



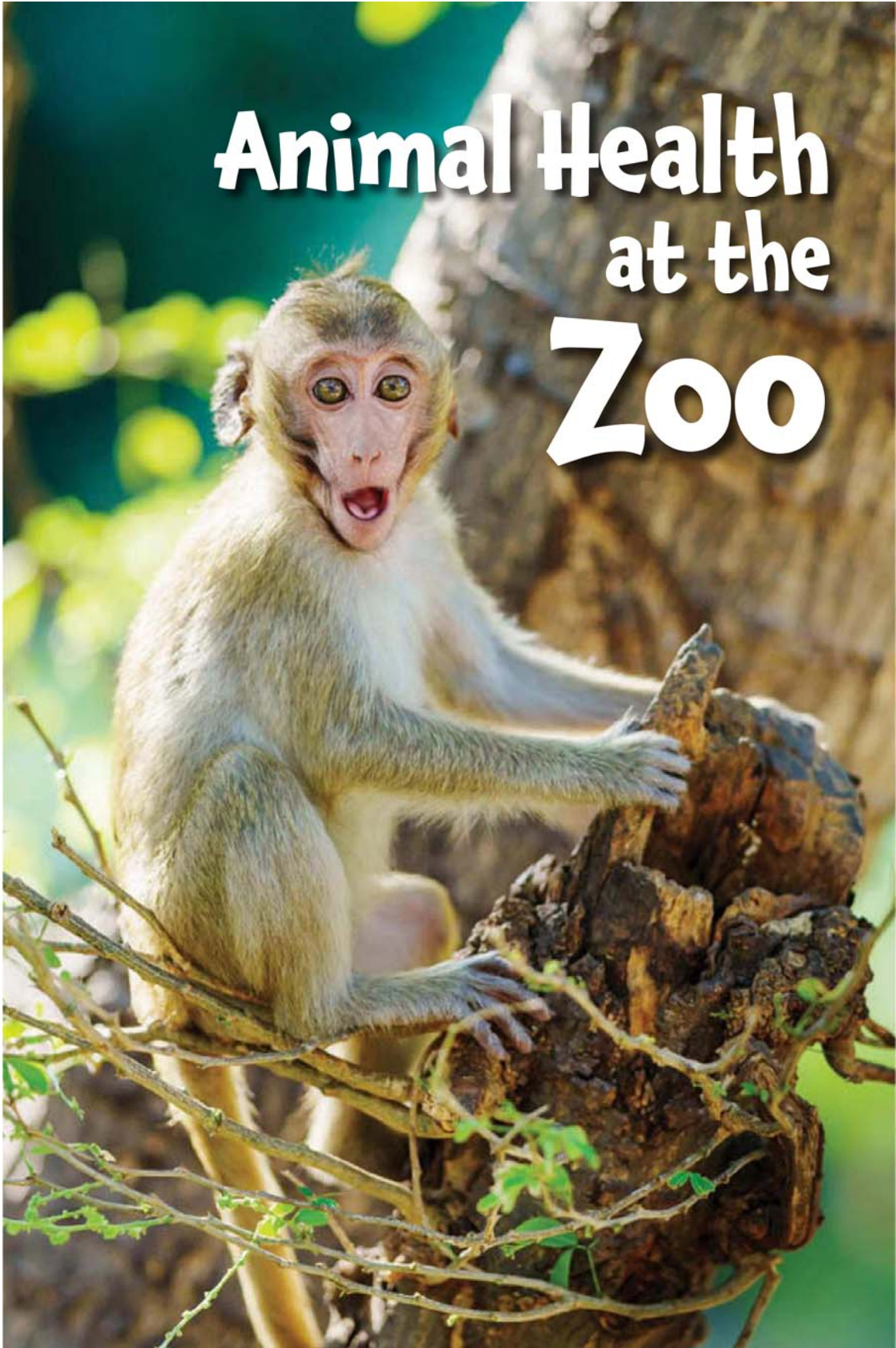
Smithsonian

Animal Health at the Zoo



TCM Teacher Created Materials

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Animal Health at the Zoo

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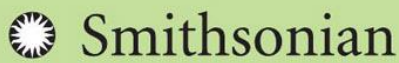
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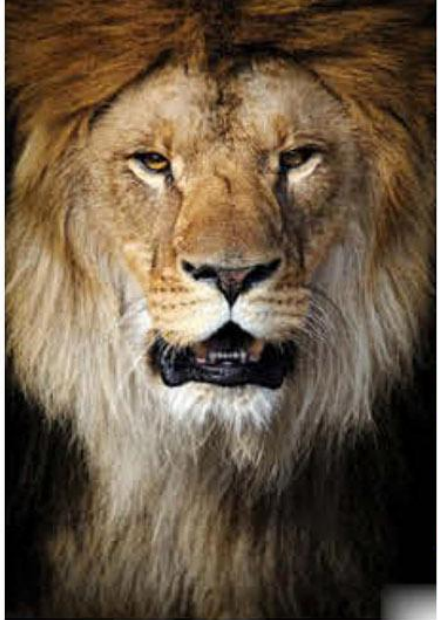


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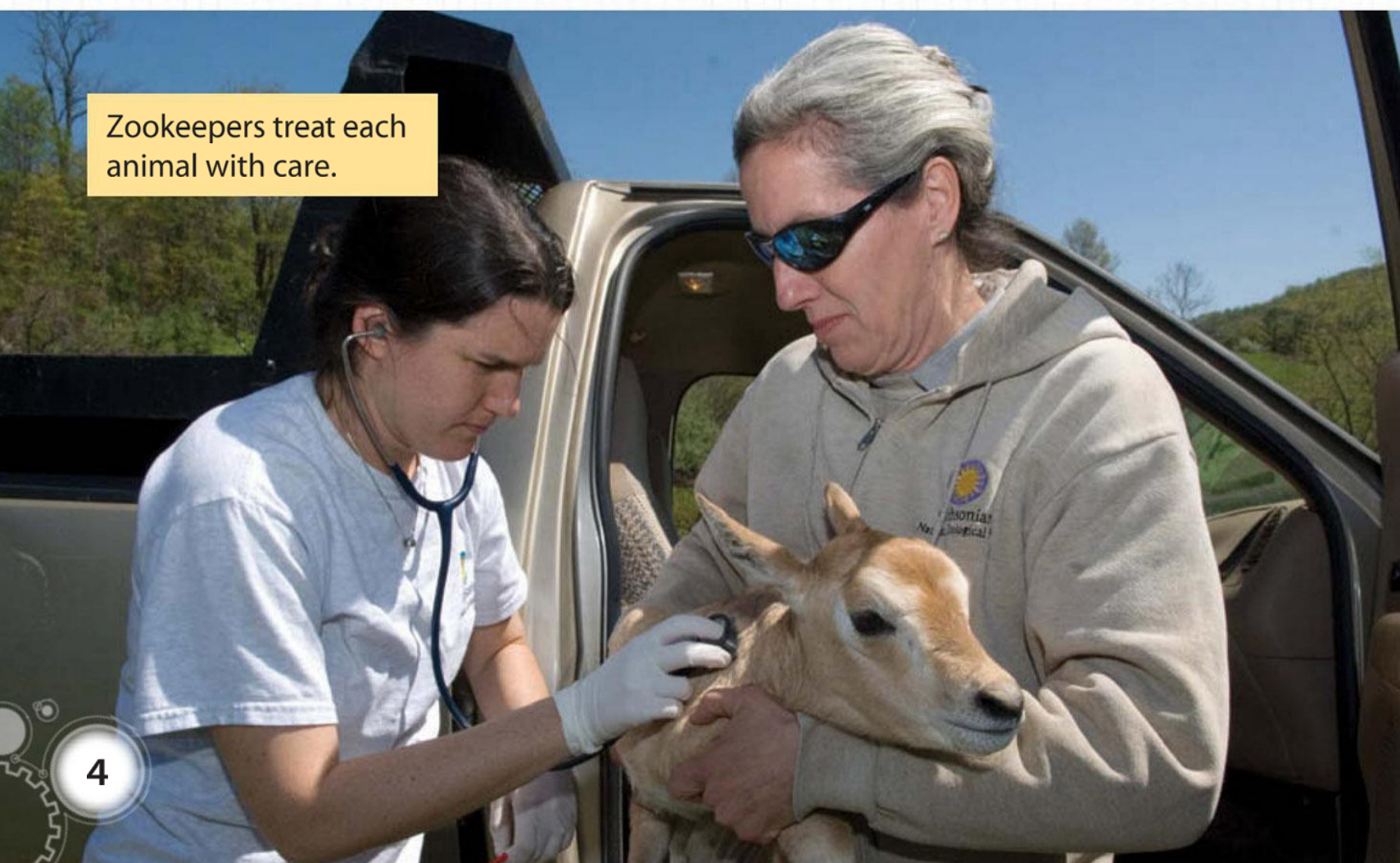
Zookeepers Care

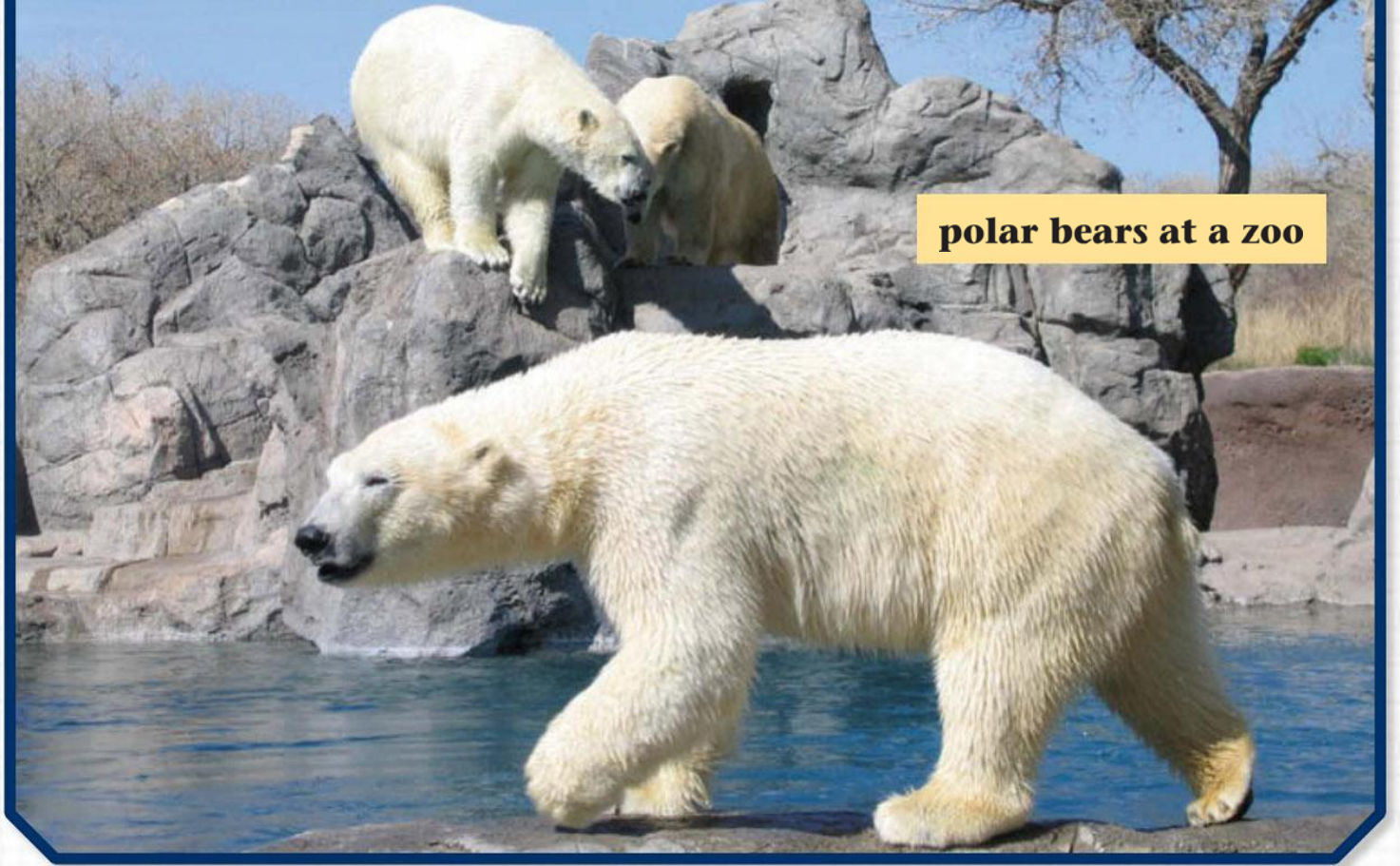
Are you an animal lover? Is your idea of a dream job caring for cute, cuddly creatures? Or, do you want to look after unusual or dangerous beasts? If so, you might want to consider a career as a zookeeper.

When animals live at zoos, they are not in their natural **habitats**. These animals can't act exactly how they would in the wild, but they still have natural **instincts**. They were born to behave in certain ways. Zoo animals still need to hunt, eat, rest, and **reproduce**. And, they need to do these things in environments that look like their natural habitats.

Caring for zoo animals is a lot more complicated than looking after domestic pets, such as cats or dogs. For example, hippos need large, clean pools to swim in. Lions need ways to hunt that don't involve killing other animals. Some **species**, including polar bears, may have trouble finding **mates** to reproduce with. If they can't reproduce, their populations could die out. Each species faces different problems and has its own needs.

Zookeepers treat each animal with care.





polar bears at a zoo

This is where zookeepers come in. Zookeepers feed animals, maintain their habitats, and make sure each creature can use its natural instincts. Zookeepers work hard to help the animals in their care live safe, happy, and healthy lives.



Zookeepers help animals in a variety of ways.



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