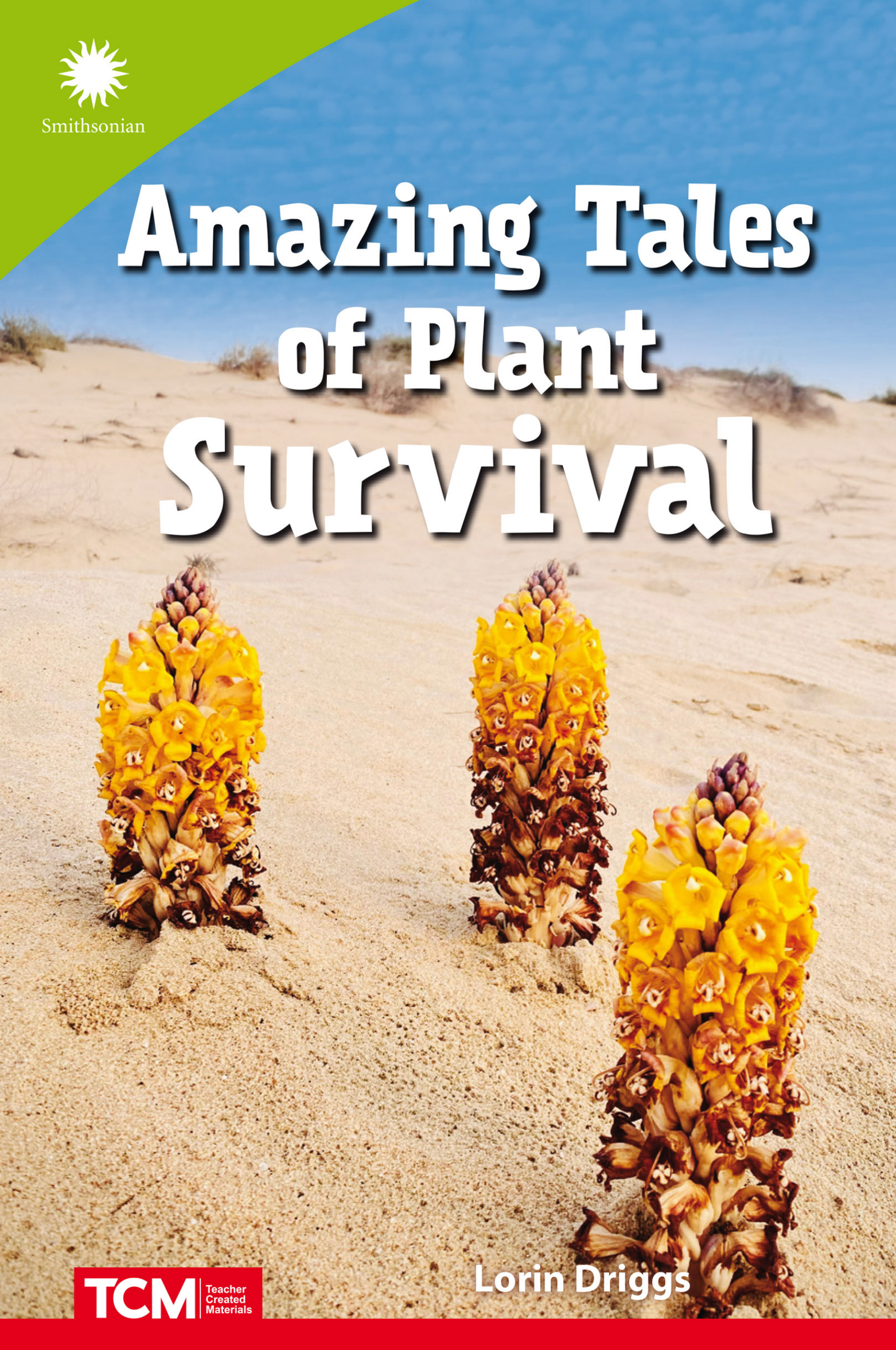
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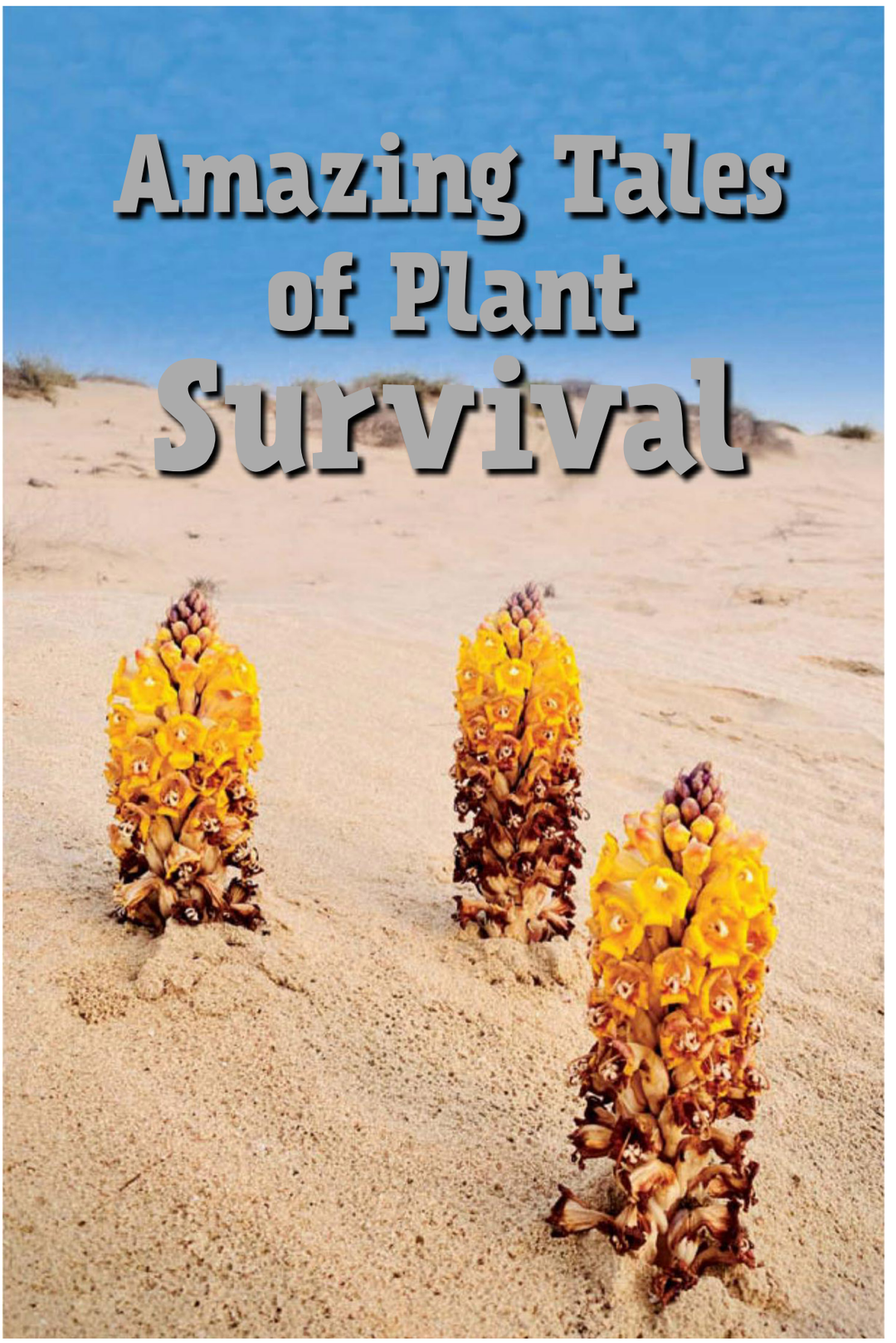
Amazing Tales of Plant Survival



Lorin Driggs

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Amazing Tales of Plant Survival



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Table of Contents

The Importance of Plants 4

Plants Have What It Takes 6

Plants in Very Hot, Dry Places 10

Plants in Very Cold Places 14

Setting Traps in Soggy Places 18

Surprising Superstars 22

Why We Dig Plants 26

STEAM Challenge 28

Glossary 30

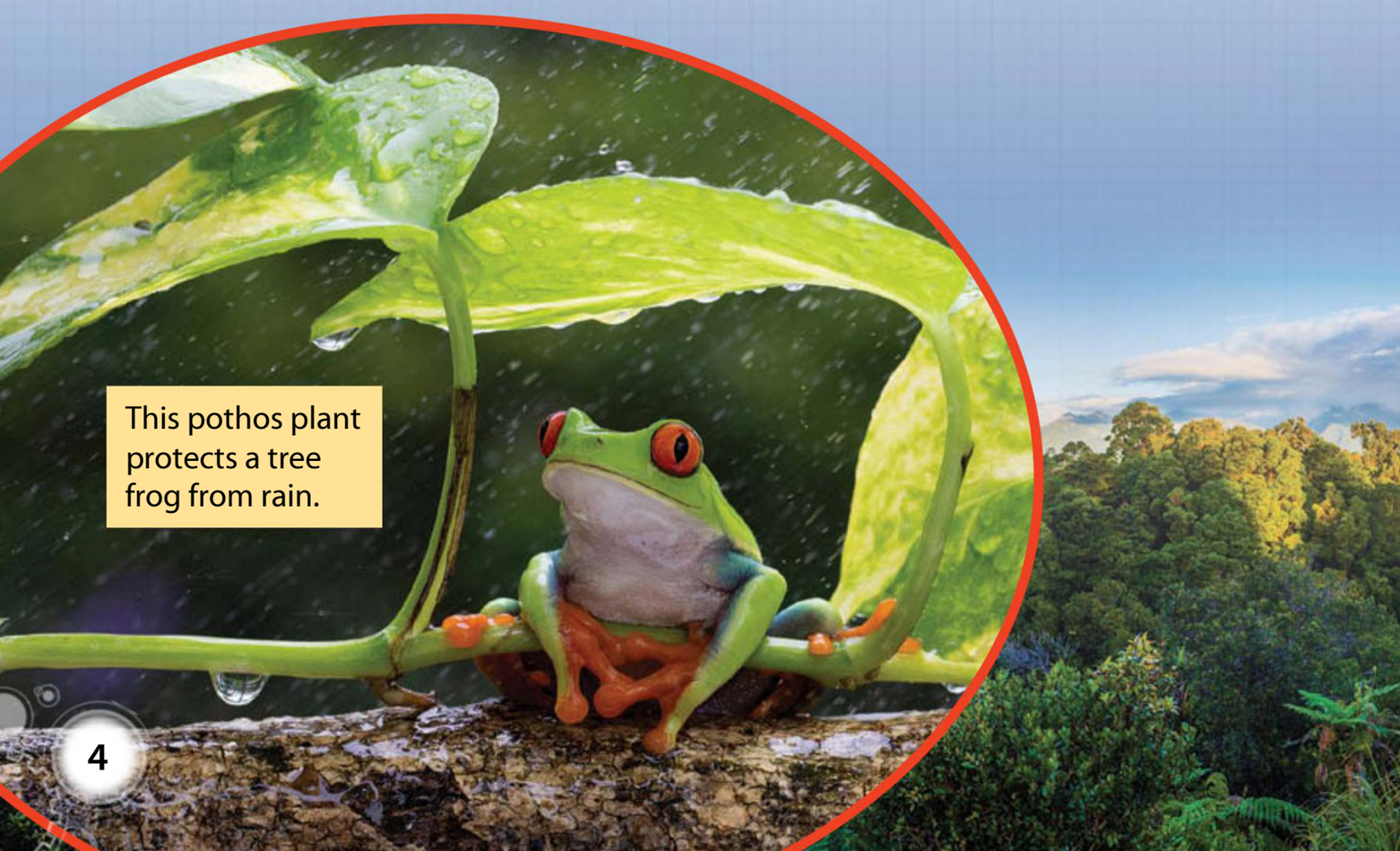
Index 31

Career Advice 32

The Importance of Plants

The next time you're outside, take a close look at a tree, a bush, or any plant you see. It may not seem special, but there's a big story there. One way or another, every living being on Earth depends on plants for survival. That includes you! All living things eat plants, or they eat animals that eat plants. Through **photosynthesis**, plants take in the carbon dioxide people and animals breathe out. Then, plants release oxygen that people and animals need to breathe in. Plants also provide many benefits besides food and oxygen, including shelter and protection for animals to raise their young.

Plants can be as different from one another as an ant is from an antelope. Some plants will feed you, some will sting you, some will stab you, and some will make you say, "How beautiful!" Some plants are enormous, and some are so small that they're almost invisible. Plants can be found just about everywhere on land. They're also in oceans, lakes, rivers, and streams. They can be found in the coldest, hottest, sandiest, rockiest, and driest places on Earth!



This pothos plant protects a tree frog from rain.

Plants that survive and thrive in places that seem intolerable are called *extremophiles*. These plants exist in harsh environments around the world. Often, they have special features or behaviors that help them survive. Let's explore some of the plants that live in these places, along with some plants that are extraordinary for other reasons.



hedgehog cactus

ARTS

Feeding Creativity

Artists throughout time have been and continue to be inspired by plants in all their forms. For example, images of plants can be found in ancient cave art. Sculptors and architects make masterpieces out of wood. Musicians make beautiful music with wooden instruments. Trees and flowers inspire poets and novelists. Plants feed humans' creative spirits!



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