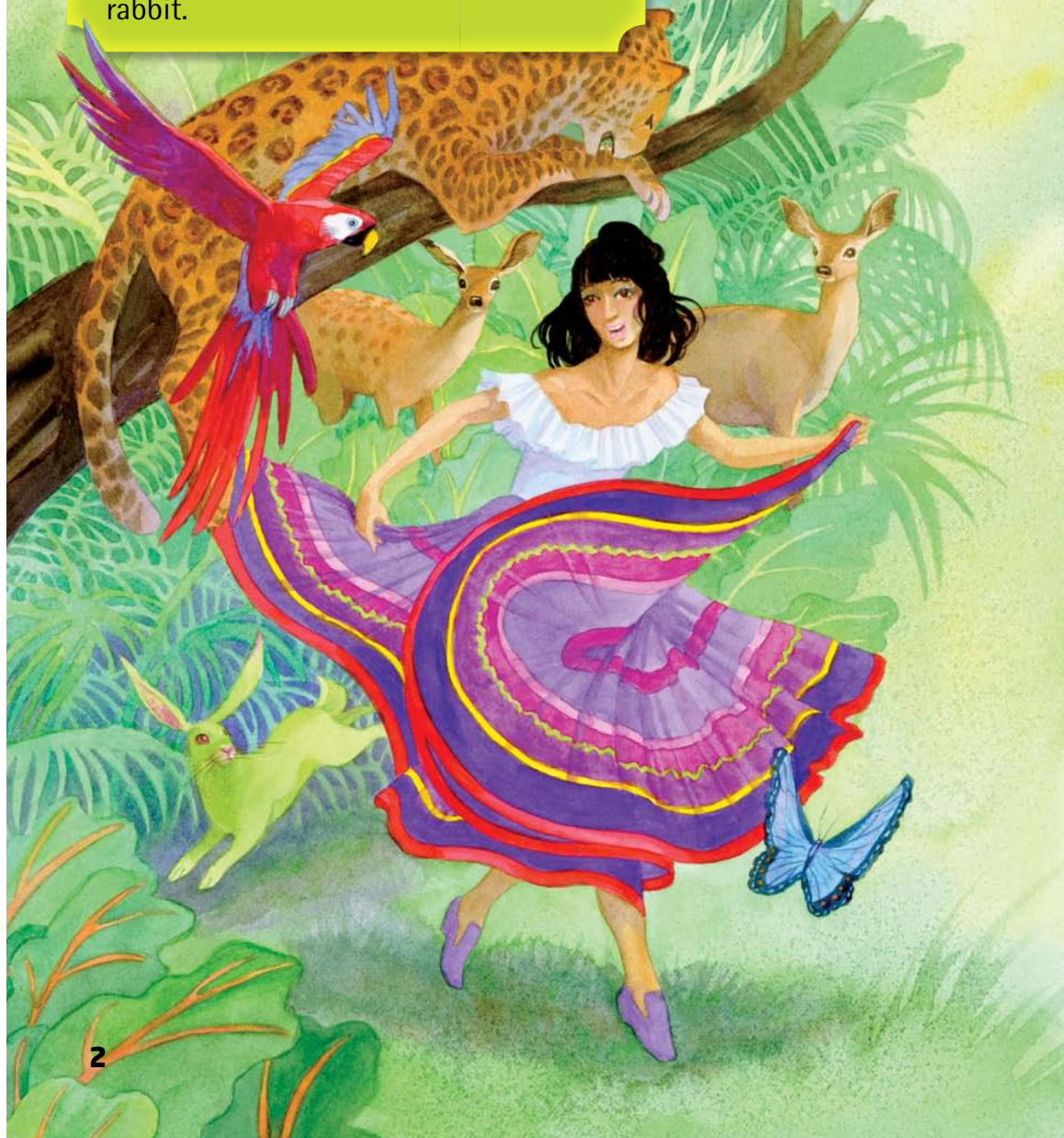


Long ago in Mexico, a pretty girl named Marisol walked in the forest near her home. As she walked, she sang.

Her singing was so beautiful, the forest animals came close to hear it.

One of the animals was a big, green rabbit.



2



The rabbit hopped right up to Marisol. "A green rabbit!" she said. "How amazing!" The rabbit followed Marisol through the forest. It even followed her to her home. "You are the cutest rabbit!" said Marisol.

3

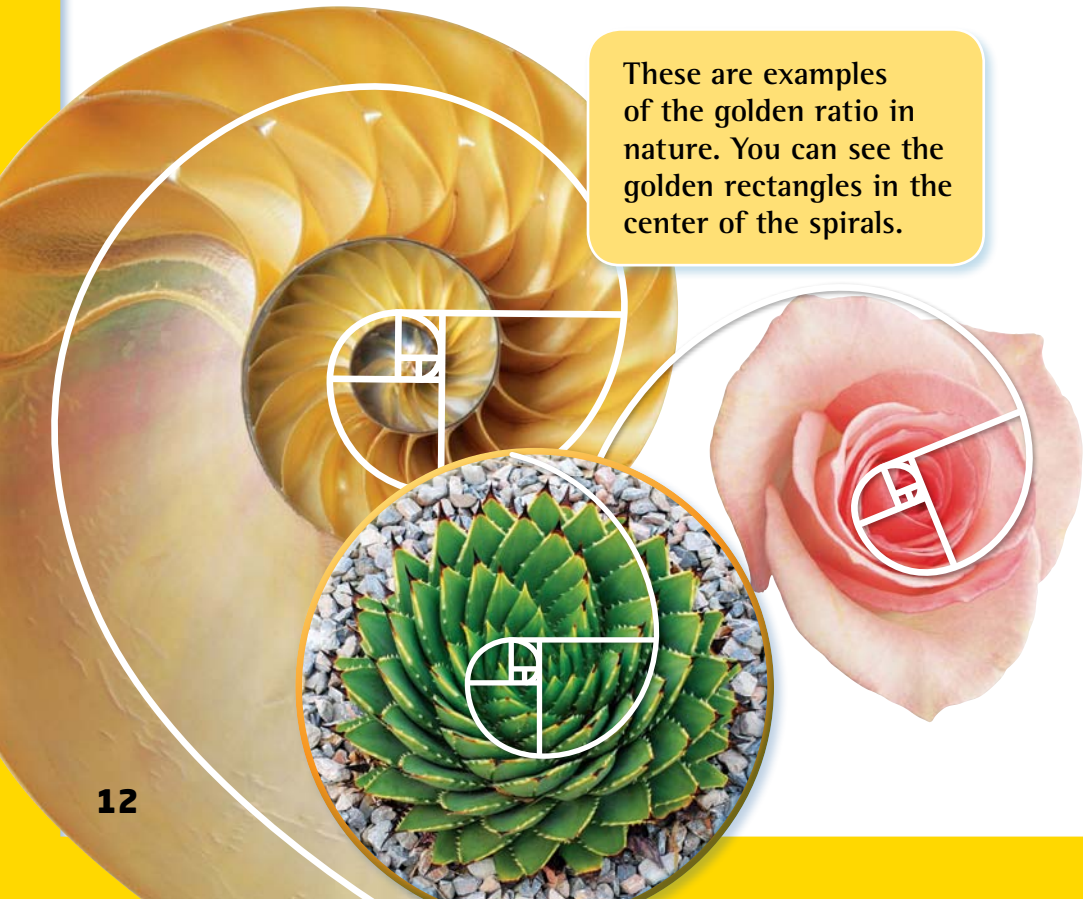
Facts About Beauty

Many fairy tales include beautiful princesses and handsome princes. But what is beauty?

Long ago, artists and scientists had an idea about what made some things more beautiful than others. They called this idea the **golden ratio**.

The golden ratio describes a rectangular space, also called a golden rectangle, which has a length slightly more than one and a half times its width. This ratio is described in math as 1:1.618. This ratio is everywhere in nature. It can be found in plants, flowers, seashells, insects, and parts of the human body.

These are examples of the golden ratio in nature. You can see the golden rectangles in the center of the spirals.

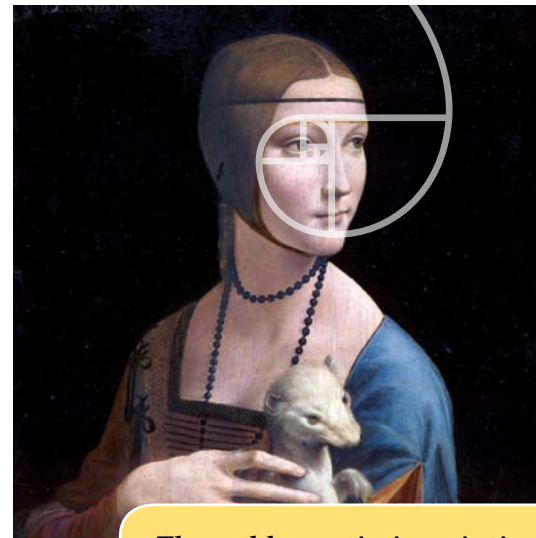


The golden ratio in the Parthenon

Ancient builders used the golden ratio to make beautiful buildings like the Parthenon in Greece.

Artists used the golden ratio to create beauty in their paintings

of people. The faces in these paintings are about one and a half times longer than they are wide. Many people think this makes the people look beautiful or handsome.



The golden ratio in paintings by Leonardo da Vinci (above) and Diego Rodríguez de Silva y Velázquez (above, right)

The faces of popular and beautiful movie stars often show the golden ratio, too. Still, different people have different ideas about what looks beautiful. That's what makes the world such an interesting place!