

The Panda Gift

Genre	Build Background	Access Content	Extend Language
Fiction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Animal Growth • Life Cycles • Differences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Labels in Pictures • Dialogue • Definitions in Context 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Names of Baby Animals

Scott Foresman Reading Street 2.4.3



by Pedro Damon
Illustrated by Rich Stergulz





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It was Ella's birthday. She was having a wonderful day at the zoo.

"That baby panda is so cute," she said. "Can we take him home? Please?"

"That baby panda is like a bear," said her sister Fay. "It will turn into a big panda. Pandas are not pets. They are wild animals."



"You are right," said a zoo worker. "Our zoo babies are cute. But pandas grow to be big and powerful."

"Read this," Mama said. "Pandas are about the size of chipmunks when they are born. Then pandas grow to be up to 250 pounds."

"I still want one," Ella said.

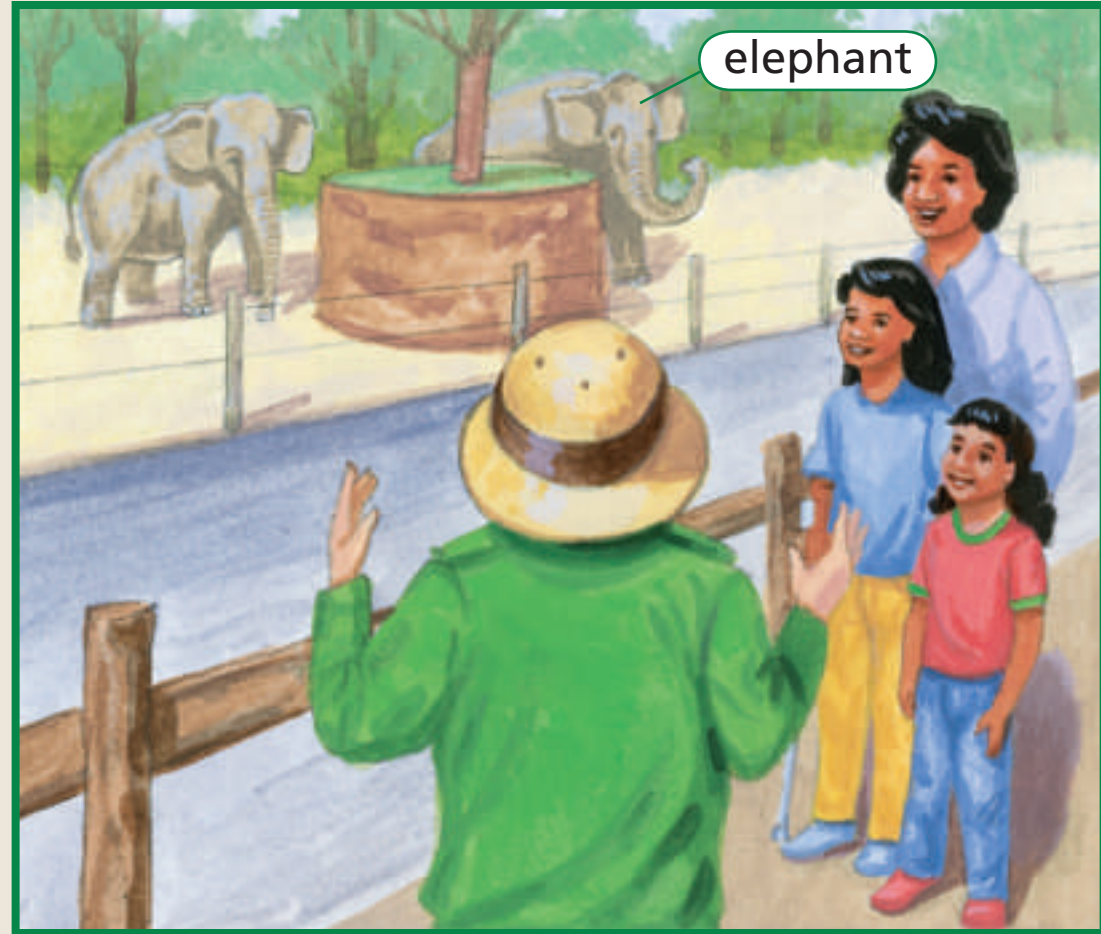
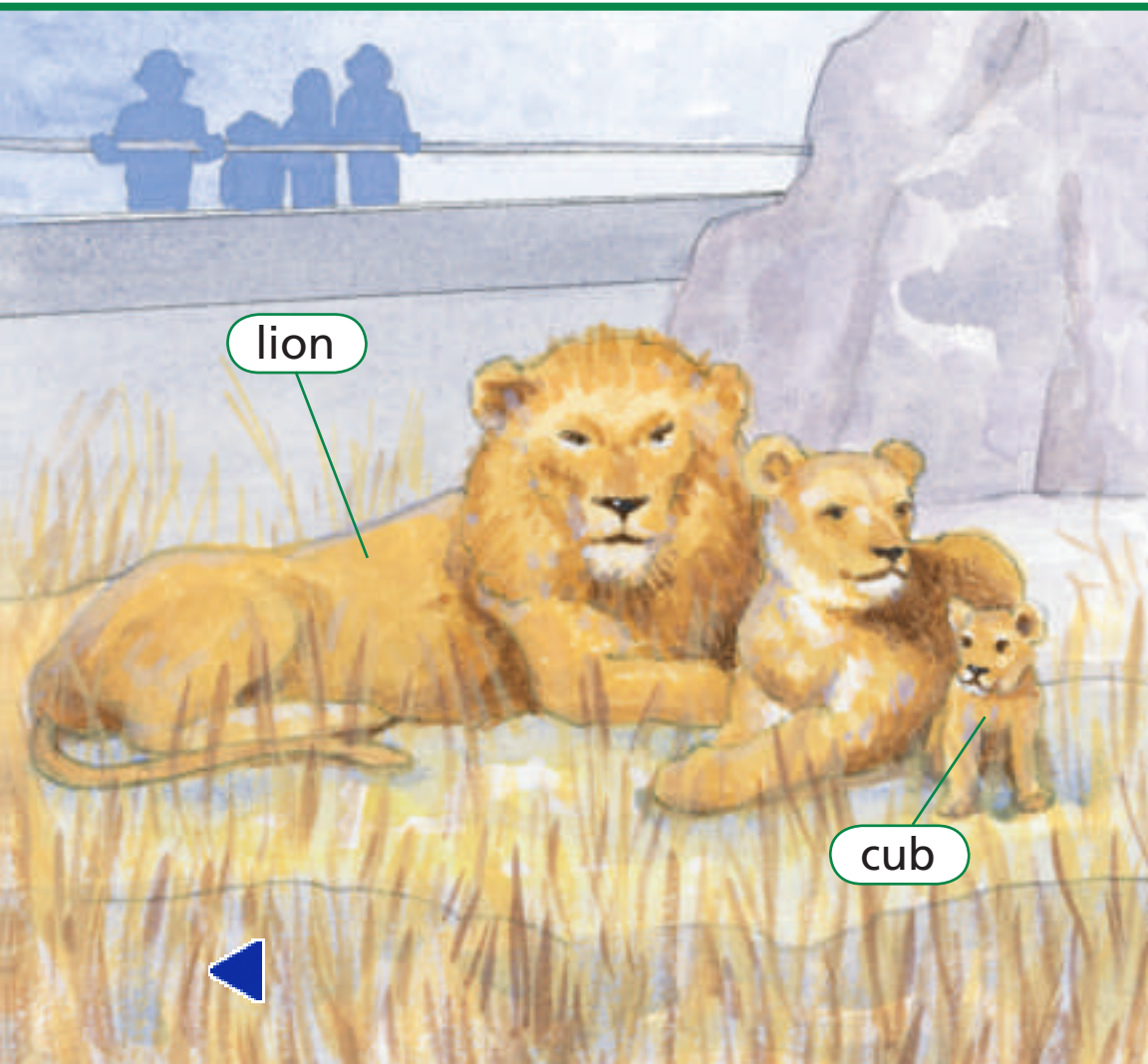




"Follow me," said the zoo worker.
"Look at this lion cub."

"He looks like a kitten," Ella said.

"Lions are big, wild cats. Lions grow to be more than 500 pounds," the man said. "And you can hear their roar for miles."



"You might be able to fit a baby elephant in your home," said the zoo worker. "But not for long."

"I know," Ella said. "Elephants are too big and too tall."

"Right," the worker said. "Elephants can be 11 feet tall."

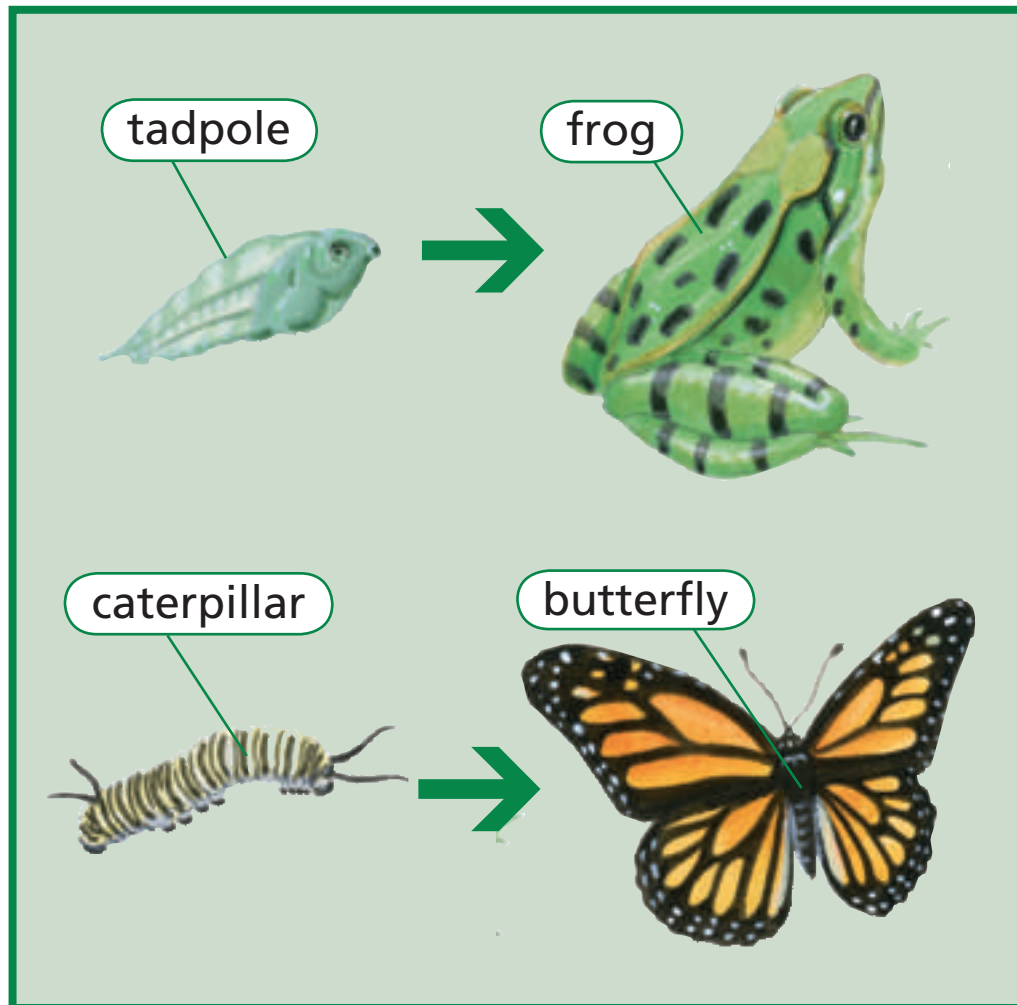




"Tell me," said the zoo worker. "Do you know other animals that change?"

"Tadpoles become different," Fay said. "They turn into frogs."

"My favorites are caterpillars," Ella said. "They become butterflies."



"How about this baby?" asked the zoo worker. He pointed to an ostrich. "He weighs 100 pounds. He is only one year old."

"Ostriches are the biggest birds in the world!" Fay said. "Too bad they cannot fly."



Talk About It

1. Tell about your favorite animals.
2. How are elephants and pandas different? How are they the same?

Write About It

3. On a separate sheet of paper, write about a zoo animal you would like to see. Draw a picture of that animal.

Extend Language

Baby bears and baby lions are called cubs. What do we call a baby cat? What do we call a baby dog?



"I still want a panda," Ella said. Mama walked over and handed a bag to Ella. "Here," she said. "Happy Birthday! Maybe this will make you feel better."

Ella pulled a toy panda from the bag. "Perfect," she said. "It is just my size!"

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