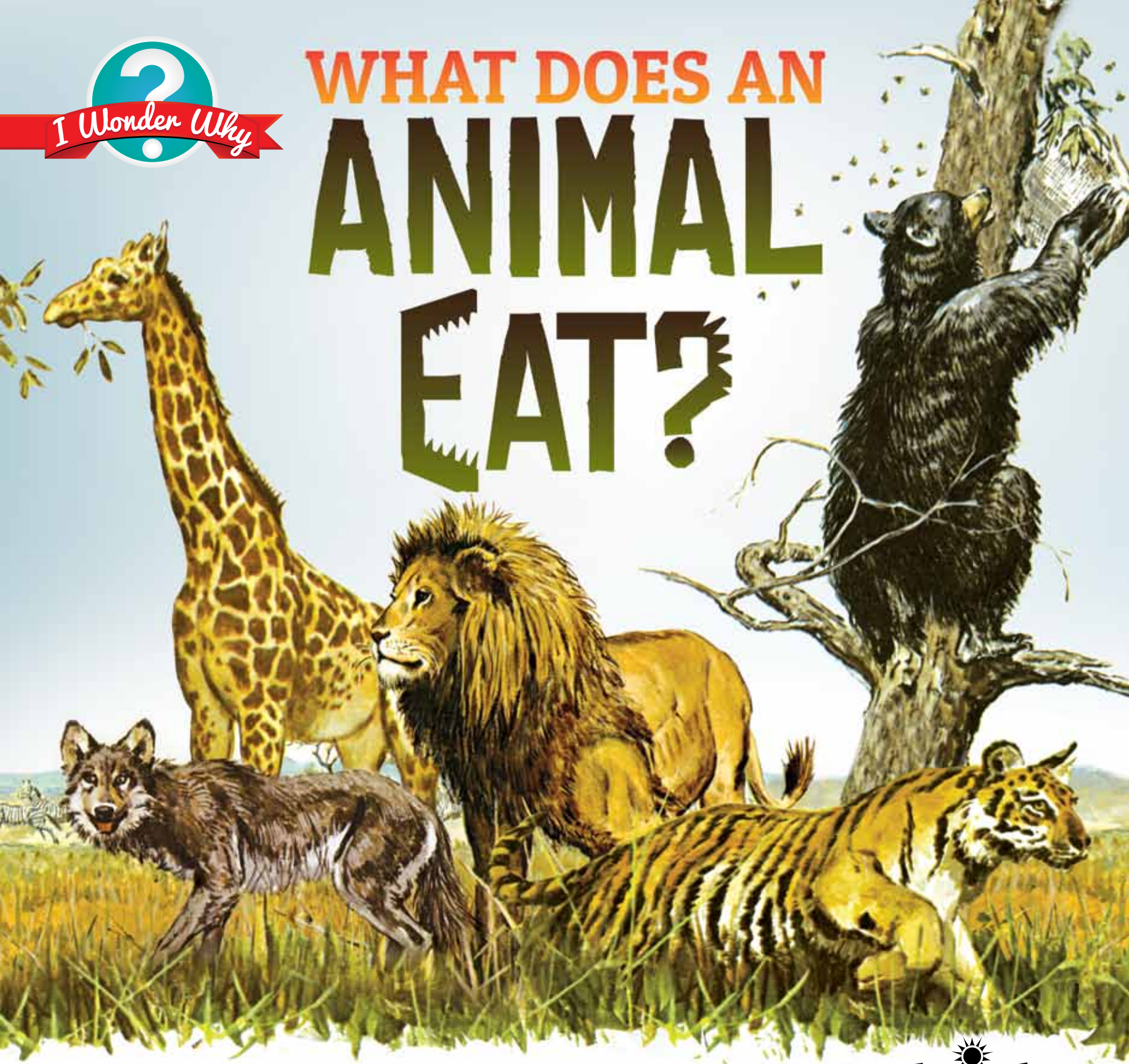




# WHAT DOES AN ANIMAL EAT?



By **Lawrence F. Lowery**

**NTA Kids**  
National Science Teachers Association

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By **Lawrence F. Lowery**

Illustrated by **Bill Reusswig**



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## Introduction

The *I Wonder Why* books are science books created specifically for young learners who are in their first years of school. The content for each book was chosen to be appropriate for youngsters who are beginning to construct knowledge of the world around them. These youngsters ask questions. They want to know about things. They are more curious than when they are a decade older. Research shows that science is these students' favorite subject when they enter school for the first time.

Science is both *what* we know and *how* we come to know it. What we know is the content knowledge that accumulates over time as scientists continue to explore the universe in which we live. How we come to know science is the set of thinking and reasoning processes humans use to get answers to the questions and inquiries in which we are engaged.

Scientists learn by observing, comparing, and organizing. So do children. These thinking processes are among several inquiry behaviors that enable us to find out about our world and how it works. Observing, comparing, and organizing are fundamental to the more advanced processes of relating, experimenting, and inferring.

The five books in this set of the *I Wonder Why* series focus on inquiry and various content topics: animal behavior, plant growth, physical characteristics of sound, animal adaptations, and mathematical measurement. Inquiry is a natural human attribute initiated by curiosity. When we don't know something about an area of our interest, we try to understand by asking questions and by doing. The five books are titled by questions children may ask: *How Does a Plant Grow?* *What Can an Animal Do?* *What Does an Animal Eat?* *What*

*Makes Different Sounds?* and *How Tall Was Milton?* Children inquire about plants, animals, and other phenomena. Their curiosity leads them to ask about measurements, the growth of plants, the characteristics of sounds, what animals eat, and how animals behave. The inquiries lead the characters in the books and the reader to discover the need for standard measures, the characteristics of plant growth, sound, and animal adaptations.

Each book uses a different approach to take the reader through simple scientific information from a child's point of view: One book is a narrative, another is expository. One book uses poetry, another presents ideas through a fairy tale. In addition, the illustrations display different artistic styles to help convey information. Some art is fantasy, some realistic. Some art is bright and abstract, some pastel and whimsical. The combining of art, literary techniques, and scientific knowledge brings the content to the reader through several instructional avenues.

In addition, the content in these books correlates to criteria set forth by national standards. Often the content is woven into each book so that its presence is subtle but powerful. The science activities in the Parent/Teacher Handbook section within each book enable students to carry out their own investigations that relate to the content of the book. The materials needed for these activities are easily obtained, and the activities have been tested with youngsters to be sure they are age appropriate.

After students have completed a science activity, rereading or referring back to the book and talking about connections with the activity is a deepening experience that stabilizes the learning as a long-term memory.



Coyote



Roadrunner



Rattlesnake



Gopher



What kinds of food do you think these animals are looking for?

Some animals eat only plants.

Cows eat only plants.

Cow



Mountain Lion

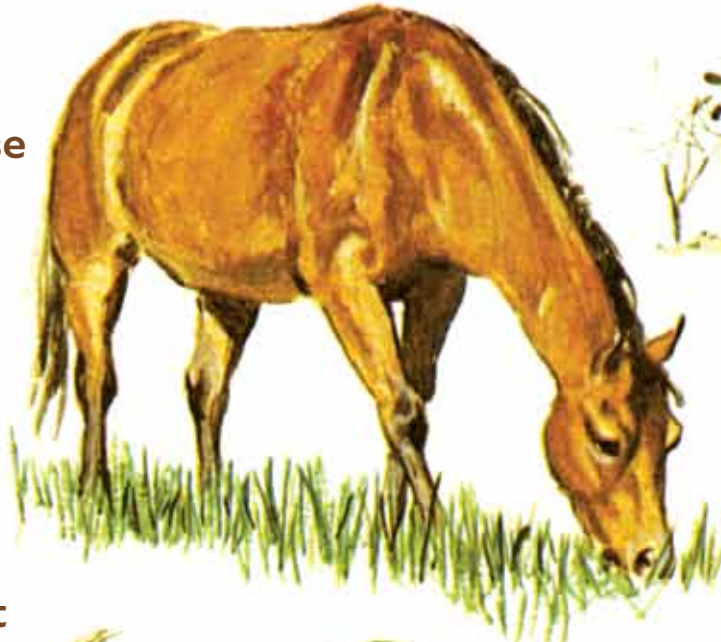


Some animals eat only meat.

Mountain lions eat only meat.



Horse



Rabbit



Goat



Sheep



Deer



Squirrel



Here are some animals that eat only plants.

What are some other animals that eat only plants?



Plant eaters' front teeth are broad but sharp, like a spade. These front teeth are good for clipping off grass, leaves, and other plant parts.

The back teeth are large, square, and flat on top to provide a grinding surface. Plant eaters use these uniquely shaped teeth to crush and shred the food that was clipped from plants.





# WHAT DOES AN ANIMAL EAT?

**K**ids who want to know all about animals will find this book fascinating. *What Does an Animal Eat?* offers insights into two special aspects of hungry animals: how their teeth and beaks offer clues about what they eat and how the food chain helps make sure there's enough for all. Illustrated with detailed drawings, the book's simple explanations lay the foundation for a deeper understanding of animal adaptation and the need for human help to protect the food chain.

*What Does an Animal Eat?* is part of the *I Wonder Why* book series, written to ignite the curiosity of children in grades K–6 while encouraging them to become avid readers. These books explore the marvels of animals, plants, and other phenomena related to science and nature. Included in each volume is a Parent/Teacher Handbook with coordinating activities. The *I Wonder Why* series is written by an award-winning science educator and published by NSTA Kids, a division of NSTA Press.



Grades K–6

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