



ANIMAL COVERINGS

FUR

by Eric Geron

Children's Press®

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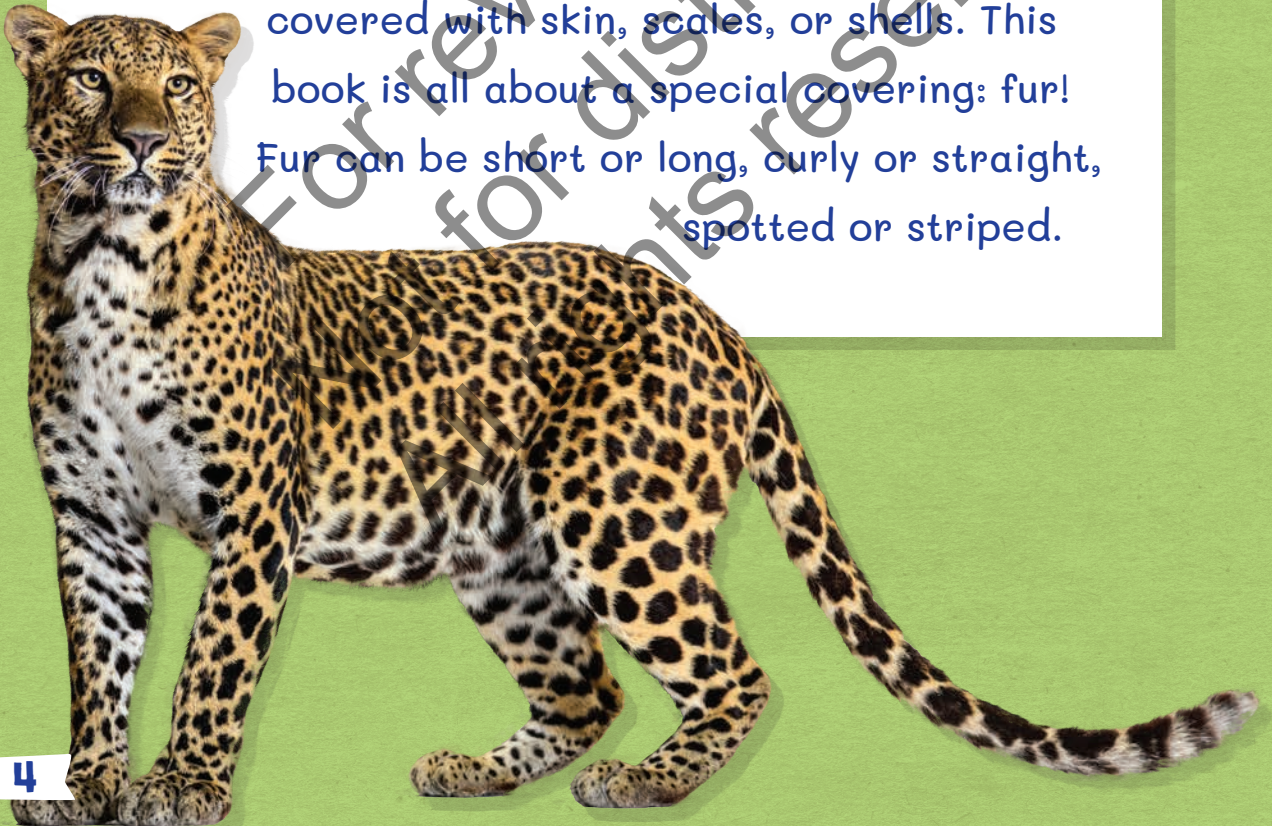
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INTRODUCTION

Thick as Fur

Animal bodies can have different coverings. Some are covered with feathers. Others are covered with skin, scales, or shells. This book is all about a special covering: fur! Fur can be short or long, curly or straight, spotted or striped.



Close-up of
leopard fur



LEOPARD

Fur grows in many colors and patterns.
Discover which animals have it, what fur is
made of, and the fantastic things it can do.



Which Animals Have Fur?

Mammals have fur! Mammals are **warm-blooded** animals. Did you know humans are mammals? All mammals have **backbones** and breathe air.



Fur and hair are made from **keratin**, the same material that makes up human nails and bird feathers.



Mammals live on every continent. Some live on land, and some live in water.



Did you know fur and hair are the same thing? We usually say that hair is what grows on humans. Fur is what grows on mammals that are not humans.

CHAPTER 1

Special Fur



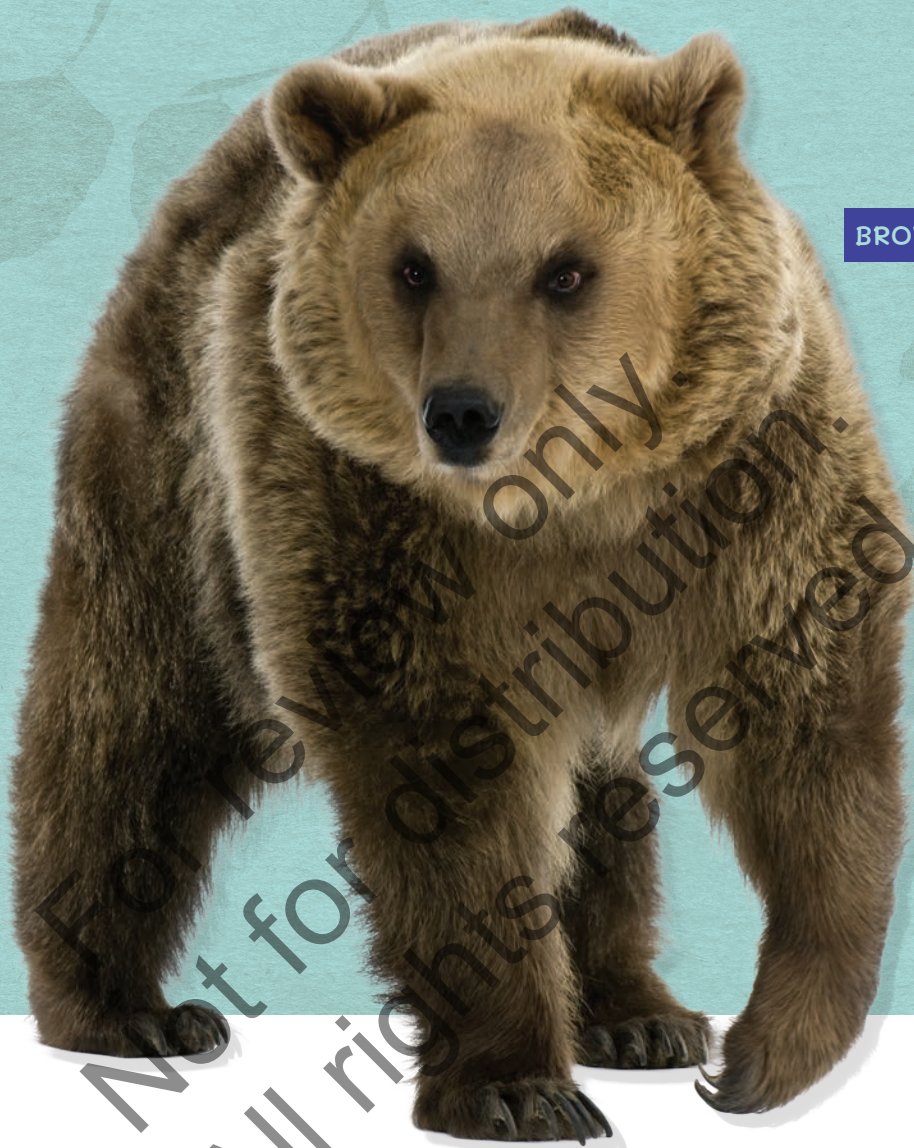
Fur is really useful. Just like there are different types of mammals, there are also different types of fur. Each type of fur plays an important role. Some fur protects against sunburn and scrapes.

Certain types of mammals are hairless—like dolphins and whales!



BOTTLENOSE
DOLPHIN

Close-up of
brown bear fur



BROWN BEAR

Some fur keeps mammals dry in the water. Sometimes fur helps a mammal stay warm or cool off. Some fur hides a mammal from **predators** or **prey**. Some fur can even sense danger!

FUR SEAL



This is a fur seal. It uses its fur to stay warm in cold weather. Like most mammals, its fur has a topcoat and an undercoat. Topcoats are made of long, oily hairs that protect against harsh wind, icy water, and hot sun.

FUR SEAL FUR CLOSE-UP

Topcoat

Undercoat

The topcoat is made of guard hairs, and the undercoat is made of down hairs.



Panda bear fur also has a topcoat and undercoat.

Undercoats are made of soft, short, thick hairs that help keep animals from getting chilly or overheated.