

Penguin



Readers

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London

London is a big city with taxis, boats and bright red buses. There are lots of people and buildings. The River Thames goes through the city, and trains go through tunnels under the streets. More than eight **million** people live in London, but other **creatures** live here too.

The Romans built London almost 2,000 years **ago**. Every year it grows bigger and bigger. Some **wild** animals live here, and their homes are part of the city.

City buildings and parks can sometimes give animals a place to live. These bees make nests in walls and get their food from city flowers.

In the 1950s, the River Thames was very dirty. Nothing could live in it. Now, seals and dolphins swim through the city.



bee

London is famous for its quick and intelligent foxes. People first saw them in cities in the 1930s. One fox made its home high up in the Shard, London's tallest building!



Foxes understand roads, and they usually cross them at night. They find a lot of food in people's rubbish.

London is home to the fastest bird on Earth. The peregrine falcon can fly at more than 320 kilometres an hour. These birds make nests at the top of tall buildings and fly down to catch smaller birds.

peregrine
falcon



About half a million mice live in London's underground train tunnels. These mice look for food in the tunnels. Every five minutes, **noisy** trains go past, but the mice are not frightened.

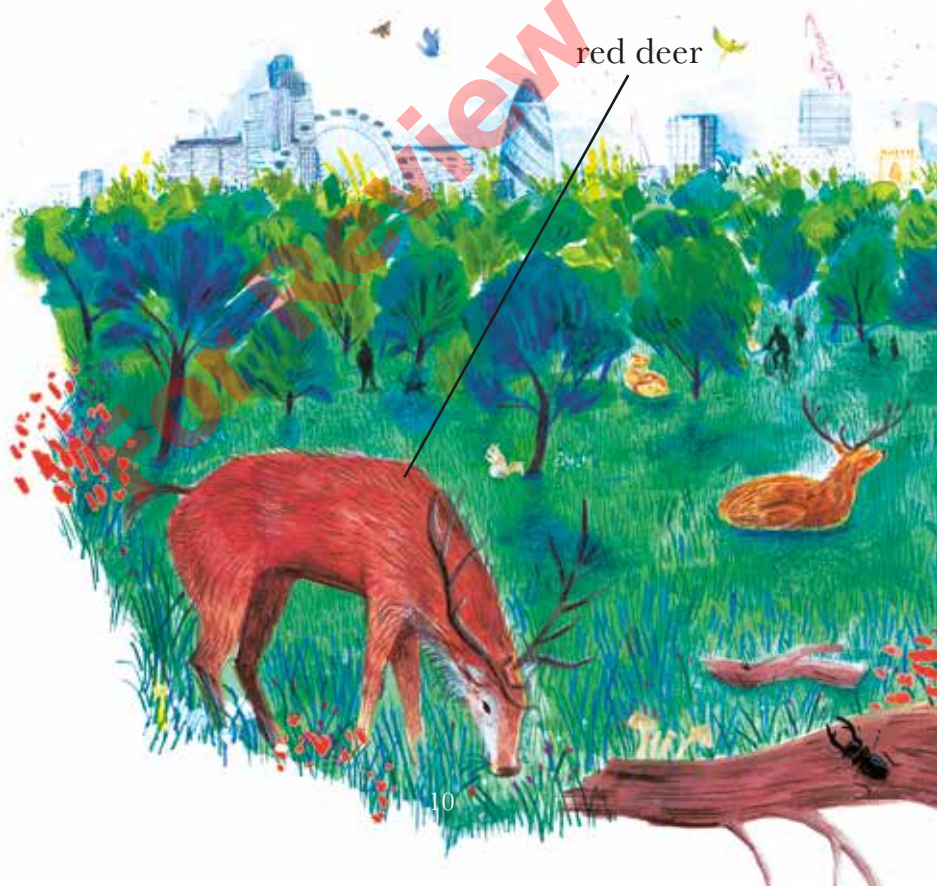


mice

underground train

Lots of people run or ride bikes in Richmond Park, but hundreds of red and fallow deer live there too. King Charles I of England liked **hunting** deer. In the 1600s, he built a wall **around** the park and brought 2,000 deer into it. No one hunts the deer now and they can eat lots of grass.

Parakeets have bright green feathers and red beaks. They usually live in Africa and Asia but there are



thousands of them in London too. Who brought them there? No one knows, but the cold London weather is not a problem for them now.



Stag beetles grow very big, but they are not **dangerous**. In lots of places there are not many stag beetles any more. But they love living in the wild parts of London's parks and gardens.

Tokyo

Tokyo is a city with lots of buildings and people. But look again, because many other creatures live here too.



great
cormorant

You can often see great cormorants in Tokyo, near the sea. In the **past**, the water here was dirty. Now, it is cleaner and the birds like it. They are very good at catching fish. Some people do not like the cormorants because they want to catch fish here too!

In the past, there were not many kingfishers in Tokyo. Now, you can see them in the city, near water. They fly quickly down into the water and catch fish.

Jungle crows are very intelligent. They wait outside restaurants for the best food in the rubbish. They take food from **pet** dogs too. In Sendai, near