

WHO EATS WHAT?

DESERT FOOD CHAINS



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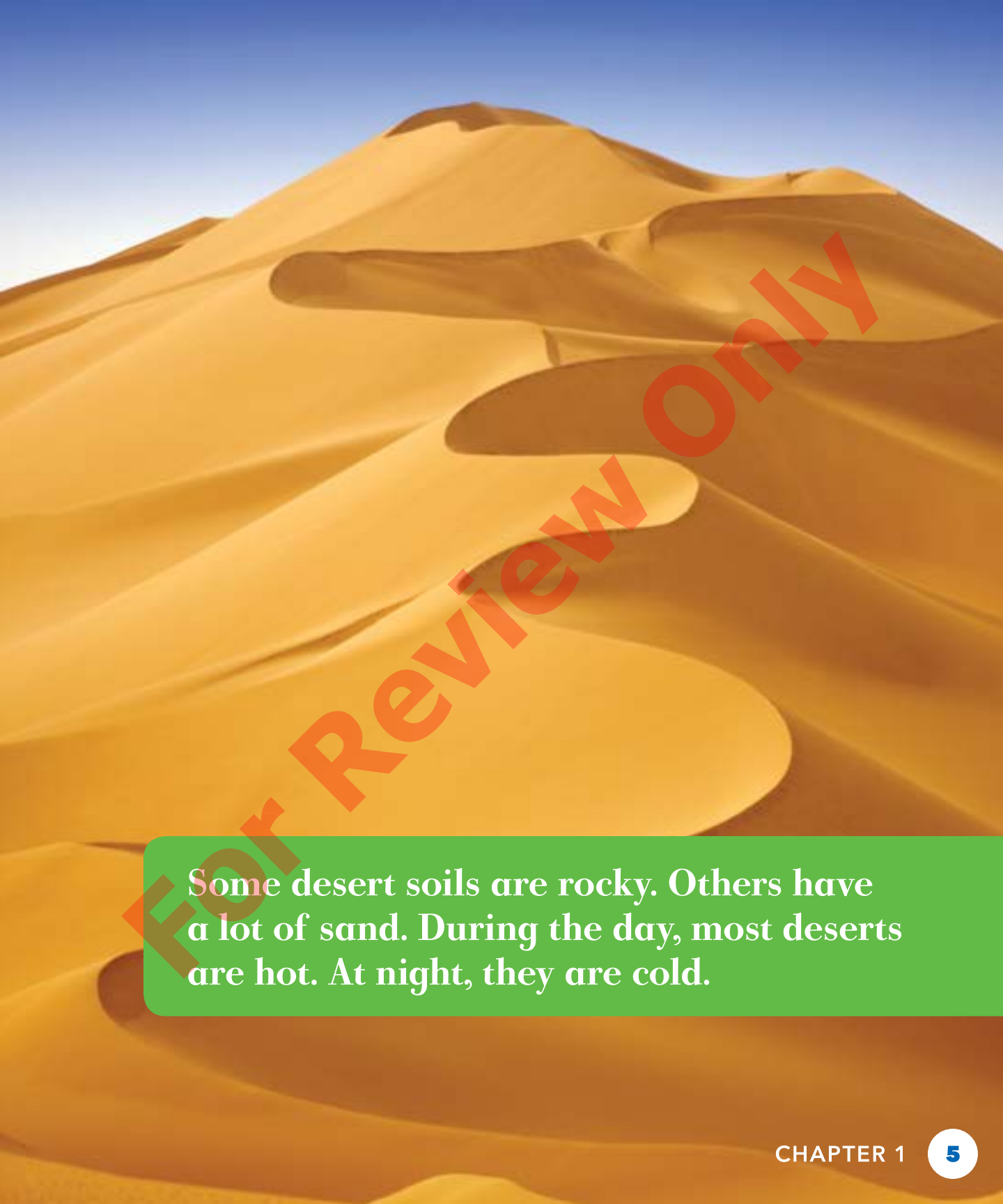


CHAPTER 1

THE DRIEST PLACE ON EARTH

The desert is the driest **biome** on Earth. It gets less than 10 inches (25 centimeters) of rain each year.



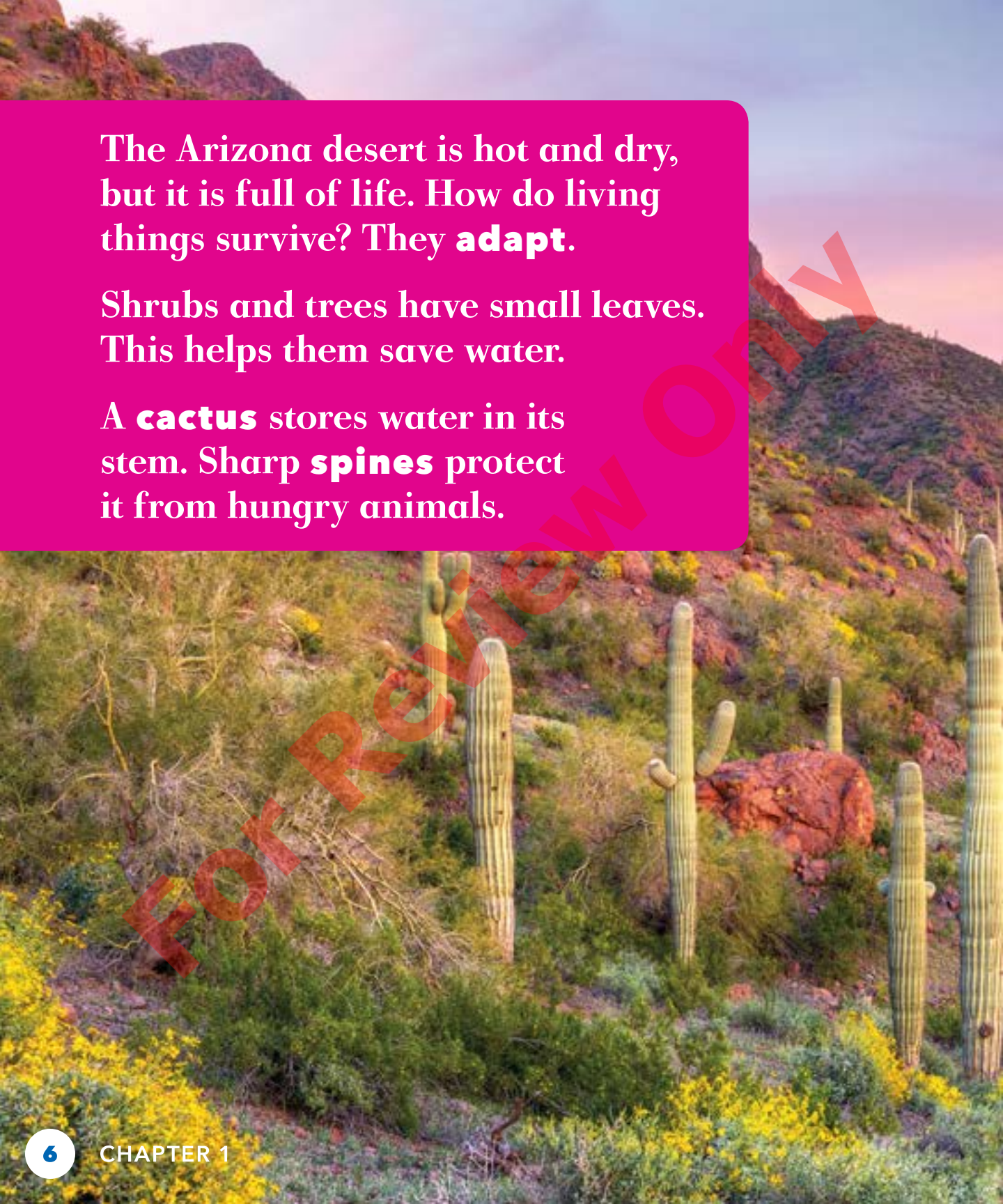


Some desert soils are rocky. Others have a lot of sand. During the day, most deserts are hot. At night, they are cold.

The Arizona desert is hot and dry, but it is full of life. How do living things survive? They **adapt**.

Shrubs and trees have small leaves. This helps them save water.

A **cactus** stores water in its stem. Sharp **spines** protect it from hungry animals.



WHERE ARE THEY?

You can find deserts all over the world. The Sahara Desert is the largest. It covers 3.6 million square miles (9.4 million square kilometers). Antarctica is a cold desert. It is dry, and not many plants can grow there.



■ = Deserts



Most desert animals are active at night. During the day, they escape the heat by resting in **burrows** or in the shade of plants.

They do not need a lot of water. They get most of their water from plants.

DID YOU KNOW?

Cactus roots do not grow down. They grow across. This helps them quickly take in water when it rains.





burrow