



LEVEL
2

WILD BABY ANIMALS



Discover
favorite baby
animals!

Packed with FACTS you need to READ!

Deborah Lock

Wild Baby Animals

By Deborah Lock





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A WORLD OF IDEAS:
SEE ALL THERE IS TO KNOW
www.dk.com

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Chapter 1 Birth



Baby squirrels
are born in a warm
and cozy nest.



They have no fur and
their eyes are closed.



They start to climb
at eight weeks old.

Roly-poly!

Rabbit kits
are born deep
inside burrows.



They drink their
mom's milk for
the first few weeks.



By one month old, they spend most of their time outside.



Wriggle!

At birth, a kangaroo joey is the size of a jelly bean.



The joey crawls up its mom's fur and falls into her pouch.





The joey spends
more than
six months
in the pouch.

Cuddle!

A gray langur
monkey's baby
has bright
orange fur.



It spends all day
in the trees.





It takes about
three months
for its fur
to change color.





Birth Stories

Birds lay eggs.

Their babies **hatch**
out of shells.



Amphibians lay
thousands of eggs.
Their babies spend
the first part of
their lives in water.





Fish also lay eggs.
Some lay millions
of eggs.



Most **reptiles** lay eggs.
Their babies also grow
inside eggs.

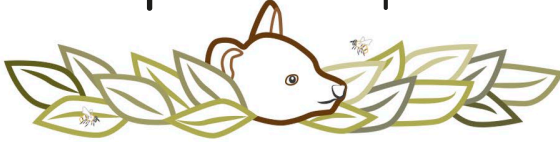


Most **mammals**
give birth
to live babies.





Chapter 2 Explore



Blink!

Bear cubs are born



in twos or

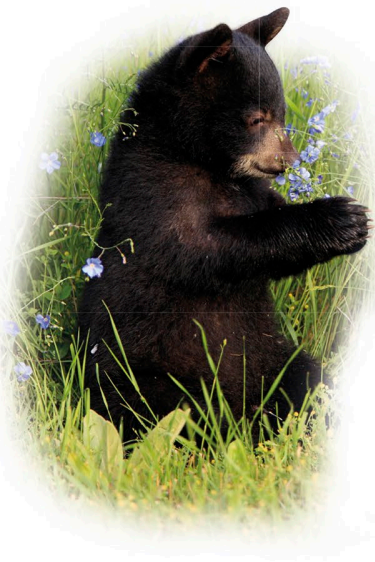


threes.



A bear gives birth in
a den in midwinter.

In spring,
the cubs
peek out
for the
first time.



They play and learn
how to find food.



sniff!

Furry fox
cubs are
wide-eyed
and hear
very well.

There are many sights
and sounds for them
to explore.





They jump around
and practice their
pouncing skills.



Skip!



A fawn runs and leaps
around on long, nimble legs.



But when it
senses danger,



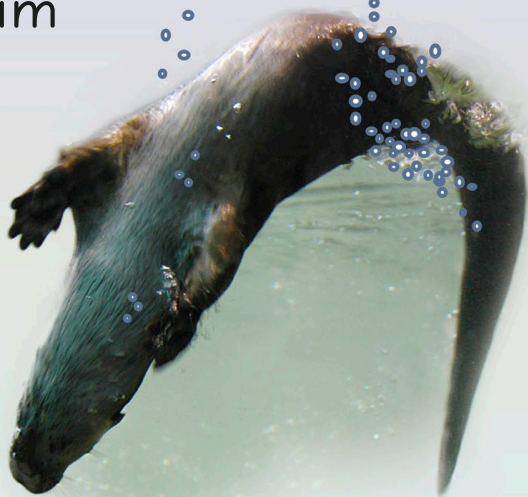
it curls up
and hides
in leaves.



Its speckled pattern makes
the fawn hard to see.

Splash!

An otter pup
needs to be
able to swim
and dive.





But at first, a sea otter
pup can only float.



It has to shed
its newborn fur
and then it can
go under the water.





Body Warmers



Ice is nice
when you
have a warm
fur coat.

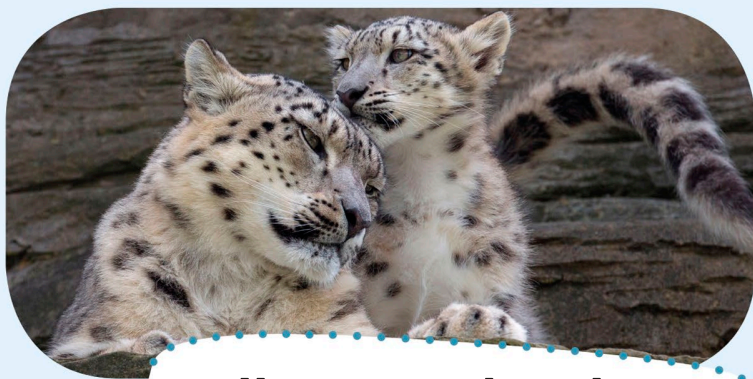


Keep warm together
in a huddle.





Snuggle against mom
in a snowy world.



All wrapped up by
mom's long tail.





Stretch!



A baby giraffe
is called a calf.
It can walk just an hour
after being born.

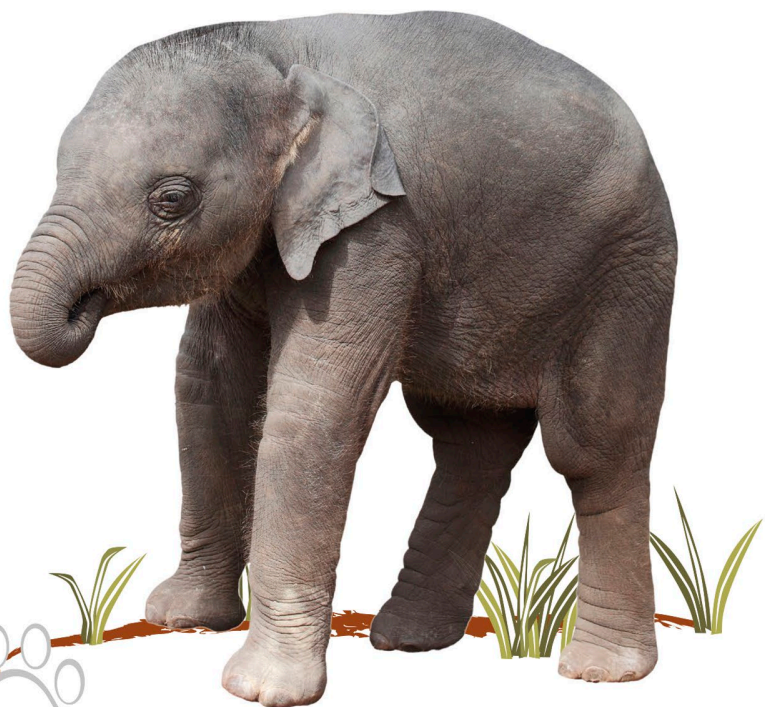
It quickly
learns to use
its long neck
to reach up
high to nibble
leaves.

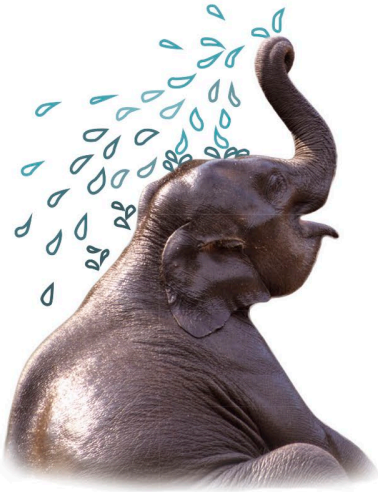
It spends
as much as
18 hours
a day eating.



Spray!

An elephant calf
sucks its trunk
like a human baby
sucks its thumb.





The calf then
learns to use
its trunk to
wash and drink.



It finds out its trunk can
pull up plants and be used
for lots of other tasks.

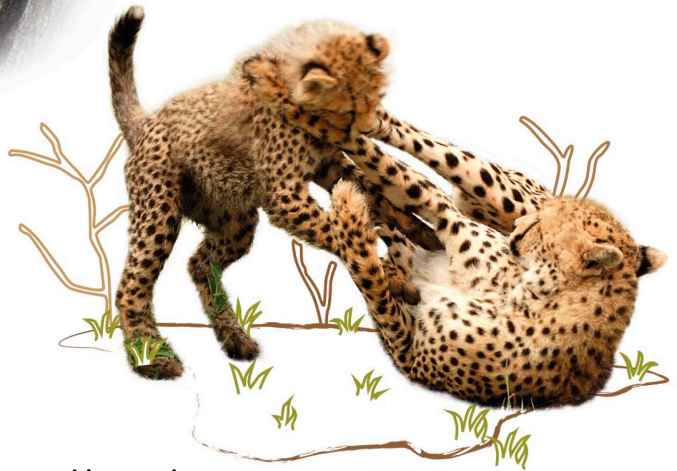
Scratch!



Cheetah cubs leave
the den at about
eight weeks old.



The cubs play
together to
learn to be
good hunters.



They stalk, chase,
pounce, and wrestle.

Flash!

Ostrich chicks
have long legs
and two toes
on each foot.



At one month old,
they can run very fast.



They grow fast, too.
They are as tall as
their mom at
six months old.

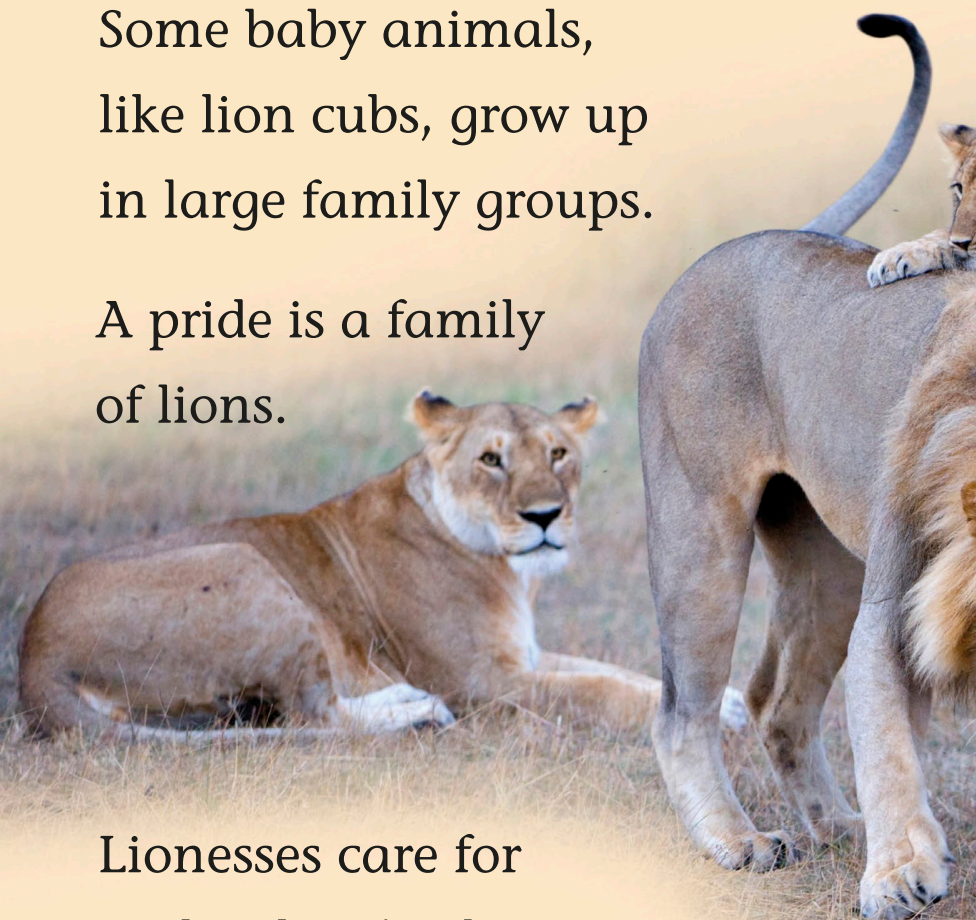




Family Fun

Some baby animals,
like lion cubs, grow up
in large family groups.

A pride is a family
of lions.



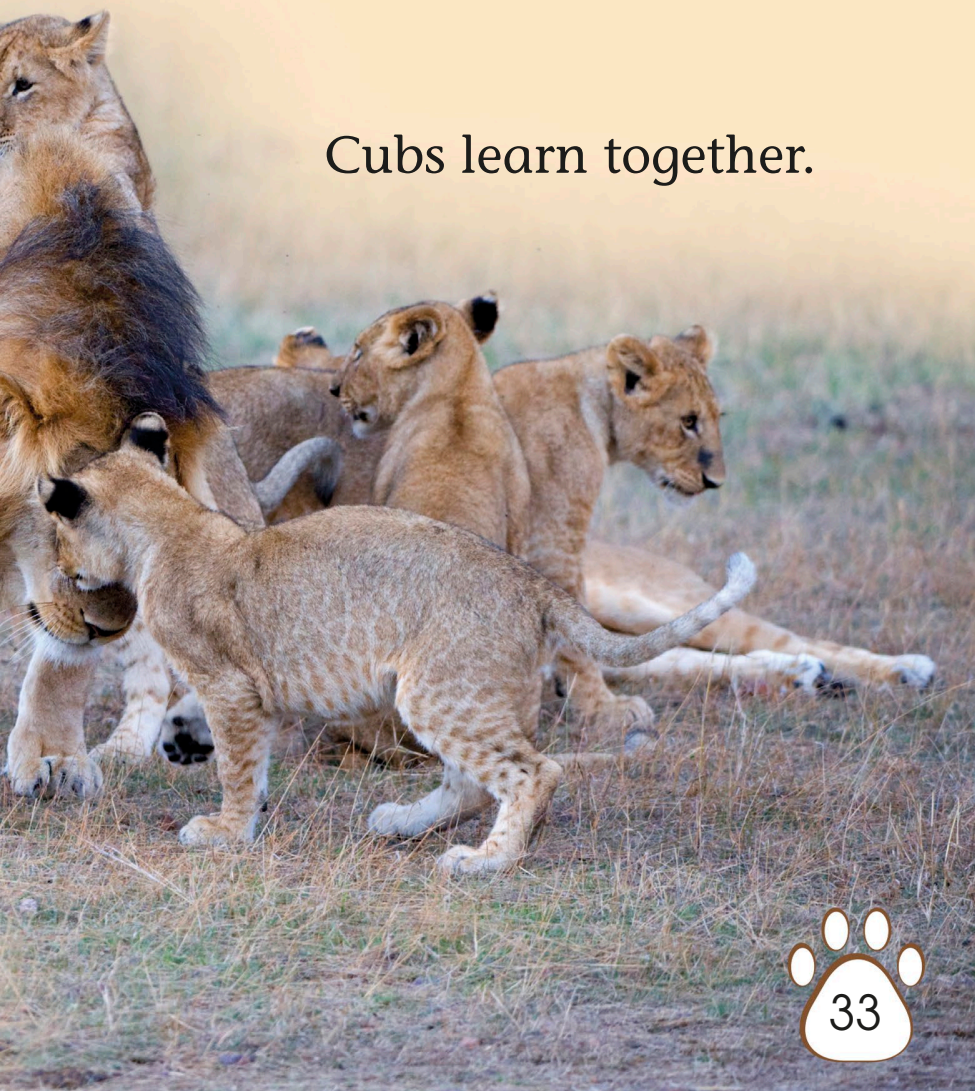
Lionesses care for
each others' cubs.





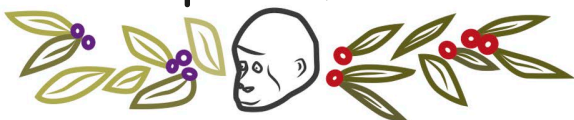
Cubs play with Dad.

Cubs learn together.





Chapter 4 Learn



Munch!

Baby gorillas stay with their moms for three years.



They learn
to pick fruit
and leaves,



and munch on
stalks and roots.



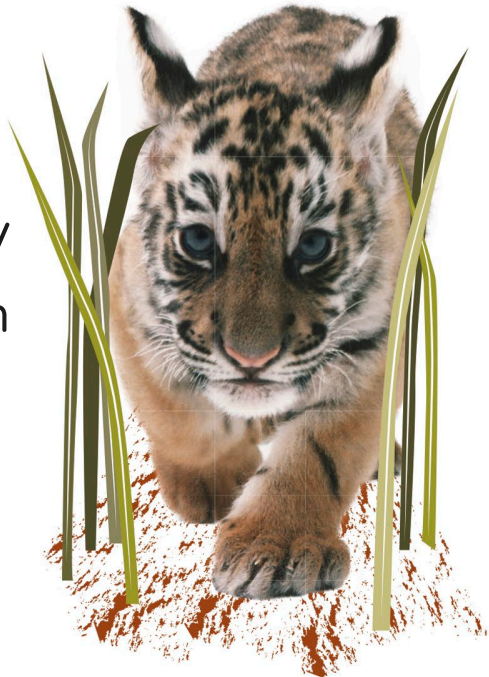
They also learn
to build nests
out of plants.

Creep!



Tiger cubs stay with their moms for nearly two years.

They learn how to crouch down low, and slowly creep forward.



They learn when to pounce
and catch their dinner.



It takes time to learn
how to hunt on their own.

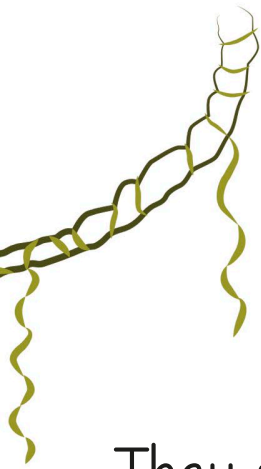


yawn!

Baby orangutans
hang around with
their moms for
seven years.



They have a lot to
learn about living
in the jungle.



They swing around, find food,
make nests in trees, and use
leaves as umbrellas.

snap!

Crocodilian babies learn
to hunt very quickly.



They are born knowing
how to swim and how
to catch small animals.



But they
have to practice
to get better at
hunting the bigger animals.



Weird or Cute?

How would you describe these babies?



European owl



Leopard gecko



Red panda





Wild Baby Animals Quiz

1. What is a baby kangaroo called?
2. What does a fawn do when it senses danger?
3. How do baby penguins keep warm?
4. What is a group of lions called?
5. How long does a baby orangutan stay with its mom?

Answers on page 45.





Glossary

amphibian animal that lives
in water and on land

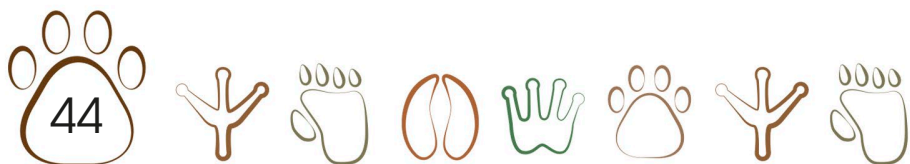
burrow hole that leads to
underground home with tunnels

crouch bend low

den animal's hidden home

hatch break out of a shell

mammals group of animals,
including humans, that have
fur or hair, are warm-blooded,
and have backbones





nibble take small bites of food

pounce sudden jump or
swoop onto something

reptile animal with dry, scaly
skin that lives on land

speckled covered with small
spots of color

Answers to the Wild Baby Animals Quiz:

1. Joey;
2. Curls up and hides in the leaves;
3. They huddle together;
4. Pride;
5. Seven years.



Guide for Parents

DK Readers is a four-level interactive reading adventure series for children, developing the habit of reading widely for both pleasure and information. These books have an exciting main narrative interspersed with a range of reading genres to suit your child's reading ability. Each book is designed to develop your child's reading skills, fluency, grammar awareness, and comprehension in order to build confidence and engagement when reading.

Ready for a *Beginning to Read* book

YOUR CHILD SHOULD

- be familiar with using beginning letter sounds and context clues to figure out unfamiliar words.
- be aware of the need for a slight pause at commas and a longer one at periods.
- alter his/her expression for questions and exclamations.

A VALUABLE AND SHARED READING EXPERIENCE

For many children, reading requires much effort, but adult participation can make this both fun and easier. So here are a few tips on how to use this book with your child.

TIP 1 Check out the contents together before your child begins:

- read the text about the book on the back cover.
- flip through the book and stop to chat about the contents page together to heighten your child's interest and expectation.
- make use of unfamiliar or difficult words on the page in a brief discussion.
- chat about the nonfiction reading features used in the book, such as headings, captions, recipes, lists, or charts.

TIP 2 Support your child as he/she reads the story pages:

- give the book to your child to read and turn the pages.
- where necessary, encourage your child to break a word into syllables, sound out each one, and then flow the syllables together. Ask him/her to reread the sentence to check the meaning.
- when there's a question mark or an exclamation point, encourage your child to vary his/her voice as he/she reads the sentence. Demonstrate how to do this if it is helpful.

TIP 3 Chat at the end of each page:

- the factual pages tend to be more difficult than the story pages, and are designed to be shared with your child.
- ask questions about the text and the meaning of the words used. These help to develop comprehension skills and awareness of the language used.

A FEW ADDITIONAL TIPS

- Always encourage your child to try reading difficult words by themselves. Praise any self-corrections, for example, "I like the way you sounded out that word and then changed the way you said it, to make sense."
- Try to read together everyday. Reading little and often is best. These books are divided into manageable chapters for one reading session. However, after 10 minutes, only keep going if your child wants to read on.
- Read other books of different types to your child just for enjoyment and information.

Series consultant, **Dr. Linda Gambrell**, Distinguished Professor of Education at Clemson University, has served as President of the National Reading Conference, the College Reading Association, and the International Reading Association.



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