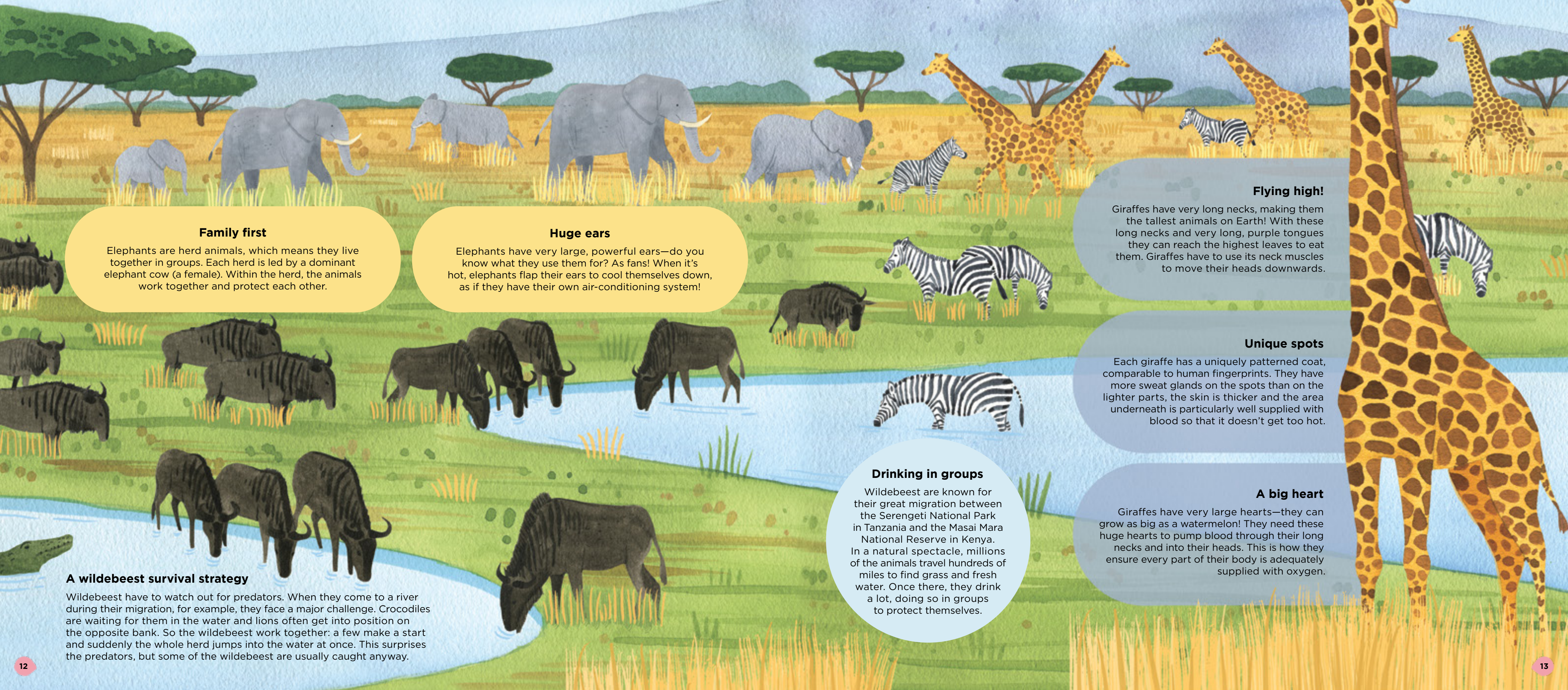


# KILIMANJARO NATIONAL PARK (TANZANIA)



Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa. The dormant volcano is located in Tanzania and its summit is covered in snow. In recent years, however, the snow on this breathtaking mountain has been melting and the region's ecosystem has been changing. Each of the five different ecological climate zones (the rainforest, the cultivation zone, the heather and moorland zone, the alpine desert zone, and the Arctic zone) are important for preserving biodiversity and protecting animal and plant life.



## Family first

Elephants are herd animals, which means they live together in groups. Each herd is led by a dominant elephant cow (a female). Within the herd, the animals work together and protect each other.

## Huge ears

Elephants have very large, powerful ears—do you know what they use them for? As fans! When it's hot, elephants flap their ears to cool themselves down, as if they have their own air-conditioning system!

## Flying high!

Giraffes have very long necks, making them the tallest animals on Earth! With these long necks and very long, purple tongues they can reach the highest leaves to eat them. Giraffes have to use its neck muscles to move their heads downwards.

## Unique spots

Each giraffe has a uniquely patterned coat, comparable to human fingerprints. They have more sweat glands on the spots than on the lighter parts, the skin is thicker and the area underneath is particularly well supplied with blood so that it doesn't get too hot.

## Drinking in groups

Wildebeest are known for their great migration between the Serengeti National Park in Tanzania and the Masai Mara National Reserve in Kenya. In a natural spectacle, millions of the animals travel hundreds of miles to find grass and fresh water. Once there, they drink a lot, doing so in groups to protect themselves.

## A big heart

Giraffes have very large hearts—they can grow as big as a watermelon! They need these huge hearts to pump blood through their long necks and into their heads. This is how they ensure every part of their body is adequately supplied with oxygen.

## A wildebeest survival strategy

Wildebeest have to watch out for predators. When they come to a river during their migration, for example, they face a major challenge. Crocodiles are waiting for them in the water and lions often get into position on the opposite bank. So the wildebeest work together: a few make a start and suddenly the whole herd jumps into the water at once. This surprises the predators, but some of the wildebeest are usually caught anyway.