



Weird and Wonderful

NATURAL FORMATIONS



A note from Dr R K Pachauri

'Quirky' is possibly the word farthest from our minds when we think of nature. But it is a fact that underneath the beauty lies a side of nature that is completely out of the ordinary. Not many of us are aware of this facet, but once it is introduced to us, we cannot help but be amazed.

This series focuses on the most remarkable, yet little-known wonders of the natural world. From the tiniest to the world's biggest and heaviest flower; a fruit that looks like a hand; a desert full of salt; carpenter bees and tailor birds; from smoking hills to ringing rocks—these are indeed the most peculiar among animals, fruits, flowers, and natural phenomena.

By introducing children to the oddest and strangest, these books are sure to imbibe in them an inquisitiveness to learn more about nature. At a time and age when our future generations are at risk of getting more and more cut off from the world around them, this series will rekindle their interest by focusing on the unusual. I hope these pages will also instil in young minds a sense of responsibility to care for the environment that has so much surprise in store.



R K Pachauri
Director-General, TERI
Chairman, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change