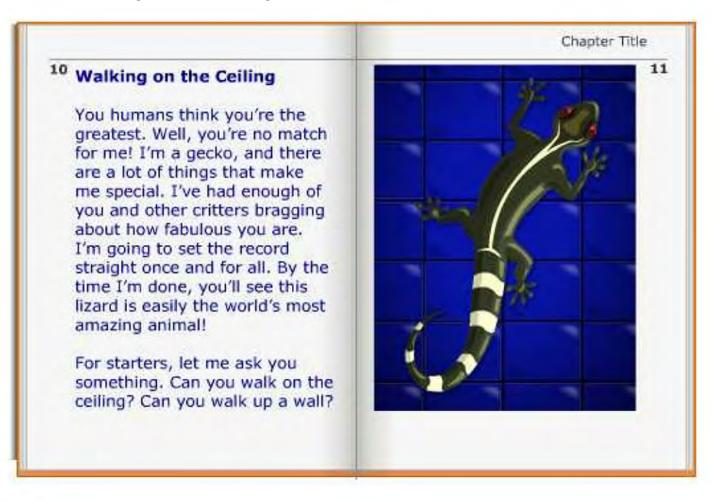
UNIT 10: Walking on the Ceiling



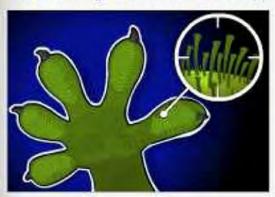
# UNIT 10: Walking on the Ceiling

12 I didn't think so. But for me it's easy! It's been about 2,000 years since one of the smarter humans, Aristotle, first wondered how I could walk upside down. If you haven't worked it out, here it goes: The soles of my feet are covered with tiny hairs, About 500 of these hairs would fit into one millimeter-that makes each hair about 50 times thinner than one of yours! When I push the soles of my feet onto a surface and then drag them forward a bit, this makes the hairs stick. To make them pop off again, I just increase the

angle at which the hairs touch the surface. I stick and peel my feet to and from a surface just like you stick and peel off sticky tape. And get this: at the right angle and pressure, all those hairs on my feet together could lift the weight of a human baby!

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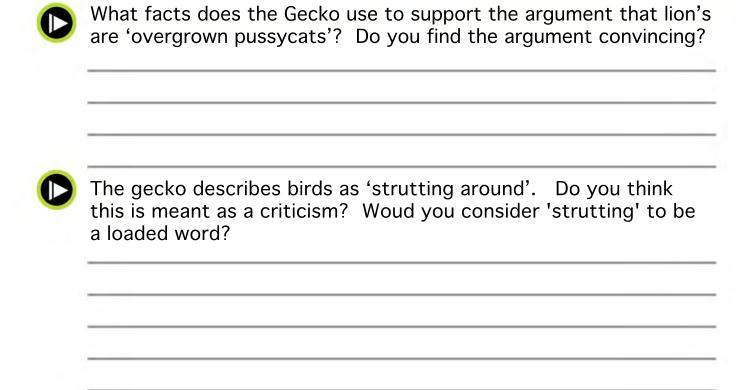
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14 You and I actually do have something in common. We both like the sun. But what do you humans do when it starts to shine? You go around wearing expensive sunglasses. Me? I have protection from ultraviolet light built into my eyes so I never need to wear shades. Besides, I figure I'm cool enough without them.

As I said, you folks have a high opinion of yourselves. But you know who really makes me laugh? Lions. "King of Beasts"? Some of my ancestors would have eaten lions for breakfast.

Take the dinosaur
Tyrannosaurus Rex, for
example! Now he could have
called himself King of
Beasts—no contest. The King
would have to be a lizard, not
some overgrown pussycat like a
lion that spends most of the
day eating and sleeping.

What about those birds strutting around with their fluffy feathers and their constant humming? They do have wings. That's something. But can they shed their tails in a single flick when some other critter is trying to catch hold of them?



# UNIT 10: Walking on the Ceiling

16 No wonder so many of them end up behind the bars of a cage. I'll admit that birds have been around for a while. They have probably been around a bit longer than you pesky humans. My folks go way back,

about 200 million years!

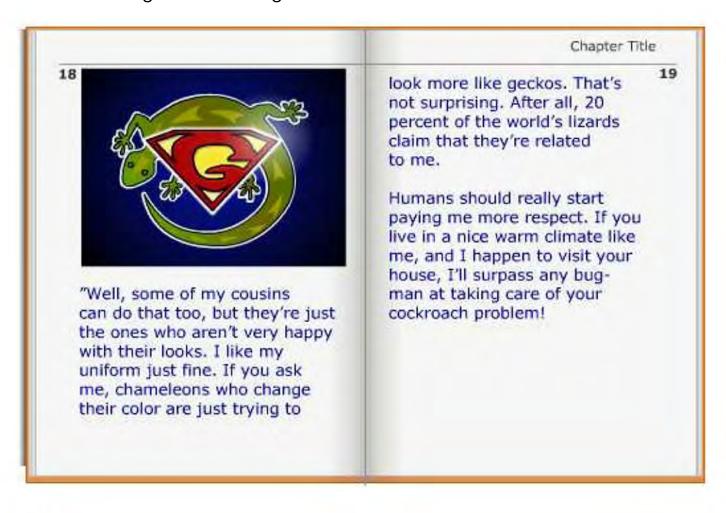
Chapter Title

Now the anteater has cool stuff going on with that tongue. But I bet she gets a lot of dirt in her eyes snorting about in those anthills. Not me. I can poke around wherever I want without worry. That's because I have my own built-in windshield wipers. I just lick my eyes clean with my tongue! I always make sure to do it before looking in back of me. Oh, did I mention that I can look behind me without turning my head?

I know you'll say, "Hang on! What about chameleons? Being able to change color is really cool.

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# UNIT 10: Walking on the Ceiling



Do you feel the Gecko is the greatest creature on Earth?	Why, or
why not?	