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JANUARY 2013

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

**125TH
ANNIVERSARY
SPECIAL ISSUE**

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Photo by George Steinmetz



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Natural gas flares up from beneath a North Dakota oil field.
Photo by Eugene Richards



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*"Why, they don't look like
nothin' at all!" a woman
exclaims. She has a point.*
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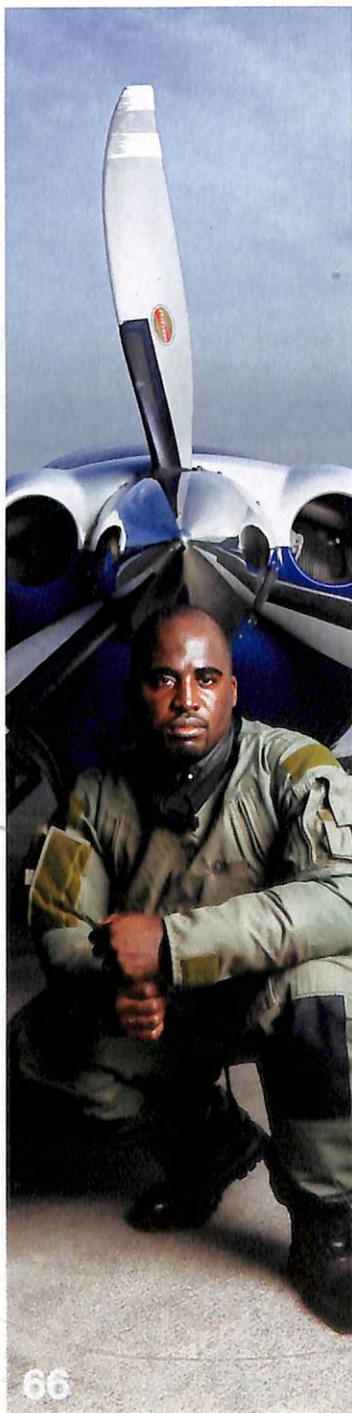
Photographs by Charles Fréger

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By Scott Wallace

Photographs by Alex Webb



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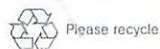
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Candidates for revival: giant sloth, Cuban red macaw, giant moa, Tasmanian tiger, saber-toothed cat, two passenger pigeons, dodo, woolly mammoth. Art by Jon Foster

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Silk + shrimp = eureka!

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The modern scientific quest for longevity evokes an old Jewish blessing: "May you live to be 120."
Photo by Robert Clark

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*When I arrived at the apex,
it was so crowded I couldn't
find a place to stand.
page 104*

Aboriginals have returned to ancestral homelands and connected with nature. These teens take time to admire the sunset.

AMY TOENSING



June 2013

38 **The Mystery of Risk**

Why do explorers put their physical self and their reputation in peril? The answer may surprise you.

By Peter Gwin

Risk Takers Tell All

Meet space jumper Felix Baumgartner, voted Nat Geo Adventurer of the Year, and five other stars.

Photographs by Marco Grob

56 **Onward and Downward**

Travel along on a record-breaking descent to the deepest spot in the ocean.

By James Cameron Photographs by Mark Thiessen

70 **First Australians**

An Aboriginal village invited our writer to visit. "Anything I can bring?" The reply: "Dinner for 25."

90 **Maxed Out on Everest**

Our team saw how the mountain has become an icon for everything that's wrong with climbing.

By Mark Jenkins

110 **Miracle in Mozambique**

Ravaged by civil war, today Gorongosa Park is well on its way to recovery.

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Norway reserves the right to hunt minke. But kids don't want to grow up to be whalers.

By Roff Smith Photographs by Marcus Bleasdale

142 **Whale Catch**

A worldwide survey. Despite a global moratorium on commercial whaling in 1986, the hunt

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Blue Honey

Turns out that bees like M&M's. You can tell from the hue of their nectar.

Boardwalk Empire

In the wake of superstorm Sandy, the question is: to rebuild or not?

Painting With Whiskers

Cats, wolves, and other creatures contribute to great art.

Lost and Found?

An old map of Roanoke Island, North Carolina, may solve the mystery of where the settlers of the Lost Colony went after 1587.

A Telescope Takes Off ▶

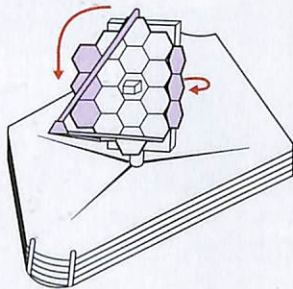
When it's launched into space in 2018, it hopes to see the first stars ever born.

Full Steam Ahead

Using a 19th-century idea, combined heat and power systems are making a comeback and saving energy costs.

This Marriage Can't Be Saved ▶

See Henry VIII's annulment request, now part of the Vatican Secret Archives.



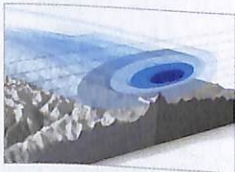
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Risk Takers Video

Watch Felix Baumgartner and other explorers.



Weather on Everest Animated Graphic

See how mountaineers find the best time to climb.



Norse Farewell Video

A mother talks about her teen leaving home.

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On the Cover Film director and National Geographic Explorer-in-Residence James Cameron, photographed in a sound studio at Manhattan Beach, California, on December 6, 2012. See page 143 to learn more about the cover. Photo illustration by Marco Grob. Digital retouching by Suesstrunk & Jericke

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PHOTO (TOP): MARCO GROB
GRAPHIC: BRYAN CHRISTIE DESIGN



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This baby yacare caiman is just a bit longer than a pencil. In adulthood the South American crocodilian can reach eight feet in length and is a fearsome predator.

LUCIANO CANDISANI

July 2013 **SUBSCRIBED****34 Mars Gets Its Close-Up**

The rover Curiosity is taking red planet portraits.

By John Grotzinger

44 It All Began in Chaos

The giant planets didn't always sit where they are today. Our solar system was shaped by a wild and stormy youth.

By Robert Irion Photographs by Mark Thiessen
Art by Dana Berry

62 Last Song for Migrating Birds

Across the Mediterranean millions are killed for food, profit, and cruel amusement.

By Jonathan Franzen Photographs by David Guttenfelder

90 Our Missing Ancestor

Meet a mysterious member of the human family.

By Jamie Shreeve Photographs by Robert Clark

102 Genes Are Us

Humans share a quarter of their genes with a grain of rice—a sign of our common heritage.

104 Daniel Kish: Bat Man

Blind since 13 months, he explores the world—and even rides a bike—by clicking his tongue.

By Michael Finkel Photograph by Marco Grob

106 Hay Beautiful

A walk through the grass-growing meadows of Transylvania will cheer your spirits. The old art of making hay is the reason.

By Adam Nicolson Photographs by Rena Effendi

126 The Comeback Croc

Thirty years ago the yacare caiman seemed doomed to a leathery death. What happened?

By Roff Smith Photographs by Luciano Candisani

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Dr. Porcupine

Needles are being redesigned to resemble a porcupine's quill.

Firsts and Lasts ▶

Our quiz tests your knowledge of exploration milestones.

Peruvian Priestess

Archaeological finds attest to the power of women.

Stormy Forecast

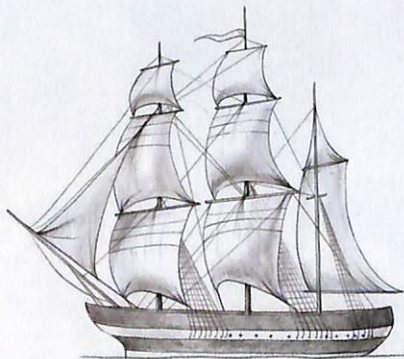
Has climate change affected the intensity of hurricanes?

The Final Rabbs' Frog ▶

Toughie, a fringe-limbed tree frog, is the last of his kind.

Burl Snatchers

A burl is a lumpy growth on a tree trunk. Thieves crave them.



136 Flashback



On the Cover This illustration shows how the moon was likely born. A Mars-size protoplanet crashed into Earth billions of years ago. Rocky debris spun into space and formed our satellite within a century.
 Art by Dana Berry

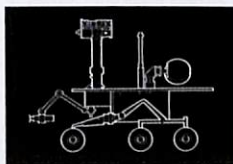
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Mars Rovers

Interactive Graphic

Get to know the vehicles that explore the red planet.



Songbird Awakening

Video

The photographer tells how the story affected him.



Transylvania Farmers

Video

See their beautiful land, their old-fashioned life.

FROM TOP: MATTHEW TWOMBLY, NGM STAFF; DAVID GUTTENFELDER; RENA EFFENDI



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Survival of the fattest: After he was weaned, this cub, about six months old, would steal milk from other mothers.

MICHAEL NICHOLS, NGM STAFF

August 2013

26 **The Surprising Life of Lions**

The only cat that's truly social is the lion. But why...and how? To find out, our team spent many months with the prides of the Serengeti.

By David Quammen Photographs by Michael Nichols

58 **Living With Lions**

Africa's lions may number no more than 35,000. In Kenya a program called Lion Guardians points to a way to save the beleaguered cats.

By David Quammen Photographs by Brent Stirton

74 **Sugar Love: A Not So Sweet Tale**

We were smitten 10,000 years ago on the island of New Guinea. Today the average American downs 22.7 teaspoons a day.

By Rich Cohen Photographs by Robert Clark

94 **Underwater Secrets of the Maya**

"I saw it, I saw it! Yes, it's true!" the archaeologist shouts: divine light at the bottom of a natural well.

By Alma Guillermoprieto

Photographs by Paul Nicklen and Shaul Schwarz

116 **Cave Bravery**

Technology is redefining how caves are explored.

By A. R. Williams

118 **Sunita Williams: Spacewalker**

The astronaut steps into the void.

By Rachel Hartigan Shea Photograph by Marco Grob

120 **Behind the Painted Elephant**

In India the animal is a treasure—and sometimes also a work of art.

By Rachel Hartigan Shea Photographs by Charles Fréger

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Snake Hunt

Find out what happened when Florida declared open season on pythons.

World Without Words ▶

What do the pictures to the right tell you?



Let the River Flow

Floods released from Glen Canyon Dam benefit the Grand Canyon.



Viking Mice

Many a mouse has Norse ancestry.

Recipe for Dilbit

It's a tar sands product diluted with chemicals—and it's got problems.

Carping About Carp

Asian species are invading American waters. One solution: carp cakes!



I Smell a Fly ▶

Goldenrod can sniff 'em out—and release toxins to deter egg laying.

128 Flashback



On the Cover A single cupcake can contain up to 800 calories, depending on its size and gourmet credentials. There's a lot of butter in the batter and icing. And, of course, plenty of sugar.

Photo by Robert Clark

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Lions Video

Meet the lions—and the people who study them.



Sacred Cenotes Video

Follow photographer Paul Nicklen into a holy Maya cave.

PHOTOS: MICHAEL NICHOLS, NGM
STAFF (TOP), PAUL NICKLEN



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PASCAL MAITRE

September 2013

44 **Rising Seas**

They're inevitable. And they're sure to be costly—especially if we don't prepare.

By Tim Folger Photographs by George Steinmetz

Special Poster: If All the Ice Melted

68 **Australia's Big Bird**

The cassowary is a standout: Six feet tall, 160-plus pounds, and dad sits on the eggs.

By Olivia Judson Photographs by Christian Ziegler

86 **Climbing Untamed Antarctica**

The first thing that the team members learned: Don't attach yourself to a kite.

By Freddie Wilkinson Photographs by Cory Richards

102 **Space Mountains**

Other planets in the solar system have them too. And they dwarf Mount Everest.

By Luna Shyr

104 **JR: Prince of Prints**

From Cuba to Kenya, this bold French artist makes political points with his giant portraits.

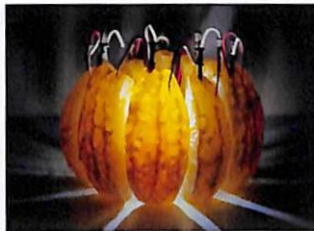
By Melody Kramer Photograph by Marco Grob

106 **Urban Pulse of the Congo**

The miracle of Kinshasa is that amid all the chaos of this capital city, creativity and artists survive and thrive.

By Robert Draper Photographs by Pascal Maitre

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Slugger's Dilemma

Baseballers like maple bats. One problem: They break more often than ash.

Quiz: Women Explorers

Who was first to go around the Earth? What did Sue Hendrickson discover?

A Wave of Creativity

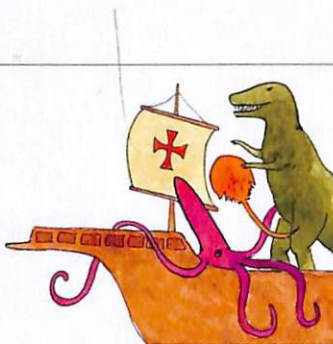
Washed-up toys and floats and nets are turned into art.

Pangolin's Peril

The mammal with up to a thousand scales is heavily trafficked for meat and medicine.

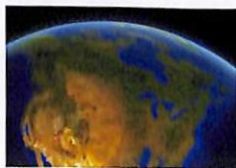
Fairy Circles

They're grassy rings in southern Africa's deserts. Now we know their origin.



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Rising Seas Animated Graphic

See how sea-level rise would reshape the planet.



Antarctic Climb Video

Join this expedition "and be prepared for anything."



Kinshasa Video

Watch a painter work by lantern light.



On the Cover If all of Earth's ice does melt thousands of years from now—the most extreme of all extreme scenarios—scientists estimate that the seas could rise up to 216 feet, covering much of Lady Liberty.

Art by Nick Kaloterakis

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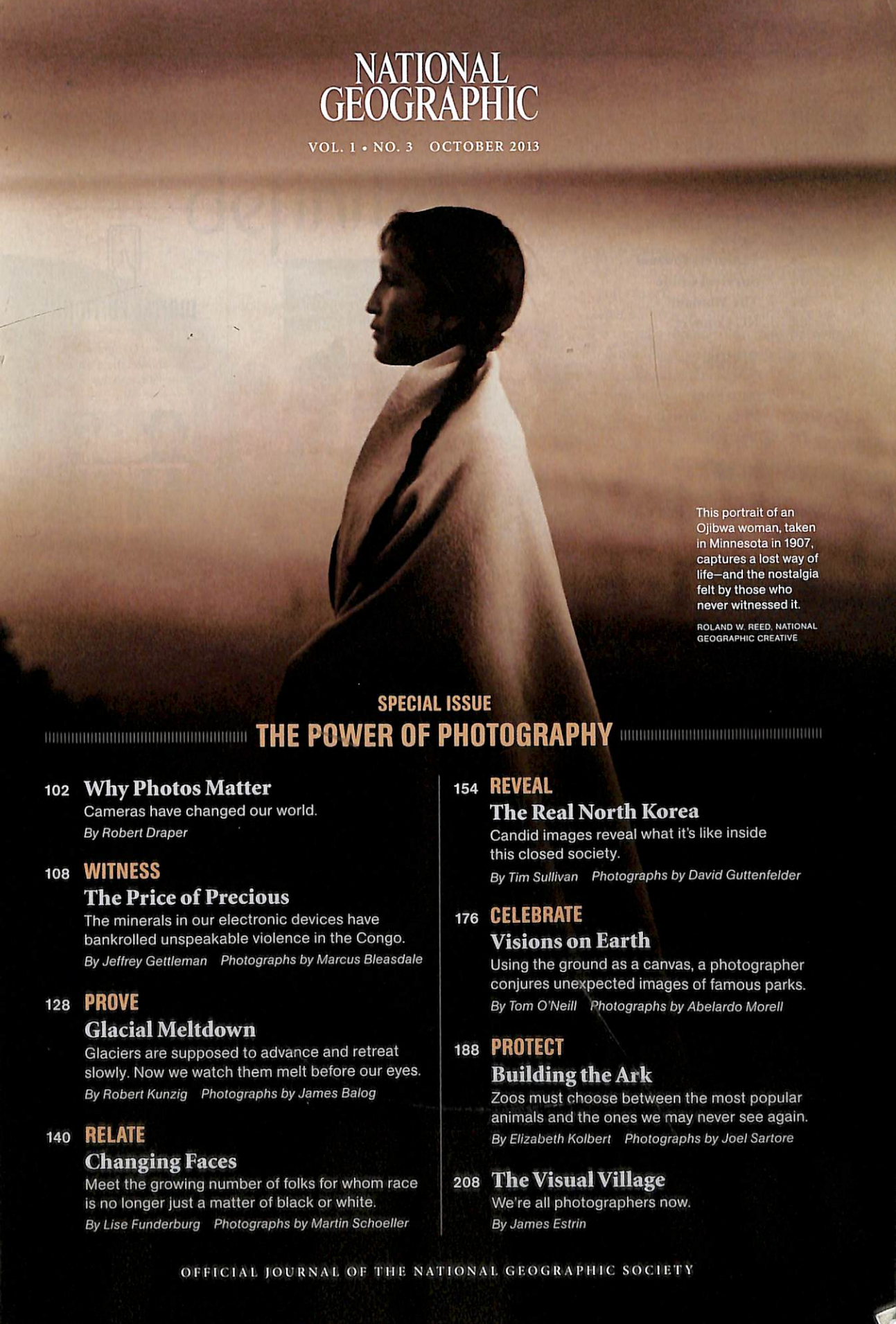


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GRAPHIC: JASON TREAT, NGM STAFF
PHOTOS: CORY RICHARDS (TOP),
PASCAL MAITRE

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VOL. 1 • NO. 3 OCTOBER 2013



This portrait of an Ojibwa woman, taken in Minnesota in 1907, captures a lost way of life—and the nostalgia felt by those who never witnessed it.

ROLAND W. REED, NATIONAL
GEOGRAPHIC CREATIVE

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Tracking Tornadoes
Video Interactive
Learn about the work of storm chasers.



Kimbe Bay
Video
Swim the reefs with photographer David Doubilet.



On the Cover

Tim Samaras loved chasing storms—like this 2003 tornado near the town of Manchester, South Dakota. Throughout his career, his goal was to place probes to collect data about the nature of storms. He died in the tornado that hit El Reno, Oklahoma, on May 31, 2013. Photo by Carsten Peter

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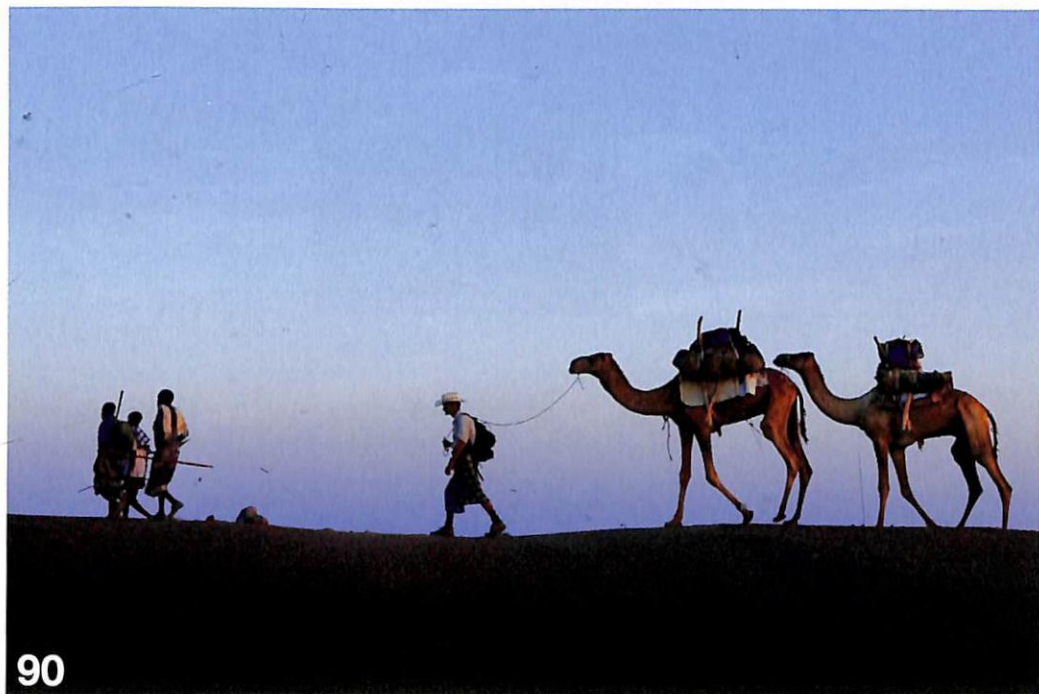
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JOHN STANMEYER

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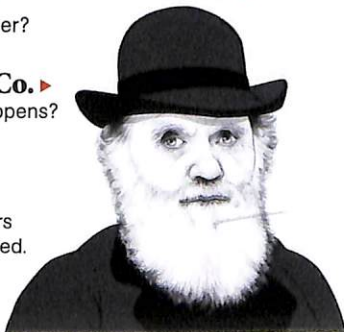
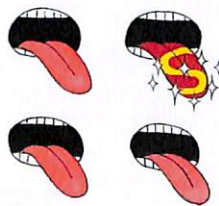
How can you tell if you're a member?

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A certain fish's skin keeps predators from spotting it. The Navy is intrigued.



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On the Cover A bull walrus atop sea ice in Svalbard, Norway. The ivory tusks, up to two feet long, are used to help the creature out of the icy sea—and in an attack, can prove to be a useful tool against predators.

Photo by Paul Nicklen

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