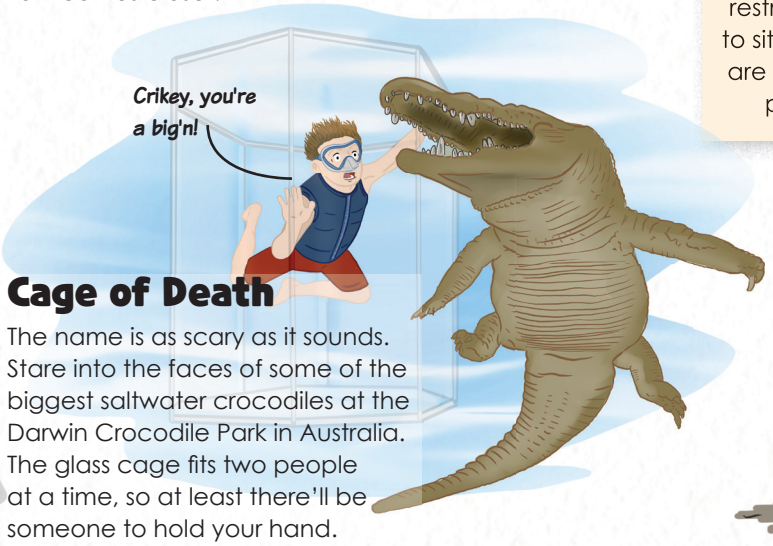
Dive with sharks

There are countless places to swim with sharks, but one of the best is in our very own Gansbaai, Western Cape. Even though you'll be in a cage roped to the side of the boat, those bars won't do much to ease your heart rate when a great white shark comes closer!

Visit the most radioactive place on the planet

Visiting Chernobyl is as close as you can get to roaming a post-apocalyptic world. Take a guided tour of the abandoned nuclear power plant, which has remained untouched for 20 years. Visitors are screened before they enter the restricted space, and are told not to sit down or touch anything. They are even checked for radioactive particles before they leave!





Cage of Death

The name is as scary as it sounds. Stare into the faces of some of the biggest saltwater crocodiles at the Darwin Crocodile Park in Australia. The glass cage fits two people at a time, so at least there'll be someone to hold your hand.

Words by Candice Robertson

5G Fact or Fiction?

What you should know about 5G

Connecting your phone to the cellular network is something most people don't usually think much about. But now, super-fast 5G speed is getting everyone hyped up about this new technology. And along with that curiosity comes a torrent of myths and rumours about what 5G can and can't do. So, what's fact and what's fiction? We break down everything you need to know about 5G.



What is 5G?

5G is a next generation wireless network technology that is expected to change the way people live and work. It allows you to connect lots of devices to the same network and transfer information in a fraction of the time.





Why do we need it?

5G is faster and able to handle more connected devices than ever before. Not only can we download movies at lightning speed, but future technology might allow us to have self-driving cars, robot friends and even have surgery performed by a doctor in another country!

?! Get this!

The fastest 5G networks are expected to be at least 10 times faster than 4G LTE.



A 5G network tower.

How do we use it?

If you live in a city where 5G currently exists, all you need is a 5G-compatible phone or device! If not, you may have to wait a while before a 5G network comes to your city.

?! Get this!

You could download a two-hour movie in 3.6 seconds on a 5G network.

Now that you know the top 5G facts, let's dive into some of the 5G myths that you may have heard about.



5G frequencies are going to microwave our brains

In 2000, physicist Dr Bill Curry studied the effect of microwave frequencies on the brain. Some people were afraid that 5G would have health risks, which is where the myth came from. But many scientists have debunked this theory by showing that Dr Curry's data does not work the same way for cells deep inside our body. Our skin has a super cool ability to protect our insides from high radio frequencies, keeping all of our important parts safe!



Photo By Stefan Wermuth



5G networks spread the coronavirus

You might have heard this myth out there on the web. As crazy as it sounds, many people really believed this wild rumour in the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic. But rest assured, germs are definitely not capable of teleportation.



5G is going to replace 4G

5G networks are built on top of the existing 4G LTE networks. This means that 4G provides the base for 5G and will not be going away anytime soon. It is for this reason that all of your 4G devices will continue to work even after 5G is installed in your city.

Could 5G be the start of the Fourth Industrial Revolution? Let us know what you think!

You can Whatsapp us on 012 342 5347.

Get this!

5G has the ability to one day connect us with devices like smart toothbrushes and virtual gyms.

CNA
EST. 1896

THE Gift OF JOY

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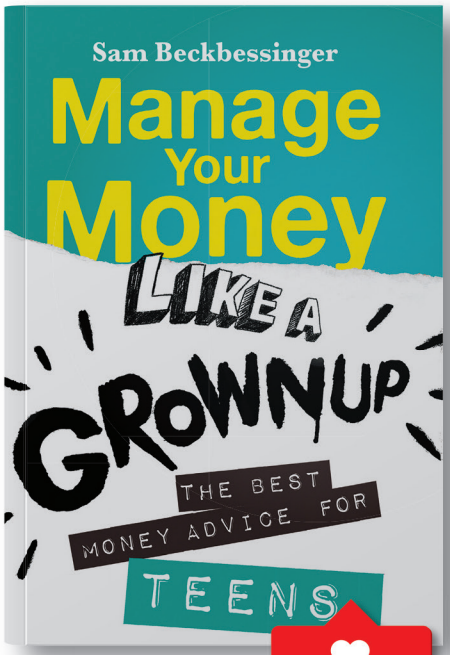

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CARELIA
ANGERMANNIA
MIDDELPADIA
CANDIA
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LITVANIE PARS
TILE
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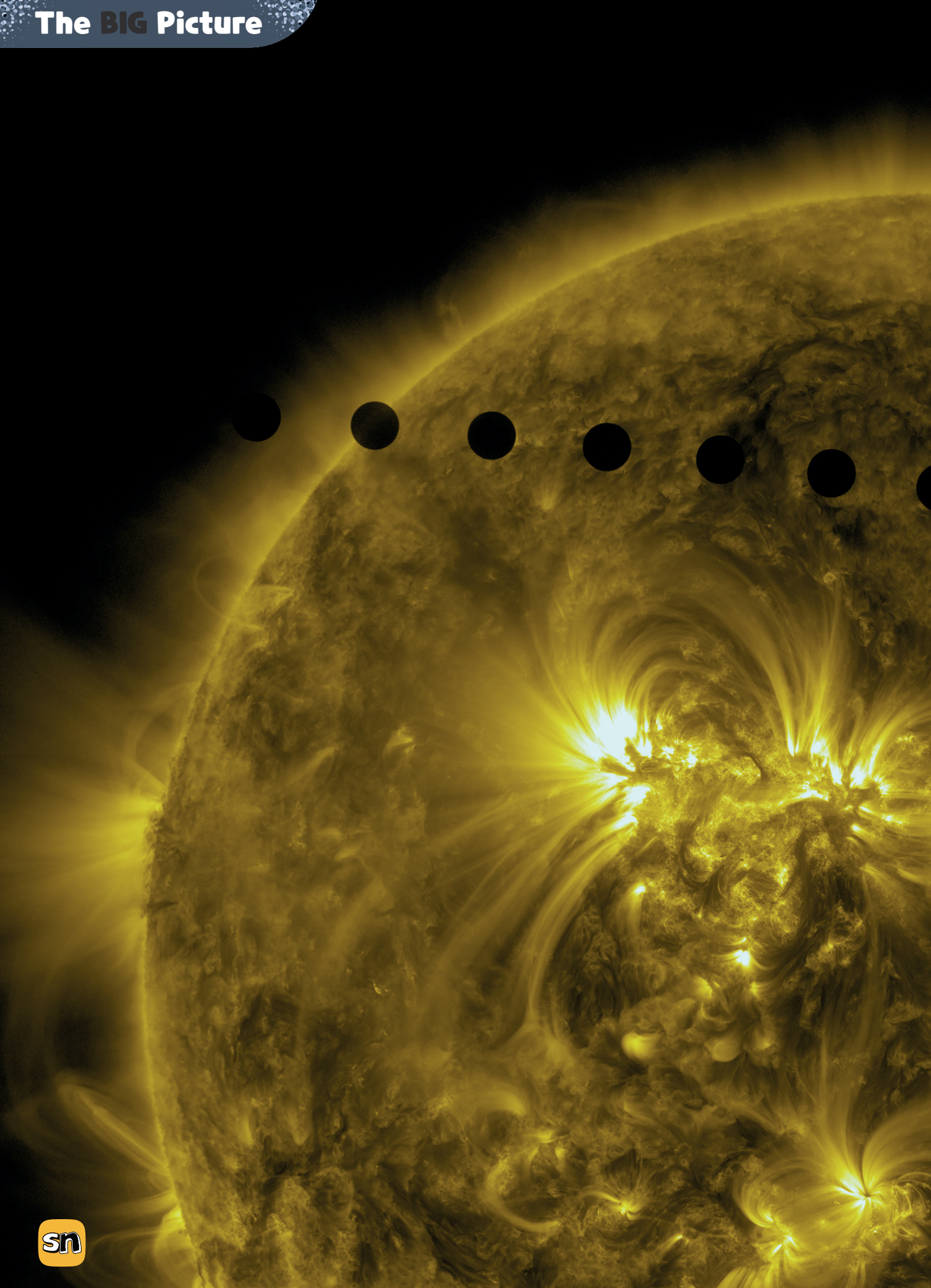



A rare view of Venus

Photograph by NASA

On June 5-6 2012, NASA's SDO spacecraft used special extreme ultraviolet spectrum cameras to photograph the planet Venus as it trecked a path around the Sun.

Many photos were stitched together to document this super rare event. The next time this view of Venus will be seen from Earth is in 2117.

There be dragons!

Map by Olaus Magnus 1539

Imagine a time, before satellites and Google Maps, a time when continents, islands and sea creatures were drawn from memory and the descriptions of travellers.

Published in Venice (Italy), 481 years ago, by Olaus Magnus, the Carta Marina was a big improvement on other maps of Scandinavia and the northern European countries.

New book for nature lovers by Dr Lynn Hurry

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AND HER WILDLIFE FRIENDS

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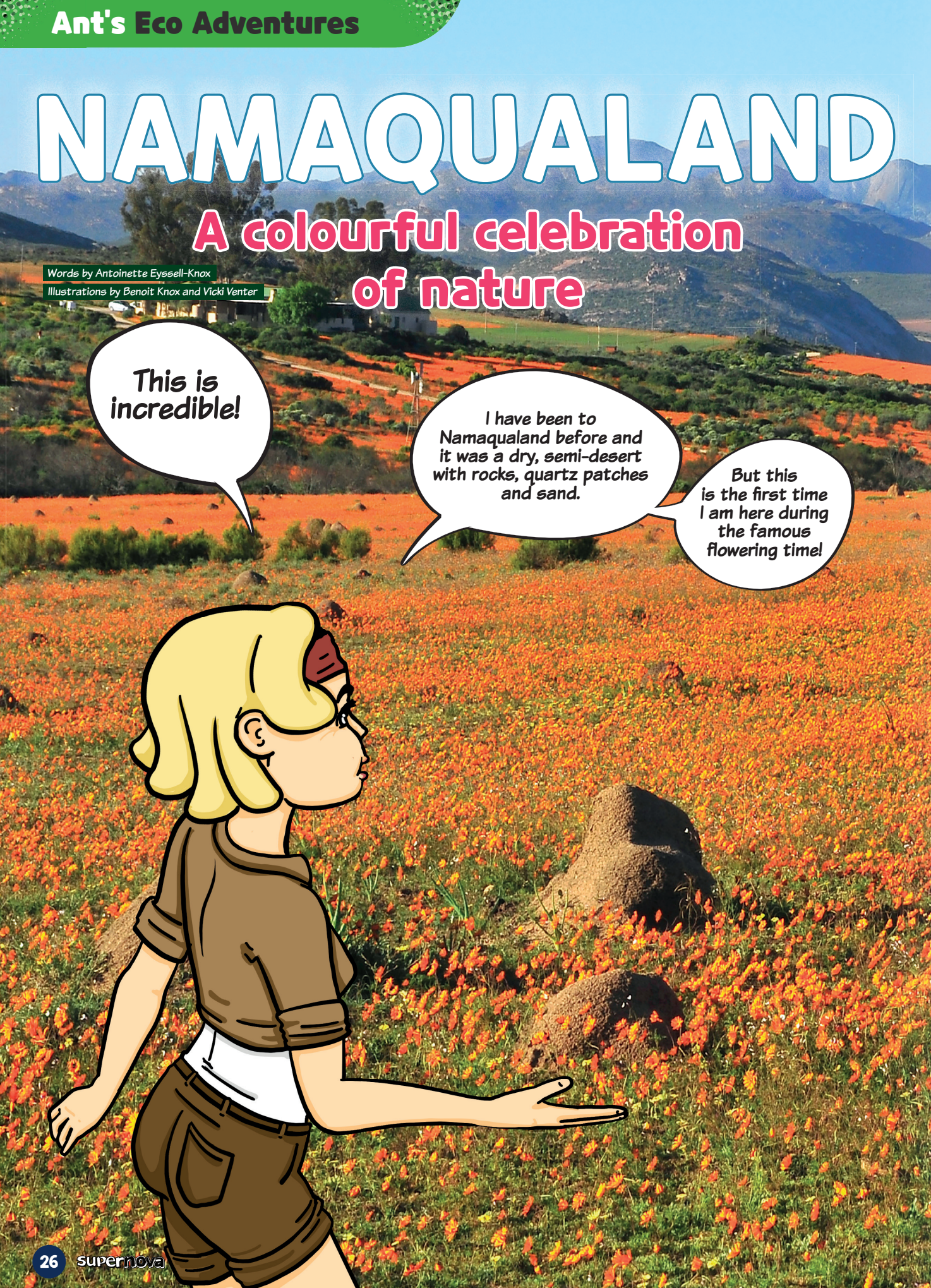
NAMAQUALAND

A colourful celebration of nature

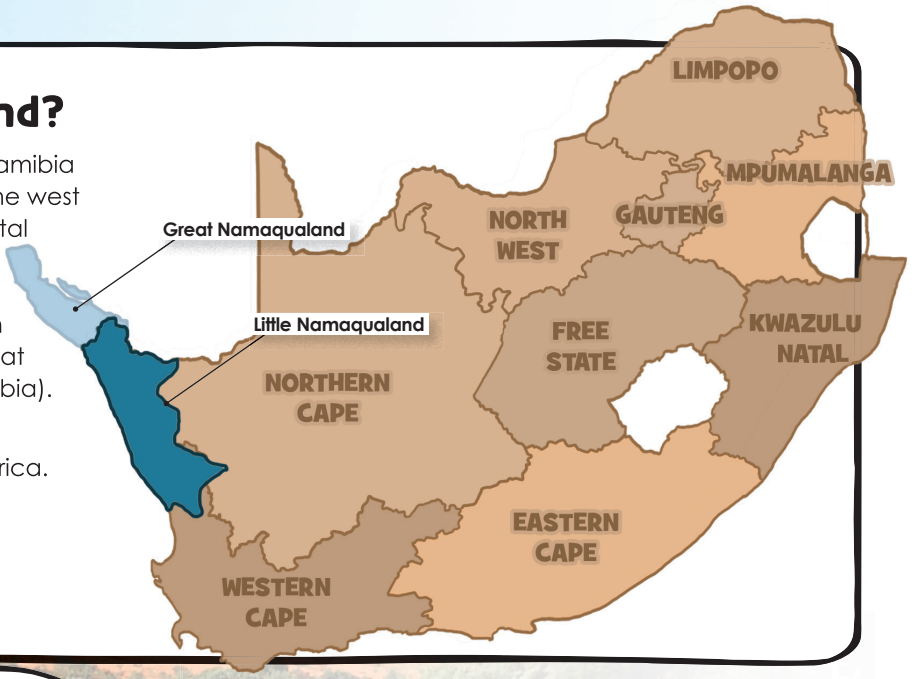
Words by Antoinette Eyssell-Knox
Illustrations by Benoit Knox and Vicki Venter



Where is Namaqualand?

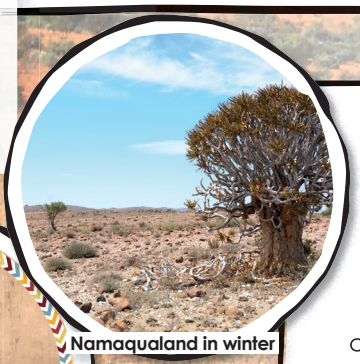
Namaqualand forms part of both Namibia and South Africa. It extends along the west coast over 1 000 km and covers a total area of 440 000 km^2. It is divided into two portions by the Orange River. Little Namaqualand is situated south of the river (in South Africa) and Great Namaqualand to the north (in Namibia).

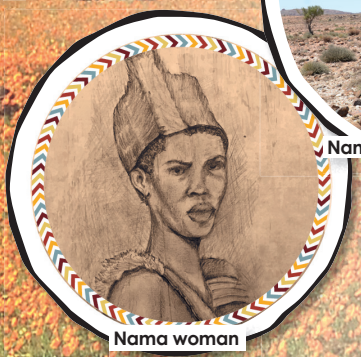
Little Namaqualand falls within the Northern Cape Province of South Africa.



Get this!

Namaqualand is named for the Nama people who inhabited the area before Europeans arrived.


Namaqualand in winter


Nama woman

What is up with the climate here?

The area is semi-arid to arid, with a Mediterranean climate. Summers are hot. Rain falls during the cold winter months (April and August) and frost is common at higher elevations. Along the coast, sea fog in autumn and winter provides additional moisture. Due to the cold Benguela Current along the coast, the hot summer temperatures are more bearable than inland, where it can reach into the high 30°s.

Biodiversity hotspot

Namaqualand is a biodiversity hotspot, meaning it has a rich biodiversity, including many endemic species. Unfortunately, it also means that it is threatened.

In addition to the interesting shrubs and succulents you can see most of the year, seeds and bulbs lie waiting beneath the soil until the rains come. And then follows the most spectacular bloom you can imagine! When good winter rains turn the once fallow lands into carpets of flowers, thousands of people visit the annual display of the Namaqualand Blomveld.


Some plants look like the stones around them.


Some plants, like Hoodia have medicinal properties.


The area might look like a desert...


...but it's full of amazing life.

Biodiversity of Namaqualand

Quiver tree -*Aloidendron dichotomum*

Plants

Over 3000 plant species survive and thrive in the rocky outcrops and sandy plains. Almost half of these are endemic to the area and thus occur nowhere else on earth!

About a third of these plants are succulents. Some are so small, you need to know what you are looking for or you will unknowingly walk right over them. If you are bored, you can count a staggering 40 000 seeds in just 1m²!

Plants rely on wind pollination and special relationships with strange insects. Grass seeds are dispersed by animals as their hooked barbs catch in the fur and hitch a ride. Ingeniously, the mesembs (vygies or stone plants) keep their seed firmly closed in the fruit during dry seasons. When it rains, the seeds are set free. Most of the flowers close up at night and only fully open once the day warms up.



In autumn, the cooler temperatures and first rains bring flowering amaryllid species such as *Brunsvigia* and *Haemanthus*. The annual flower display peaks in August and several bulbs only flower in September. Outside of the main flowering season, one can see the dominant low shrubveld with dwarf shrubs and their succulent leaves. There are countless succulents, big and small, shrubs and trees, to behold.





Arctosis Fastuosa

Dimorpotheca Cuneate

Bulbinella Nutans

Dimorpotheca Sinuata

Cheiridopsis Denticulata

Dorotheanus Maughanii

Haemanthus Crispus

Insects

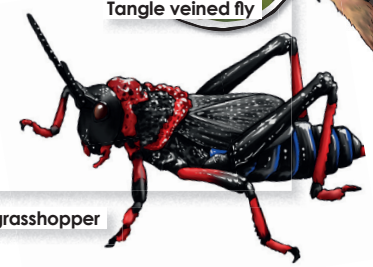
Insects thrive in semi-arid areas and Namaqualand is no exception. Many insects emerge for a small period in spring and summer. So many flowers need various pollinators. Even flies!

The Namaqualand Tangle veined fly (*Prosoeca peringueyi*) sucks nectar from flowers with a long straw-like mouthpart. They prefer magenta and purple irises and geraniums.



Tangle veined fly

The Foam grasshopper (*Dictyophorus spumans*) (Afrikaans: *rooibaadjie*) is flightless and slow-moving. But it mastered the art of chemical protection. It feeds on poisonous milkweeds and stores the poison to use for protection later. When threatened, it exudes a foamy secretion that can be fatal to the attacker. So consider its red and black colours as a warning.



Foam grasshopper

Birds

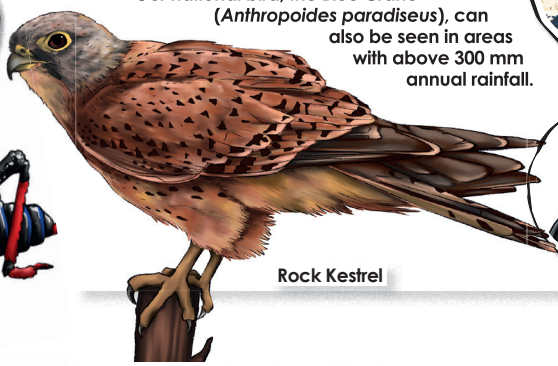
A common sight on telephone poles along roads are the Rock Kestrels (*Falco rupicolus*). One usually sees them hover, then suddenly drop onto prey.

The Namaqua Sandgrouse (*Pterocles namaqua*) thrives in the harsh conditions.



Sandgrouse

Our national bird, the Blue Crane (*Anthropoides paradiseus*), can also be seen in areas with above 300 mm annual rainfall.



Rock Kestrel



Blue Crane

Reptiles

More than 50 different reptile species occur here, including three tortoises and even a terrapin. Many of these are endemic and some are even on the 'smallest in the world' list.



Padloper

The Namaqualand Speckled Padloper (*Homopus signatus*) is the world's smallest tortoise and is endemic to Namaqualand. It roams rocky areas munching small succulents.

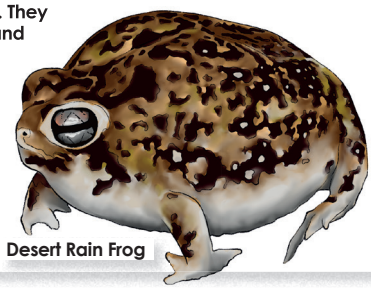
Watch out, the Namaqua Dwarf Adder (*Bitis schneideri*) is well camouflaged. This venomous snake is the smallest adder in the world. It hides from the sun and its unsuspecting prey under the sand, leaving just its head and the tip of its tail exposed.

Get this!

As a defence strategy, tortoises can eject the contents of their bowels. This depletes their water reserves which can be deadly in arid areas. Please, never handle tortoises unnecessarily.

Amphibians

The Desert Rain Frog (*Breviceps macrops*) is nocturnal and spends most of its day buried in the moist sand dunes of the Namaqualand coastline. They absorb water from the sand through a transparent patch on their bellies. This cute frog is rare and its habitat is destroyed by development and mining. Instead of the usual frog croak, it squeaks its displeasure and anger – sounding like a squeaky toy!



Desert Rain Frog

Mammals

From big to small, you will be surprised by the number of mammals that are at home in Namaqualand.



Gemsbok

The Gemsbok (*Oryx gazella*) is native to the dry western parts of Southern Africa and can survive by drinking very little water. It also eats water-rich fruits such as the Gemsbok Cucumbers (*Acanthosicyos naudinianus*) and Tsamma Melons (*Citrullus lunatus*) and underground tubers.



Whistling rats

Whistling rats (*Parotomys* spp) happily feed on succulents and seeds. They give shrill whistling calls when alarmed.

I am sure you all know the candid meerkat (*Suricatta suricatta*), curiously propping itself up on its hindlegs. It's so agile, it can make a snack out of a scorpion!



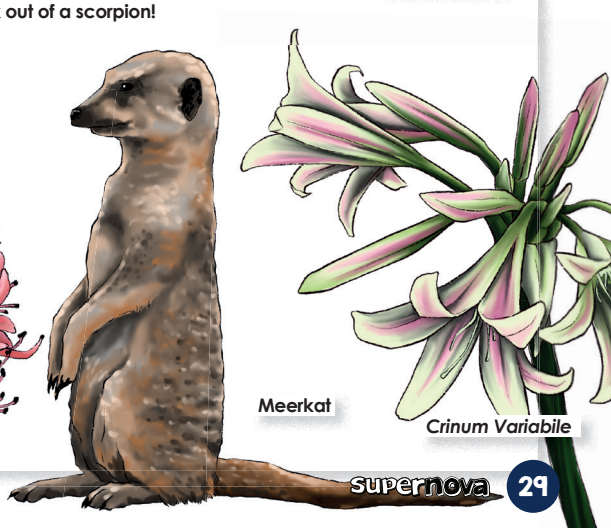
Namaqua Dwarf Adder

Crassula Columnaris

Carpobrotus Quadrifidus

Trachyandra Falcata

Brunsvigia Bosmaniae



Meerkat

Crinum Variabile

Sandgrouse photo by Yathin sk

Proseoca Peringueyi photo by Benoit Knox

Whistling rat photo by Derek Keats

Gemsbok photo by Hein waschefort

A finely balanced ecosystem

In Namaqualand everything is interlinked. Plant and animal species evolved together for thousands of years. Take one species away and several species that rely on it could disappear. Although it is small, it has a rich and unique biodiversity for a winter-rainfall desert area. This makes it extremely vulnerable to climate change and habitat destruction.





Photo by Northern Cape Tourism

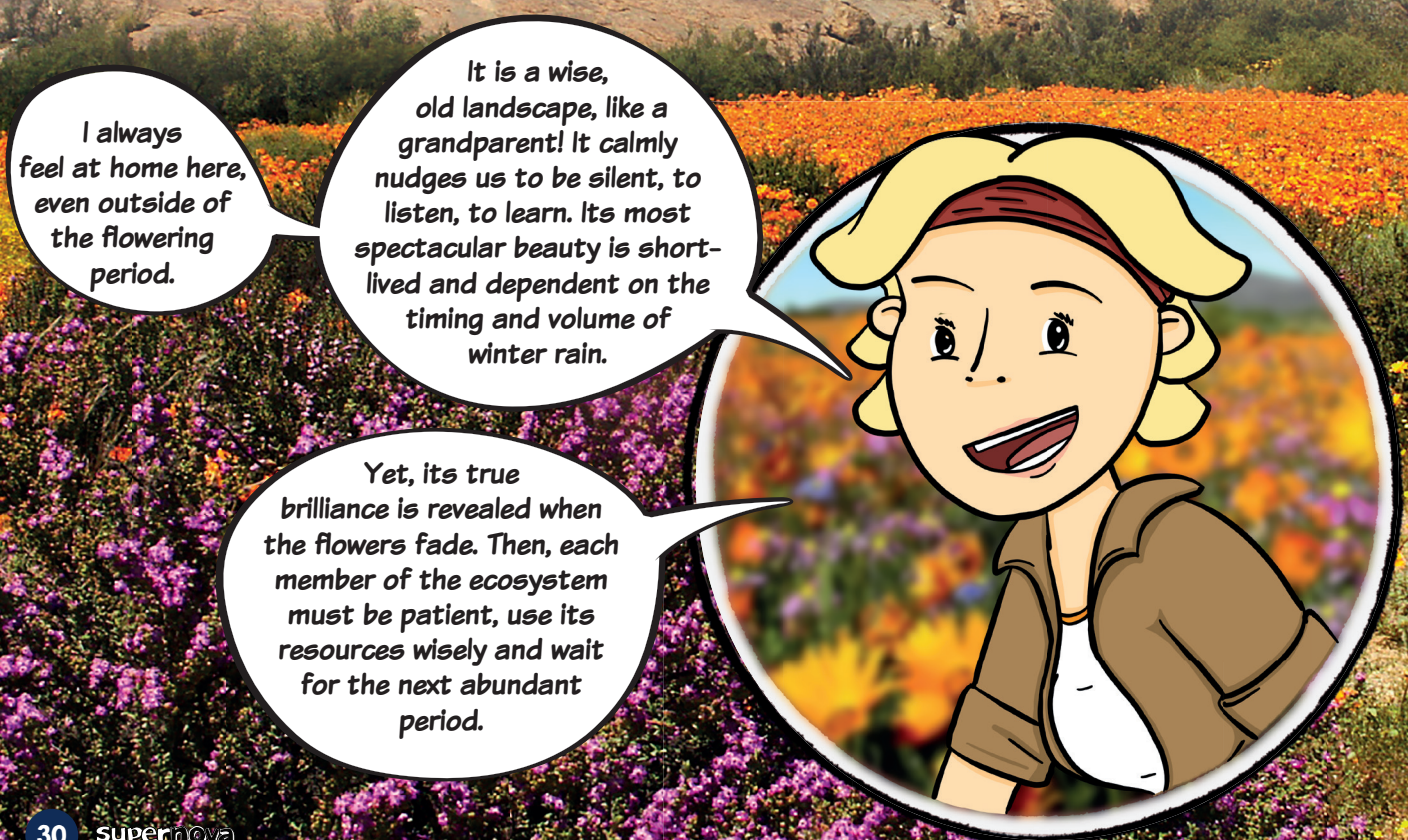


Threats to Namaqualand

Shockingly, some greedy people collect plants and animals from the wild and smuggle them across borders.

Climate change is expected to make rainfall more sporadic in Namaqualand, meaning the annual flower display might become less frequent. Some species are already struggling to cope with the increase in temperatures.

It is important to lower your carbon footprint and to protect the water resources in our country. When you visit this remarkable place, leave nothing but footprints and take nothing but great pictures and awesome memories!



Framed pressed FLOWERS

We've all made pressed flowers before, but how do you display them for everyone to see?

Use an old frame and two pieces of plexiglass to make an arrangement that will look great and last for many years.

What you need:

- Cut flowers of your choice
- Two pieces of plexiglass
- Scissors
- Paper Towel
- Clear double-sided tape
- A pile of heavy books
- An old picture frame (optional)

Warning!

It is illegal to pick wildflowers in South Africa. Only use store-bought flowers or pick them from your garden.

Pro Tip!

You can get plexiglass from a craft shop or hardware store, but you can also use the plastic from a CD case.



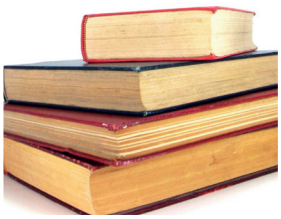
Pick a few flowers.



Arrange them on a paper towel.



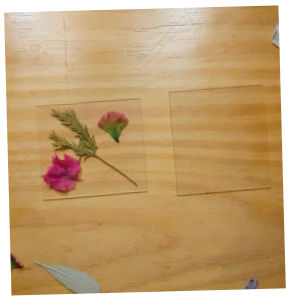
Fold the paper over the flowers and press them under a pile of books.



Leave them to dry for a week.



Get two pieces of plexiglass, of the same size.



Use small pieces of double-sided tape, or a drop of glue to keep the dried flowers in place.



Cut and paste thin strips of double-sided tape to bind the two plexiglass sheets.



Place the second sheet on top of the flowers.



Put your plexiglass into a frame and display it for all to see.

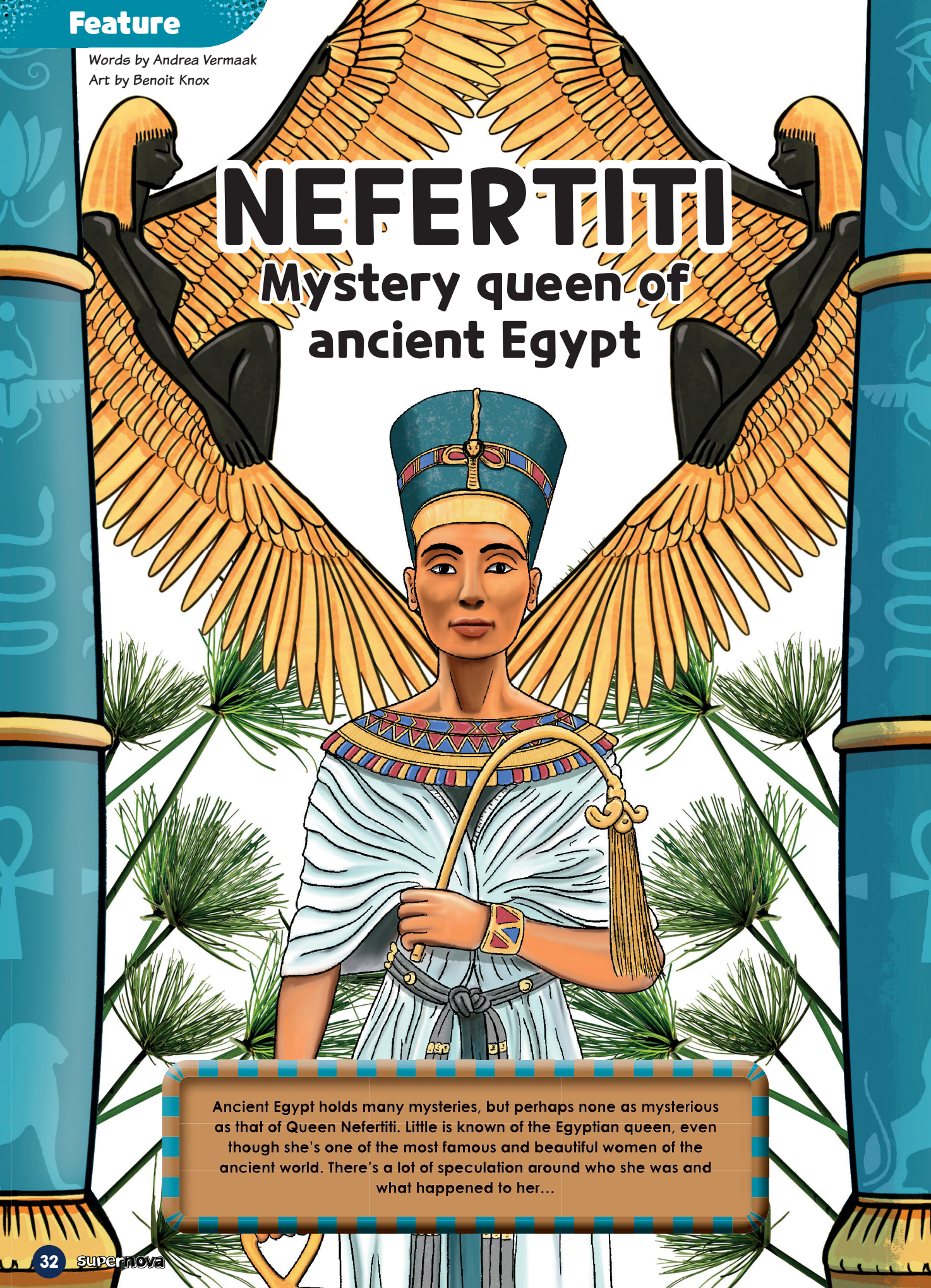
Video

Check out our video tutorial on SN Online at supernovamagazine.co.za/sn-online

Words by Andrea Vermaak
Art by Benoit Knox

NEFERTITI

Mystery queen of ancient Egypt



Ancient Egypt holds many mysteries, but perhaps none as mysterious as that of Queen Nefertiti. Little is known of the Egyptian queen, even though she's one of the most famous and beautiful women of the ancient world. There's a lot of speculation around who she was and what happened to her…

WHAT WE KNOW ABOUT NEFERTITI

Queen Nefertiti's early life

Queen Nefertiti was born around 1300 B.C. She married Amenhotep IV when she was only about 15 years old. Much of the art from that time shows the couple as inseparable.



Nefertiti and Amenhotep



Nefertiti and her daughters

A power couple

Amenhotep later became pharaoh and the royal couple ruled as equals from 1353 to 1336 B.C., one of the wealthiest periods of ancient Egypt. They had six daughters together and possibly one son... more about that later.

During their reign, Nefertiti and Amenhotep established a new religious system that focused on worshipping only one god - Aten, the disc of the sun. They declared themselves the only two priests of Aten and changed their names to show their devotion to their god. Nefertiti originally means 'a beautiful women has come'.

To show her devotion to Aten, she changed her name to Neferneferuaten-Nefertiti, meaning 'beautiful are the beauties of Aten - a beautiful woman has come'. Amenhotep changed his name to Akhenaten. They moved to Thebes, which is now the modern day city of Luxor and the ancient capital of Egypt, in 1346 B.C. They established a new Egyptian capital city, Akhenaten (now the city of Amarna).



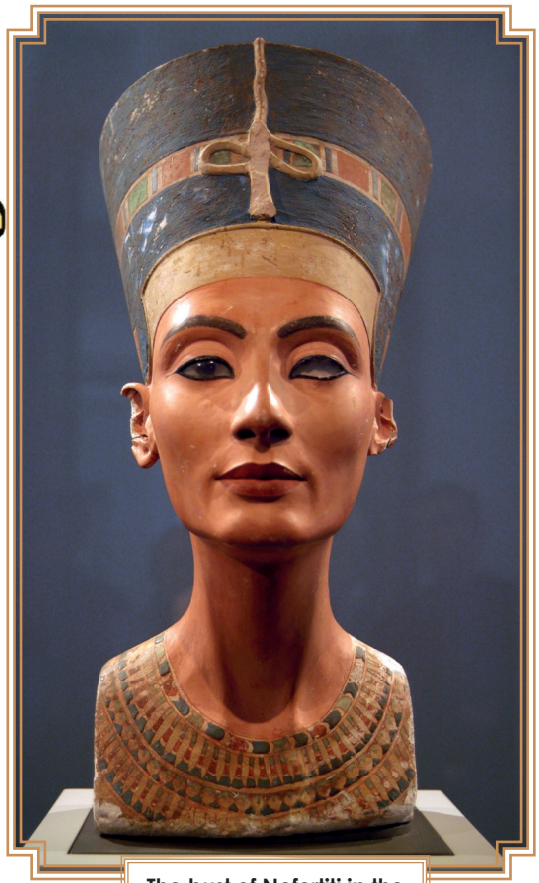
Nefertiti and Amenhotep worshipping the Sun god Aten

A woman of many titles

Nefertiti is said to have been more powerful than any other queen. She was highly involved in all aspects of the royal court and had many titles besides her ranks of queen and high priestess. A few of her titles include 'Lady of Grace', 'Lady of the Two Lands', 'Mistress of Upper and Lower Egypt', 'Great of Praises' and 'Lady of All Women'. There is no doubt that she was very highly respected!



Nefertiti's cartouche. This is how her name was written in hieroglyphics.



The bust of Nefertiti in the Neues Museum in Berlin.

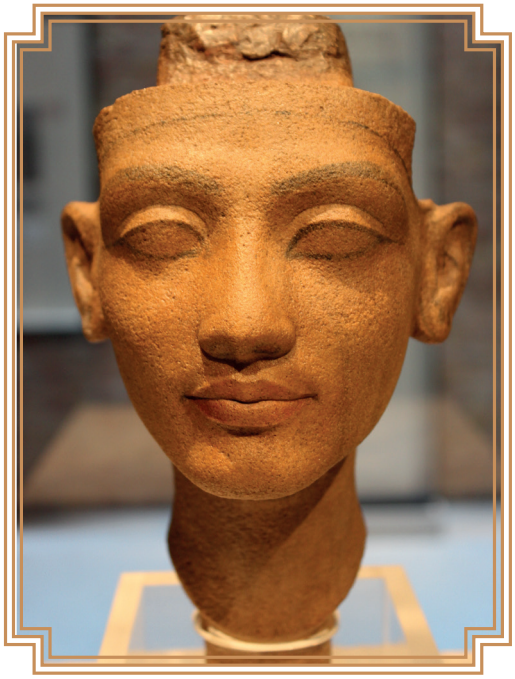
A famous face

On 6 December 1912, Ludwig Borchardt, a German archaeologist, and his team discovered a painted stucco-coated limestone bust of Nefertiti in Amarna. It's believed that Thutmose sculptured it in 1345 B.C. The bust was found in his workshop.

We know that the bust is of Nefertiti because she is sculptured wearing her characteristic crown that is clearly shown in other surviving, clearly labelled depictions of her.

The bust made the queen famous worldwide. It became a global emblem of Nefertiti and femininity. It can be viewed at the Neues Museum in Berlin, Germany. It's also a sore point between Germany and Egypt because, apparently, Egyptian inspectors weren't shown the bust before it left Egypt for Germany. Egypt has been demanding the bust's return since 1924...

WHAT WE DON'T REALLY KNOW ABOUT NEFERTITI



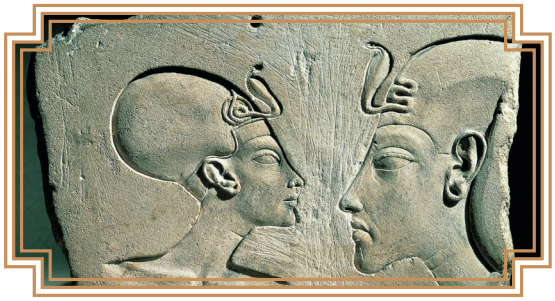
Who was Nefertiti before she was queen?

Though there is no clear evidence, many believe that Nefertiti was born to high nobility in Thebes. She could have been an Egyptian royal or the daughter of Ay, a high government official, who became pharaoh after Tutankhamen. Ay was Akhenaten's uncle, which would make Nefertiti and her husband cousins. Marriages within families were pretty normal in ancient Egypt, especially among the royals.

Others believe that she was a foreign princess, possibly from Mittani, Syria. Because she was considered the most beautiful woman in Egypt, her name may have changed, which explains the meaning of 'Nefertiti' quite well.



Photograph by Lisa O'Hara. Brooklyn Museum



Was she a pharaoh?

We can assume from historical records that Nefertiti became pharaoh after her husband's death, ruling under the name Pharaoh Neferneferuaten. Some historians believe that she disguised herself as a man and ruled as Pharaoh Smenkhkare. Others say that she may have returned to Thebes to either rule as pharaoh or retire. There is some evidence to support each theory, but we may never know which is true.

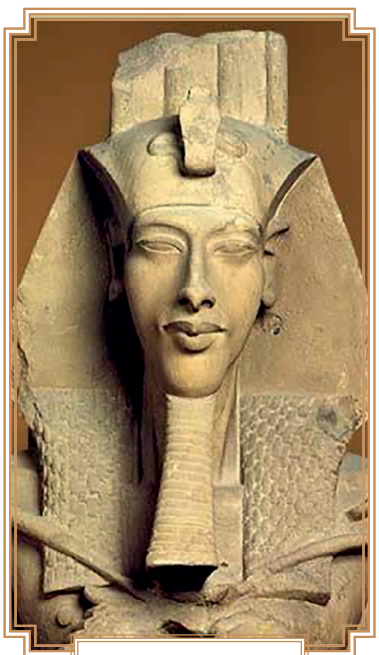
What happened to her?

Nefertiti's body should have been mummified and placed in the Valley of the Kings like all ancient Egyptian royals. But for unknown reasons, her tomb still hasn't been found...

Nicholas Reeves, a British Egyptologist, thinks she may be buried in King Tutankhamen's tomb, while other think she may have already been discovered, but can't prove it...



Mural in King Tut's tomb.



King Tutankhamen

Was she related to King Tut?

Victor Loret, a French archaeologist, discovered two female mummies in Amenhotep II's tomb in 1898. One of the mummies, called 'The Younger Lady', was put through CT scans and DNA analysis. The test results showed that she is Tutankhamen's biological mother. While there is no DNA available to tell if she is in fact Nefertiti, if she is, that means **she is Tut's mom.**

If 'The Younger Lady' is not Nefertiti, she could be one of two mummies found in another chamber of the tomb. This would make her Tut's stepmom as Tut was one of Akhenaten's illegitimate sons.

Either way, one of Nefertiti's daughters, Ankhesenamun, was Tut's wife. Like we said, it was pretty normal to marry family back then...

Still a mystery...

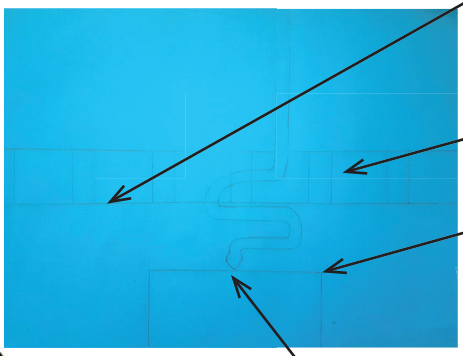
Though we may know a lot about Nefertiti's reign as a powerful and beautiful queen of ancient Egypt, we still have so much to discover about who she was before and after her reign. Will you be the one to uncover her secrets?

MAKE QUEEN NEFERTITI'S CROWN

Dressing up like an ancient Egyptian is easy: Throw on a pair of sandals and wrap a sheet around you. But if you want to look like an Egyptian royal – Queen Nefertiti in particular – you will need her iconic crown to complete the look.

What you need:

- Blue A3 paper
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Scissors
- Felt-tipped pens
- Paint
- Stapler



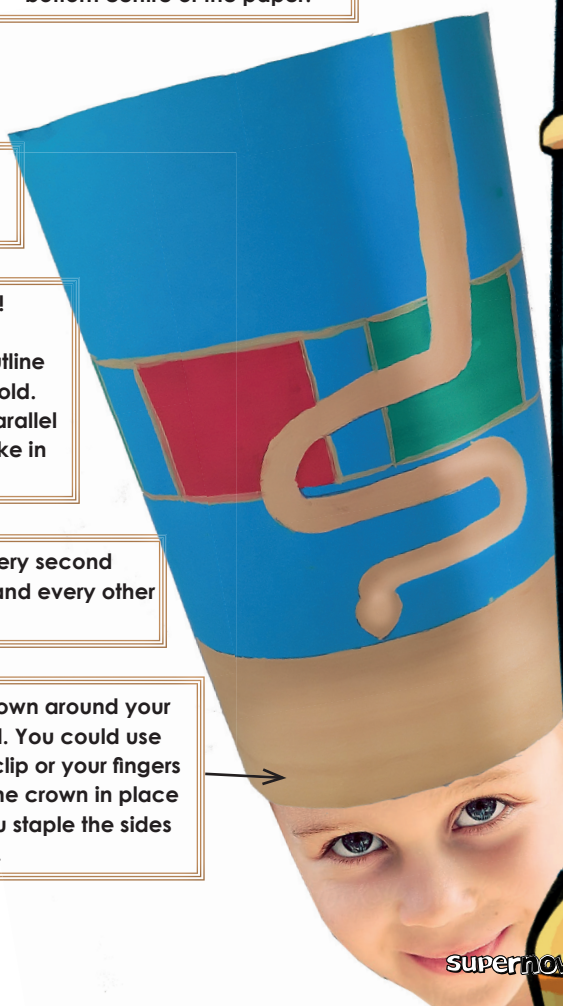
1. Lightly draw two parallel lines across the middle of the paper.
2. Between the two lines, measure squares. Be sure to leave a little gap between each square.
3. Draw a large rectangle at the bottom centre of the paper.
4. Draw a slithering snake from the top centre of the paper to the top middle of your rectangle.



5. Time to decorate! Colour the large rectangle and outline each square in gold. Colour the two parallel lines and the snake in gold too.
6. Now colour every second square green and every other square red.



7. Fit the crown around your forehead. You could use a paperclip or your fingers to hold the crown in place while you staple the sides together.



Did you know this about DINOSAURS?

Words by Schae Ind

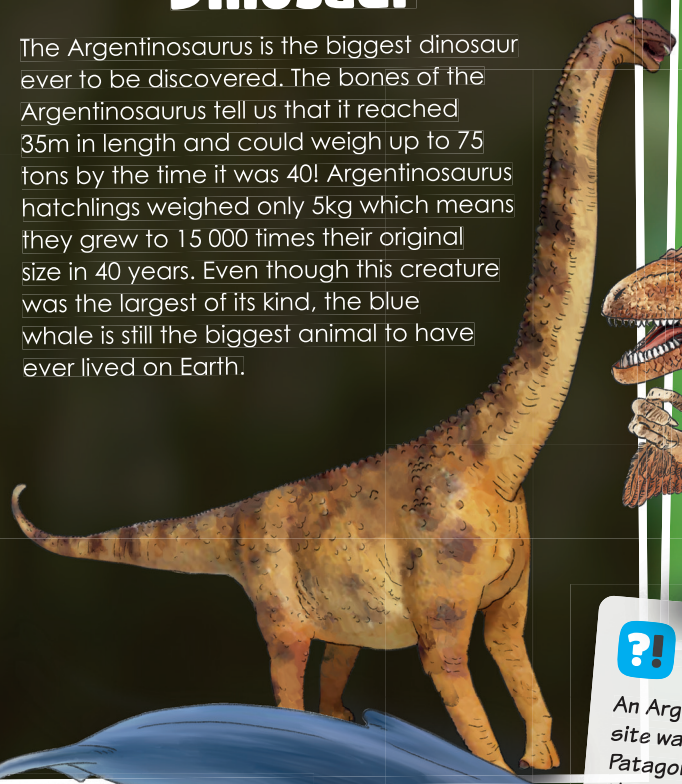
For millions of years, during the Mesozoic period, dinosaurs roamed the earth. Pterosaurs were the kings of the sky and Plesiosaurs dominated the seas. Every year we learn a little more about these amazing creatures, however, we're still so far from truly understanding them. Here are some of the awesome things about dinosaurs that we do know.

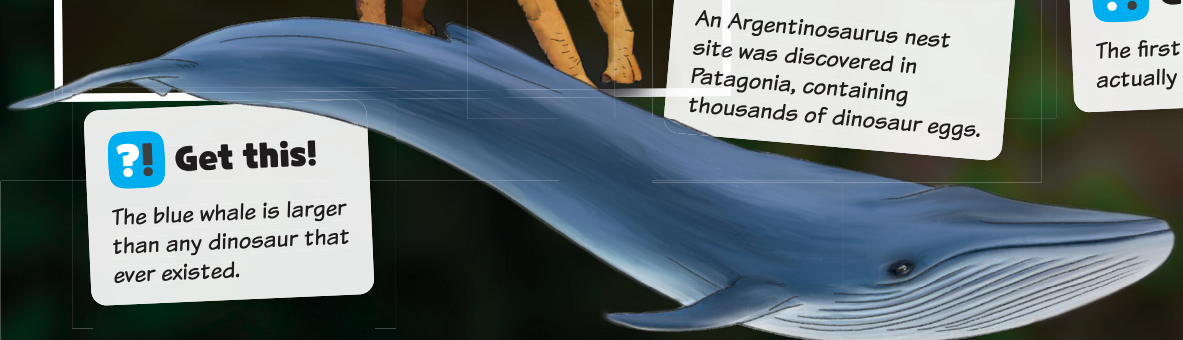
Get this!

The Mesozoic Era is divided into three periods, the **Triassic**, **Jurassic**, and **Cretaceous** periods.

The Biggest Dinosaur

The Argentinosaurus is the biggest dinosaur ever to be discovered. The bones of the Argentinosaurus tell us that it reached 35m in length and could weigh up to 75 tons by the time it was 40! Argentinosaurus hatchlings weighed only 5kg which means they grew to 15 000 times their original size in 40 years. Even though this creature was the largest of its kind, the blue whale is still the biggest animal to have ever lived on Earth.





Get this!

The blue whale is larger than any dinosaur that ever existed.

The Speedy Thief

Jurassic World has painted a pretty scary picture of the Velociraptor. In actual fact the Velociraptor was the size of a turkey, and like a turkey, covered in feathers. Don't get us wrong, you still wouldn't want to come face to face with one of these little guys and their vicious claws, but they're not exactly the fearsome 6-foot tall lizards Hollywood would have us believe.



Get this!

An Argentinosaurus nest site was discovered in Patagonia, containing thousands of dinosaur eggs.

Get this!

The first dinosaurs were actually pretty small.

They're Everywhere!



Dinosaur bones have been found on every continent on Earth, including Antarctica. At the beginning of the Triassic period, all the continents were joined together as one continent named Pangea. During the time of the dinosaurs, Pangea started breaking apart and the continents started drifting away from each other, each piece of land with dinosaurs on it.

Dawn of the Birds

Birds are the closest living relatives to the dinosaur and the chicken is the closest living relative to the T-Rex. Fossils show that birds evolved from a type of dinosaur called Theropods. Theropods walked on two legs and had features of both reptiles and birds.

?! Get this!

The chicken is the closest living relative to the dinosaur.



?! Get this!

The Earth is currently going through another climate change due to all the air pollution humans create.

What happened to the dinosaurs?

66 million years ago, the dinosaurs suffered a mass extinction, with three quarters of all life on Earth dying. What caused the dinosaurs to die off is something that scientists can't seem to agree on. Some scholars believe that a huge meteor crashed into the Earth and filled the atmosphere with gas and dust, changing the Earth's climate. The other theory scientists have is that a huge volcanic eruption caused ash and carbon dioxide to fill the sky, causing the climate to change. This climate change would have made the conditions on Earth too harsh to live in. There is evidence to support both theories and some scientists think both led to the end of the dinosaurs.



MALAPROPISMS

Written by Su-Mia Hoffmann, art by Alexandra Botha-Green

Is it an optical conclusion?

Has your mom ever told you to clean your room because it looks like a pig's eye? Or have you heard someone say they are allergic to crabs and other crushed Asians?

Not? Well, that's because these phrases are absolute nonsense! These blunders are called malapropisms. Malapropisms are when a word is used incorrectly in the place of a similar sounding word. The results are often very funny!

What is a malapropism?

The term comes from the Character 'Mrs Malaprop' in the 1755 comedy *The Rivals* by Richard Brinsley. Mrs Malaprop would often use the incorrect words and make everyone laugh with her confusing expressions. Her name comes from the French word "malapropos", which, appropriately, means "inappropriate".

Some examples from Mrs Malaprop:

The pineapple of politeness
– the pinnacle of politeness

An allegory on the banks of the Nile
– an alligator on the banks of the Nile



You could have knocked me over with a fender
(knock me over with a feather)



A rolling stone gathers no moths
(gathers no moss)





See the warrior in my eye
(worry in my eye)

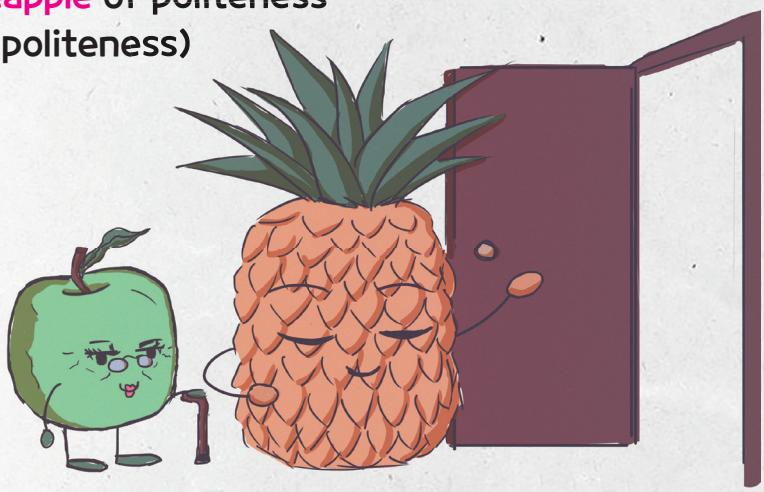
Why do malapropisms happen?

A possible reason is that people understand language based on how we interpret the language of others rather than based on a set of rules. Sometimes our interpretation is wrong, and this leads to humorous slip-ups.

Everyone in the company has their own cuticle (their own cubicle)



Tom is the very pineapple of politeness (pinnacle of politeness)



Dogberrysms

Richard Brinsley isn't the only famous author that used malapropisms to entertain their audience. Shakespeare's work often features malapropisms such as:
Indicted to dinner
– invited to dinner

Comprehended auspicious persons
– apprehended suspicious persons.

The character, Constable Dogberry, in Shakespeare's play *Much Ado About Nothing* actually made so many of these errors that 'Dogberrysm' is a synonym for malapropism.

They had to evaporate the city (evacuate the city)





Last will and tentacle (last will and testament)

Share your malapropisms with us and you could be featured in the next issue of Supernova!

You can Whatsapp us on 012 342 5347.

Words by Candice Robertson

Take a Hike!

Heading out for a hike is a delightful way to connect with nature and spend time with friends and family. Whether you want to go deep into the mountains or stay closer to home, there are so many places to explore!

Get hiked up

Before you set out for your hike, there are a few things you need to plan:

1. Think about how far you want to hike
2. Search online or use a map to find the location of a hiking trail
3. Check the weather forecast for that area
4. Pack your bag using your hiking checklist

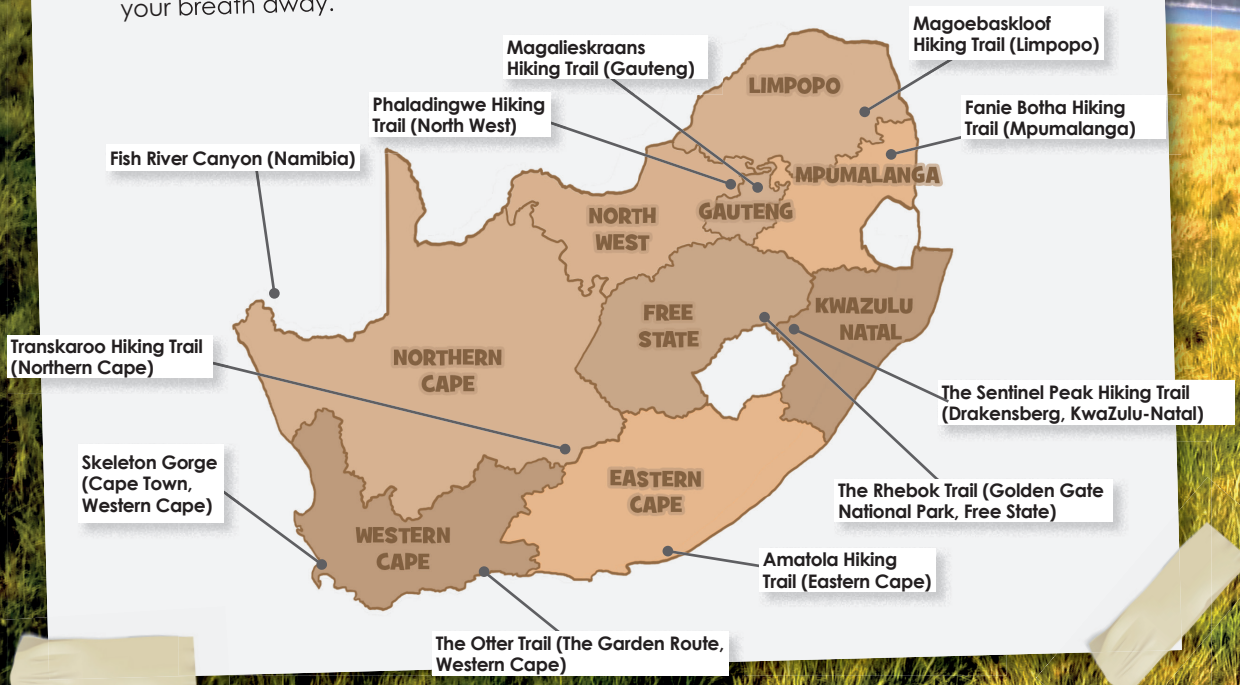
Your Top 10 Hiking Essentials

Don't leave home without these top 10 hiking necessities:

- Hiking backpack
- Hiking boots or shoes
- Weather-appropriate clothing
- Water
- Food
- First-aid kit
- Knife or multi-tool
- Sun protection (sunscreen & sunglasses)
- Navigation tools (map, compass or GPS)
- Torch or headlamp

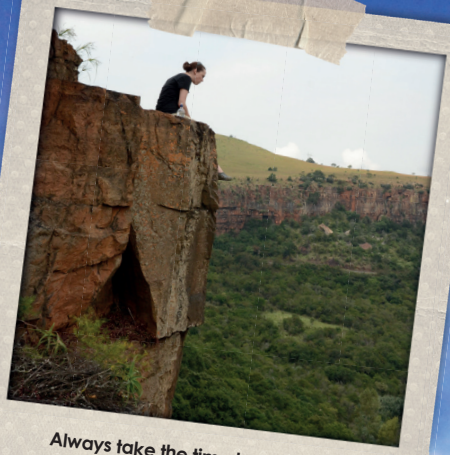
The ultimate South African hiking trail bucket list

Check out these must-see hiking trails all across the country that are sure to take your breath away.





South Africa offers an amazing diversity of hiking trails through different ecosystems and landscapes.



Always take the time to stop and enjoy the view!

LEAVE NO TRACE

Most of us think about hiking as a way to have a good time, get some exercise, be social, and enjoy the outdoors. However, responsible hikers are also concerned with protecting the outdoors. That's where ***Leave No Trace*** comes in.

Essentially, ***Leave No Trace*** promote some simple rules that protect environments from hikers and outdoor users. These rules help people to 'leave no trace' and show no signs of having visited the area. So remember:

1. **Don't litter or throw fruit peels.**



2. **Don't leave the official trail.**

3. **Don't disturb the environment around you (breaking branches, etc.).**



4. **Be considerate of other hikers (no loud music, etc.).**



Overall, we should all use trails responsibly, and respect the outdoors and other hikers. This will mean more funding for parks and trails, which means more hiking options for all of us! Win-win!



Some hikes are pet-friendly. Remember to check before you take your best friend along.

Get this!

Many people think that fruits and vegetables left outside will decompose and be absorbed by the earth. But that's not true. In fact, an apple core can take two months to decompose, and a banana skin or orange peel can take two years!

Beware

Hiking isn't always fun and games. Watch out for dehydration, sunburn, falling, rough terrain and attacks from wild animals.

CURIOUS QUEST



Navigators Challenge

Our intrepid traveller has found mysterious compasses in a box. Each compass holds a clue to an image in the magazine. Can you find the rest of the image in the magazine?

Write what it is and the page number in the space provided.



..... Page .....



..... Page .....



..... Page .....



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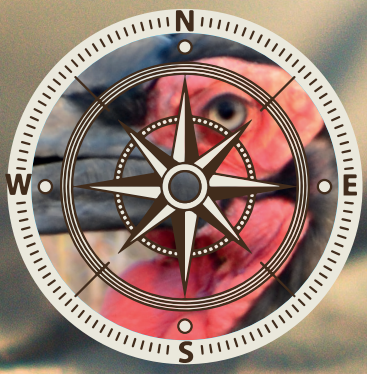

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Answers on page 3

Crossword Challenge

Test your knowledge with our tricky crossword. If you get stuck, you can always page through this issue for the answers.

Answers on page 3



Across

1. What is the name of the biggest dinosaur ever discovered?
4. Villarrica is Chile's most active _____ ?
6. Who was Nerfertiti's husband?
8. Where can you find Africa's highest zipline?
9. During which period did dinosaurs roam the Earth?
13. What type of banana did Europeans and Americans love eating before it went extinct?
15. What people inspired the name of Namaqualand?
16. Nefertiti and Amenhotep worshipped _____, the disc of the sun.

Down

2. Which country would you travel to to see the famous bust of Nerfertiti?
3. Who made the most expensive guitar?
5. What is the closest living relative to dinosaurs?
7. What is Birdlife South Africa's 2020 Bird of the Year?
8. In which city would you find the Gyeongbokgung Palace?
10. Where is the most radioactive place on Earth?
11. The largest oil spill in history was on Deepwater _____.
12. What region is famous for its beautiful display of blooming flowers every spring?
14. In which South African province would you find the Magoebaskloof Hiking Trail?
17. How many years could a banana peel take to decompose?



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hockey stick

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slice of cake

musical note

tweezers

boomerang

seal

button

canoe

ship

yo-yo

tape dispenser

paintbrush

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Illustrated by Mark Corcoran 236605



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banana



basketball



carrot



crescent moon



fish



envelope



flower



key



hammer



toothbrush



mug



open book



shoe



ice cream cone



slice of pizza



magnifying glass

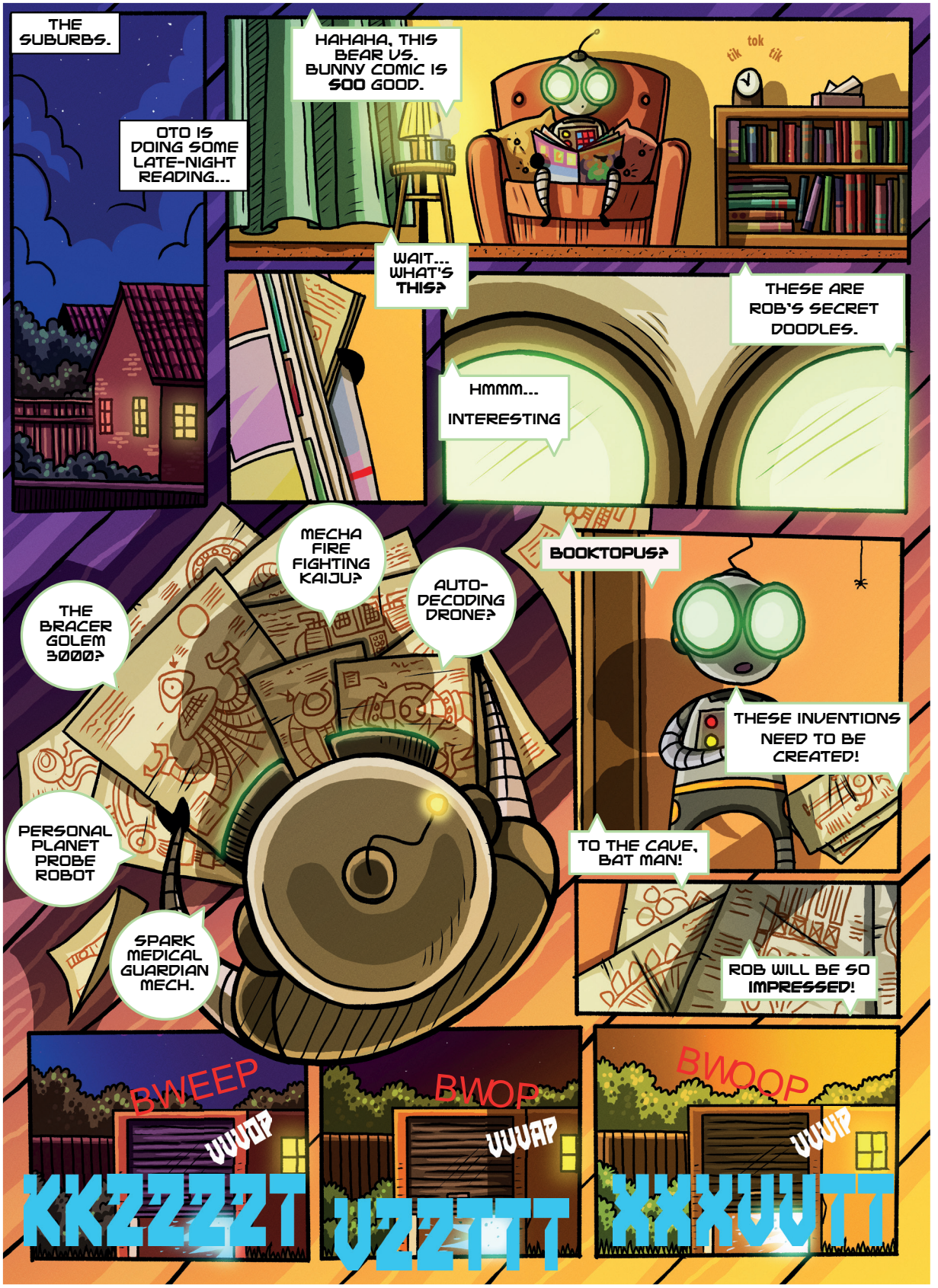


wheel



pencil

Story and artwork
Rhys ap Gwyn



The back-story: Rob Ottoman is a natural genius, but he's embarrassingly shy. Rob created Oto to help him break out of his shell. While transferring his brain-power to his robot, all of Rob's hidden potential was released. So, Oto is Rob on steroids. Rob could have all of Oto's power if he'd just get over his shyness.



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Ages 8-15



Supernova

Ages 2-6



Highlights High Five™

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