



When you first gazed upon the colorful image on the front of this book, did you wonder what it was? A cobblestone path meandering through the woods, maybe? Perhaps the scales atop the back of some exotic insect? The inside of a jungle flower? A swirling spiral interior of a particularly interesting sea shell?

It is, in fact, the curled tail of a veiled chameleon (*Chamaeleo calyptatus*), which lives in the wild among trees in the Middle Eastern countries of Yemen and Saudi Arabia. This colorful species breeds easily and quickly, making the veiled chameleon well suited for captivity and therefore the most common chameleon species sold as a pet.

We chose a common pet for the cover of this book because it illustrates that nearly everyone has an inborn attraction to the beauty found throughout the natural world—which is why, after all, people keep pets. This same attraction leads many of us to tend gardens and houseplants, enjoy parks, visit zoos, stroll along the beach, and watch TV shows about sharks. We all have an innate curiosity about life on Earth. This desire to learn forms the heart of biology, and it is the inspiration behind this textbook.

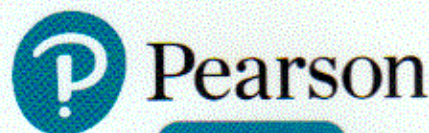
The image on the cover was selected because *Biology: The Core* is all about seeing—seeing the big picture, seeing the point, seeing the connections between biology and your life. This book will help you clearly visualize the most important aspects of biological concepts—the core of each subject—and to bring into focus the connections to real-life issues that affect you and those you care about. The text is visual and accessible, inviting you in to explore and understand the natural world. The hope is that this book excites your interest in biology and allows you to see the world with new eyes.

Mastering Biology ► SEE biology's relevance by focusing on core concepts

Mastering Biology is a learning platform designed with you in mind, offering:

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