

Animal Traits

A close-up photograph of a bee hummingbird perched on a thin, brown branch. The bird has a long, thin beak and iridescent green feathers on its back and wings. The background is a soft-focus green, suggesting foliage.

bee hummingbird

There are many animals on Earth.
Animals can be very different from each other.

Some animals are small.
The bee hummingbird is the smallest bird on Earth.
It is only about 5 centimeters (2 inches) long.

Some animals are large.

The blue whale is the largest animal on Earth.

It can be 30.5 meters (100 feet) long.

KEY IDEA Many different animals live on Earth.

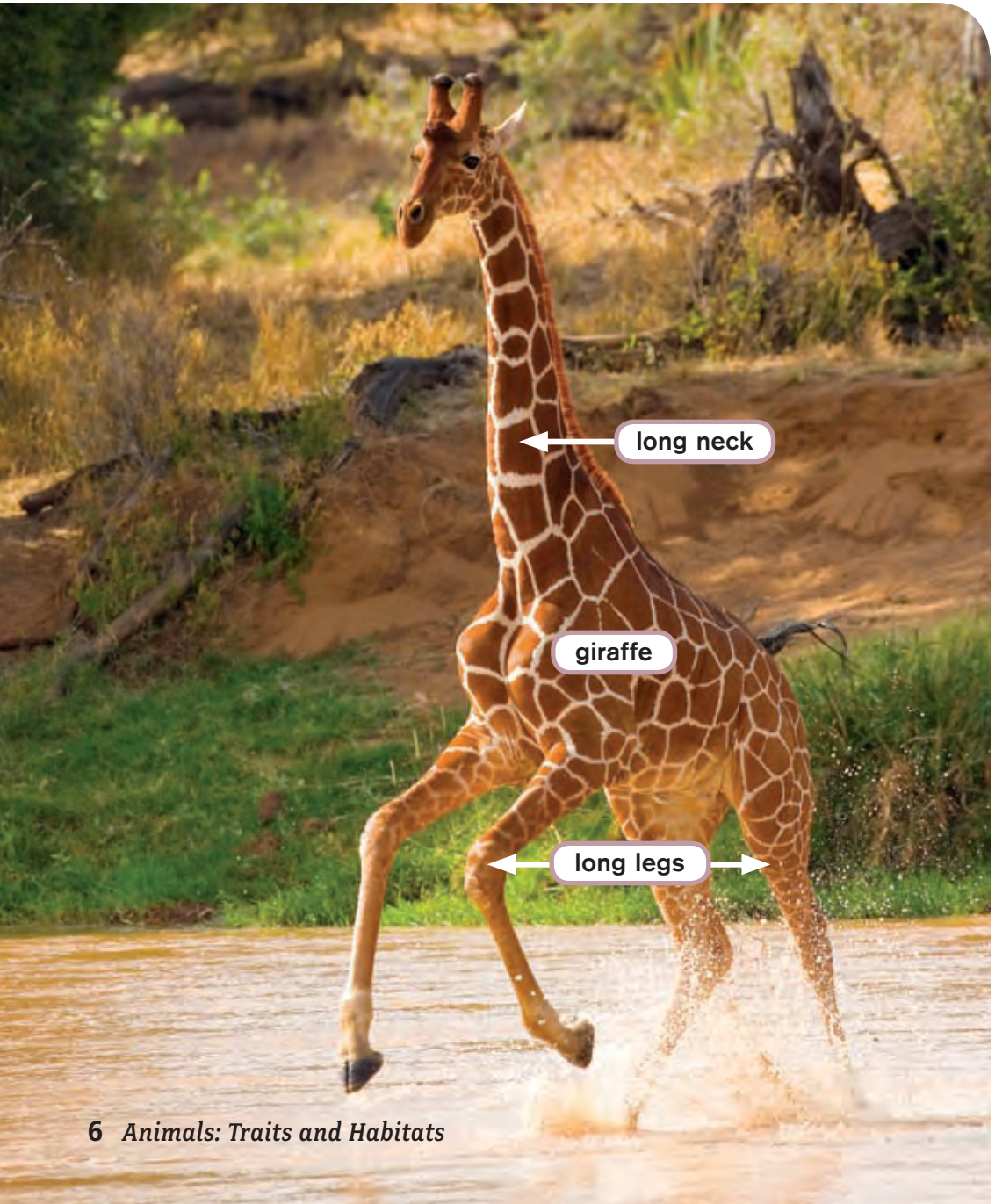


Every animal has **traits**.

Traits can describe how an animal looks.

A giraffe has a long neck and long legs.

The giraffe's long neck and long legs are traits.



Traits can also describe how an animal acts.
The snowshoe hare can be very still.
This is a trait.

Traits can help an animal **survive**.
The hare can hide in the snow because it has
white fur and can stay very still.

KEY IDEAS Different animals
have different traits. Traits
can help animals survive.

A photograph of a white snowshoe hare sitting in a snowy field. The hare is facing right, with its long ears upright. The background is a soft-focus, bright white snowfield.

snowshoe hare

Animals can be **classified** by their traits.

Animals with feathers are birds.

Animals with three main body parts and six legs are insects.



Birds have feathers.



◀ **Insects have six legs.**

KEY IDEA Animals are classified by traits.