

God's Amazing World

from apples to zebras



Illustrated by Kristi Davis

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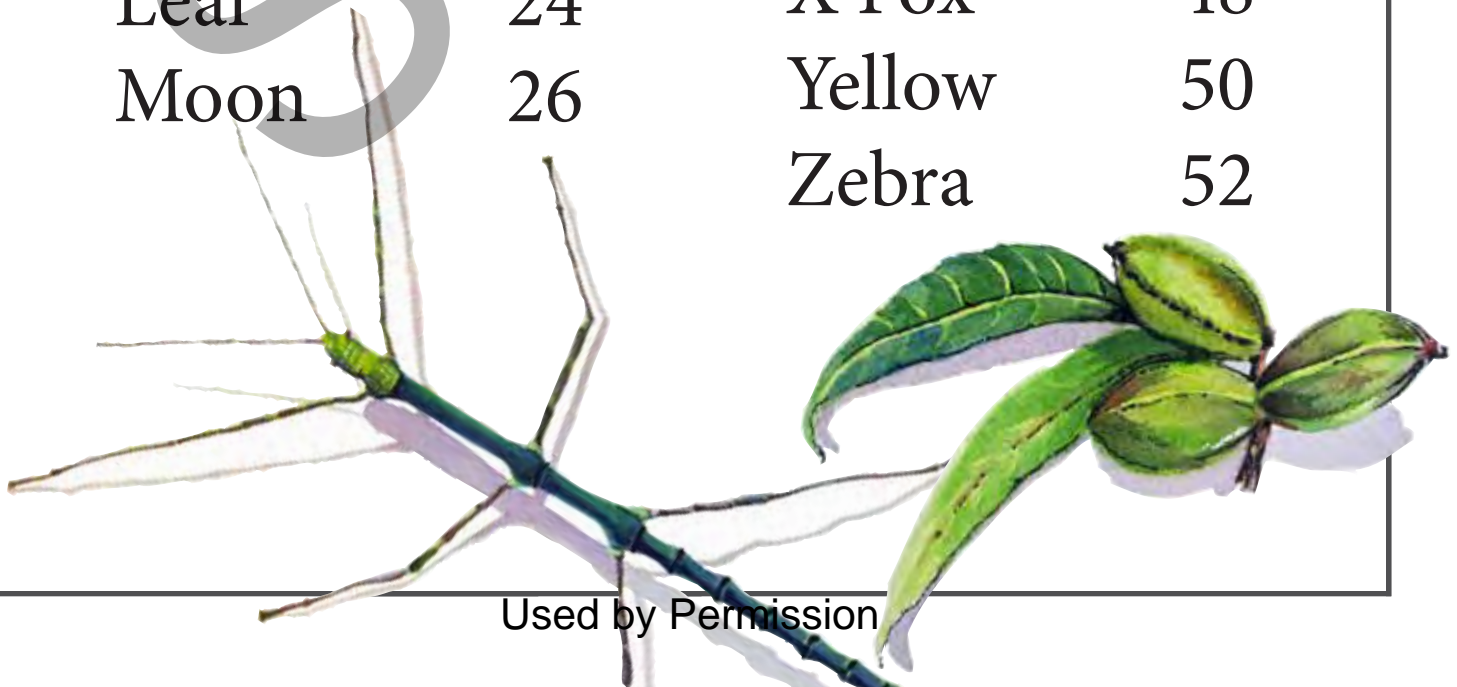
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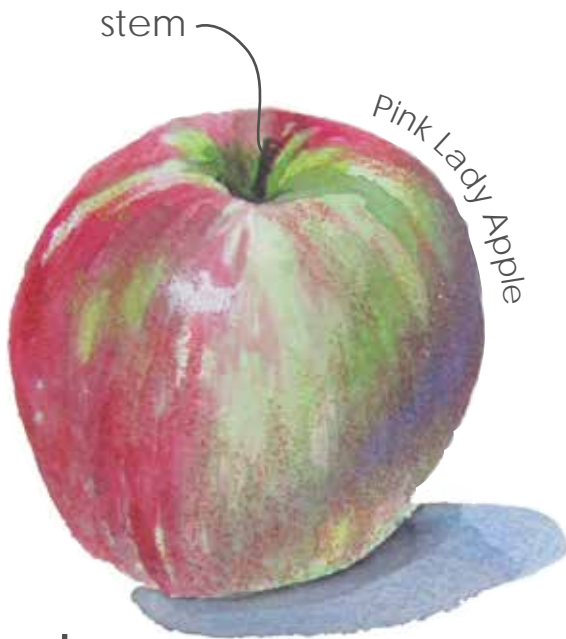
Contents



Apple	2	Nest	28
Butterfly	4	Octopus	30
Cow	6	Penguin	32
Dinosaur	8	Quail	34
Elephant	10	Rock	36
Frog	12	Sun	38
Goat	14	Turtle	40
Horse	16	Us	42
Insect	18	Vegetables	44
Jewel	20	Water	46
Kangaroo	22	X Fox	48
Leaf	24	Yellow	50
Moon	26	Zebra	52



Apple



1 whole apple



2 halves =
1 whole apple



4 quarters =
1 whole apple

How
are you
staying close
to Jesus today?
Share His love
with someone!

*"I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing."
John 15:5*

If I stay in Jesus, I will have much fruit.

God created hundreds of different kinds of apples; each one looks and tastes different than the others. Some apples are green or yellow, some are red, and others have patches of all three colors.

Most people like to eat sweet apples as a snack or part of their lunch, but there are sour apples too. We can eat sour apples or make them into tasty treats like pies, applesauce, jelly, cake, or apple butter! Which apple treat is your favorite?



core

1 yummy
apple!

Many people have apple trees in their yards, but most apples that we eat are grown in orchards. Apple farmers have to watch out for harmful insects, but some insects actually help apples grow! Apple trees have to share their pollen (the yellow powdery part of their flowers) with each other to make new apples, and honeybees are great helpers with this job.

The life of an apple starts long before we can see the fruit. First the tree makes pink or white flowers that open in the spring. How beautiful these blossoms are! Bees then help pollinate the flowers, which turn into apples over the summer. Then farmers pick the apples in the autumn.

Have you ever stood in the middle of an apple orchard and smelled hundreds of apples? Did you have fun picking them?

Just like the apples stay connected to the tree all year so they can grow, we need to stay connected to Jesus every day so we can grow His good fruit, like love, joy, and peace!



apple blossom

Butterfly

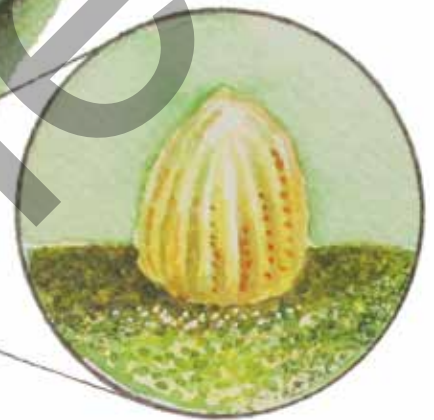
A butterfly starts out as a tiny egg that its mother lays on a leaf, stem, or piece of grass. But when the egg hatches, a butterfly doesn't come out—a caterpillar does! The first thing a caterpillar does after it comes out of its egg is eat the egg shell. Then it crawls off in search of more food. Caterpillars chew leaves. They eat many times their weight every day. They grow fast and store up food as energy to use later in life.

When a caterpillar is as big as it can grow, it turns itself into a chrysalis. It hangs upside down from a leaf and grows a hard shell all over itself. It can stay like this for a very long time, sometimes all winter.

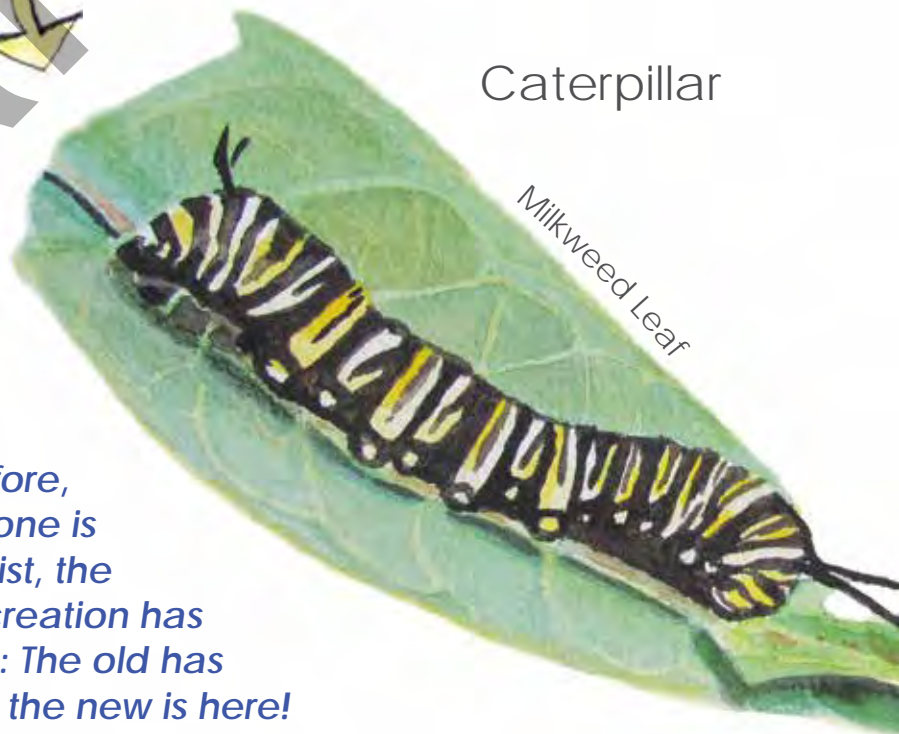
While it's a chrysalis, everything except for the hard shell is rearranging



Egg



Caterpillar



In what ways
has God
changed you
and made you
beautiful?

*Therefore,
if anyone is
in Christ, the
new creation has
come: The old has
gone, the new is here!
2 Corinthians 5:17*

Zebra

Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
Hebrews 4:13



*Dear Zebra,
Why do you have stripes?*

My stripes break up my body outline, making it difficult to see me from a distance.

Can you name other things that are black and white? What other animals have stripes?

What do you need to ask God to forgive you for today?

I can't hide anything from God.

Zebras live in the grasslands and deserts of East and Southern Africa. They graze in the same places where elephants, antelope, rhinoceroses, and lions roam. Sometimes people go on trips called safaris, traveling around the grasslands hoping to see these animals. There are three main types of zebras. The plains zebra is very common, but the Grevy's and mountain zebras are endangered species. There are not many of them left on Earth.

A zebra's body shape and size are similar to that of a horse. It has a long tail which it uses like a flyswatter. All zebras have manes except the maneless zebra that lives in Kenya, Sudan, and Uganda. A zebra's legs are generally shorter than a horse's legs, but it can still run very fast—about forty miles per hour. Running at this speed in a zigzag pattern, it can escape from many enemies. A zebra has one big hoof on each foot, like horses and donkeys. Unlike horses and donkeys, however, a zebra is very difficult to train. It does not obey right away! A zebra is usually stubborn.

Zebras are known for their bold black and white stripes. Some zebras' stripes are actually dark brown. Each zebra has unique stripes. No other zebra has stripes exactly the same.

Lions, leopards, cheetahs, and hyenas hunt zebras. To protect themselves, zebras live in big herds with hundreds of other zebras. At least one zebra is always on the lookout for trouble. Zebras make good guards—their ears can twist around to hear in any direction, and they have excellent night vision. Living in large herds creates a canvas of thousands of zebra stripes! This helps protect the zebras. To predators like lions, the whole herd looks like one gigantic zebra that even a lion will not attack!

A zebra's stripes help it to hide in order to keep it safe, but hiding sin does not keep people safe. We cannot hide anything from God. He sees everything! When we make mistakes, we bring them to God instead of hiding them. We ask God to help us make good choices that please Him and bless others!