



ALL ABOUT...

# BIBLE ANIMALS

Over 100 amazing facts about  
the animals of the Bible

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# ALL ABOUT BIBLE ANIMALS



**A**nimals are such an important part of our world, from the smallest of insects to the largest of the animal kingdom. But which ones were important in the Bible, and why? Were animals viewed the same way thousands of years ago as they are today?

This book starts with the very first animals that God created. Each double-page spread introduces another incredible creature, with fascinating facts, Bible quotes and picture references. Tricky Bible words and concepts are explained throughout, as we discover which Bible animals were valued, feared, disliked, or even part of a miraculous rescue!

As we journey through the Bible, we'll find out that God can even use animals to help fulfil his plans and promises (and he often does).



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# THE FIRST ANIMALS



Leopard

Animals appear in the first chapter of the Bible. God made all kinds of animals even before he made people.

Genesis chapter 1 tells us that God created the universe and **EVERYTHING** in it with his power. He spoke light into existence, and mountains and trees and oceans, and habitats for all kinds of creatures. God invented feathers and fins, fur and fangs, and he did it in six days!

EVERYTHING?!

Leafcutter ants



## Genesis chapter 1 verse 1

In the **beginning**, God created the heavens and the earth.

We don't know exactly which year "the beginning" was, but we do know that God was there.



\*The aye-aye is a long-fingered lemur found only in Madagascar. It is the world's largest nocturnal primate.

Garden snail



## The biggest superpower

It's thought there are about 8.7 million different animal species in the world, though only 2.1 million have been found and named so far. Can you imagine inventing millions of animals? Just because humans could never do this, it doesn't mean God couldn't. God really is that powerful!



Green tree frog

## Craziest creatures

What's the weirdest animal you've ever heard of? The **aye-aye\***, platypus, sloth, **axolotl** or blobfish? These are just some of the unique creatures (who don't get a mention in the Bible) that show us the vastness of God's imagination!



Axolotl



Clown fish





## What kind of animal is a platypus?

Platypuses are shy Australian mammals that lay eggs—that classifies them as *Monotremes*.



A baby platypus is called a **puggle**.

**PLUM!**



They have a bill similar to a duck, which is equipped with electro-sensors! This enables platypuses to search underwater for food with their eyes, ears and nostrils closed, often at night.

They live in freshwater riverbeds and banks. Covered in thick, waterproof fur, they have clawed, webbed feet for swimming and a broad, flat tail that helps them steer.

They can stay underwater for 30 to 140 seconds.

Males have a venomous spur behind their hind feet.

When British scientists first saw a platypus sample in 1798, they thought it was a hoax!

## Romans chapter 1 verse 20

Ever since the world was created it has been possible to see the **qualities of God** that are not seen. I'm talking about his eternal power and about the fact that he is God. Those things can be seen in what he has made.

## Creative qualities

The Bible says that when we look at his creation, it helps us to understand God. Next time you are amazed by the details of a tiny ladybird, the swimming action of a platypus, or the strength of a soaring eagle, remember: that's God showing you how imaginative and how mind-blowingly powerful he is.





# A VERY SNEAKY SNAKE

**P**roceed with caution!

Slithering, scaly and potentially scary, snakes often make people feel uncomfortable. But the Bible tells us about a talking snake! It's in Genesis chapter 3, not long after God finished his perfect creation.

Snakes rely on external heat sources to warm them up; that's why they're called "cold-blooded".

## Genesis chapter 3 verses 1-4

<sup>1</sup> The **serpent said** to the woman, "Did God really say, 'You must not eat fruit from any tree in the garden'?"

<sup>2</sup> The woman said to the serpent, "We may eat fruit from the trees in the garden. <sup>3</sup> But God did say, 'You must not eat the fruit from the tree in the middle of the garden. Do not even touch it. If you do, you will die.' "

<sup>4</sup> "You will certainly not die," the serpent said.

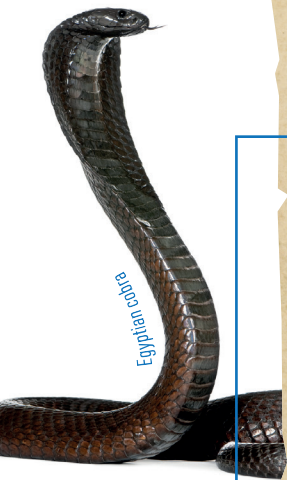
### Snake facts

There are more than 3,000 snake species in the world, with 20% being venomous.

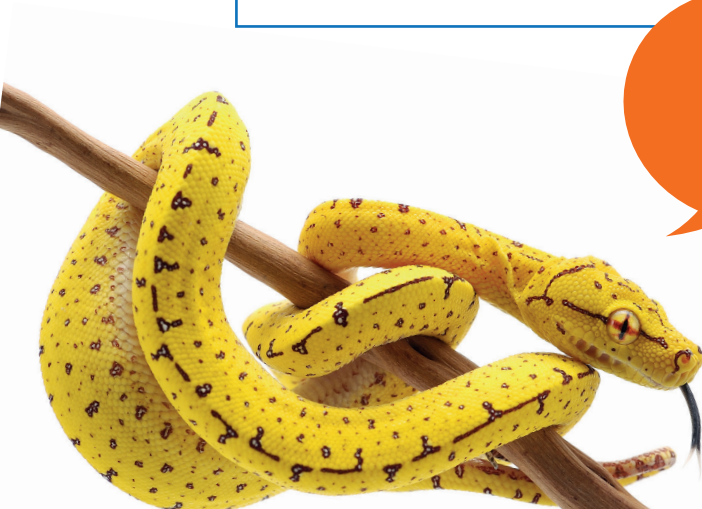
### Who was really talking?

While snakes can be dangerous, they are not evil. The serpent in this story was really God's enemy, Satan, who lied to Adam and Eve in order to convince them not to trust God.

Some snakes can be kept as pets. Someone who loves snakes is called an ophiophilist.



Egyptian cobra



Tree python



Children's python



Corn snakes

Most snakes lay eggs, while those in cold climates often give birth to live young.

Snakes don't have eyelids or good eyesight. They smell with their flickering tongue.

Reticulated pythons are the longest snakes. In 1912 one was measured at 10 metres (33 feet) long!



Blue pit viper

## Serpent or snake?

In the original language that Genesis was written in, "serpent" and "snake" are the same word. Some people think that because God cursed serpents to crawl on their belly (Genesis 3 v 14), they may have previously had legs like other reptiles.



## Warning flags!

1. There is a **talking snake** in this story.
2. Actions have **consequences**.
3. The snake said God's rules couldn't be trusted.
4. Adam and Eve believed the snake instead of trusting God—and ate the fruit. (Oh no!)

## Curses and consequences

When Adam and Eve ate the fruit they weren't supposed to eat, it started a chain reaction of bad things including fear, shame, pain and even death. Their perfect friendship with God was broken, and they had to leave God's perfect garden.

But God made Adam and Eve a promise. He would make a way for his perfect friendship with people to be restored (see page 43).



# THE DOVE THAT GOT AWAY



**W**hen Noah was alive, **sin** and meanness and hurt were everywhere! But God noticed Noah doing what was right, so he made a rescue plan to save Noah's family and two of every animal from the consequences of other people's sin. In Genesis chapter 6, God told Noah to build a gigantic, box-like boat he called an ark, to stay safe from a flood that was going to destroy the earth.



*Turtle dove*

## Dove facts

A white dove is a symbol of peace or love. The Bible doesn't tell us what coloured dove Noah released from the ark.



Pigeons and doves produce a "milk" from their glands to feed their young. They are the only birds who do this.

## How big?

God gave Noah the exact size to build the ark. It was...

- longer than a football or soccer field.
- higher than a modern four-storey house.
- long and skinny in shape, being ten times longer than it was wide.
- built with a similar storage capacity as about 450 trucks!

Some people have built modern-day versions of Noah's ark, to show how big it was.



Doves, along with about 90% of all birds, keep the same partner over their lifetime.

Doves are strong fliers, have an excellent sense of direction and can find their way home from a long distance away.

Doves and pigeons are from the same bird family.

## The ultimate lockdown!

Once the ark was finished and Noah's family and the animals were all inside, it started to rain. It rained NON-STOP for 40 days and nights. That's one long, noisy, smelly lockdown!

## Genesis chapter 7 verses 14-15

<sup>14</sup> Noah ...had every kind of livestock, creature that moves along the ground, and bird that flies. <sup>15</sup> Pairs of all living creatures that breathe came to Noah and entered the ark.

## Land - ho!

When the rain stopped, the earth was still flooded. How would Noah know when the water levels were low enough for everyone to safely leave the ark? There was one animal whose flying ability and natural instinct to find its way back home would prove very helpful.

Noah sent out a dove once a week, knowing it would come back to the ark if there was nowhere to land. On the 3rd week, the dove didn't return, and Noah knew it had found somewhere to make a new home. So a dove was the first animal to get out of ark-lockdown.

## What's that word: Sin

Sometimes sin is easy to see, like people doing bad things in the story of Noah. Really though, sin is doing what we want instead of what God wants. It's not accepting that God is in charge and that his way is best. The first sin in the Bible was when Adam and Eve disobeyed God's one rule in the garden (see page 7).

1. Pink-headed fruit dove

2. Jambu fruit dove

3. Nicobar pigeon

