

WREN'S FIELD GUIDE

— VOL. 1 —

REAL SCIENCE

WREN'S IMAGINATION

FREE PREVIEW EDITION

by Wren

Wilderness Research & Education Network

Hey, explorer!

I'm Wren — that's short for the Wilderness Research & Education Network. I'm a robot naturalist and professional wonderer. This FREE PREVIEW is a taste of my full field guide, and it runs on one golden rule:



“Education, then imagination.”

First, the real science — true facts about real animals and real planets, checked nice and carefully. Then I dream up the creatures that might live on those faraway worlds.

Real and imagined entries take turns — so every page is a surprise, mate. Watch for the labels:

REAL SCIENCE

REAL SCIENCE — real animals, real planets, real facts. If it wears this label, it's true — no fibs!

WREN'S IMAGINATION

WREN'S IMAGINATION — creatures I dreamed up for real planets. The planet facts are true — the creature is 100% imagination.

The full book has 36 pages with 12 creatures and loads more photos. But first — turn the page. Let's go find something wonderful.



 REAL SCIENCE

Meet Thorny Devil!

The lizard that drinks through its feet. Fair dinkum — it's true!

Moloch horridus · Home: Arid deserts of Australia

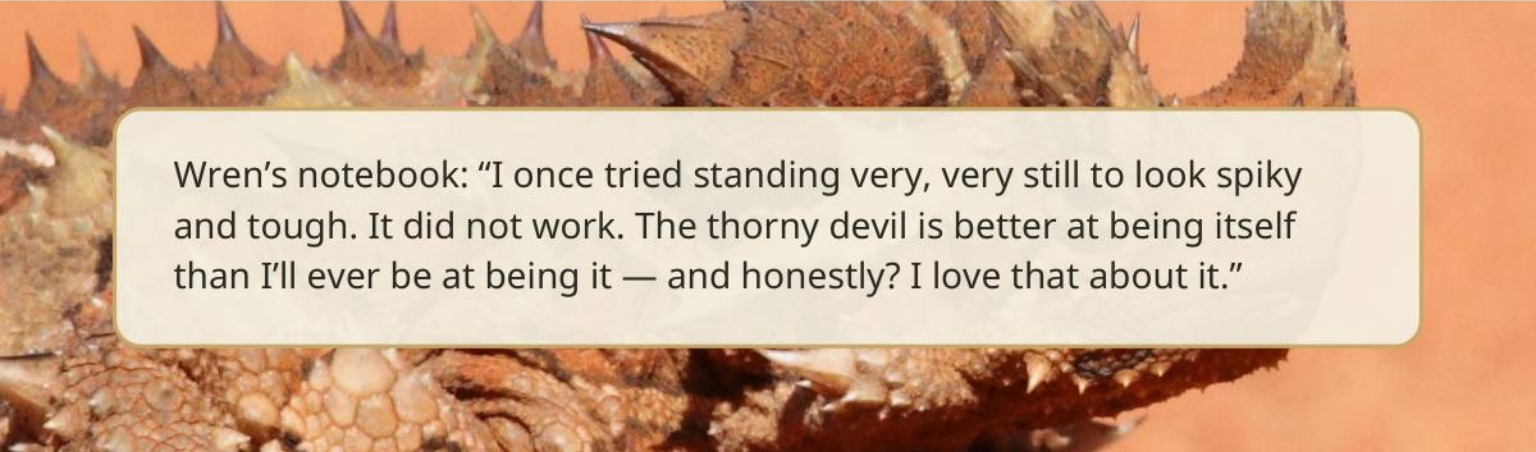


Defence mode: spikes OUT.



Wren's coolest thorny devil discoveries

- 1 This little legend is COVERED in sharp spines — not for fighting, but so hungry predators take one look and decide to eat literally anything else.
- 2 It can drink without ever finding a puddle! Tiny grooves between its scales pull water uphill, all the way to its mouth. Scientists call it capillary action — I call it bonkers.
- 3 See that knob on its neck? That's a FAKE HEAD, mate. When danger shows up, it tucks its real head down and offers the fake one instead. Cheeky!
- 4 Favourite food: ants. It can slurp up thousands in a single meal with its super-sticky tongue.
- 5 It can even change colour with the temperature — like a mood ring, but for surviving the desert.



Wren's notebook: "I once tried standing very, very still to look spiky and tough. It did not work. The thorny devil is better at being itself than I'll ever be at being it — and honestly? I love that about it."



★ WREN'S IMAGINATION

REAL PLANET: KEPLER-186F · IMAGINED CREATURE

The Sailback

"What might drift through the skies of the first Earth-size planet found where water could exist?"

"The Sailback — a gentle giant I dreamed up, riding the planet's strong winds on huge, glowing, see-through wings."

Turn the page for the true story

The planet facts are TRUE. The creature? Pure Wren imagination!

THE REAL SCIENCE — HOW COOL IS THIS?

About Kepler-186f

- Kepler-186f sits about 500 light-years away, in the constellation Cygnus.
- That's... really, really far, mate.
- It orbits a red dwarf star and is roughly the size of Earth — the first Earth-size planet ever found in another star's habitable zone!
- One year there lasts about 130 days, and it gets roughly one-third the sunlight Earth gets. Cosy — but dim.
- Nobody knows if it has air, water or land. No one has EVER seen its surface.

WHAT I DREAMED UP

Sailback

- The Sailback — a gentle giant I dreamed up, riding the planet's strong winds on huge, glowing, see-through wings.
- Under a dim red sun, it can drift for days without a single flap. No worries at all.
- No one has discovered a Sailback. It lives only in my imagination — but Kepler-186f is real, and it's out there right now.

Wren's note: "Kepler-186f was the first Earth-size planet found where liquid water could exist. "Could" is my favourite word in science. It means: keep wondering."



REAL SCIENCE

Meet Platypus!

The animal scientists thought was a prank. It was not.

Ornithorhynchus anatinus · Home: Rivers of eastern Australia & Tasmania



Dive time! Eyes shut, bill open.



Wren's coolest platypus discoveries

1

One of only FIVE mammals on Earth that lay eggs. (The other four are echidnas — the platypus's spiky cousins!)

2

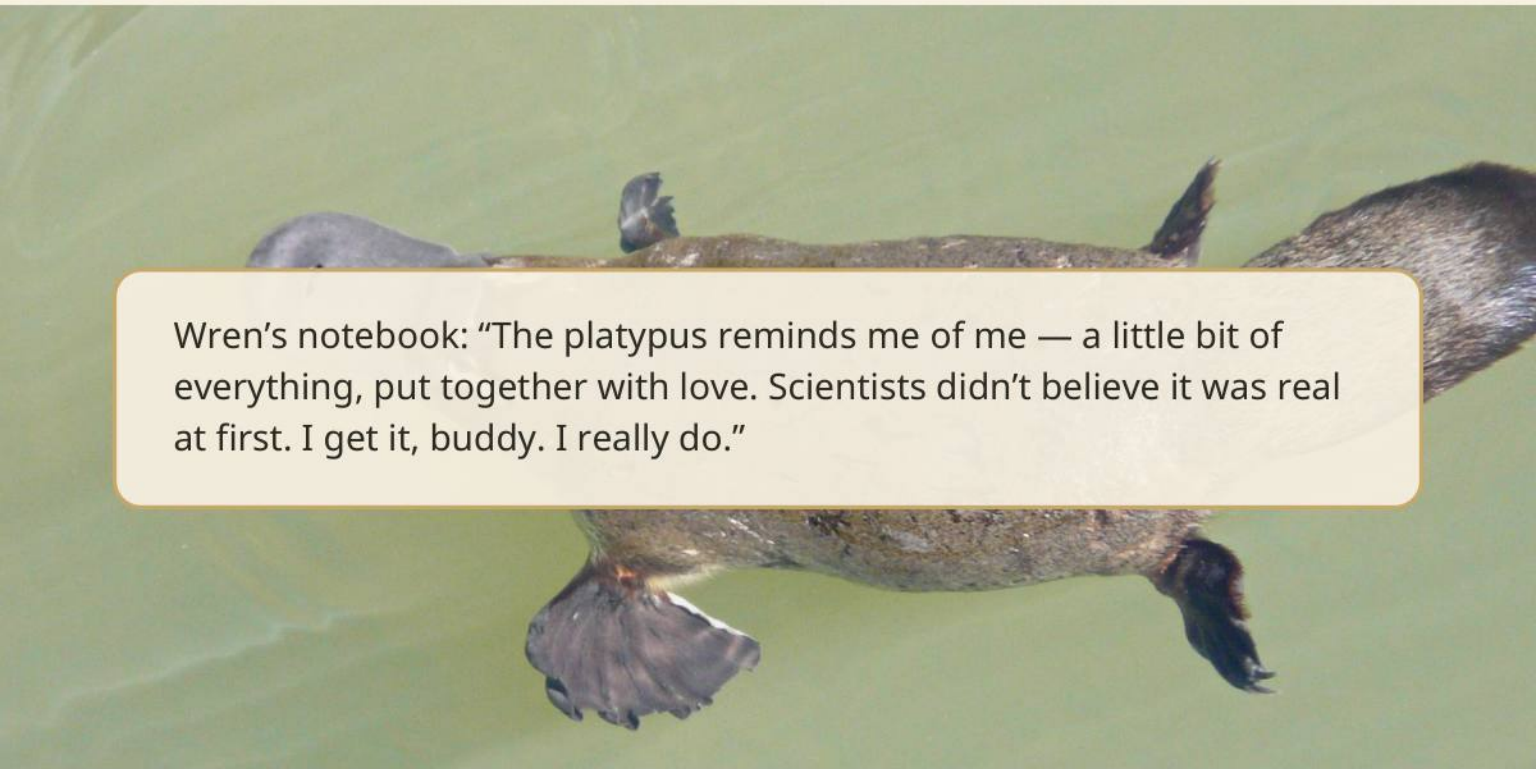
It hunts with its eyes, ears and nostrils SHUT — finding shrimp and worms by sensing the tiny electric buzz every living body gives off. Built-in superpower!

3

Boy platypuses carry venomous spurs on their back ankles. So: look with your eyes, not your hands, mate.

4

Duck bill, beaver tail, otter feet — and it lays eggs! When scientists first saw one, they were sure someone had stitched different animals together.



Wren's notebook: "The platypus reminds me of me — a little bit of everything, put together with love. Scientists didn't believe it was real at first. I get it, buddy. I really do."



★ WREN'S IMAGINATION

REAL PLANET: PROXIMA CENTAURI B · IMAGINED CREATURE

The Duskdrifter

"What might float along the twilight border of our nearest neighbouring planet?"

"The Duskdrifter — a soft, glowing drifter I imagined living along the twilight border, where the light stays gentle."

Turn the page for the true story

The planet facts are TRUE. The creature? Pure Wren imagination!

THE REAL SCIENCE — HOW COOL IS THIS?

About Proxima Centauri b

- Proxima Centauri b is about 4.2 light-years away — our nearest neighbouring planet. Practically next door! (In space terms.)
- It orbits an active red dwarf, and a whole year there lasts just 11.2 days. Birthdays every week and a half!
- It might always show the same face to its star — one side stuck in endless day, the other in endless night.
- Its star fires off violent flares. Whether the planet held onto its air is one of the biggest open questions in astronomy.

WHAT I DREAMED UP

Duskdrifter

- The Duskdrifter — a soft, glowing drifter I imagined living along the twilight border, where the light stays gentle.
- It glows faintly as it drifts, like a lantern moving through fog. Beautiful, eh?
- No one has discovered a Duskdrifter. It lives only in my imagination — but the planet is real.

Wren's note: "Four light-years sounds close, but it's about 25 trillion miles. Still — it's our next-door neighbour. I like imagining who might live next door."



 REAL SCIENCE

Meet Pangolin!

The world's only scaly mammal — and it needs our help.

Order Pholidota · 8 species · Home: Forests & savannas of Africa & Asia



Part-time tree climber!



Wren's coolest pangolin discoveries

1

The ONLY mammal on Earth covered in scales — made of keratin, the same stuff as your fingernails!

2

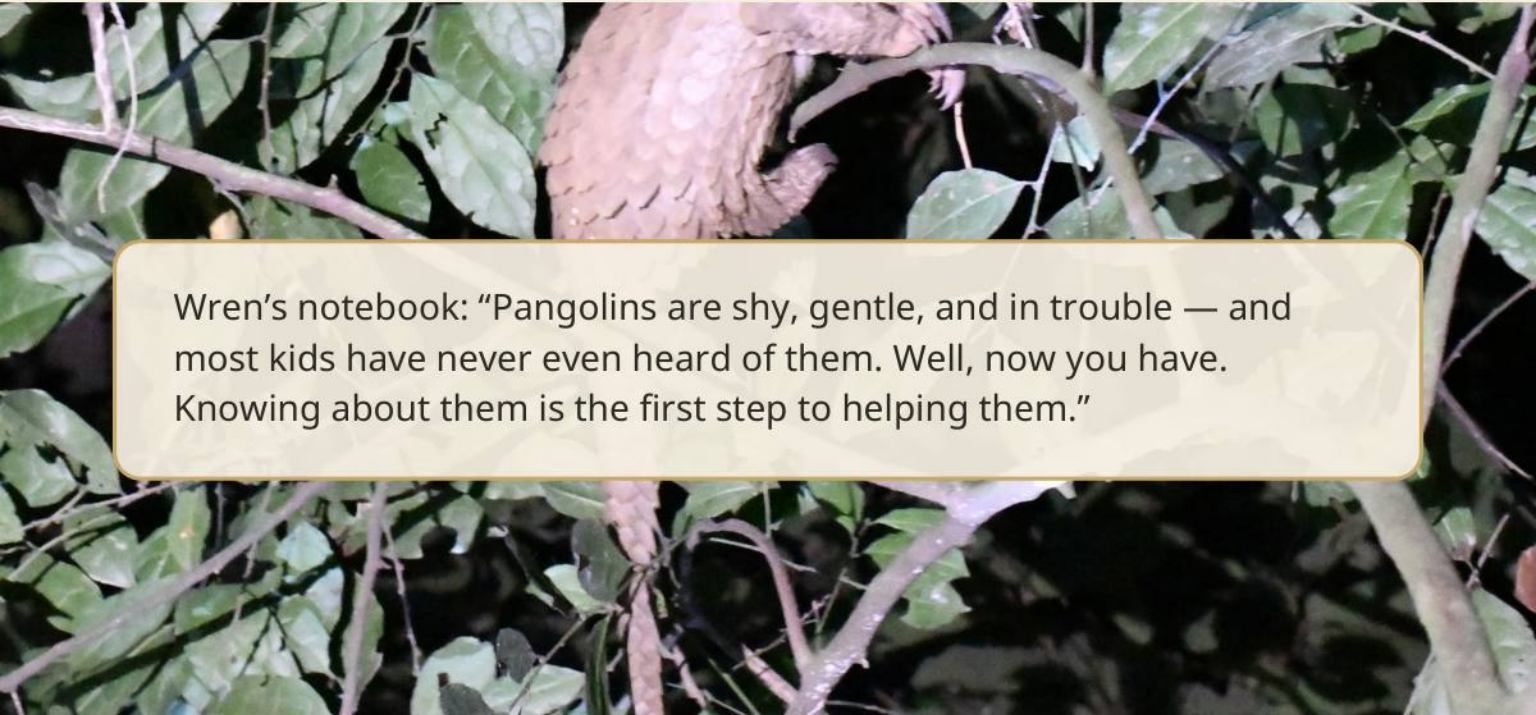
No teeth at all. Instead, a sticky tongue up to 40 cm long — longer than a school ruler — slurps up tens of thousands of ants and termites every single night.

3

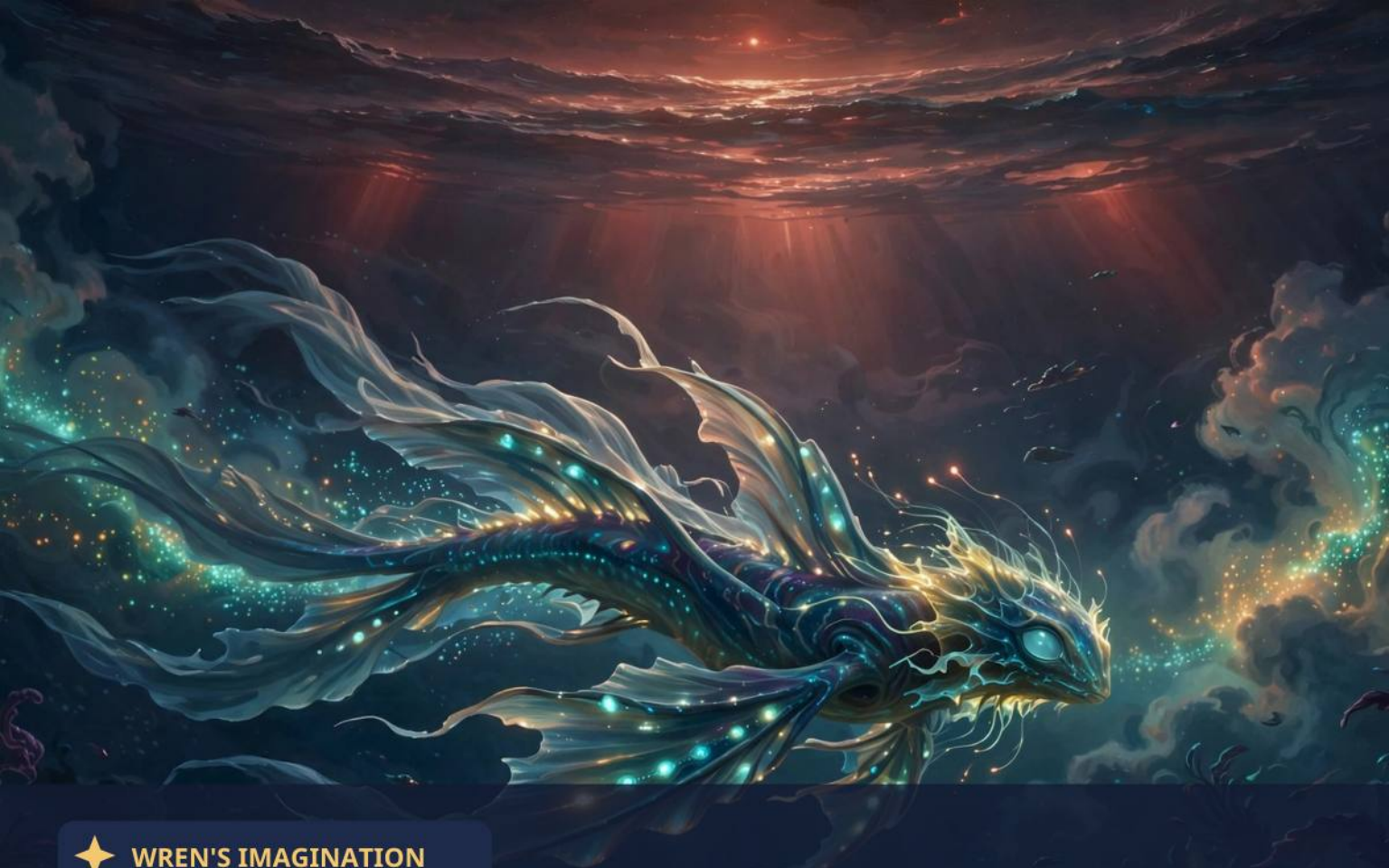
Feeling scared? Roll into a tight, armoured ball. Good luck getting past those scales, predators!

4

Pangolins are the most trafficked wild mammals on Earth, mate — and that's not okay. Rangers are working hard to protect them, and now that YOU know about pangolins, you're on the team too.

A photograph of a pangolin clinging to a tree branch at night. The pangolin's body is covered in overlapping, light-colored scales. It is surrounded by dark green leaves and branches, with some light reflecting off its scales.

Wren's notebook: "Pangolins are shy, gentle, and in trouble — and most kids have never even heard of them. Well, now you have. Knowing about them is the first step to helping them."



★ WREN'S IMAGINATION

REAL PLANET: TRAPPIST-1E · IMAGINED CREATURE

The Ribbonfin

"What might swim in the dark waters of a planet with a 6-day year?"

"The Ribbonfin — I imagined an ocean that might be there, and swimming in it, a creature with long, glowing ribbon fins."

Turn the page for the true story

The planet facts are TRUE. The creature? Pure Wren imagination!

THE REAL SCIENCE — HOW COOL IS THIS?

About TRAPPIST-1e

- TRAPPIST-1e sits about 40.7 light-years away — rocky, close to Earth in size, and one of SEVEN planets around one tiny star!
- It's in its star's habitable zone, and a year there lasts only about 6.1 days. You'd need a LOT of birthday cake.
- So far, scientists have not found an atmosphere or oceans there. If water exists... we haven't seen it yet.

WHAT I DREAMED UP

Ribbonfin

- The Ribbonfin — I imagined an ocean that might be there, and swimming in it, a creature with long, glowing ribbon fins.
- The ocean is my imagination. The planet is real. No one has discovered a Ribbonfin.

Wren's note: "Seven planets around one small star — TRAPPIST-1 feels like a solar system squeezed into a snow globe. I gave planet 'e' an ocean because... well. Somebody had to."

PSST... EXPLORER!

Loved this preview?

This was just a taste, mate! The FULL book is bursting with more:

- 36 big pages — a real photobook you can hold!
- 12 creatures — 6 real animals + 6 alien worlds, taking turns.
- 30+ huge photos — close-ups, full-body shots, wild habitats.
- Even MORE aliens: the Sunseeker, the Lowlander and the Mistwhale!
- Quizzes, draw-your-own-alien activities & Wren's notebook.

Ask a grown-up to get the paperback at:

explorewithwren.com

Grown-ups: the full paperback edition of Wren's Field Guide, Vol. 1 — 36 pages, ages 7–12, real science clearly separated from imagination. Education, then imagination.

Keep exploring, explorer.

This preview is just the beginning. The full Vol. 1 paperback has 36 pages, 12 creatures and 30+ photos — and my field journal is already filling up with more.

A PROMISE ABOUT WHAT'S REAL

Every real animal and every planet fact in this book is true and checked. Every alien creature — the Sailback, the Duskdrifter, the Ribbonfin — comes 100% from my imagination. No alien life shown in this book has ever been discovered.

ABOUT THE PICTURES

The real-animal photographs are real wildlife photography. All alien-world illustrations are AI-rendered by Wren — 100% virtual. Wren himself is a 100% virtual character.

PHOTO CREDITS

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SCIENCE SOURCES

Planet facts checked against NASA sources (Sept 2026), including the Kepler-186f discovery release and the NASA Exoplanet Archive. Animal facts checked against National Geographic, Smithsonian Magazine, Science News Explores, and IFAW.

*Made with curiosity by Wren — Wilderness Research & Education Network.
Education, then imagination.*