

All over the world, our ancient human ancestors lived close to wild animals. Some cultures passed along traditions of respect for animals as the equals or sometimes the superiors of humans — especially Indigenous peoples.

As time passed, many humans left their homes in the wild and gathered together in cities and towns. Seeing less of wild animals changed our ways of thinking about them.

Many people began to believe that humans were better, smarter and more important than the other animals around us.

Then, in the middle of the 1900s, something big changed. A small number of scientists went out into the wild and watched animals. And they didn't just watch for a few hours or a few days. They watched for



many years, taking notes and photos and videos so they could share their observations with the world. Since then, scientists have observed a huge range of animals in the wild, from chimpanzees to whales to bees. Here are some of the ways animals display similar emotions to us in caring for their families and communities.

BABOONS

A team of scientists from the University of Pennsylvania studied chacma baboons in Botswana to better understand the monkeys' emotions and how they compare to ours. We know that, in humans, different chemicals released by the body

are related to different feelings. So the scientists looked at which chemicals were being released by the baboons. They did this by looking at the chemicals found in female baboons' poop. Sometimes a close friend or family member of one of these baboons is killed by a predator, such as a crocodile or lion. When that happens, the surviving baboon releases a chemical called cortisol. It's the same one humans release at times of great stress. Other monkeys in the troop stroke and groom the sad baboon to help it feel better. This suggests that animals grieve, just as humans do.

BLUE-FOOTED BOOBIES

Blue-footed boobies are goose-sized seabirds that live off the western coasts of Central and South America. They have brown speckled heads and blue webbed feet. When a male and female booby decide to team up, the couple often stays together for life. And as in many human families, male and female blue-footed boobies share the job of raising their young. But that's not all. The baby boobies take care

of one another. Scientists have found that when there is a brief shortage of food, stronger chicks let the weaker siblings get a fair share.

BONOBOS

In 2011, researchers were tracking a troop of bonobos, which are great apes closely related to humans. One bonobo, a male the researchers called Malusu, got his hand caught in a trap. Malusu broke the small tree the trap was attached to. A member of his group unwound the vines that held the broken tree to the trap, tried to remove the trap from Malusu's hand and licked his wounds. But as Malusu started moving around, the trap got stuck again. When evening came, the bonobos returned to the forest. They left Malusu behind. In the morning, the group hiked back more than a mile to where Malusu had been. They found that

Malusu had freed himself. The group's return is an example of animals caring for their friends, just like humans do.

CATS

You can tell if a cat is annoyed because it holds out its tail stiff and long, and its entire body turns rigid. Sometimes it hisses or growls and pulls its

body upward to look as big as possible.

ELEPHANTS

When Shifra Goldenberg was studying at college, she witnessed the final days of an old African elephant that died surrounded by her family. Several weeks later, Shifra returned and saw the other elephants inspecting her bones. Were the elephants grieving, as humans do? Experts don't know. But the keen interest the elephants showed in the remains may be one way these magnificent



creatures understand and deal with the loss.

GIRAFFES

Canadian zoologist Anne Innis Dagg is a world expert on giraffes. She observed that male giraffes can battle for the right to mate with females in a way that's sort of like human arm wrestling. They throw their long, heavy necks and heads against one another

with all their strength.

While these contests can often be very fierce, the giraffes are rarely seriously hurt. The weaker giraffe usually gives up the fight before a serious injury can happen.

POLAR BEARS

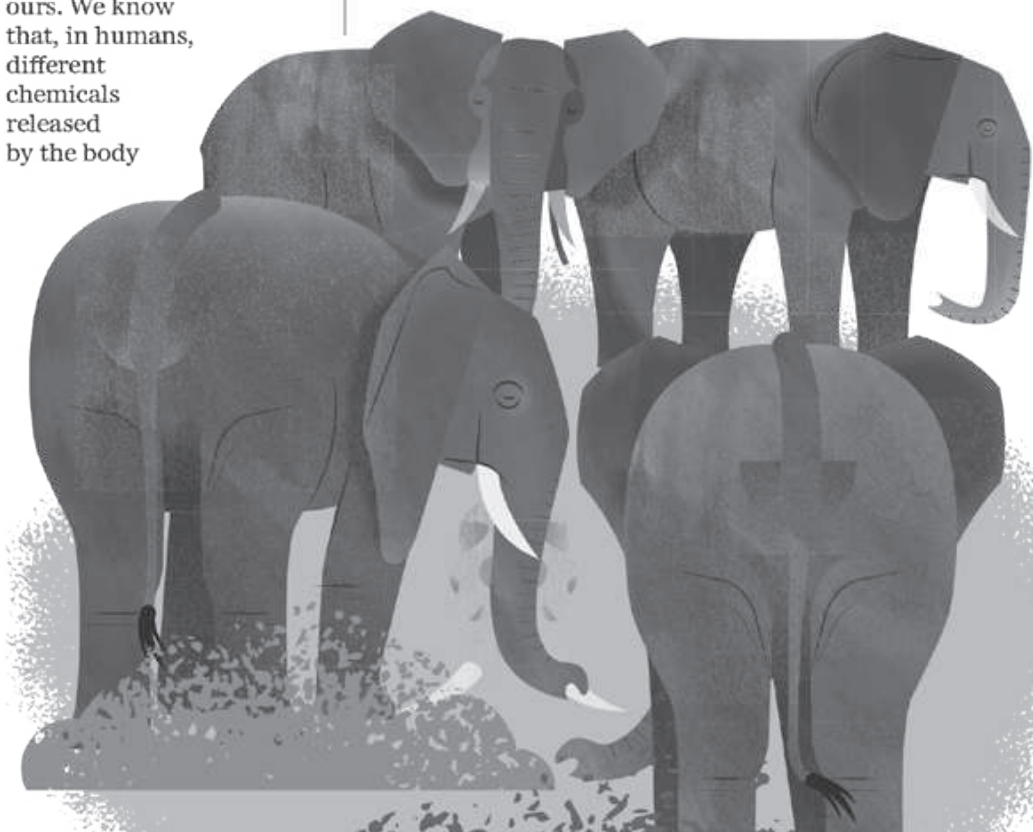
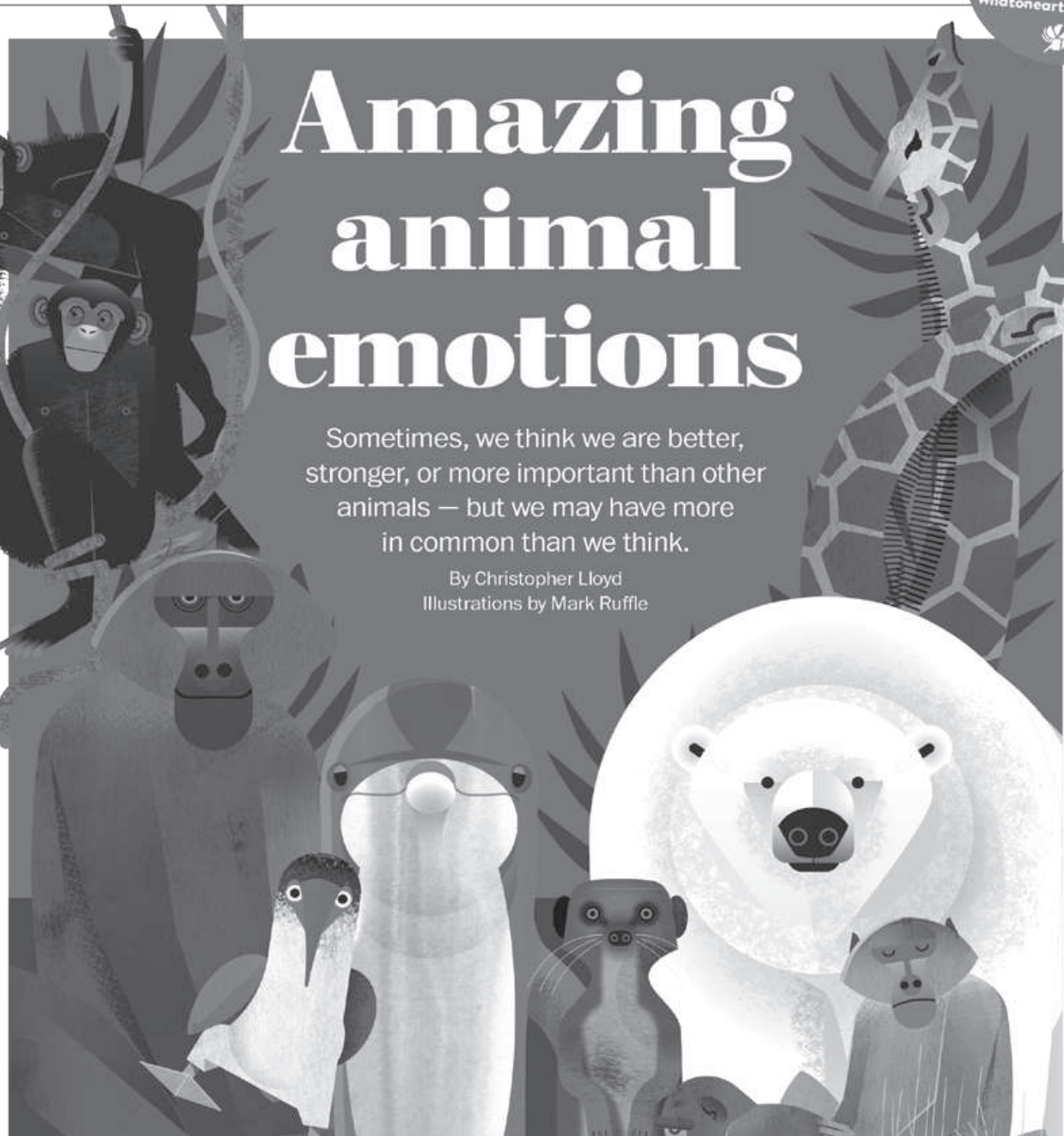
A polar bear mom takes care of her cub for two or three years. Mom and baby play together, rolling around in the snow. Mom keeps her cub close, making a clacking sound to call it back to her side. She also protects her cub from other polar bears and teaches it how to hunt, so it can fend for itself when it is old enough to be on its own. Do the mom and cub love each other? It looks as if they do.



Amazing animal emotions

Sometimes, we think we are better, stronger, or more important than other animals — but we may have more in common than we think.

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Illustrations by Mark Ruffle

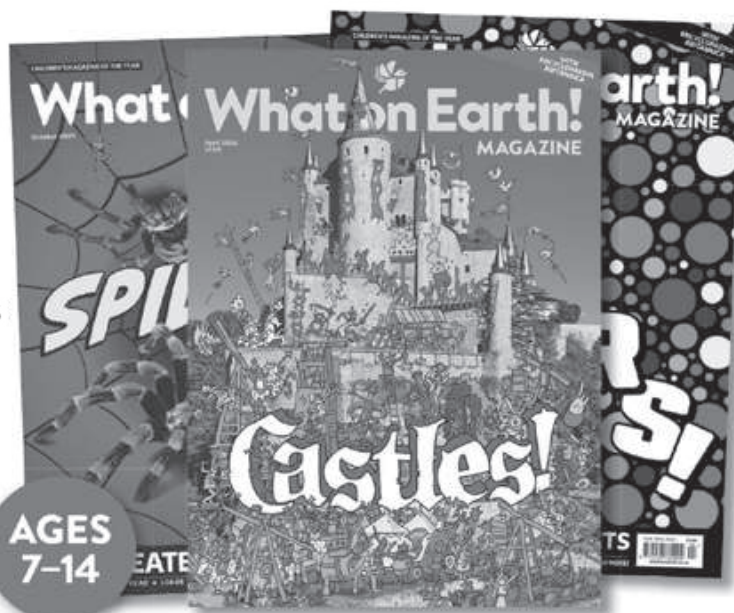


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