**Strange but True! extracts**

Another red world is Mars. It is called the “Red Planet” because of the dusty surface layer of orange-red iron oxide. Alien life forms may have lived on Mars three billion years ago when it was warmer and had flowing water. *(p18)*

Honey hunters in the Sundarbans forests of Bangladesh run the risk of tiger attacks. They light fires beside cliffs to smoke the bees out, but many hunters are injured or killed when the big cats come to investigate. *(p62)*

Few people can stand the heat of the Danakil Depression in Ethiopia. Active volcanoes sizzle inside this desert basin and sulphur springs emit choking gases. On the hottest days temperatures in the Danakill depression soar to more than 50° C (122°F). *(p26)*

The talipot palm has the largest flower spike of all. Its flowers form an 8m (26 ft) structure on top of the tree, which itself can be up to 25m (82 ft) tall. *(p 89)*

*Adapted from Strange but True by Dorling Kindersley*