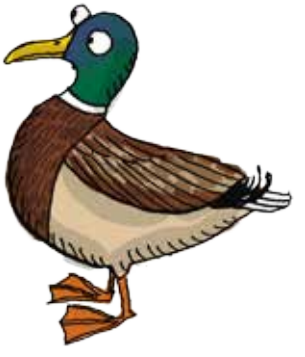
Adrienne Barman

CREATUREPEDIA

WELCOME TO THE GREATEST SHOW ON EARTH

WIDE EYED EDITIONS



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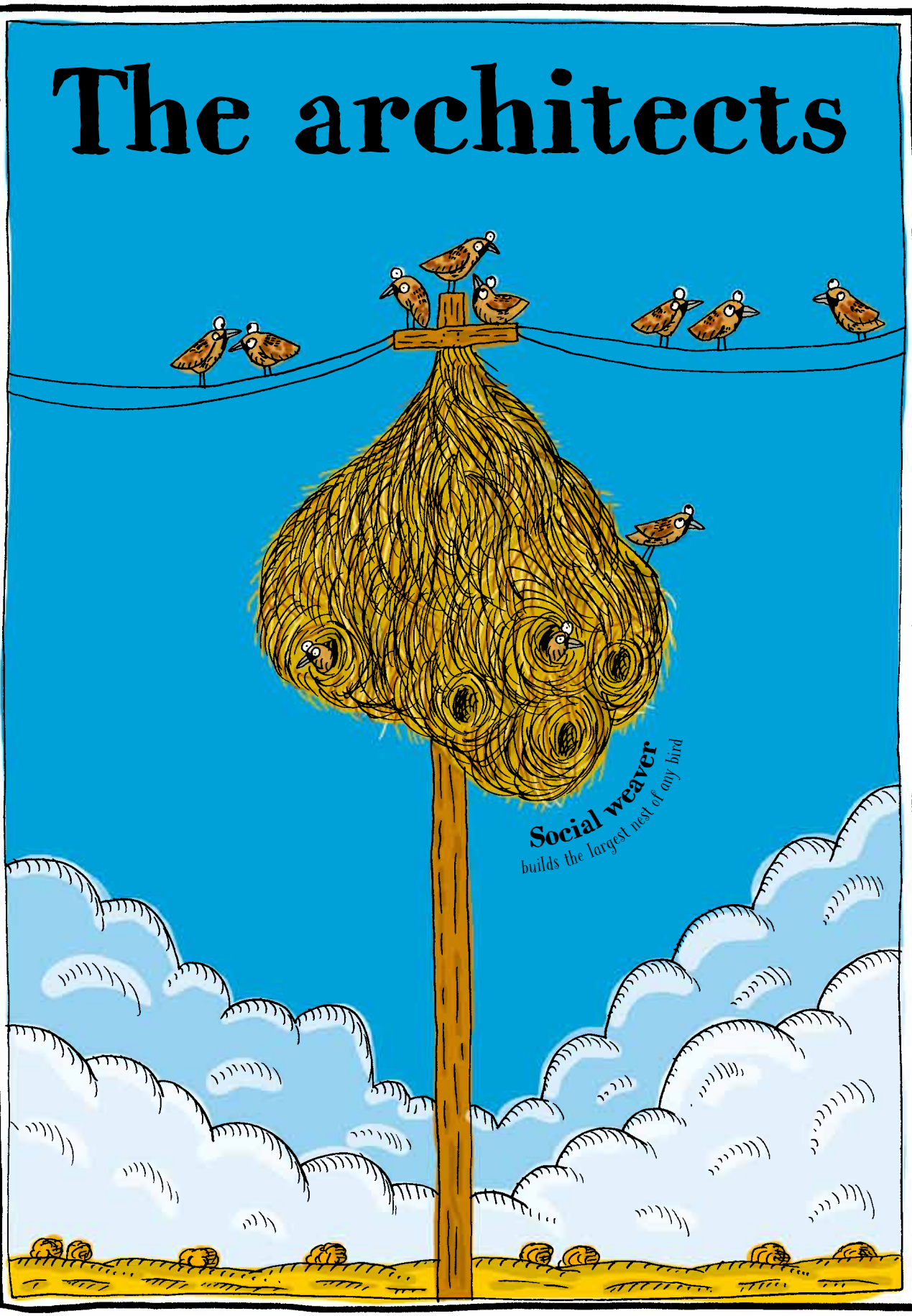
CREATUREPEDIA celebrates the amazing array of animals that grace our planet. Sadly, some are now under threat, some are already extinct (and one or two may never have existed in the first place!), but each one has its own unique part to play in the animal kingdom...

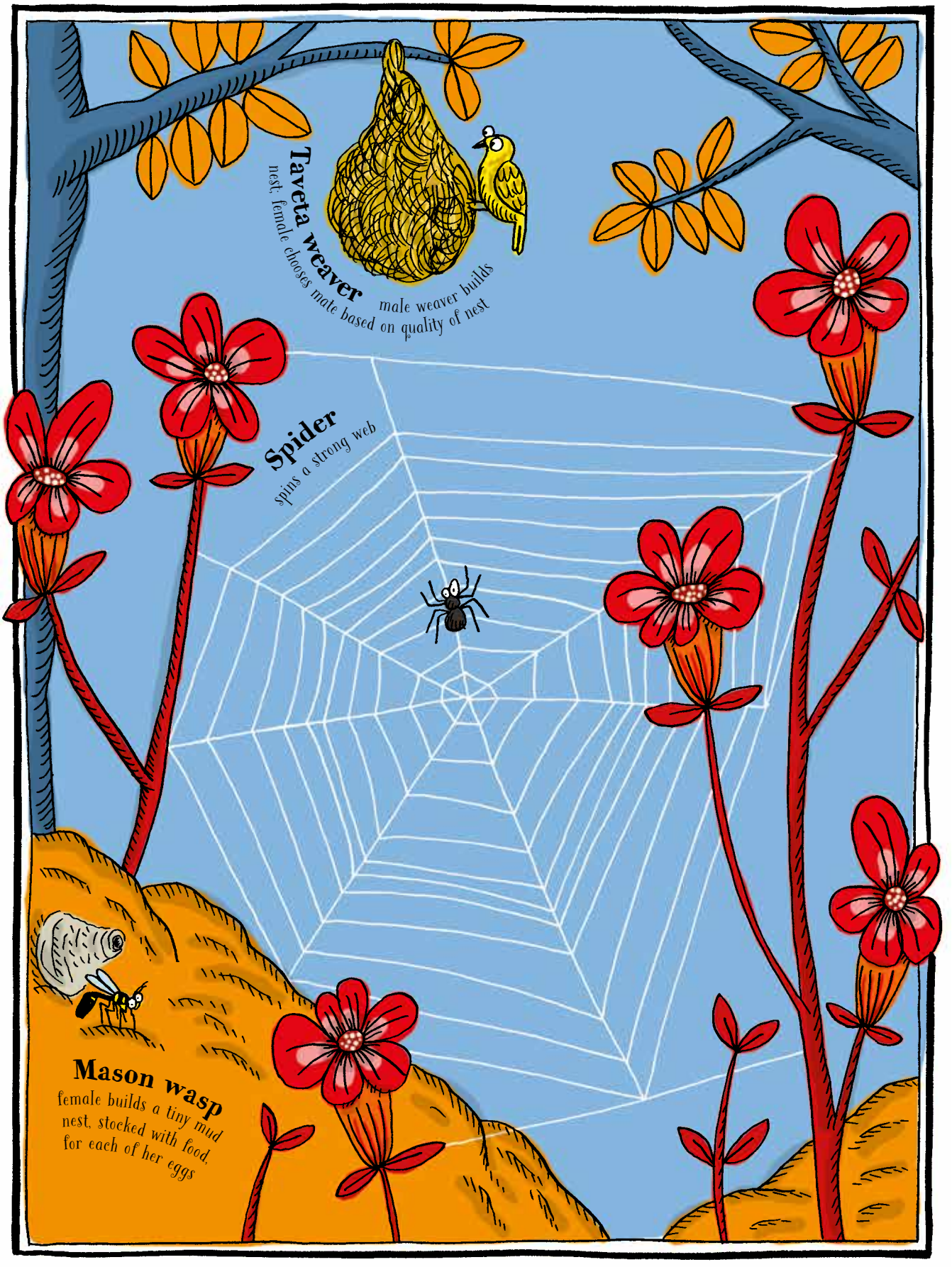
Turn the page to see the greatest show on Earth and discover who is the biggest, the brainiest, and the most beautiful of them all.

The architects



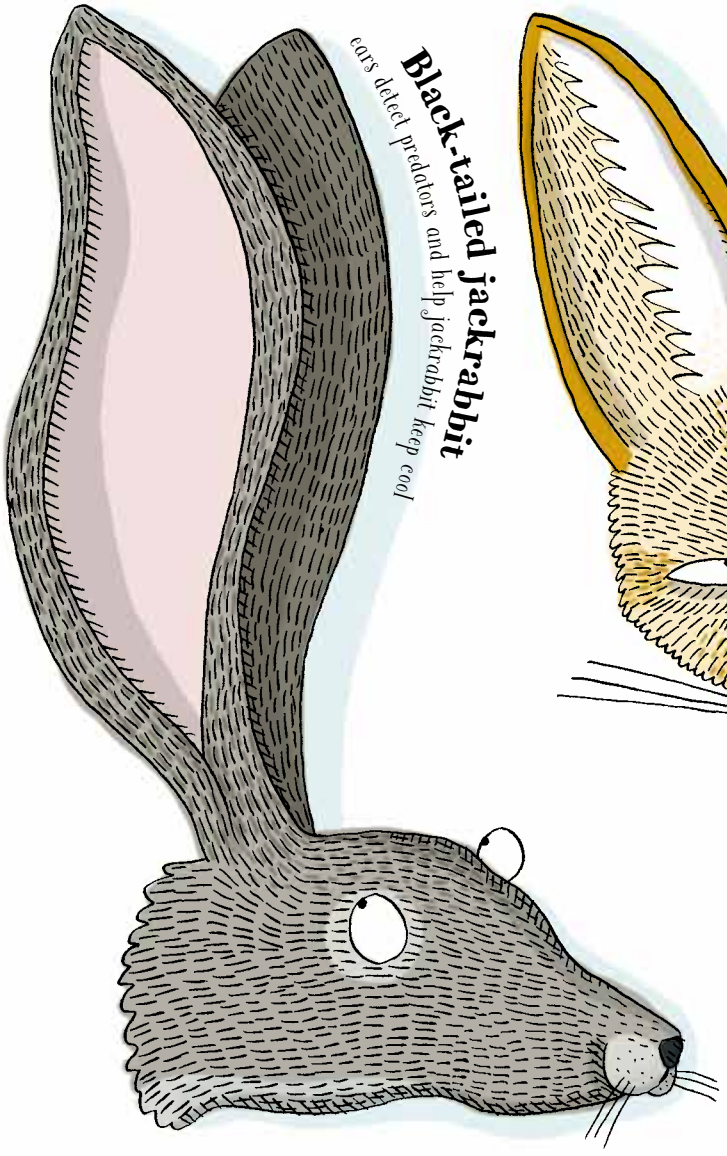
The architects

Prairie dog
burrow has sleeping chambers, nursery chambers, and chambers for hiding from hunters

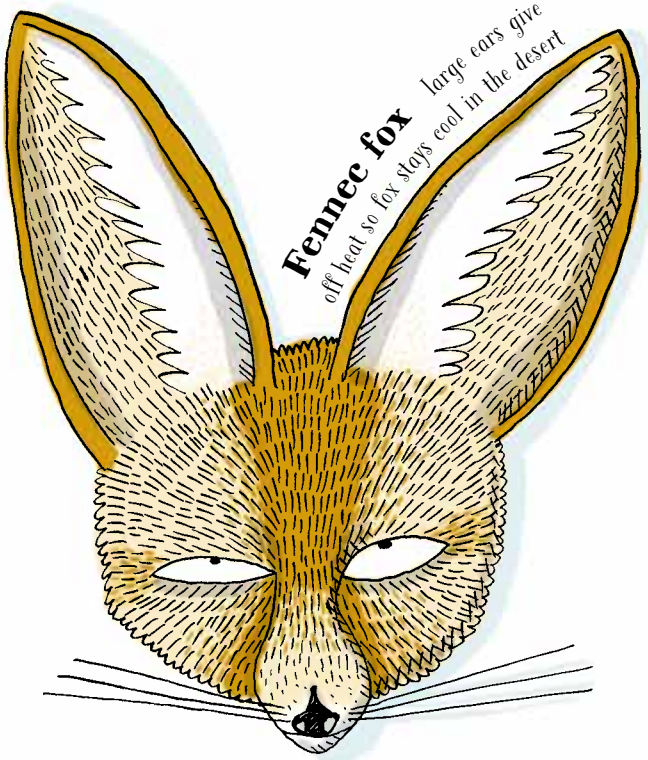

Taveta weaver
male weaver builds nest, female chooses mate based on quality of nest
Spider
spins a strong web
Mason wasp
female builds a tiny mud nest, stocked with food, for each of her eggs

Sand martin
burrows a nest in a sandy cliff face
Red ovenbird
builds a mud nest that looks like a wood-fired oven
Termite
works with others to build enormous mounds

The big-eared beasts

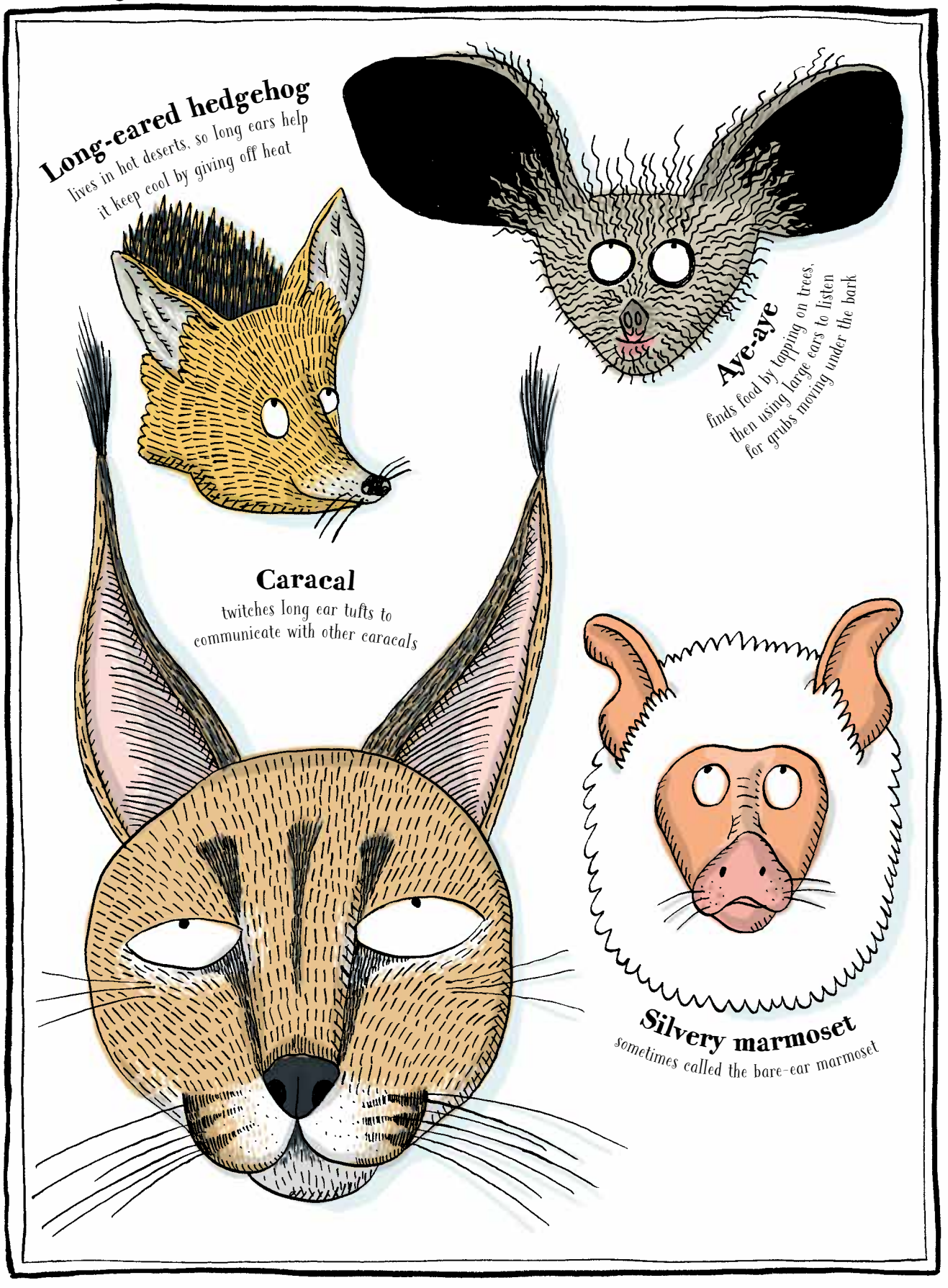


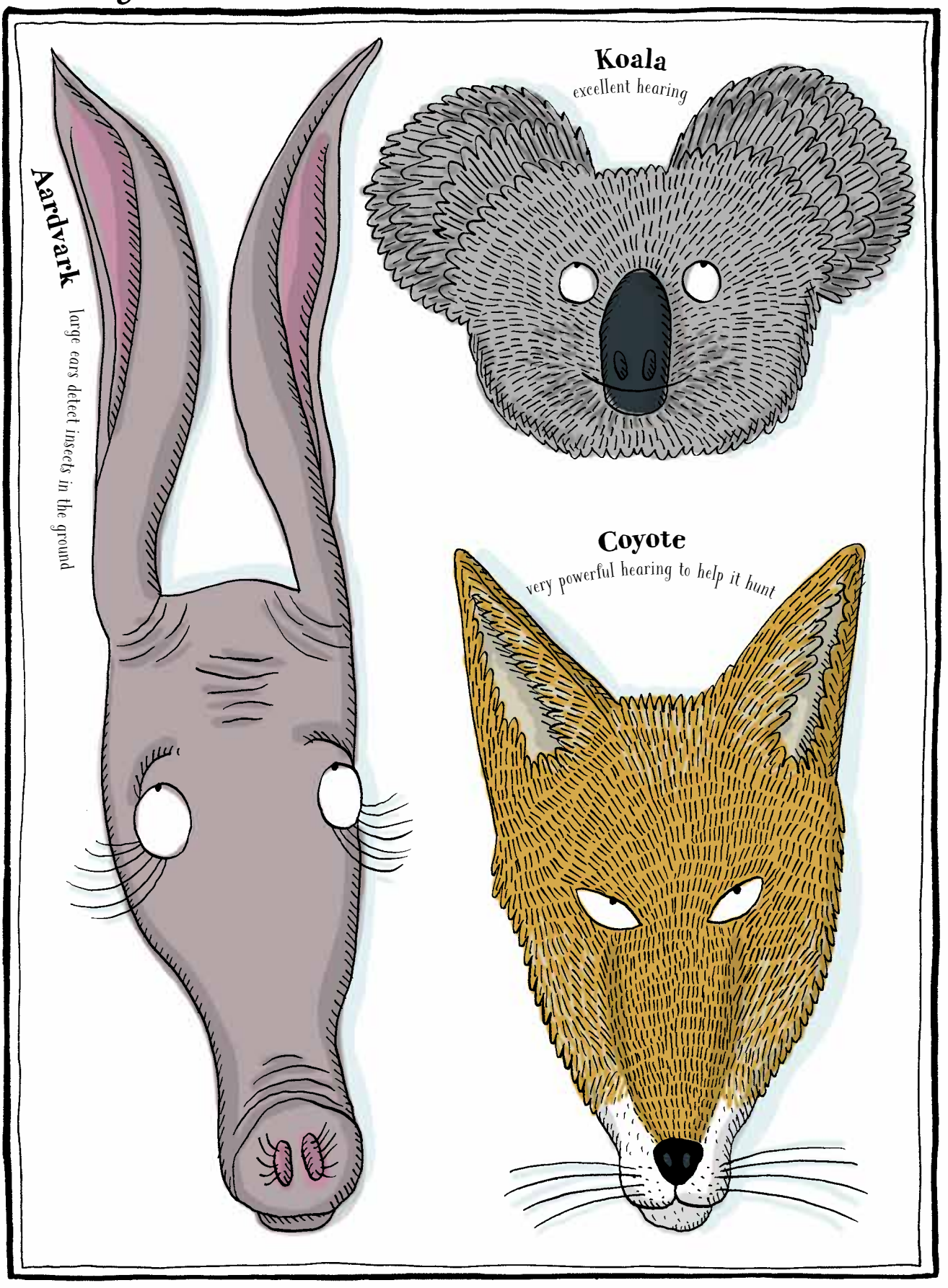
Black-tailed jackrabbit
ears detect predators and help jackrabbit keep cool

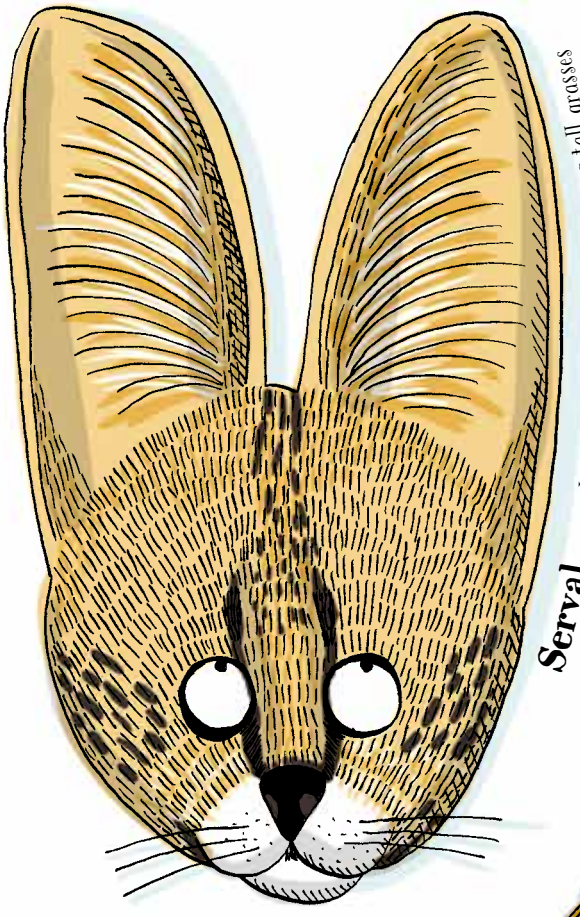


Fennec fox *large ears give off heat so fox stays cool in the desert*

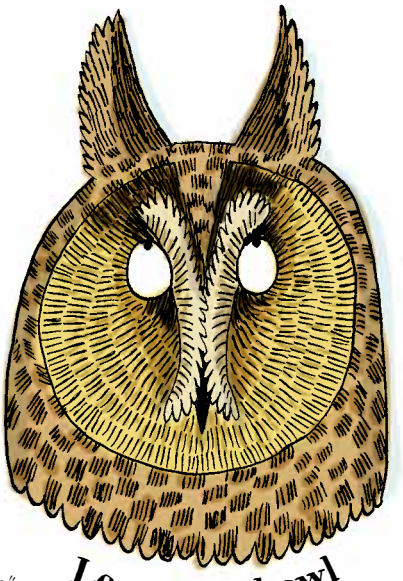
Gray long-eared bat
ears nearly the length of its body


Long-eared hedgehog
lives in hot deserts, so long ears help it keep cool by giving off heat
Aye-aye
finds food by tapping on trees, then using large ears to listen for grubs moving under the bark
Caracal
twitches long ear tufts to communicate with other caracals
Silvery marmoset
sometimes called the bare-ear marmoset


Aardvark
large ears detect insects in the ground
Koala
excellent hearing
Coyote
very powerful hearing to help it hunt

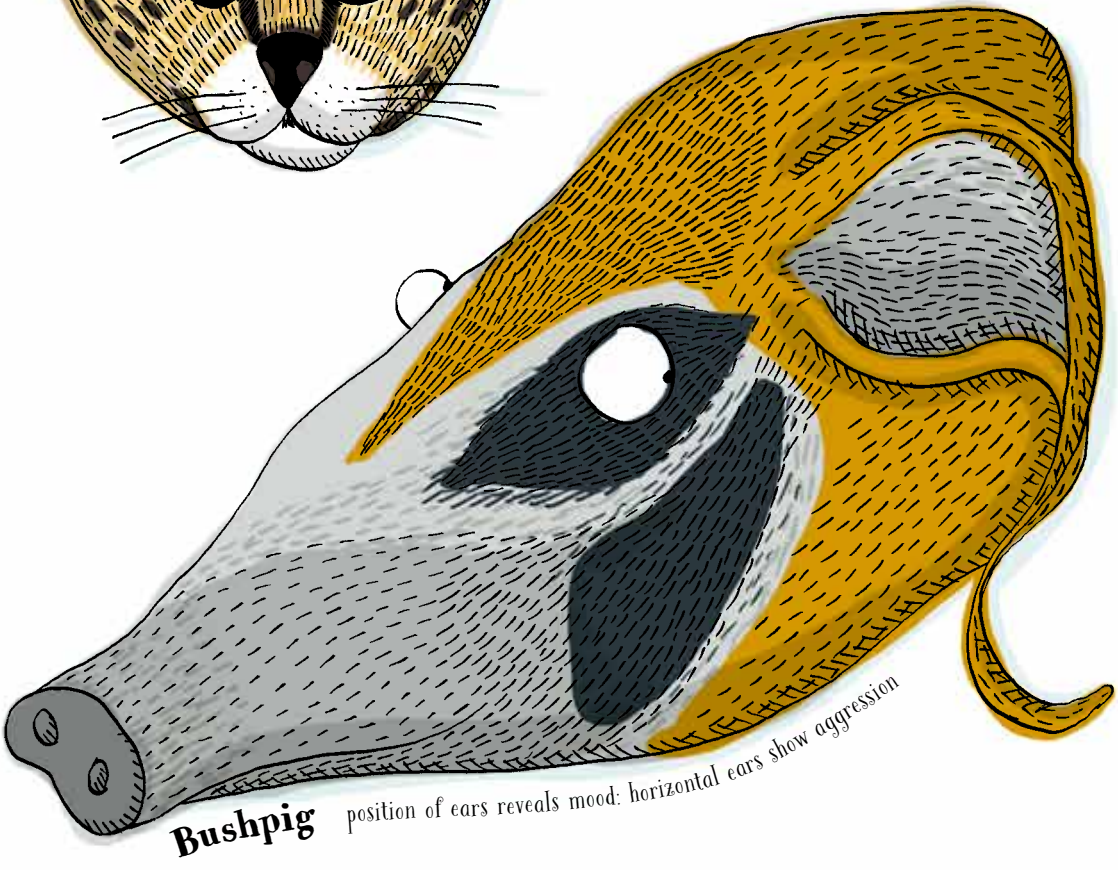


Serval uses long ears to listen for birds among tall grasses



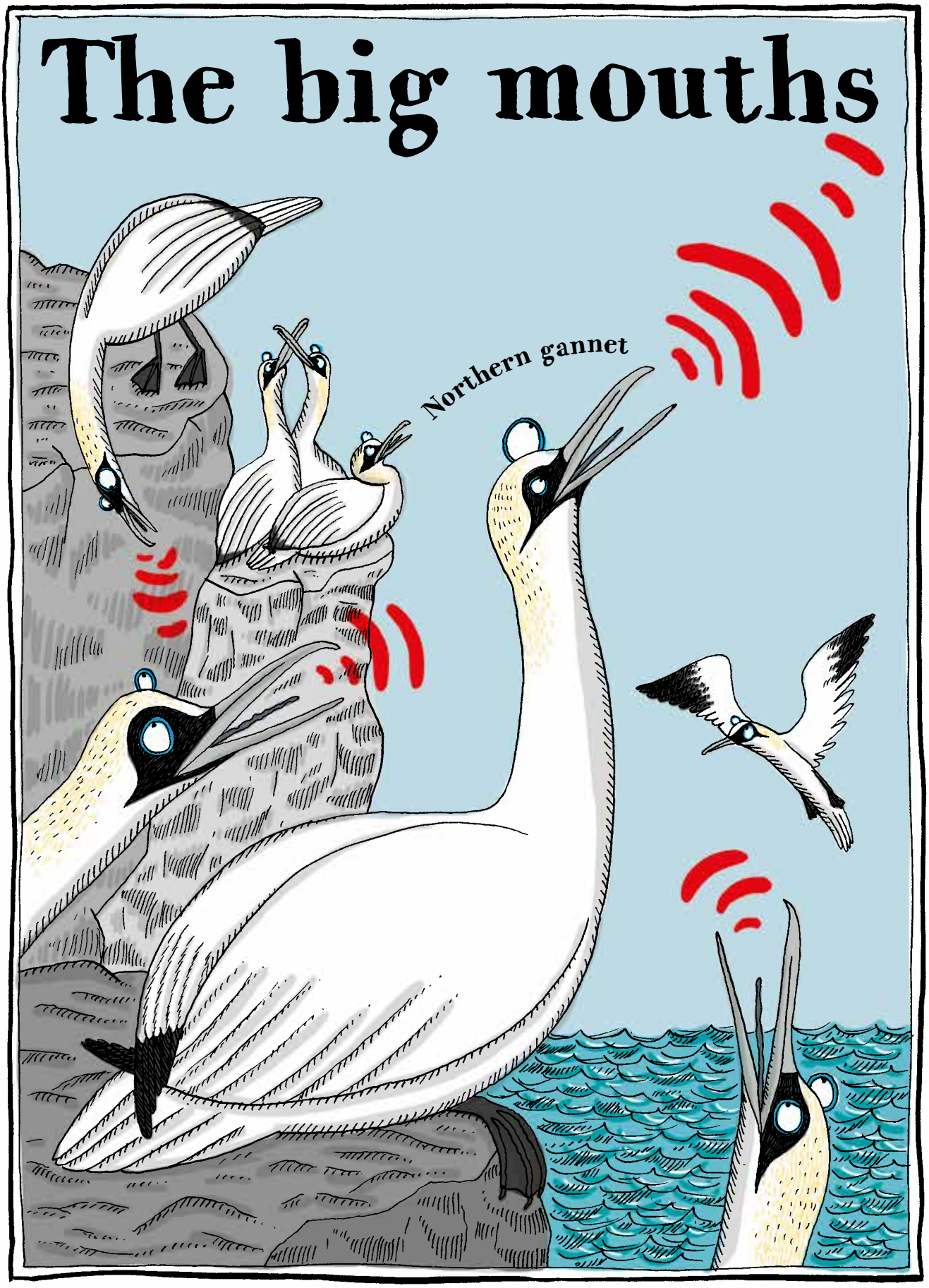
Long-eared owl

"ears" on top of head are actually just tufts of feathers; real ears are small openings close to eyes



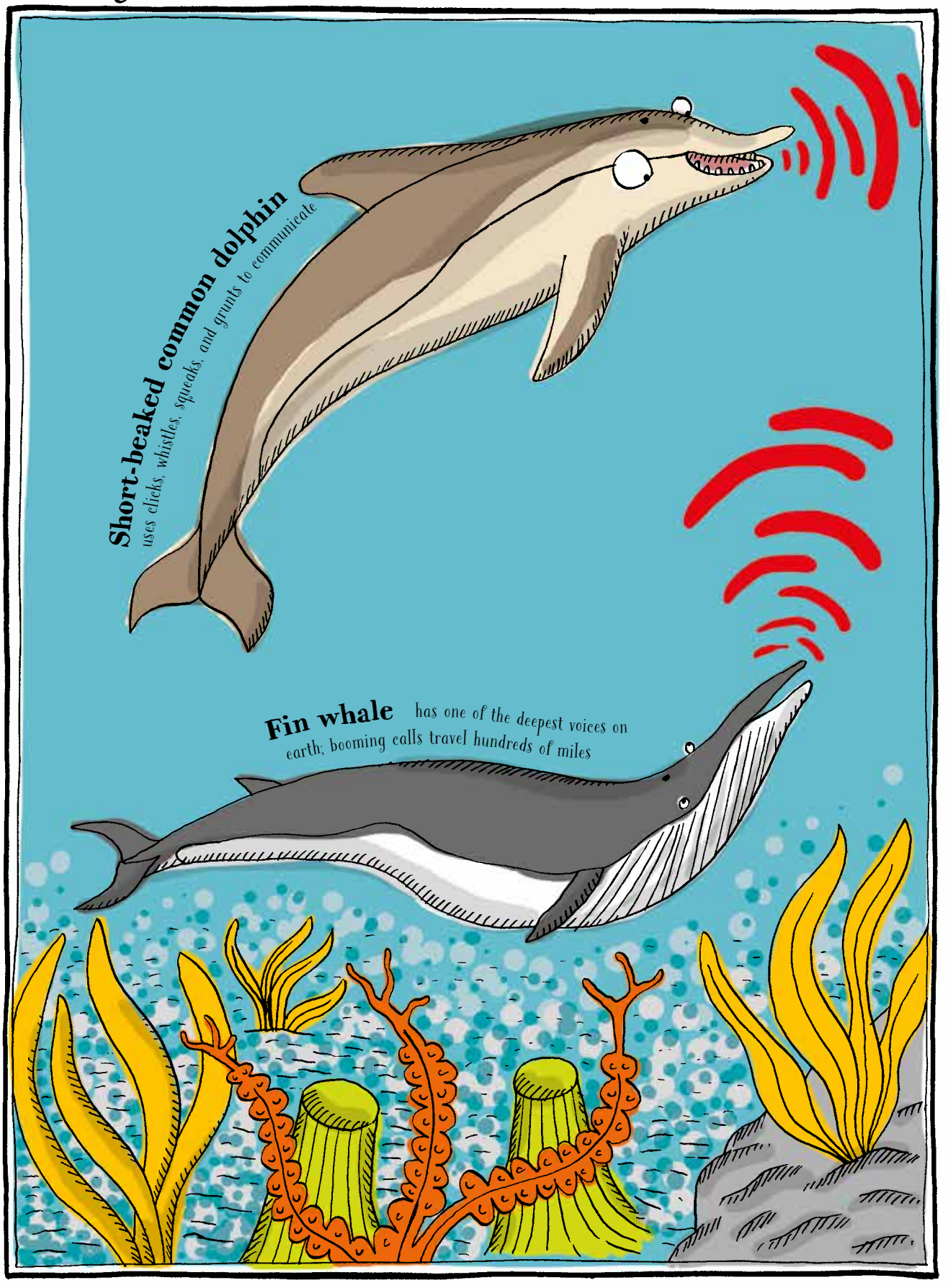
Bushpig position of ears reveals mood: horizontal ears show aggression

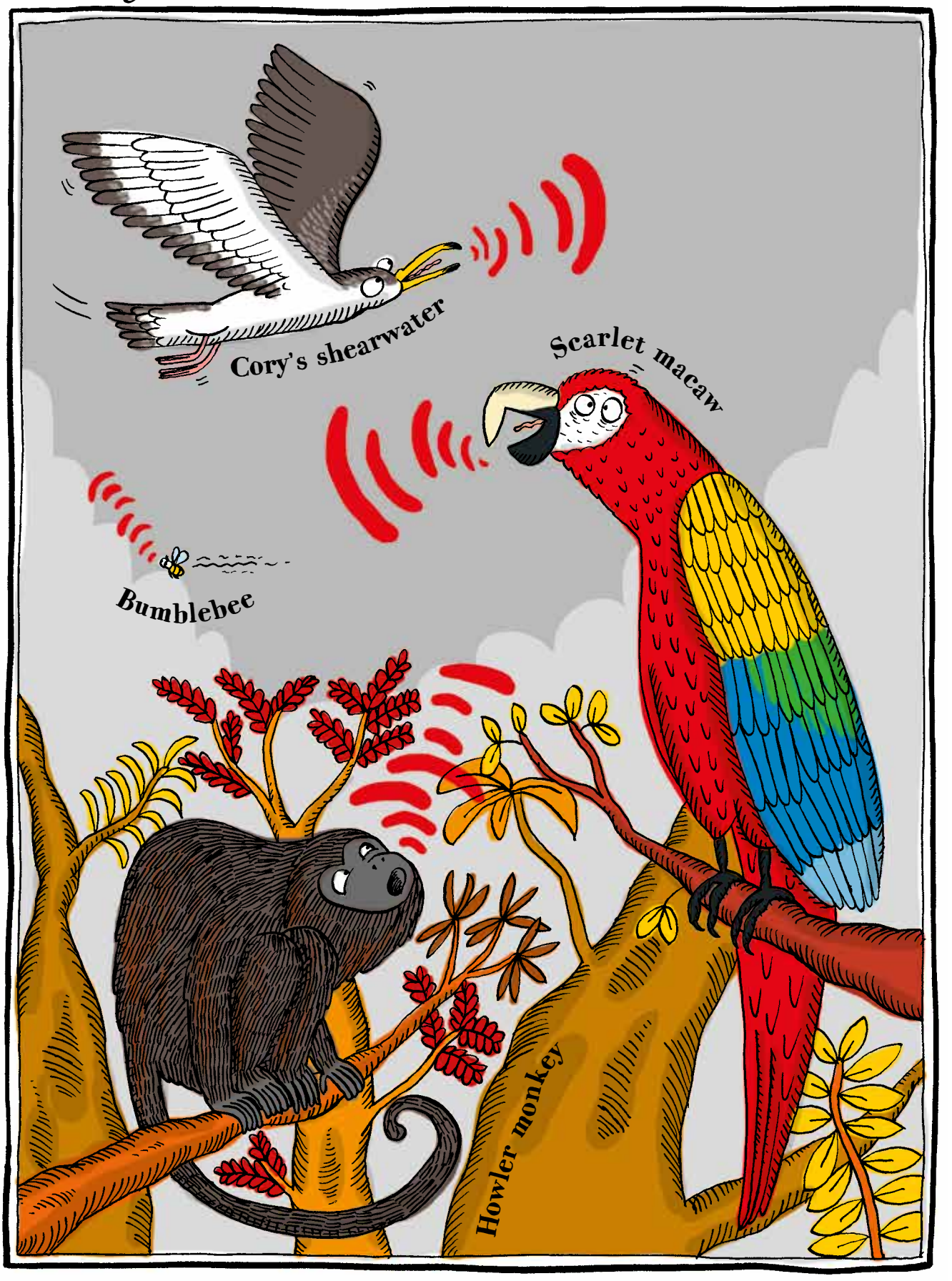
The big mouths

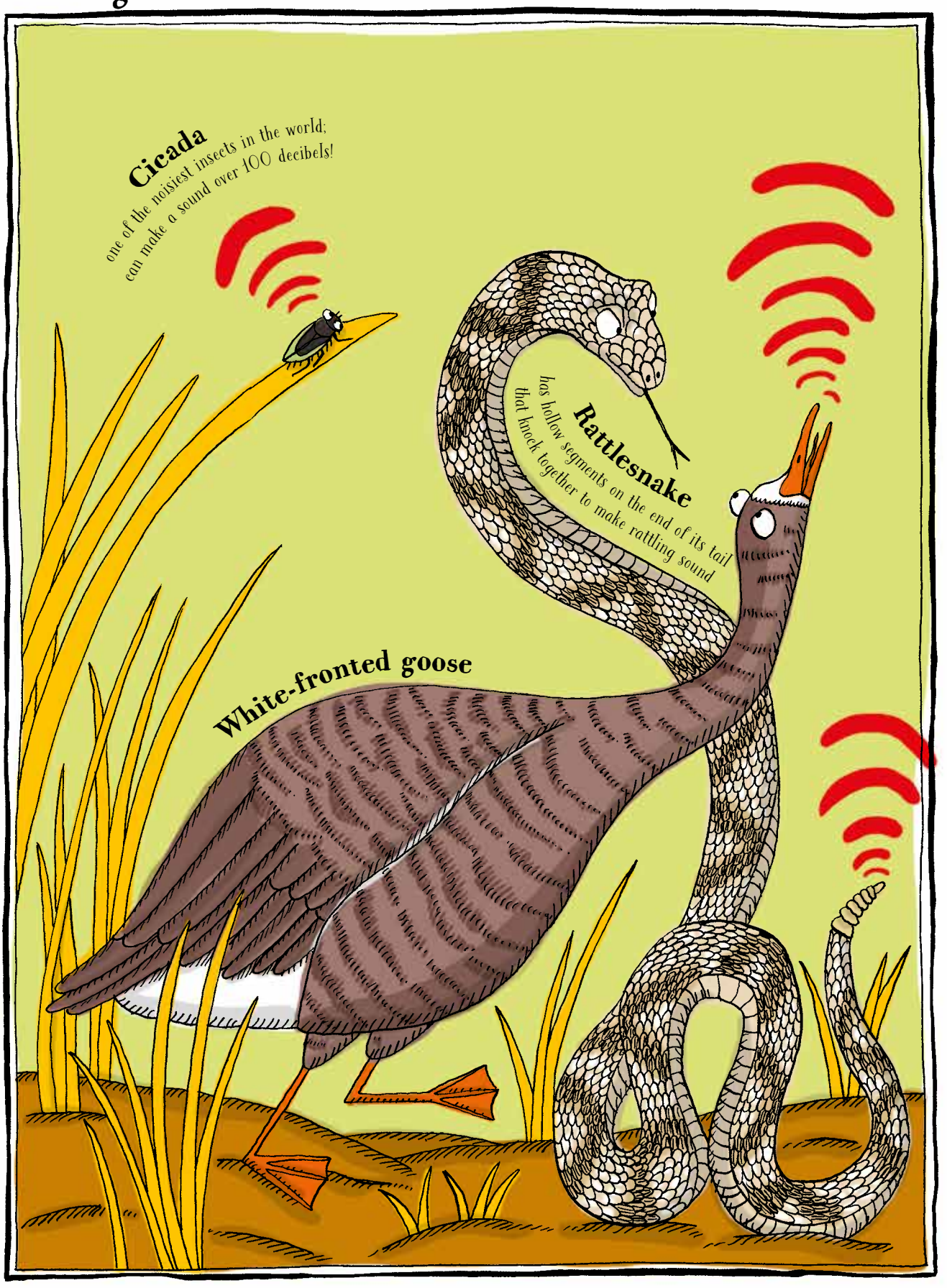


Helmeted guinea fowl
Natterjack toad
male call can be heard several miles away
Field cricket
makes sounds by rubbing its wings together

Robin
Blue jay
Jay
Song thrush

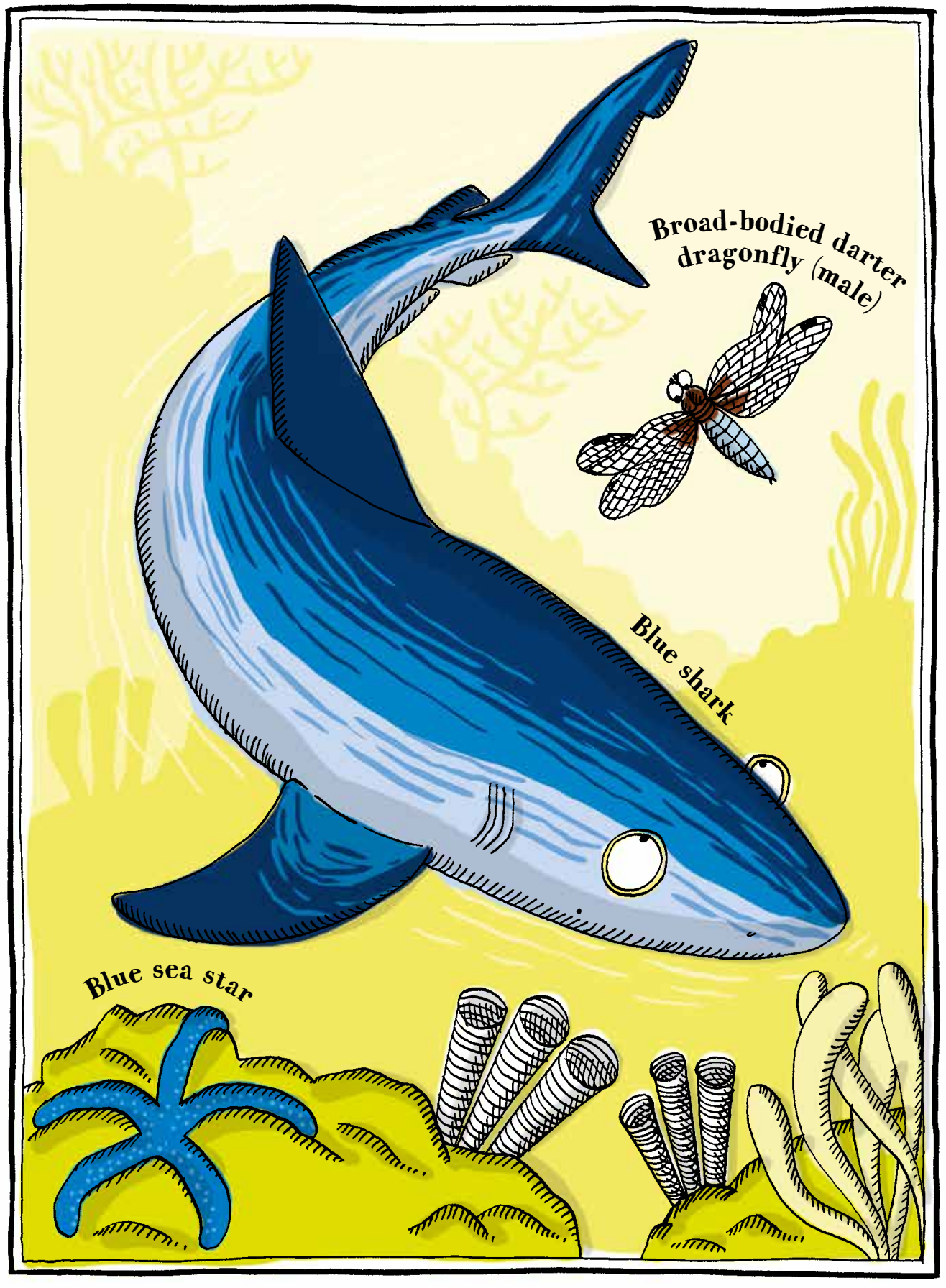

Short-beaked common dolphin
uses clicks, whistles, squeaks, and grunts to communicate
Fin whale has one of the deepest voices on earth; booming calls travel hundreds of miles


Cory's shearwater
Scarlet macaw
Bumblebee
Howler monkey

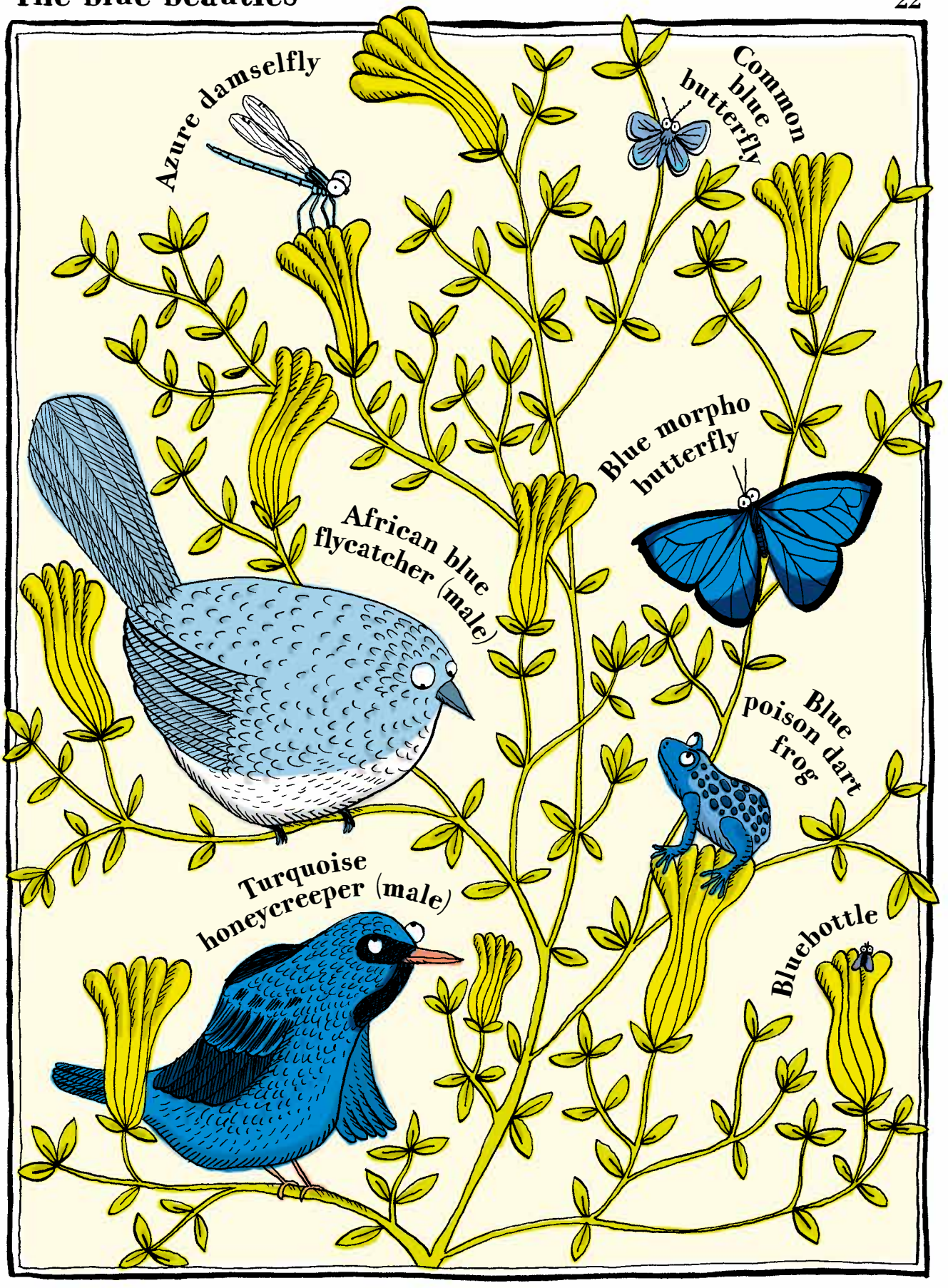

Cicada
one of the noisiest insects in the world;
can make a sound over 100 decibels!
Rattlesnake
has hollow segments on the end of its tail
that knock together to make rattling sound
White-fronted goose

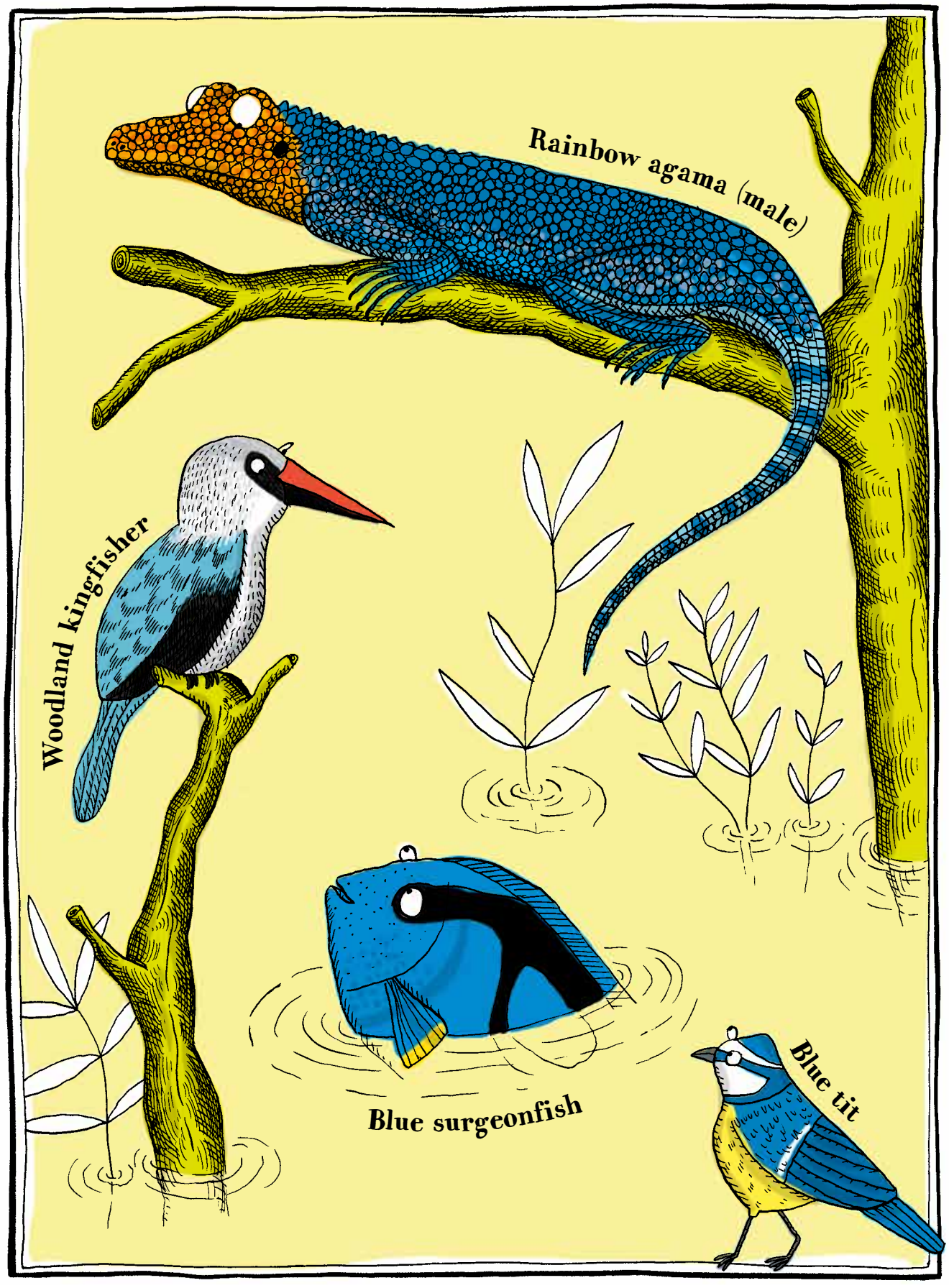
The blue beauties

Victoria crowned pigeon

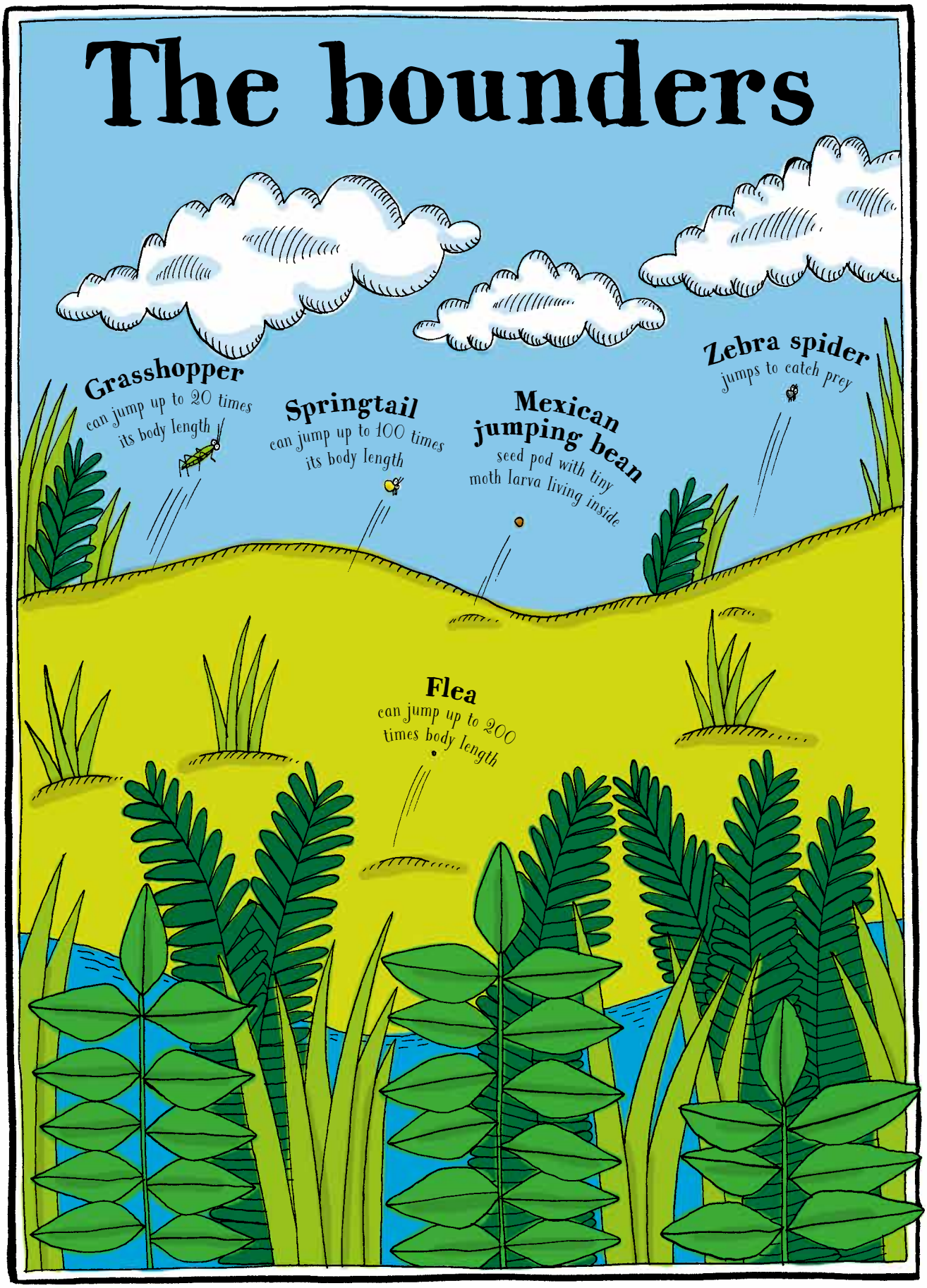

Broad-bodied darter dragonfly (male)
Blue shark
Blue sea star

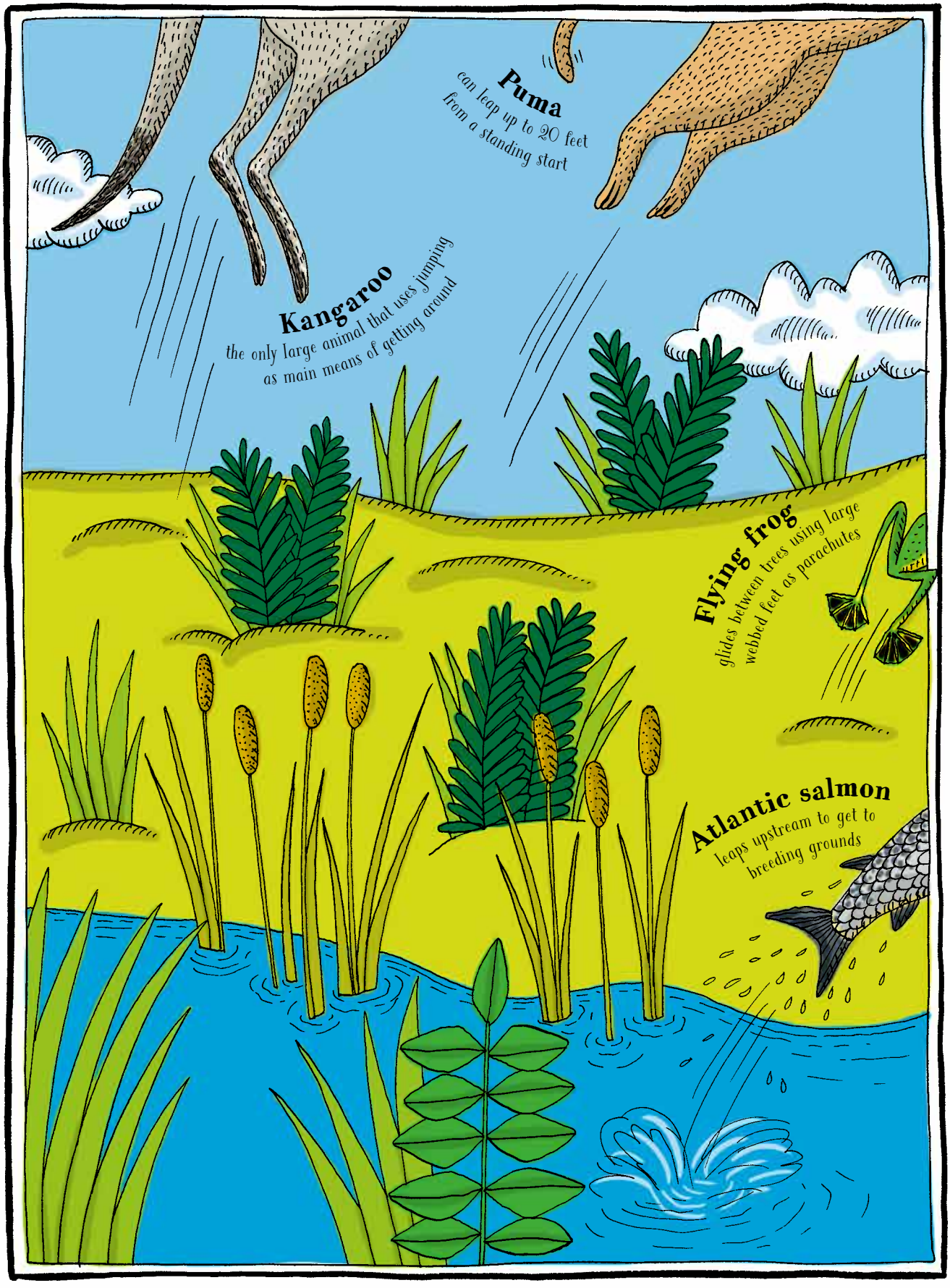
The blue beauties

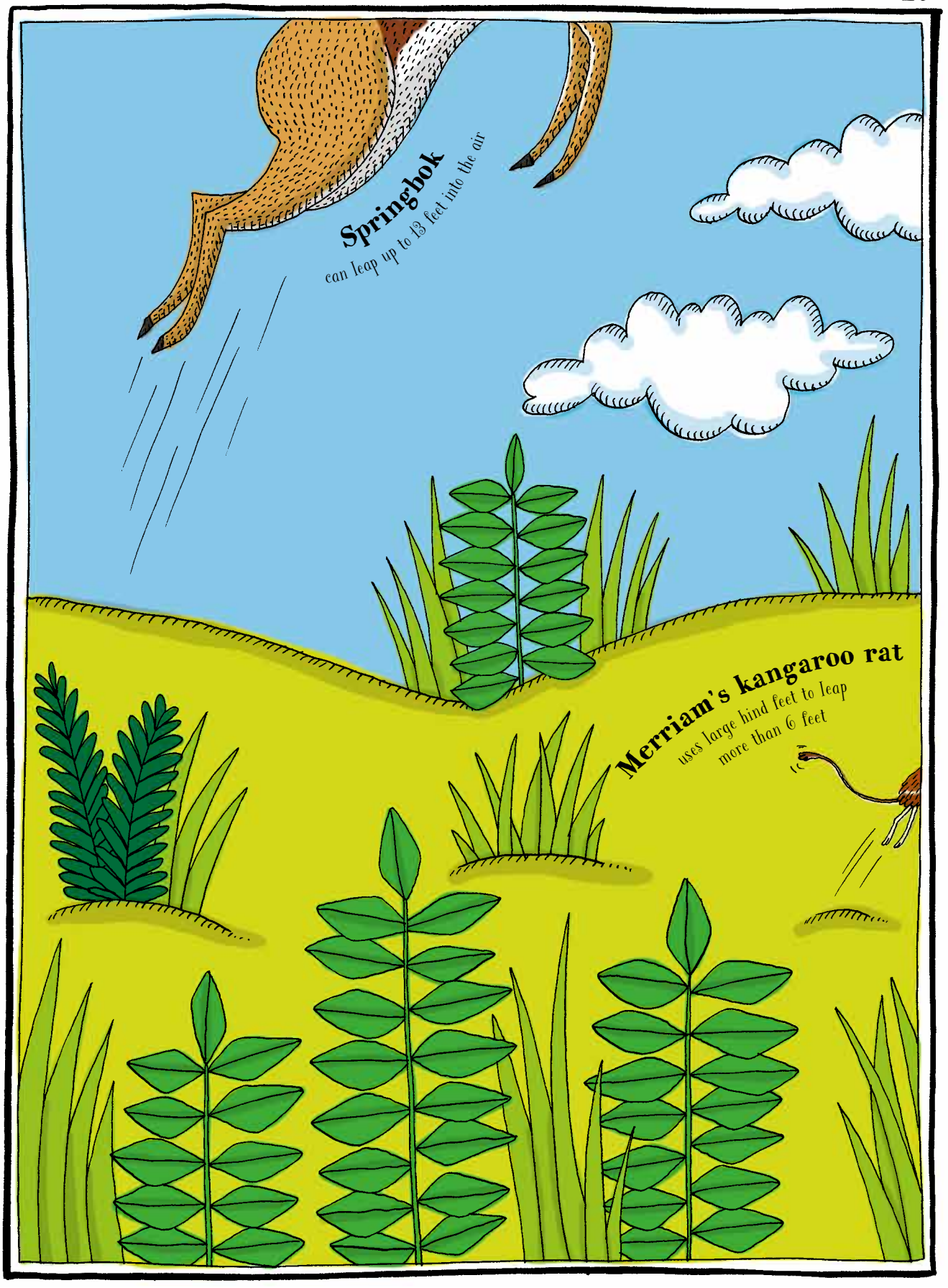


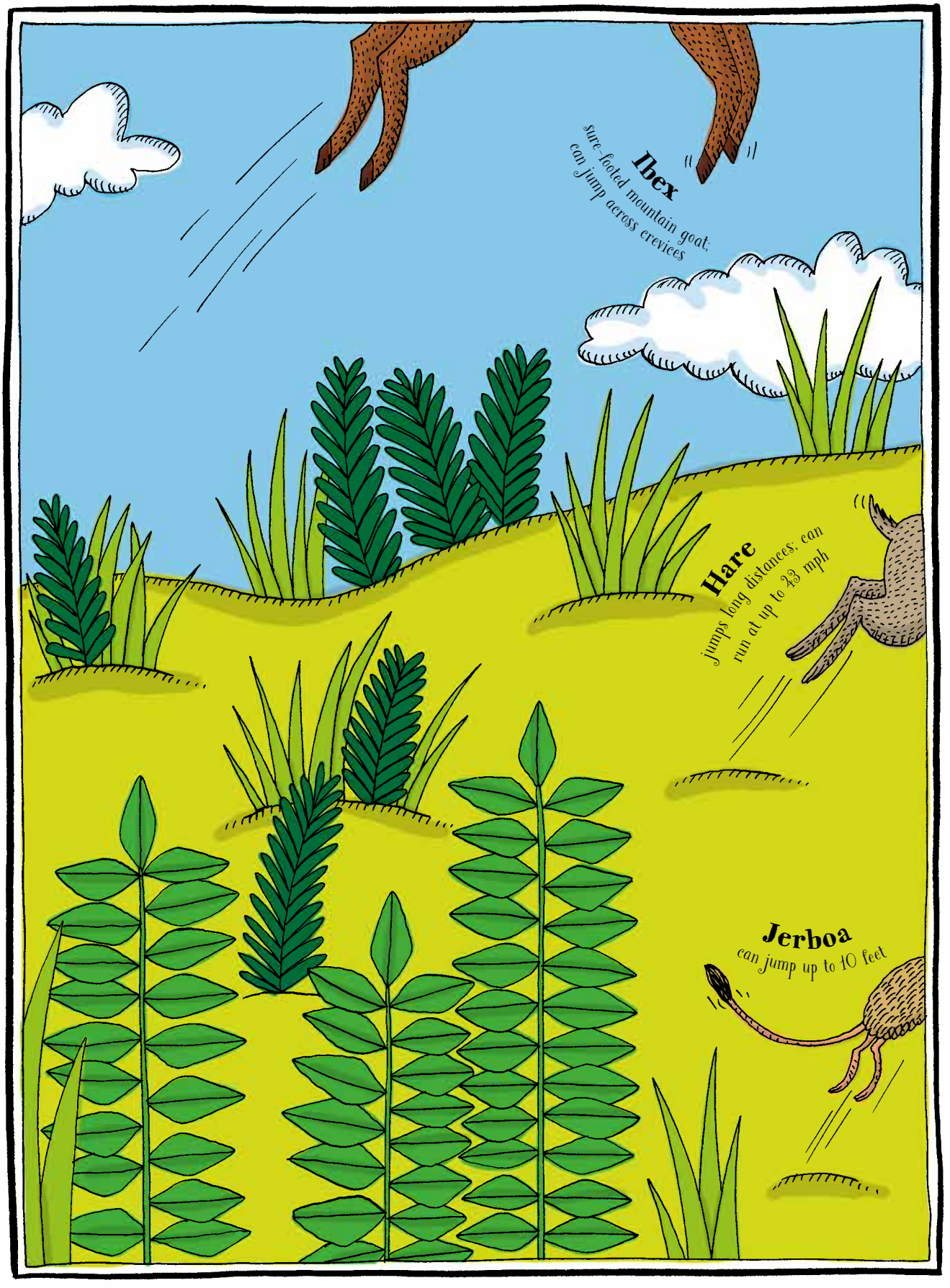

Rainbow agama (male)
Woodland kingfisher
Blue surgeonfish
Blue tit

The bounders

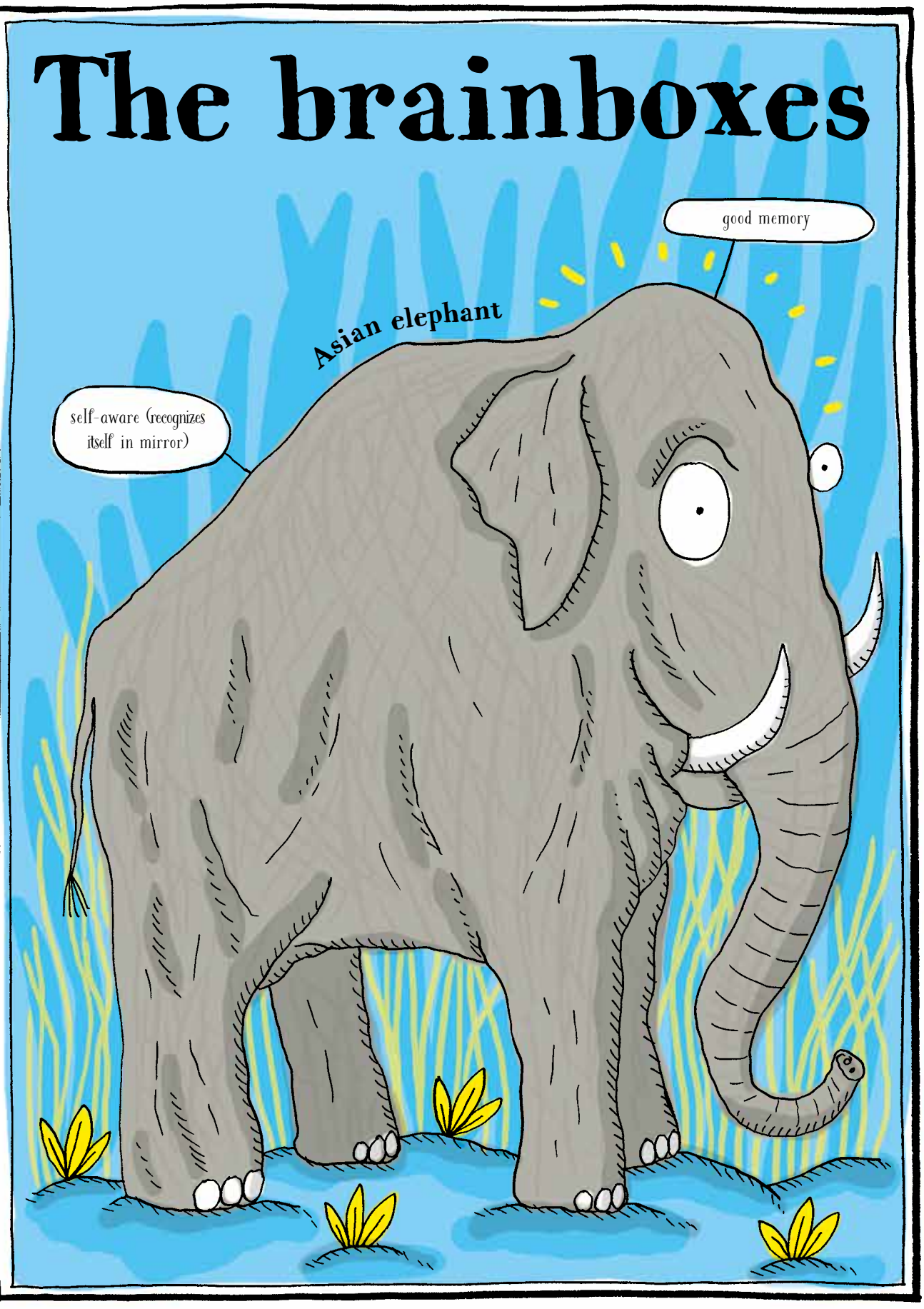


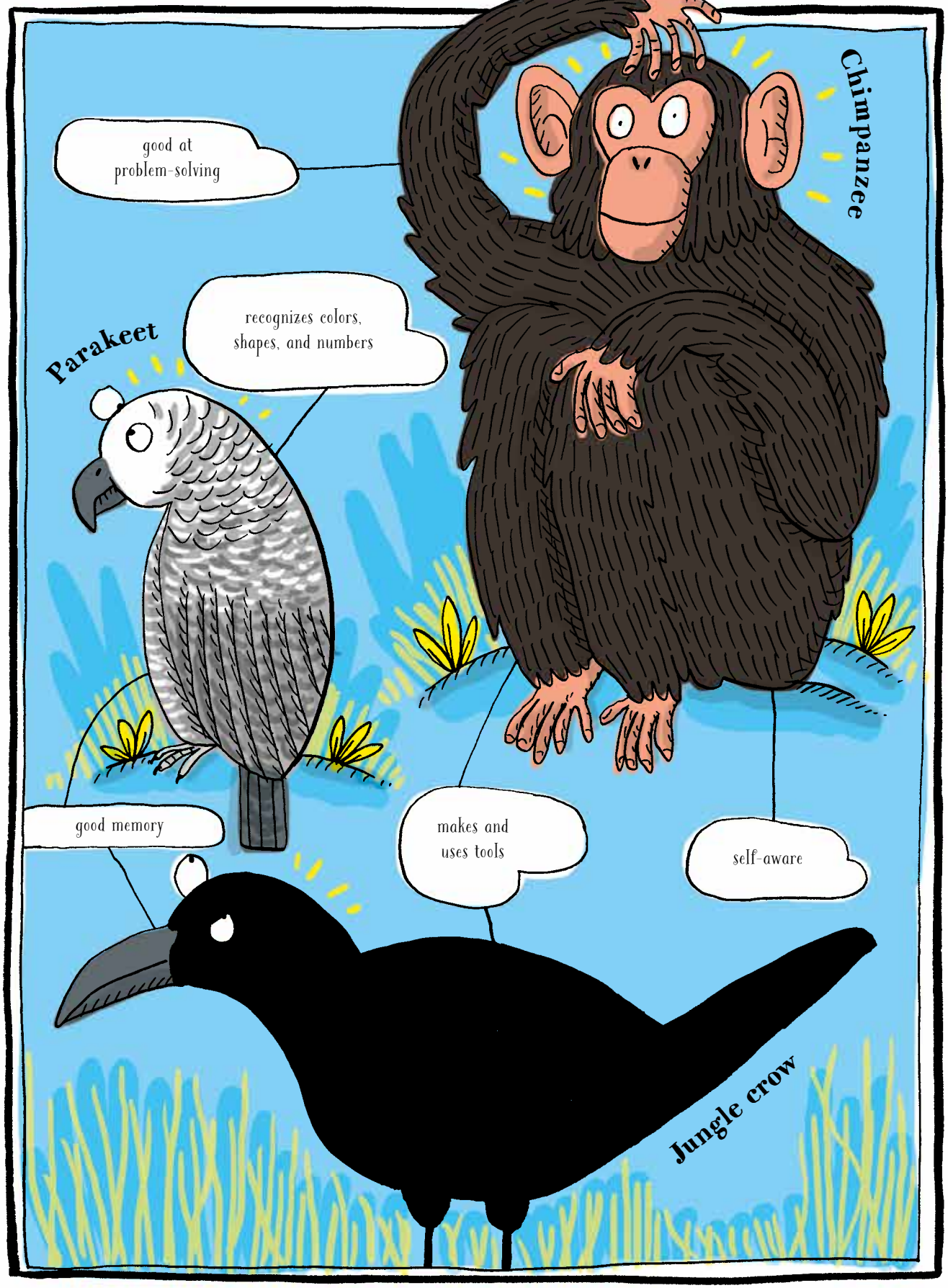

Puma
can leap up to 20 feet from a standing start
Kangaroo
the only large animal that uses jumping as main means of getting around
Flying frog
glides between trees using large webbed feet as parachutes
Atlantic salmon
leaps upstream to get to breeding grounds

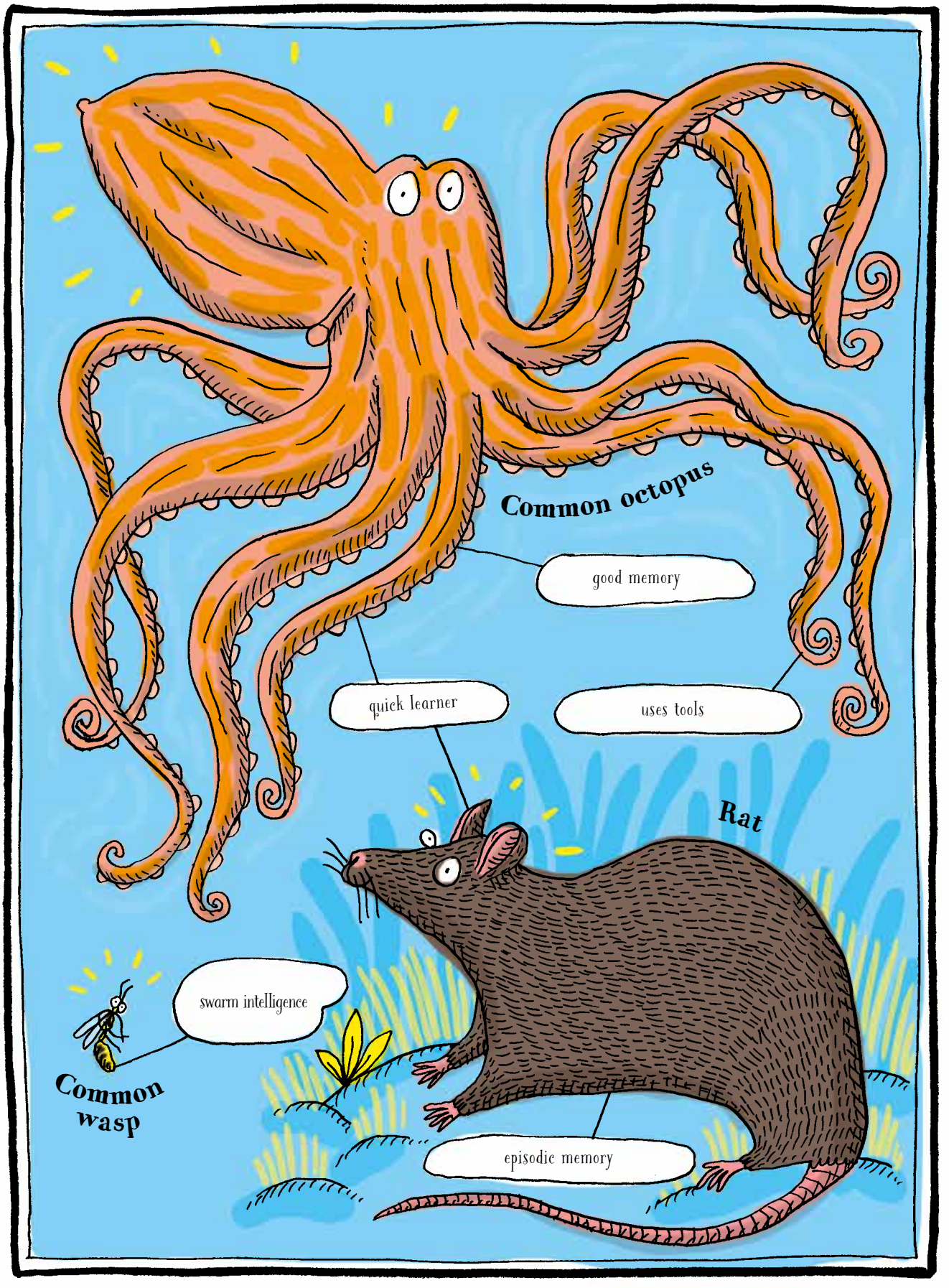

Springbok
can leap up to 13 feet into the air
Merriam's kangaroo rat
uses large hind feet to leap
more than 6 feet

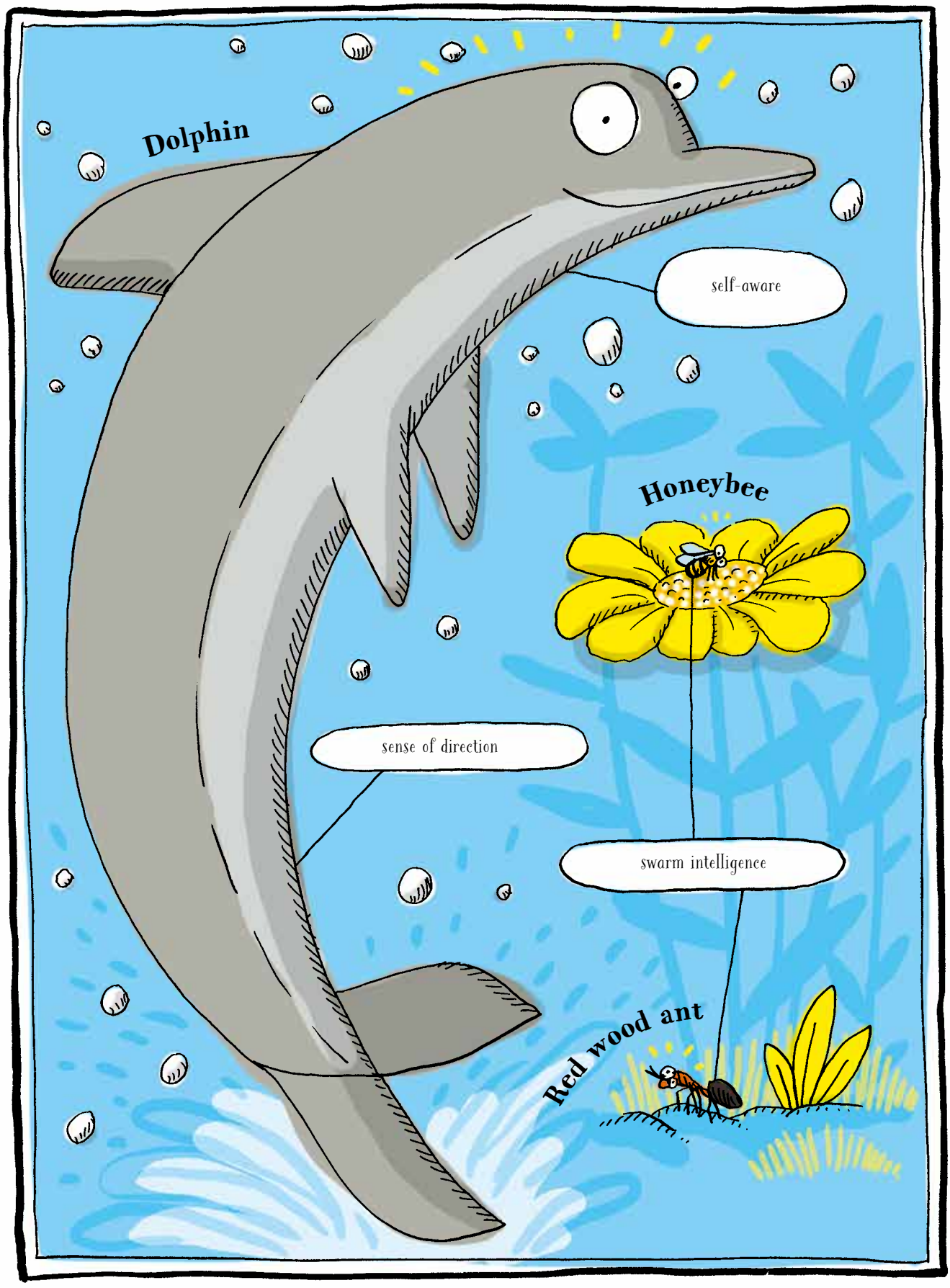

Ibex
sure-footed mountain goat; can jump across crevices
Hare
jumps long distances; can run at up to 23 mph
Jerboa
can jump up to 10 feet

The brainboxes

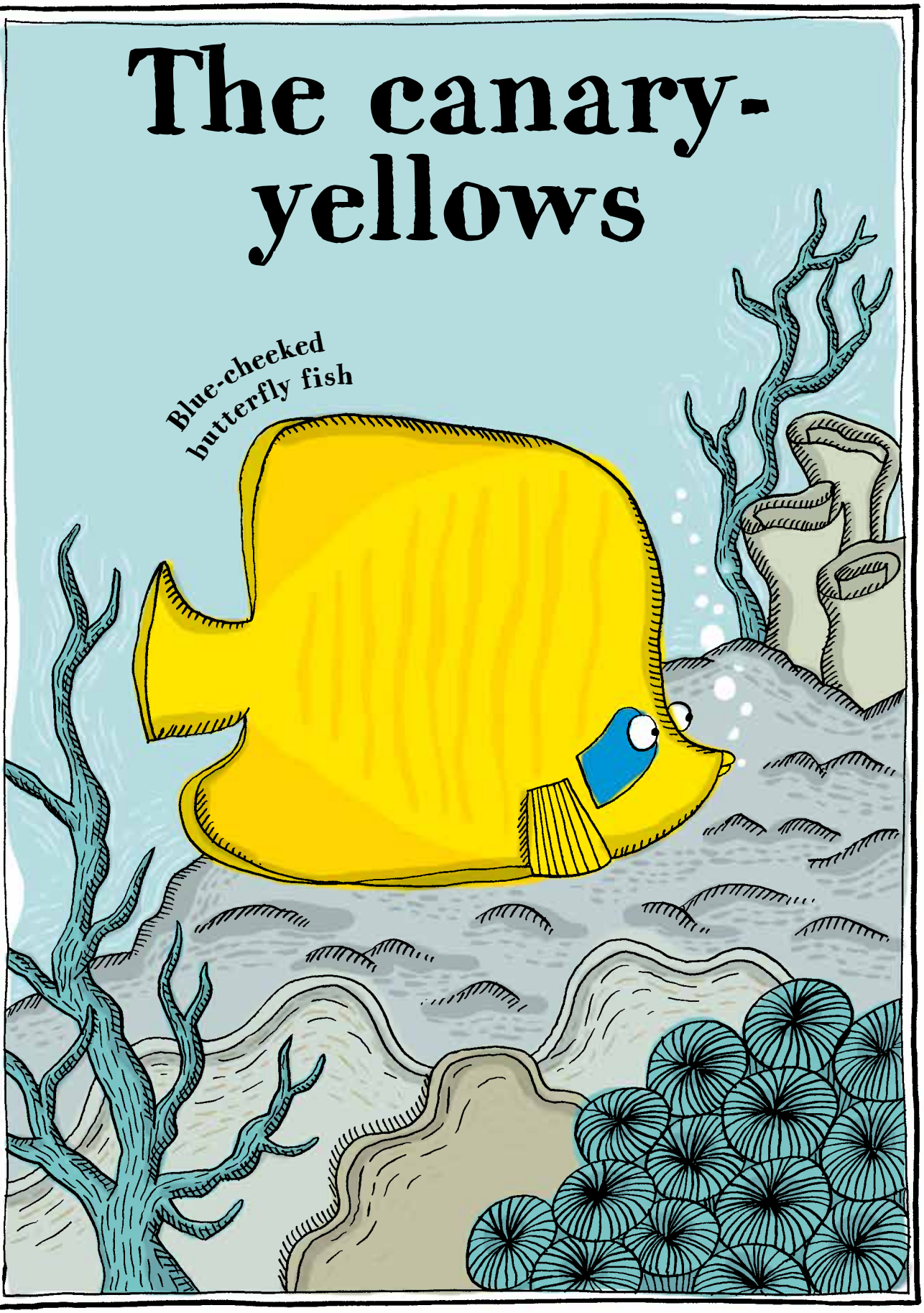


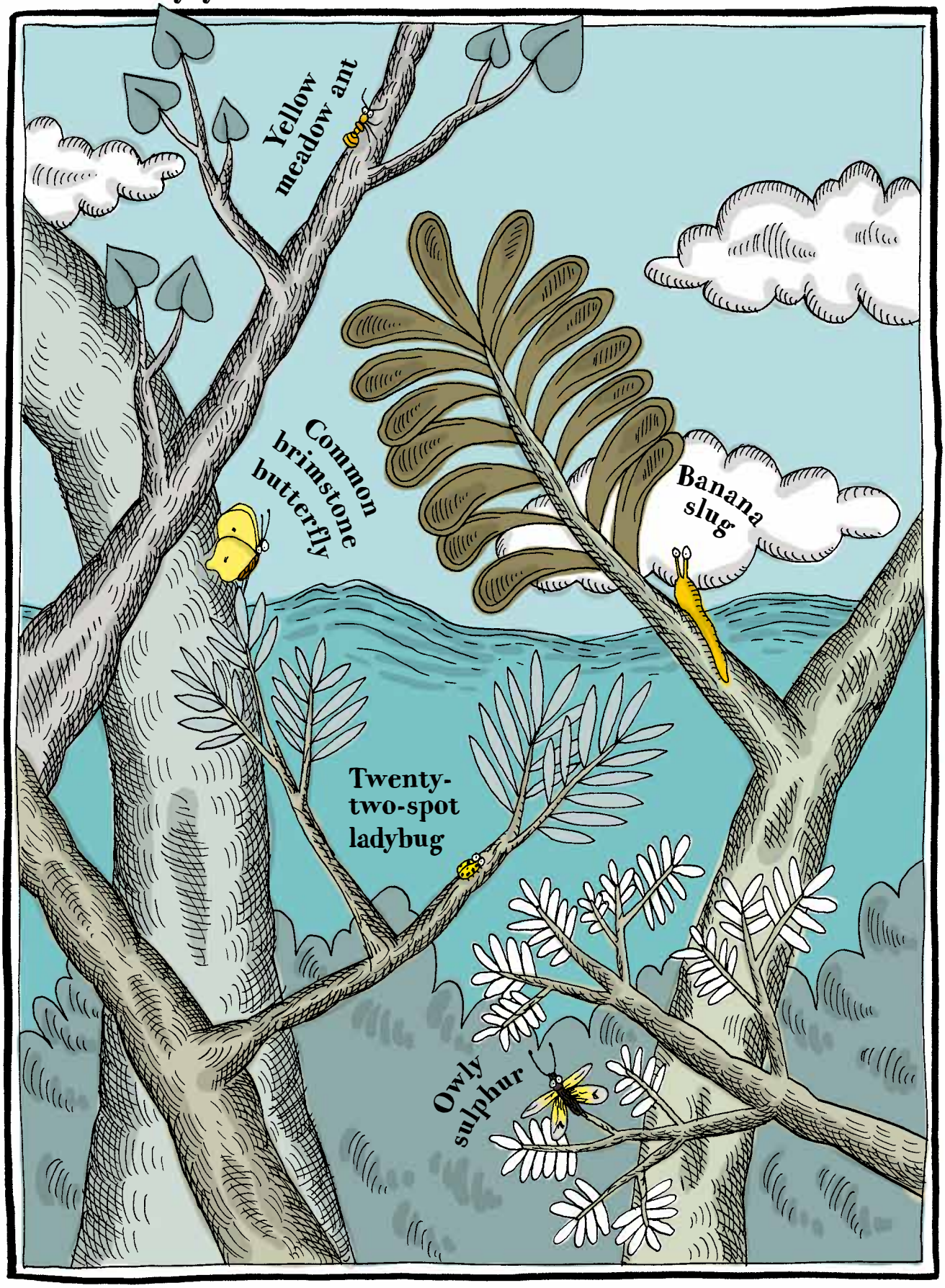

Chimpanzee
good at problem-solving
Parakeet
recognizes colors, shapes, and numbers
good memory
makes and uses tools
self-aware
Jungle crow

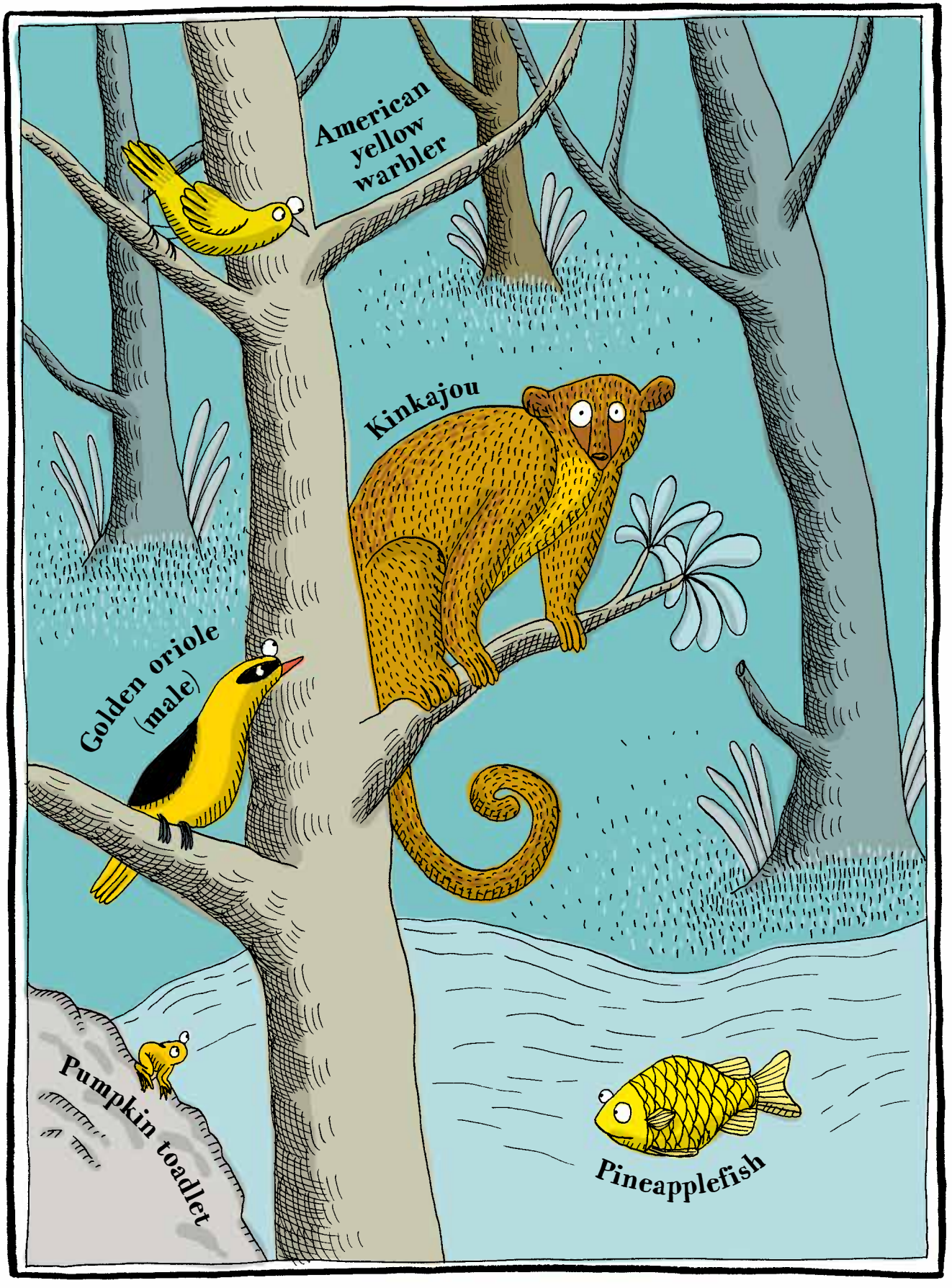

Common octopus
good memory
quick learner
uses tools
Rat
swarm intelligence
Common wasp
episodic memory


Dolphin
self-aware
Honeybee
sense of direction
swarm intelligence
Red wood ant

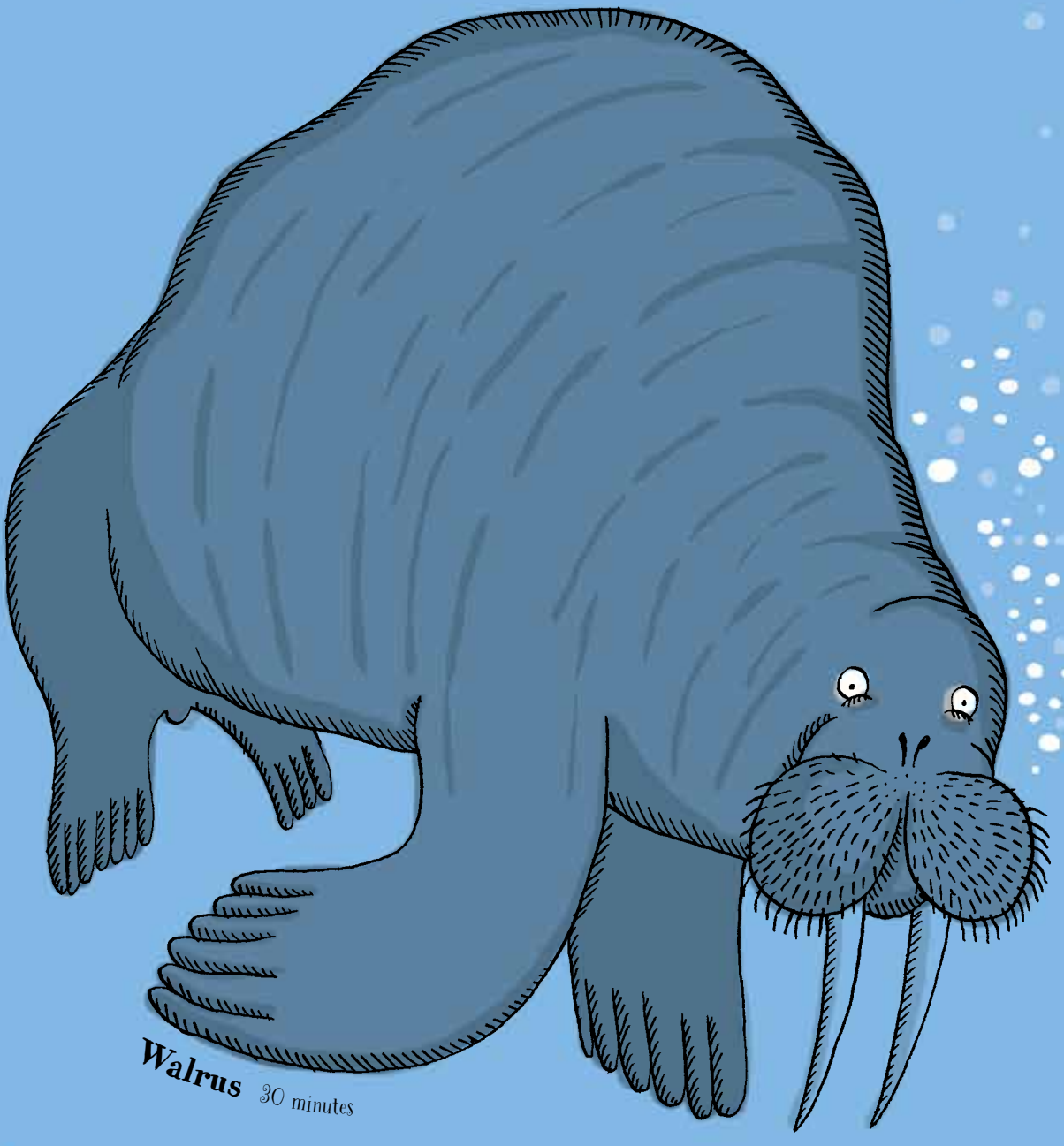
The canary-yellows




Yellow meadow ant
Common brimstone butterfly
Banana slug
Twenty-two-spot ladybug
Owly sulphur

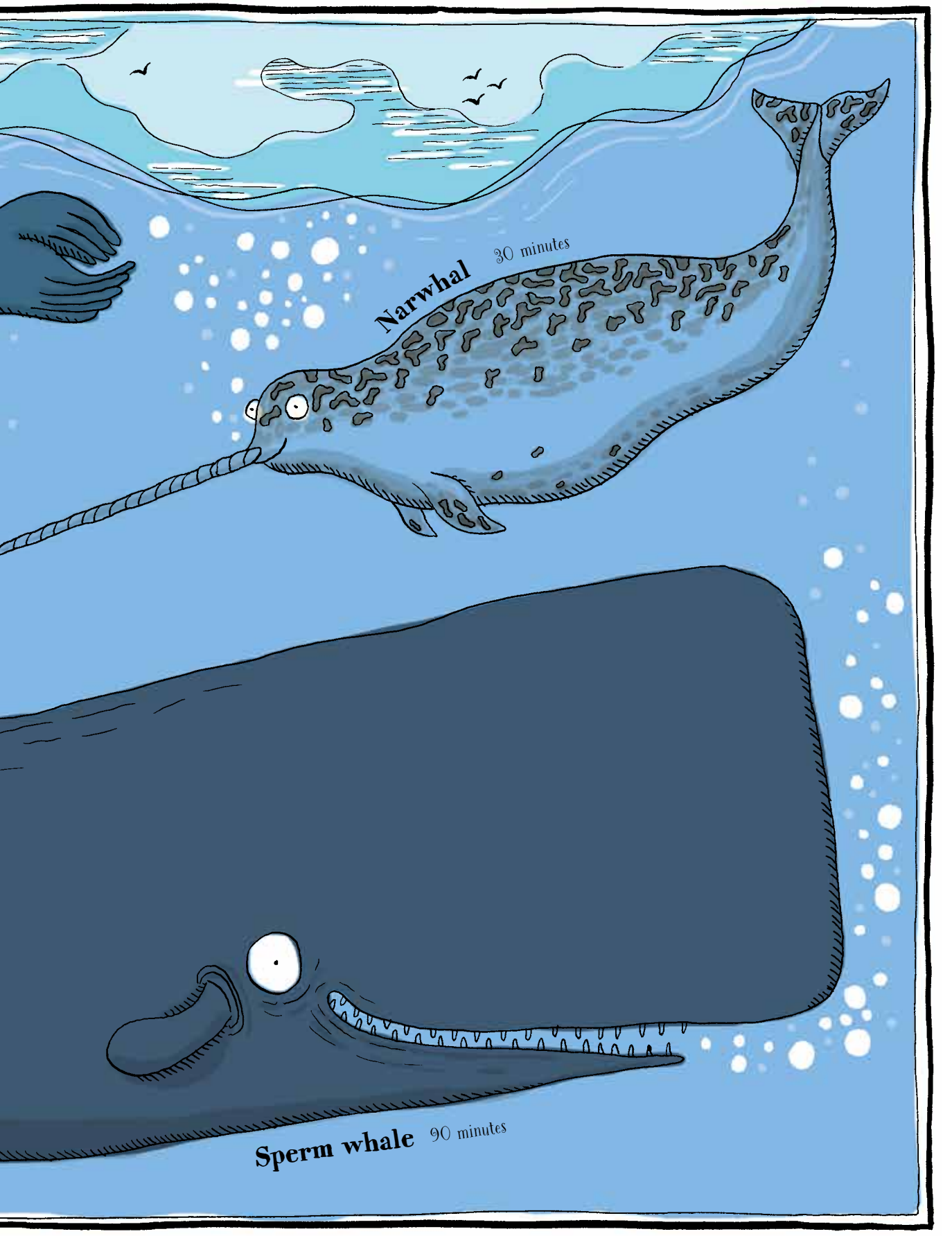

American yellow warbler
Kinkajou
Golden oriole (male)
Pumpkin toadlet
Pineapplefish

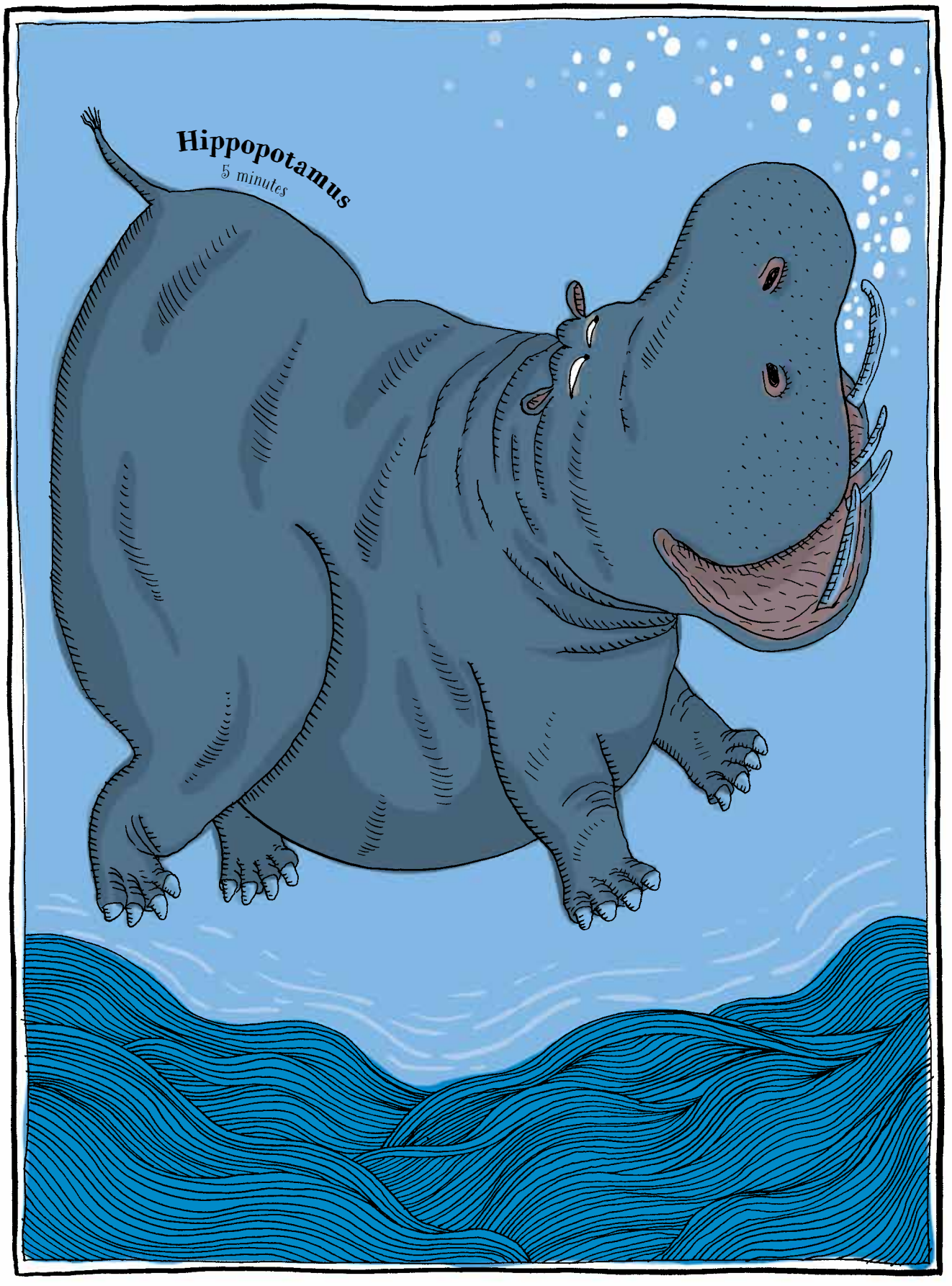
The champion breath-holders

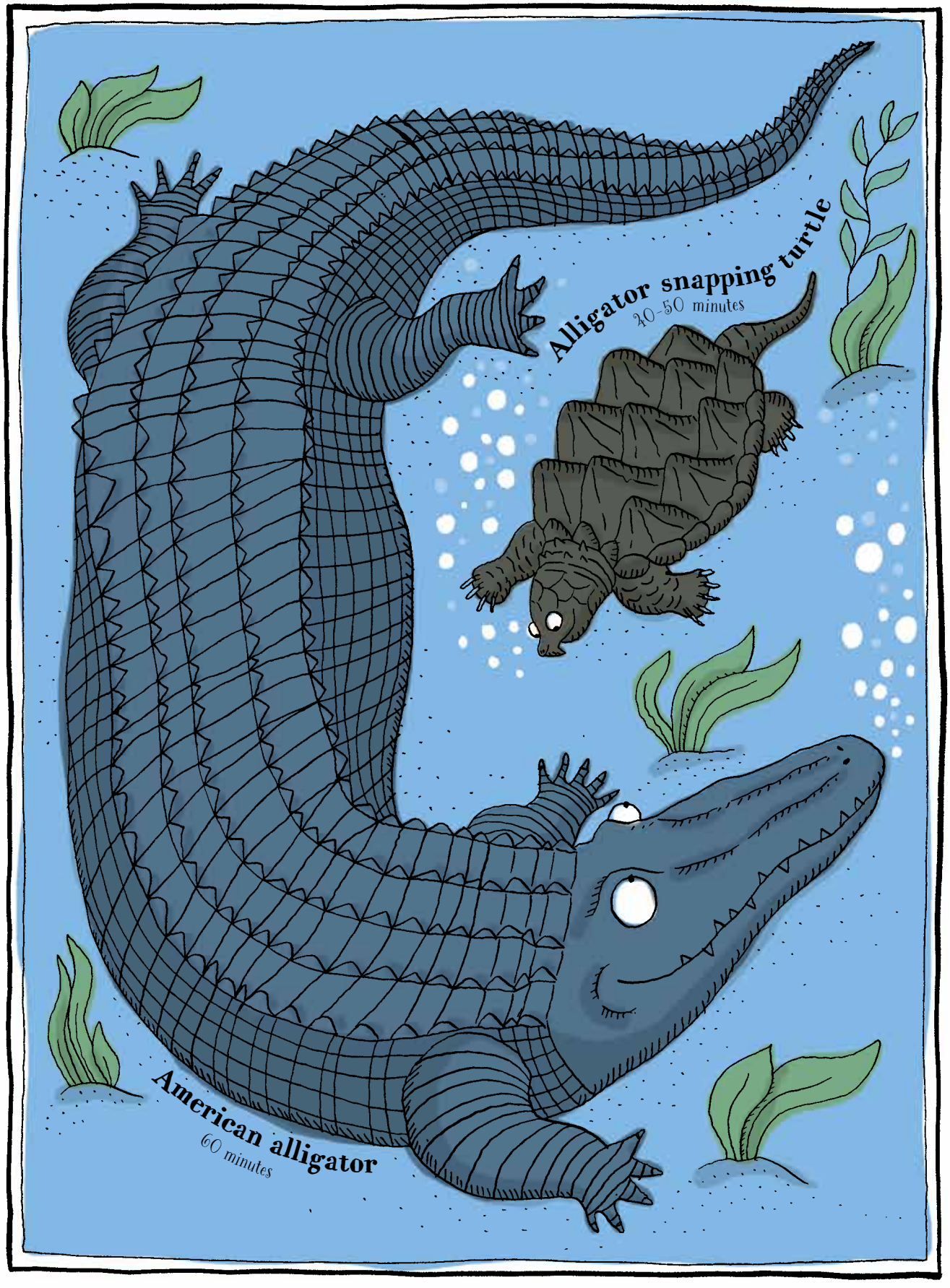


Walrus 30 minutes

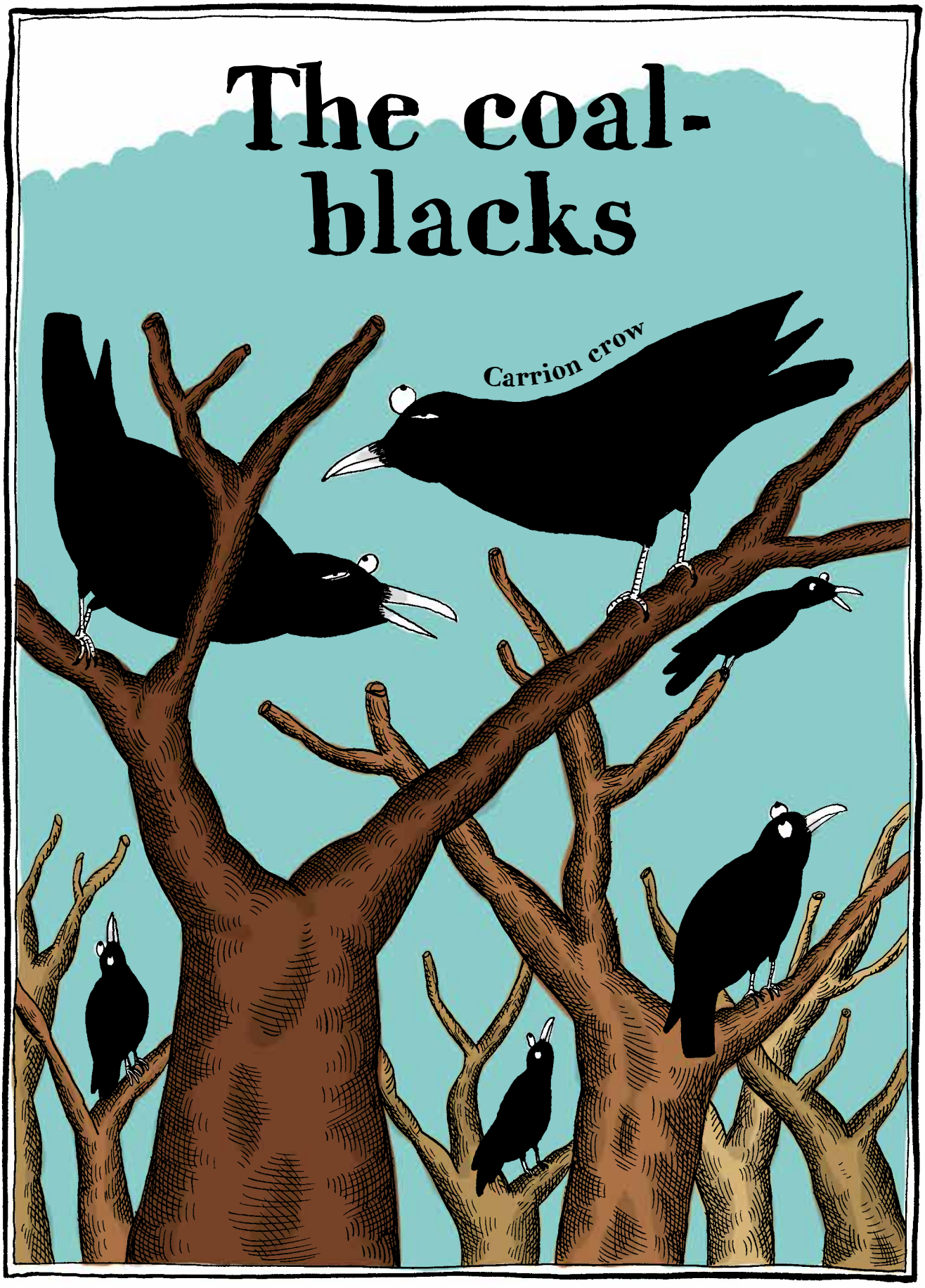
The champion breath-holders

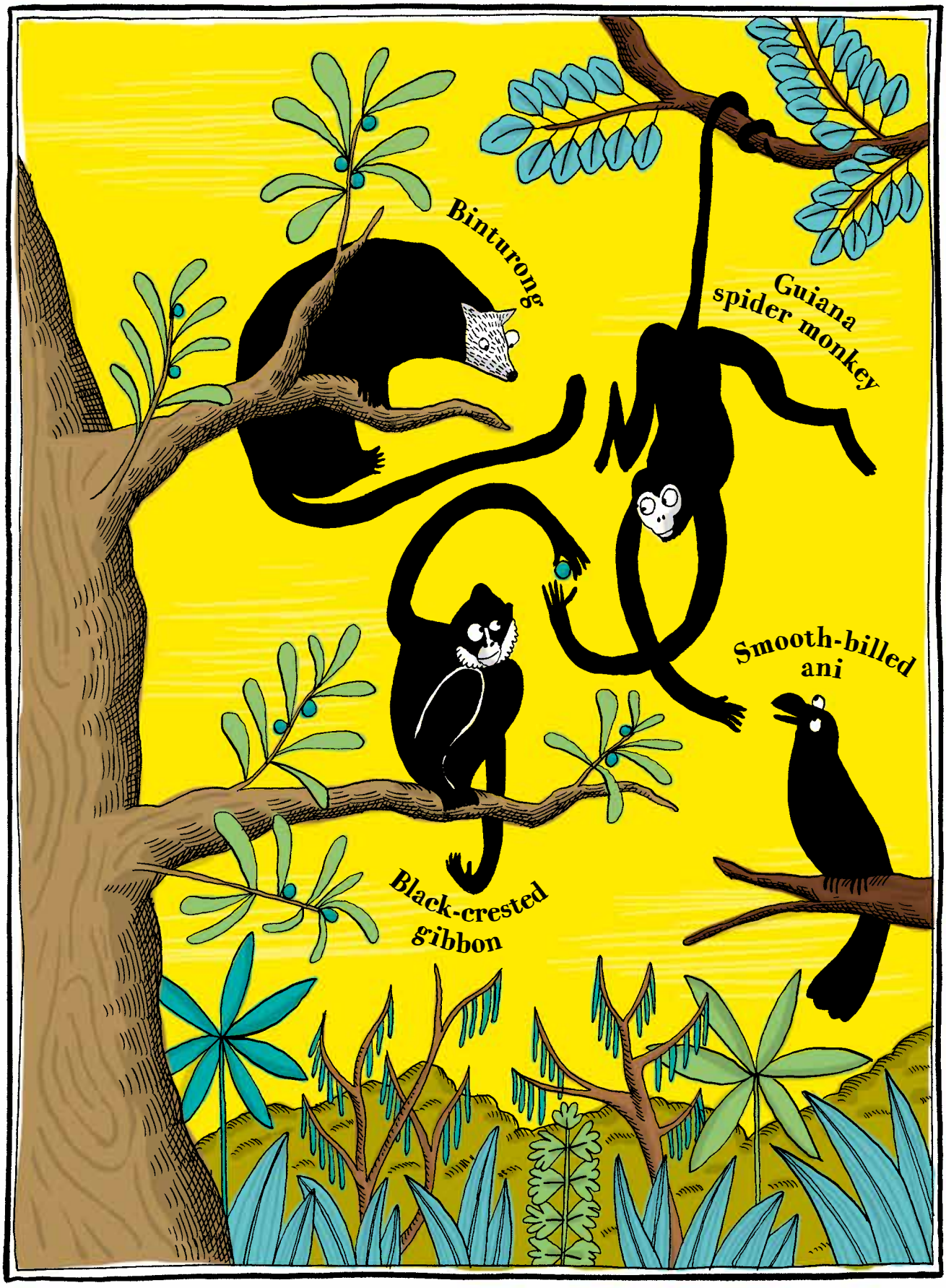

Narwhal 30 minutes
Sperm whale 90 minutes


Hippopotamus
5 minutes


Alligator snapping turtle
40–50 minutes
American alligator
60 minutes

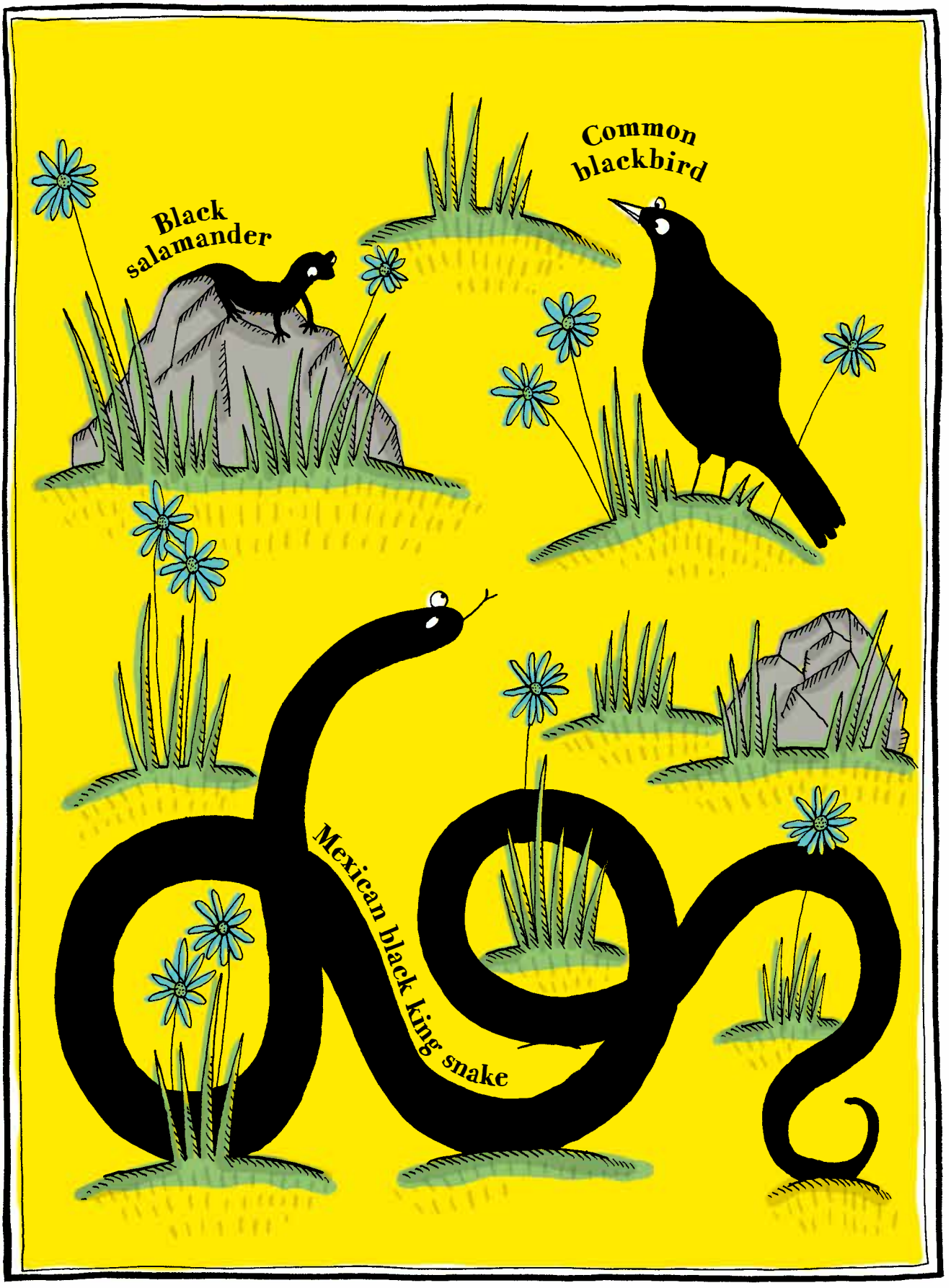
The coal-blacks




Binturong
Guiana spider monkey
Smooth-billed ani
Black-crested gibbon

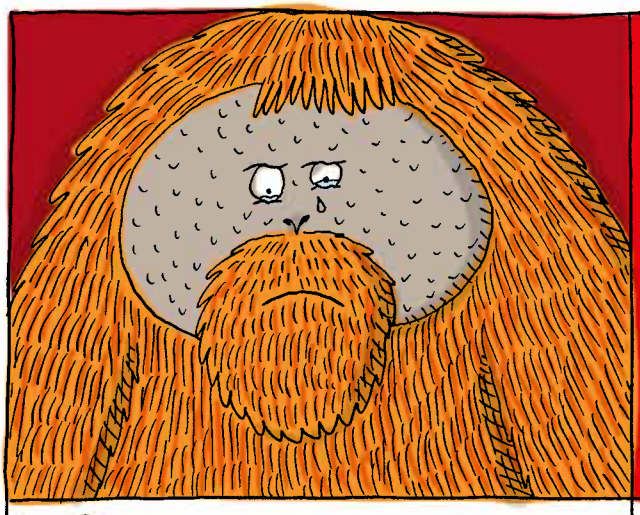
Black bear
Capricorn beetle
Violet ground beetle

Black panther
Black ant
Dung beetle

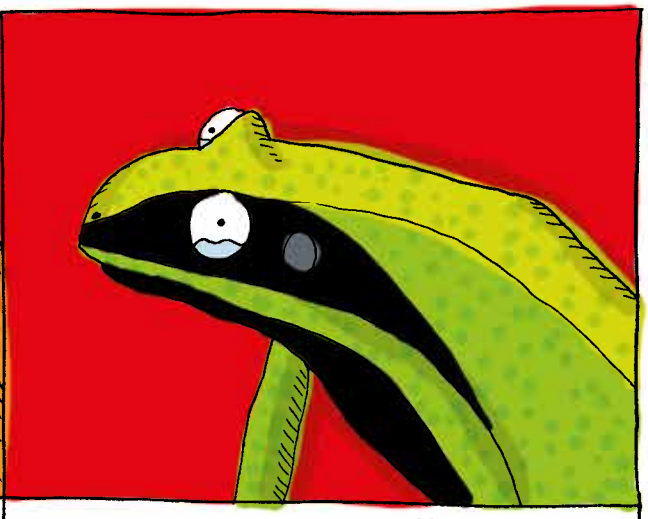

Black salamander
Common blackbird
Mexican black king snake

The endangered

Giant panda

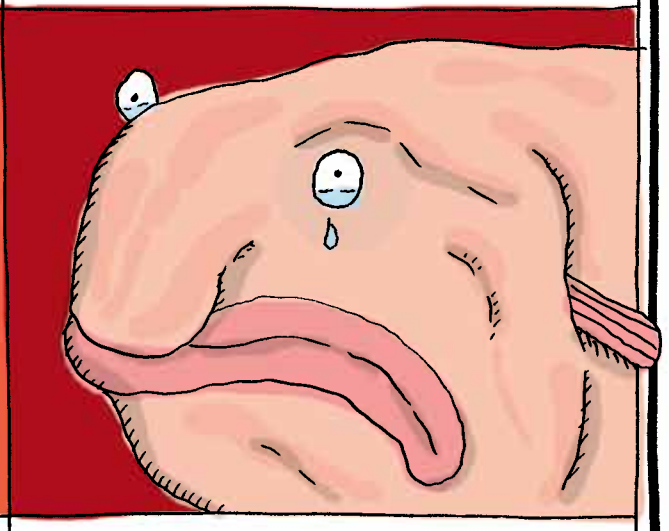


Orangutan

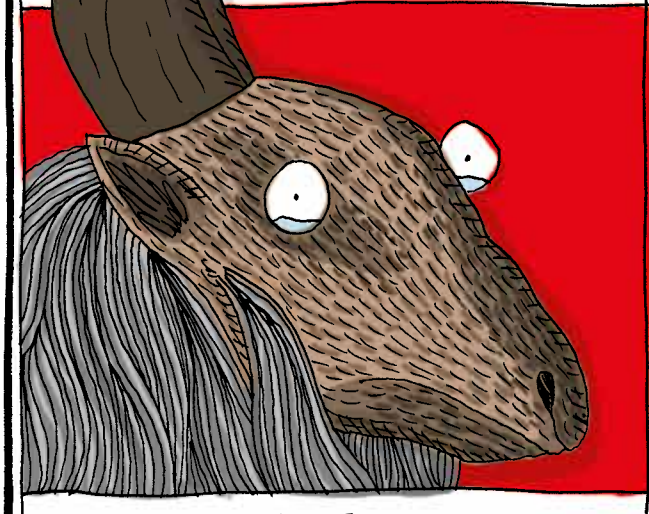


Green mantella

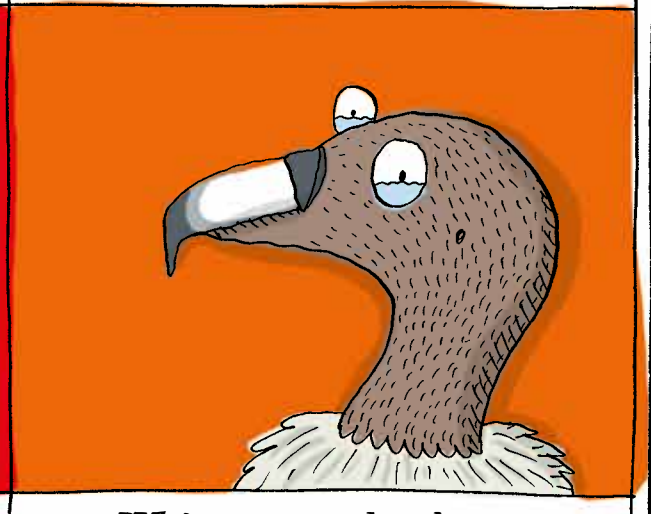
Lear's macaw



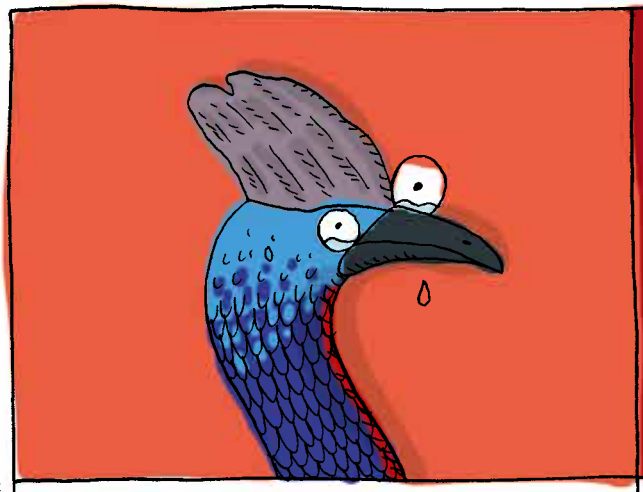
Blobfish



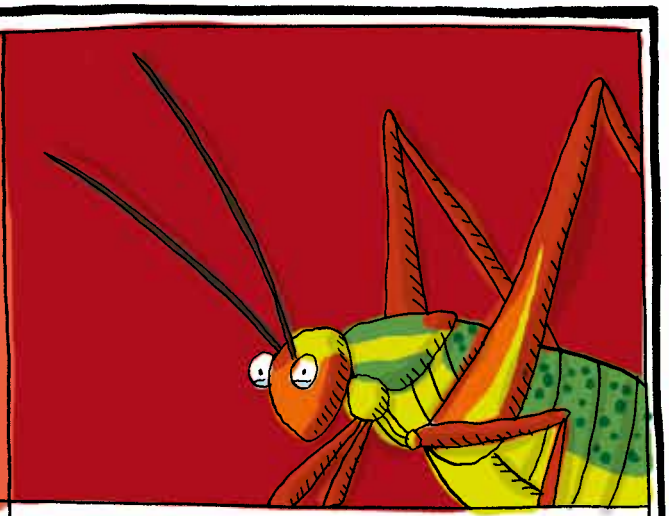
Markhor



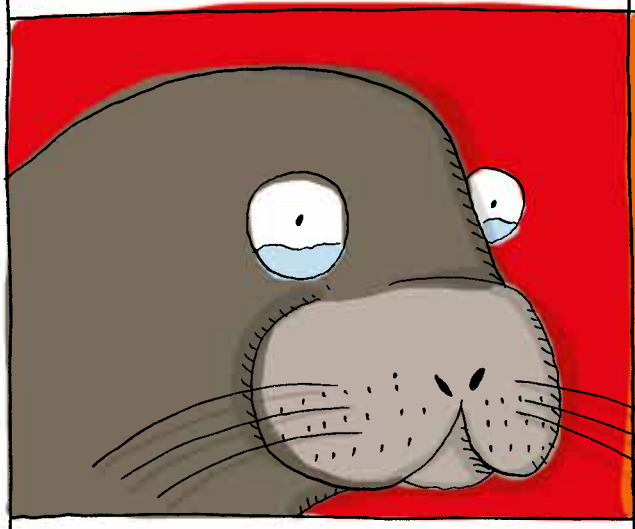
White-rumped vulture



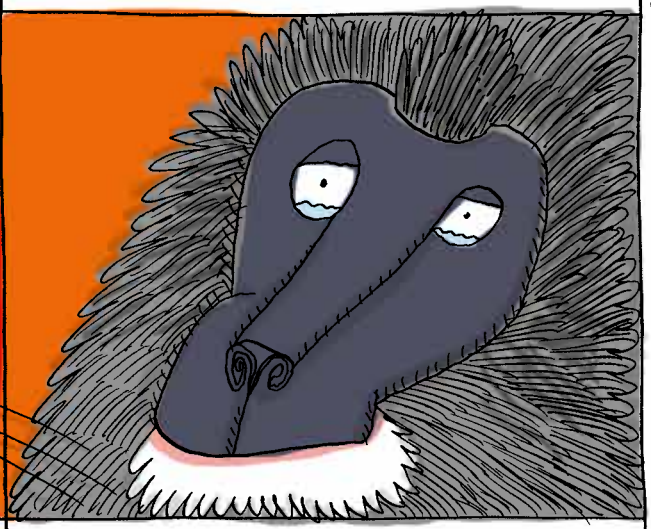
Southern cassowary



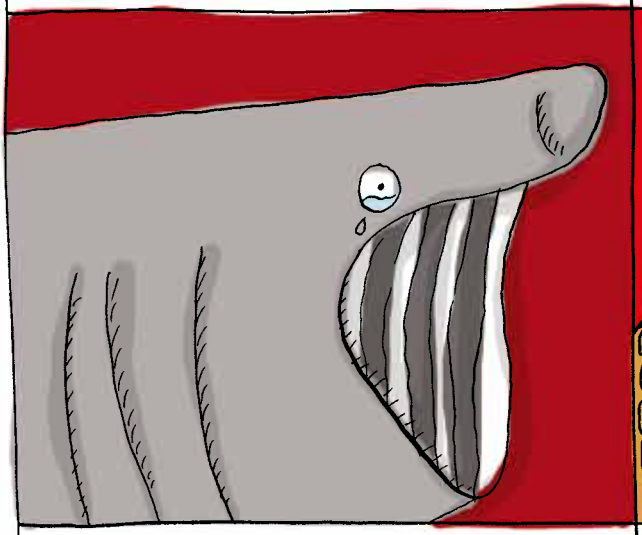
Saw-tailed bush cricket



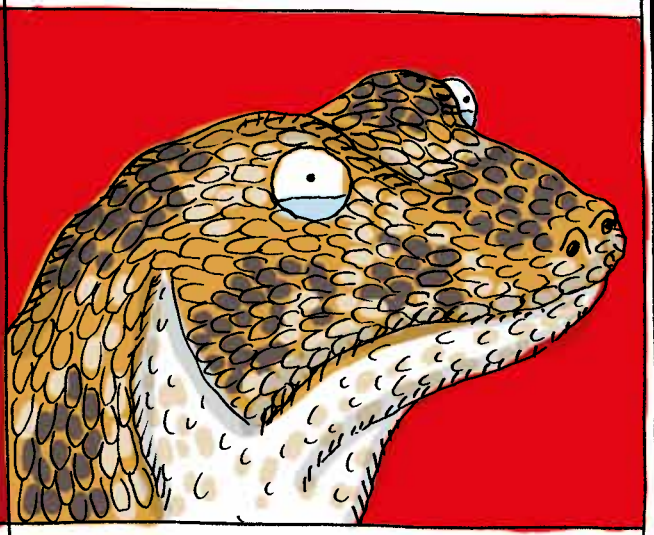
Hawaiian monk seal



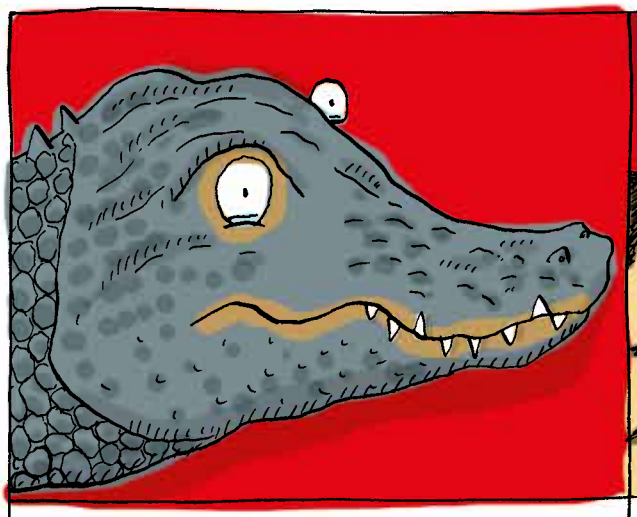
Drill



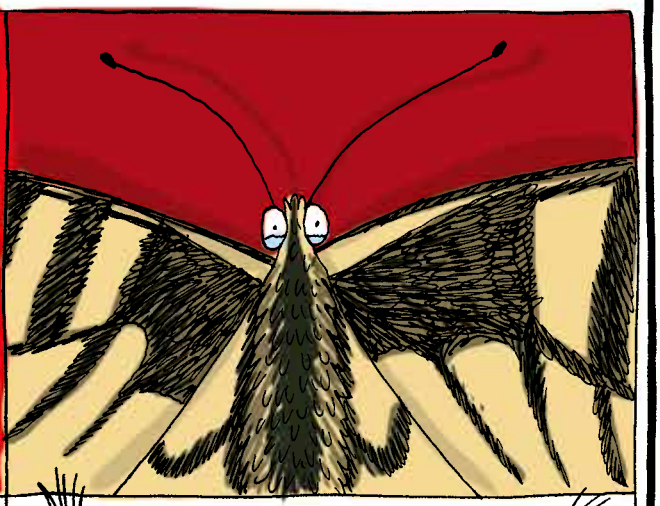
Basking shark



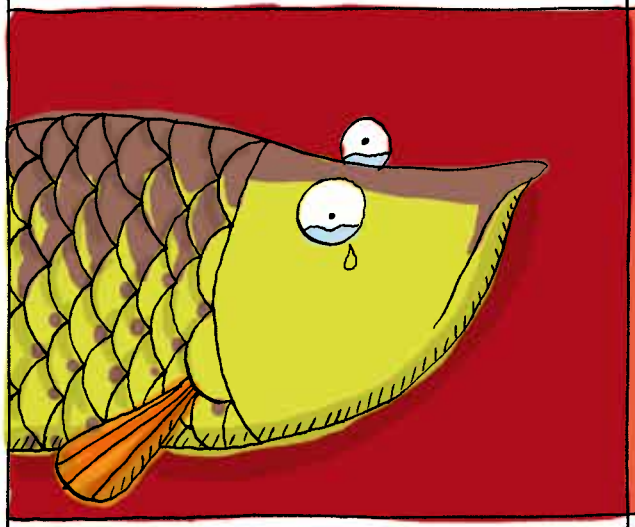
Chuckwalla



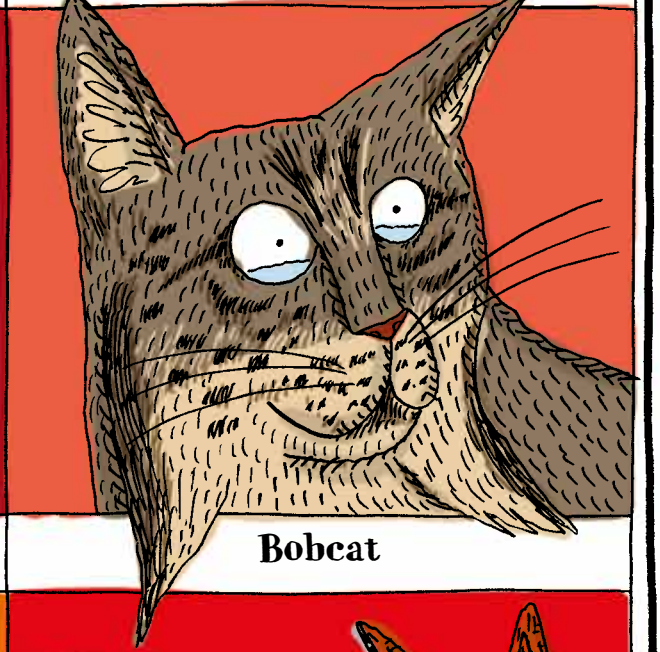
Chinese alligator



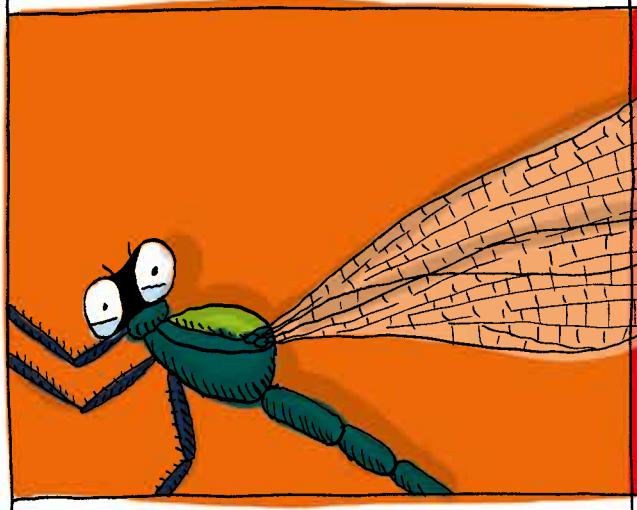
Corsican swallowtail



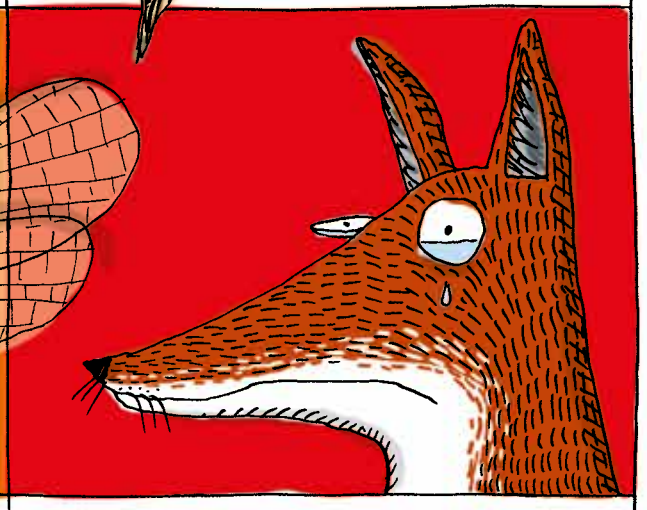
Asian arowana



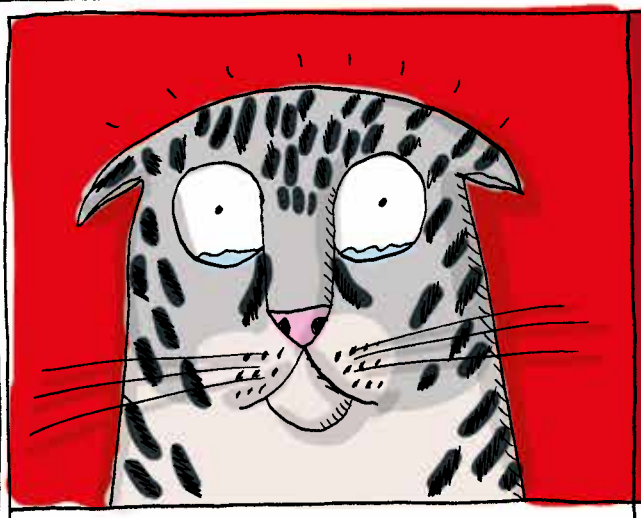
Bobcat



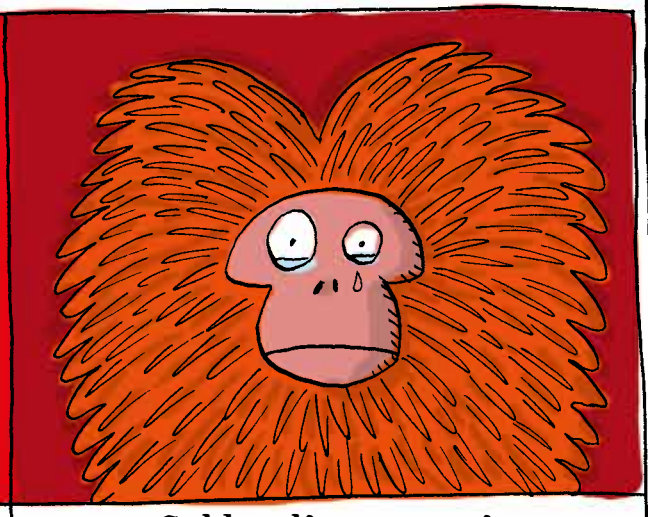
Emerald damselfly



Ethiopian wolf

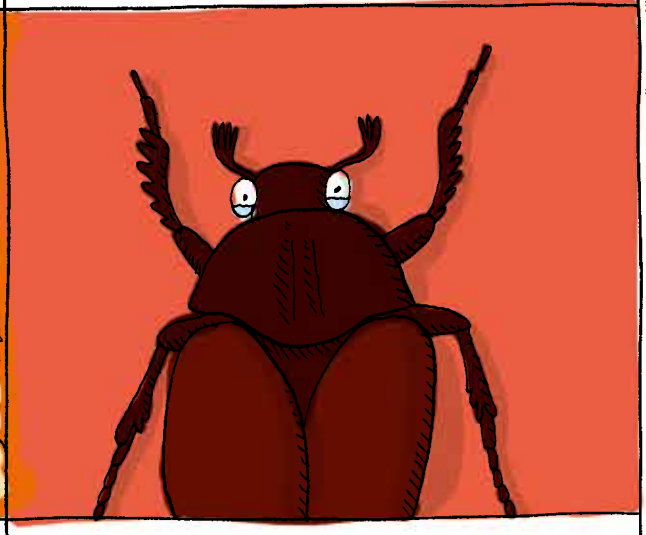


Snow leopard

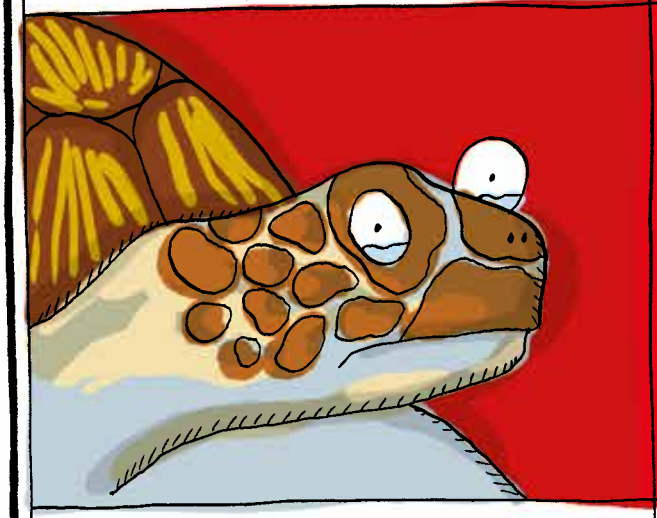


Golden lion tamarin

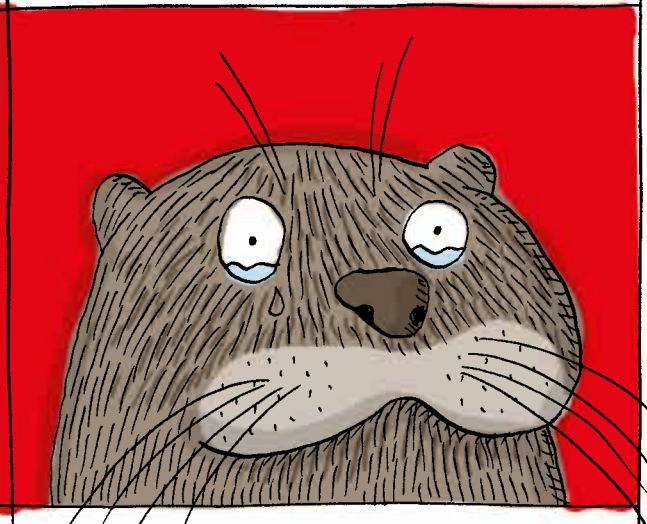
Monkey-eating eagle



Hermit beetle

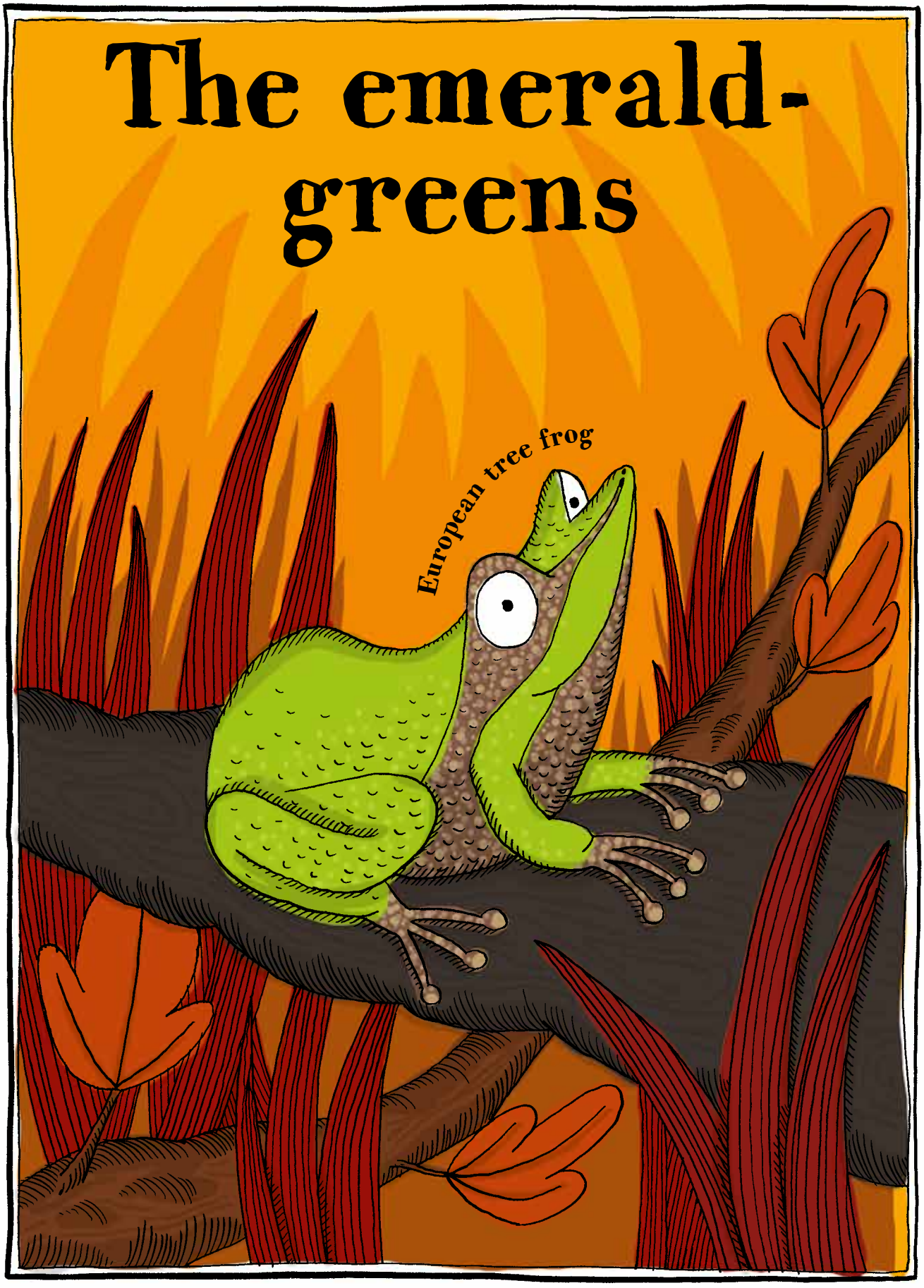


Green sea turtle

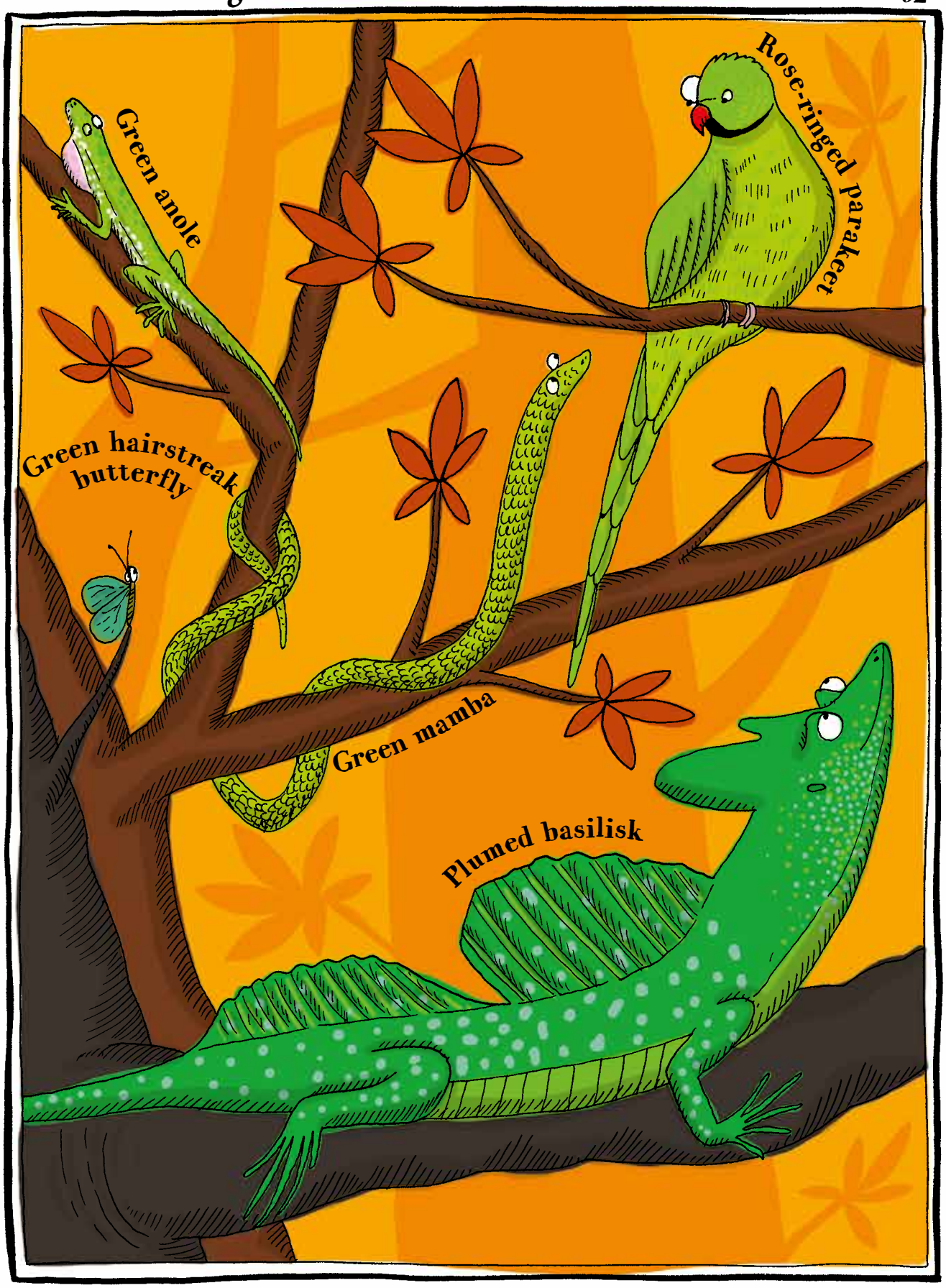


Otter

The emerald-greens

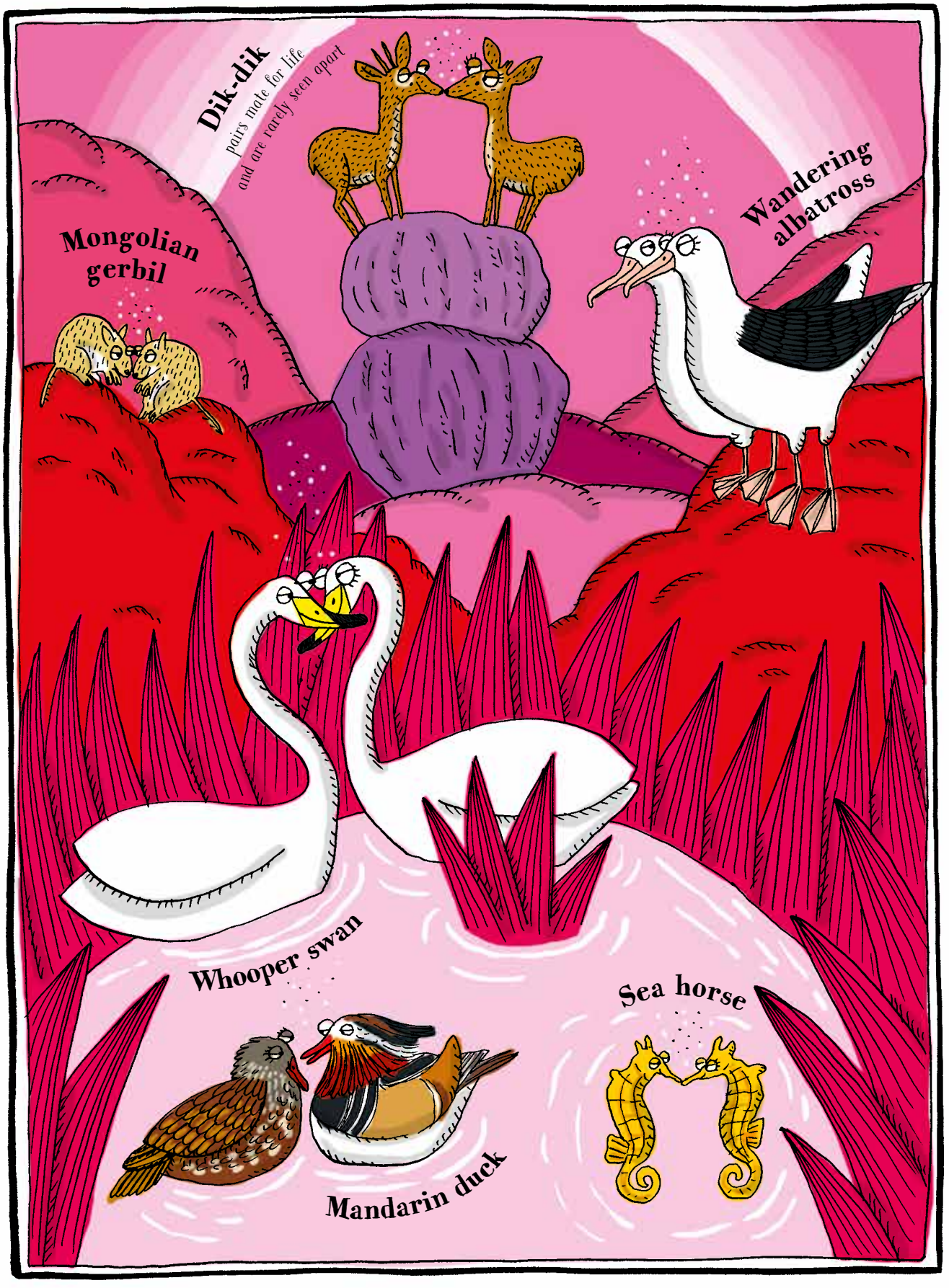


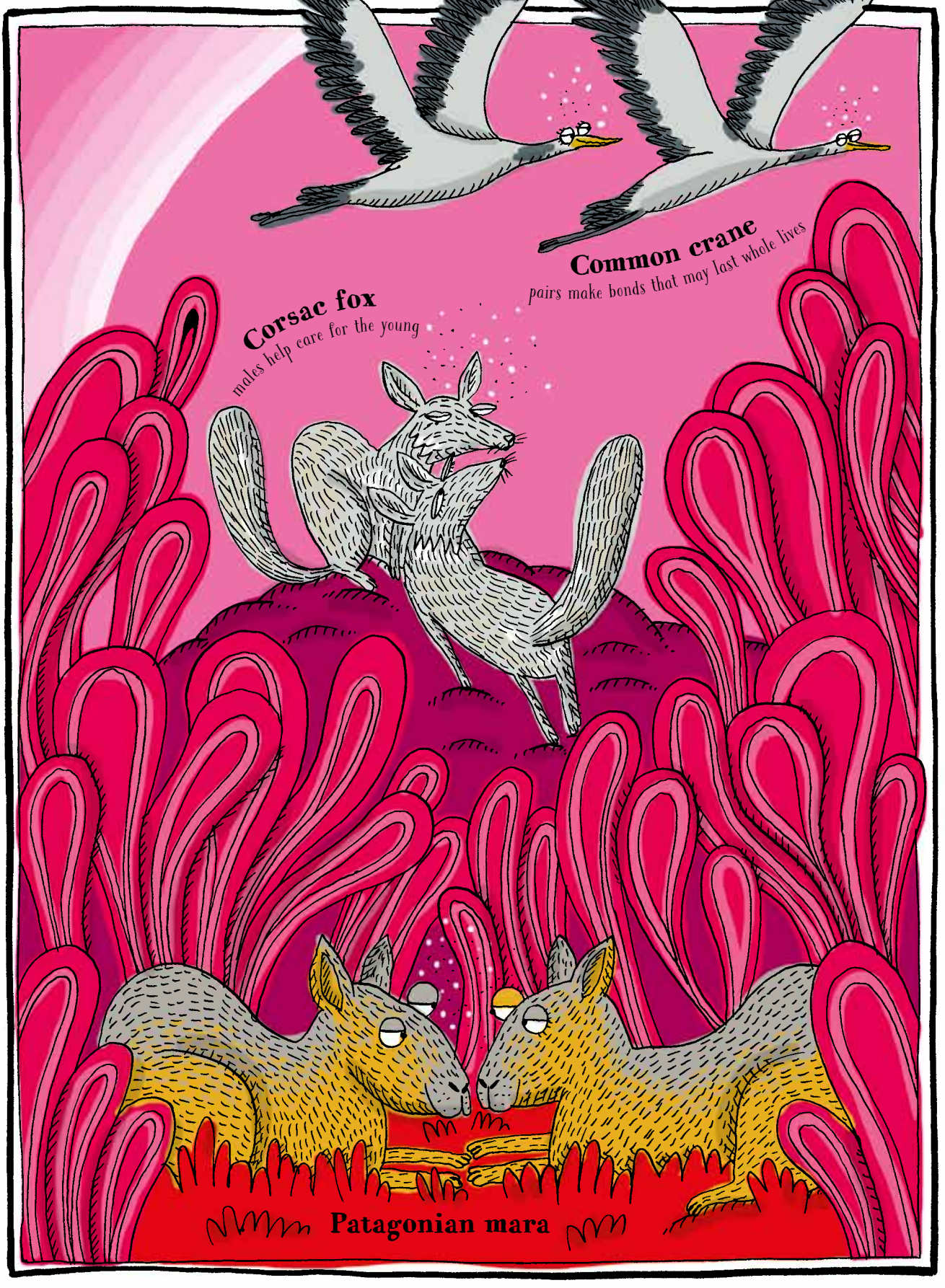
European green lizard
Kakapo
Rose chafer beetle


Green anole
Rose-ringed parakeet
Green hairstreak butterfly
Green mamba
Plumed basilisk

Emerald toucanet
Greenbottle
Emerald tree boa
Green tiger beetle
Green broadbill
Green shield bug

The faithful

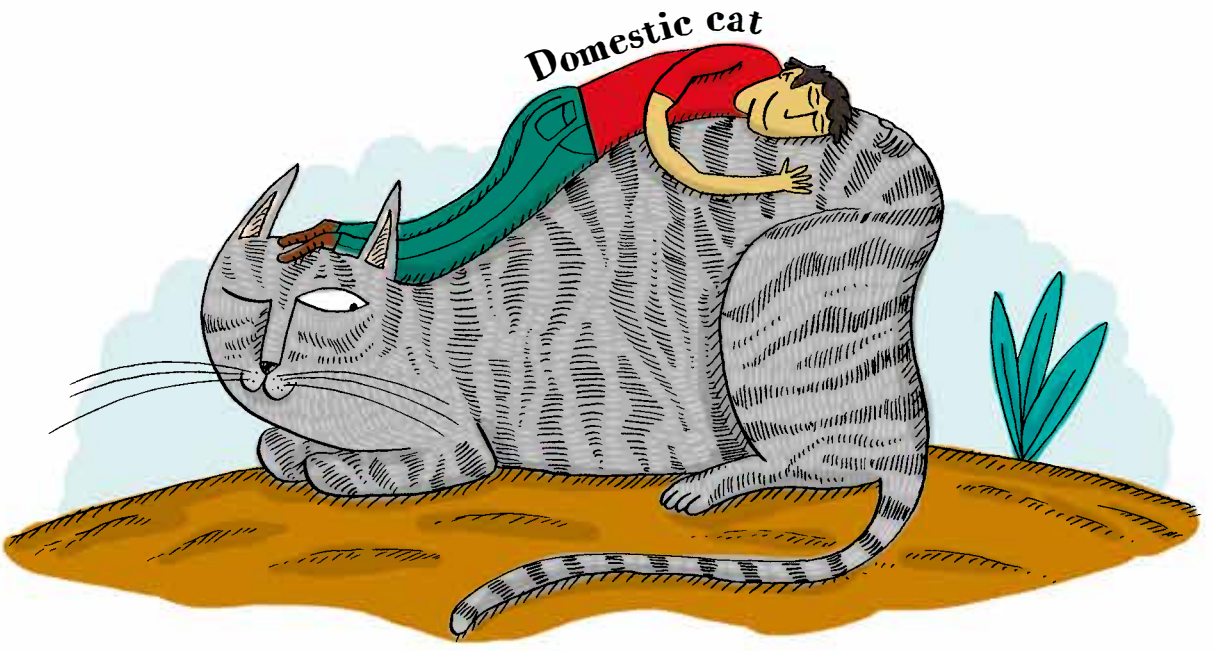

Dik-dik
pairs mate for life
and are rarely seen apart
Mongolian gerbil
Wandering albatross
Whooper swan
Sea horse
Mandarin duck


Common crane
pairs make bonds that may last whole lives
Corsac fox
males help care for the young
Patagonian mara

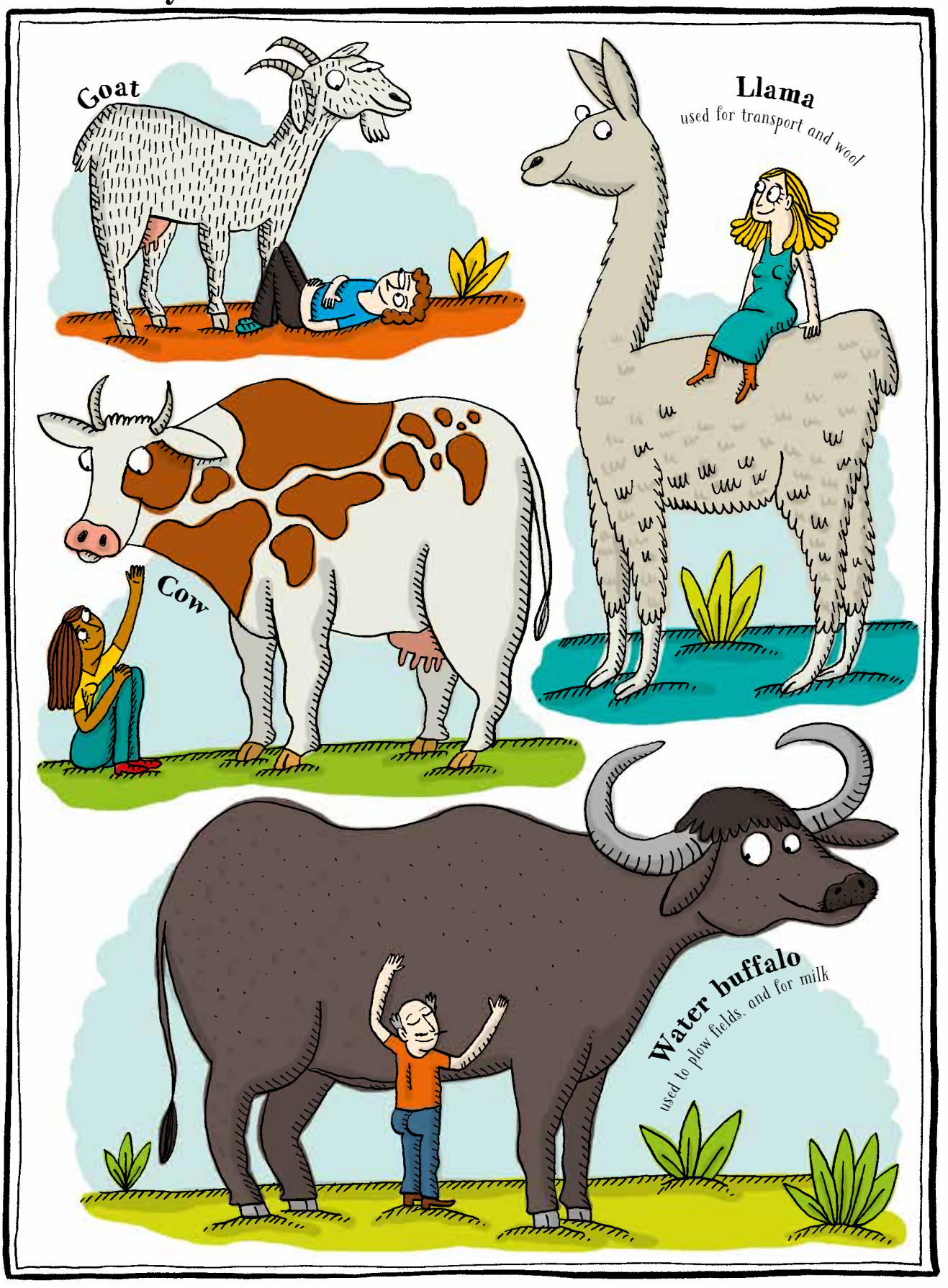
Harpy eagle
mates for life, parents raise only one chick every two to three years
Eastern woolly lemur
Mimic poison frog
both parents care for tadpoles for several months
Common raccoon
female takes only one mate per year

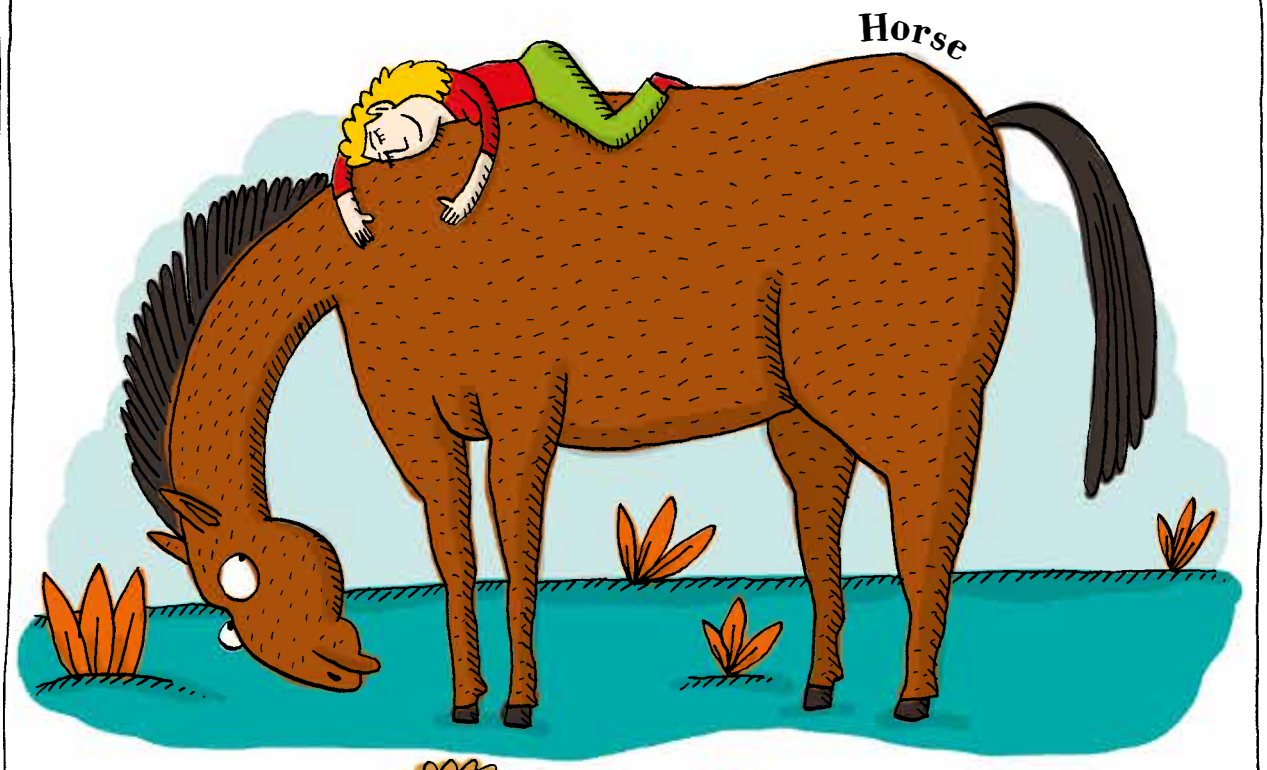
Our family friends

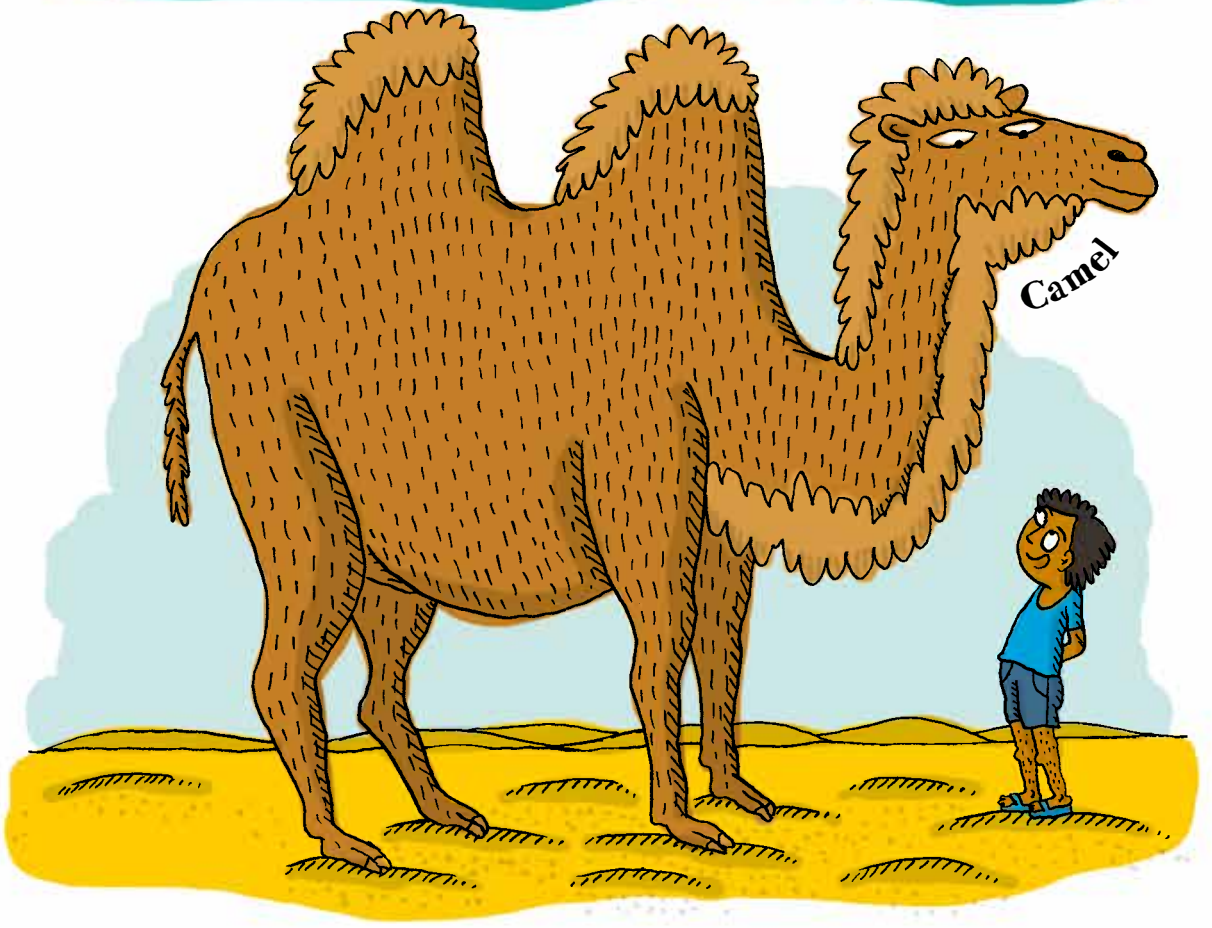
Sheep
Cormorant
used for fishing in China
Donkey
European rabbit
Chinchilla
Green iguana
Guinea pig


Domestic cat

Dog


Goat
Llama
used for transport and wool
Cow
Water buffalo
used to plow fields, and for milk

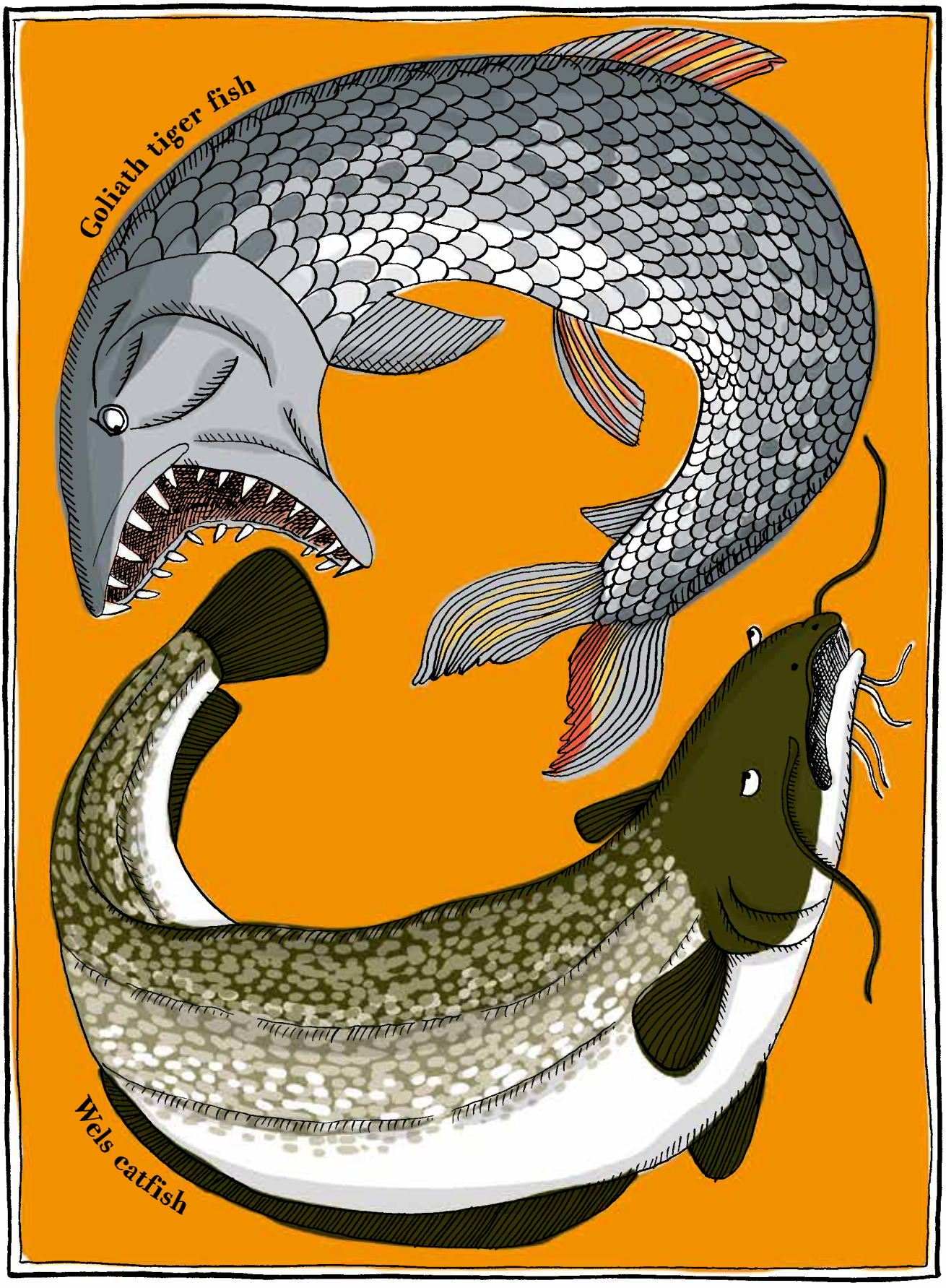

Horse


Camel

Ferret
Budgerigar
Hamster
Domestic mouse
Frog
Snake
Hermit crab
Goldfish
Canary
Congo tetra

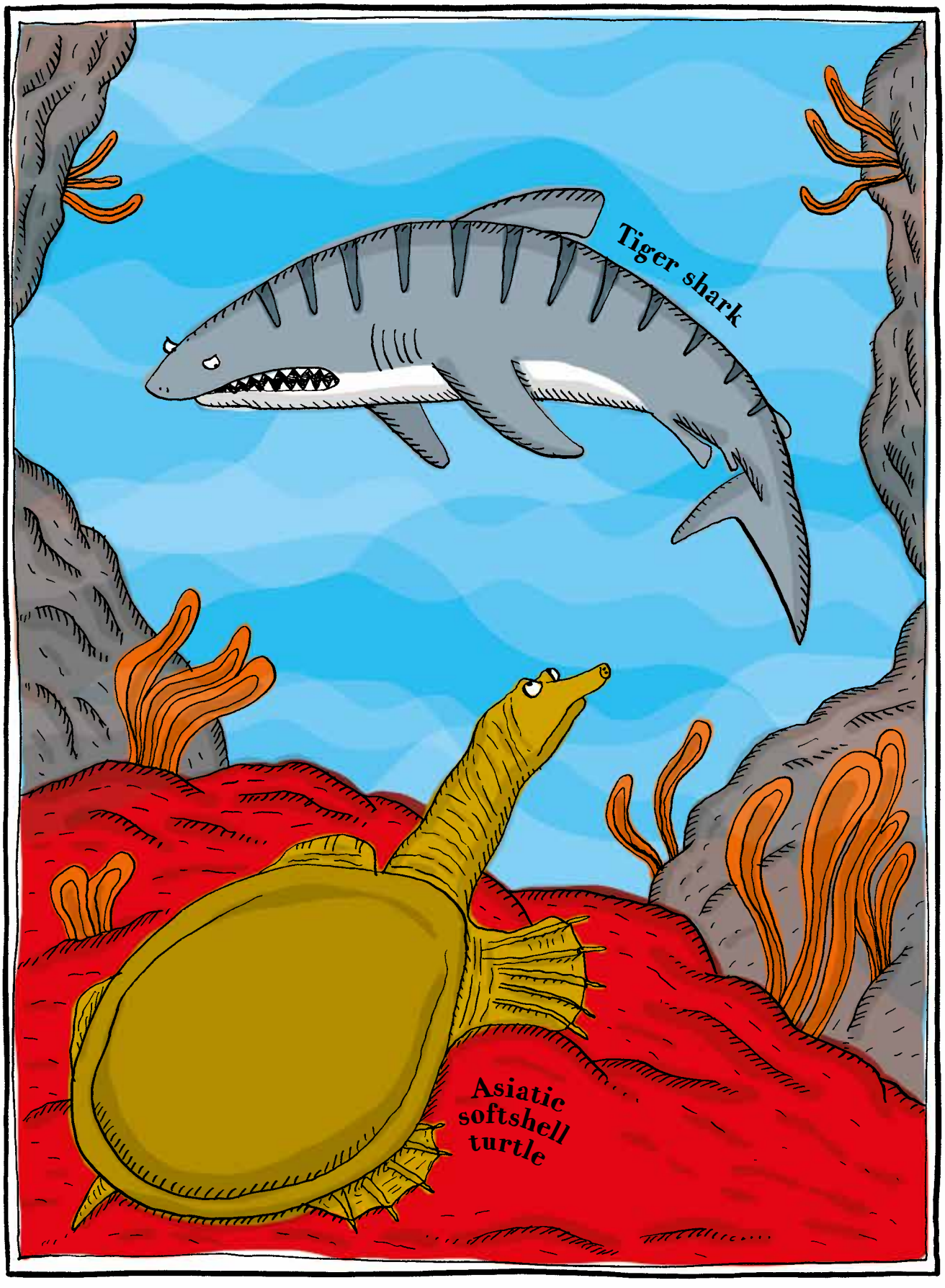
The fierce

Olive baboon
Asian hornet
Mosquito
Tasmanian devil

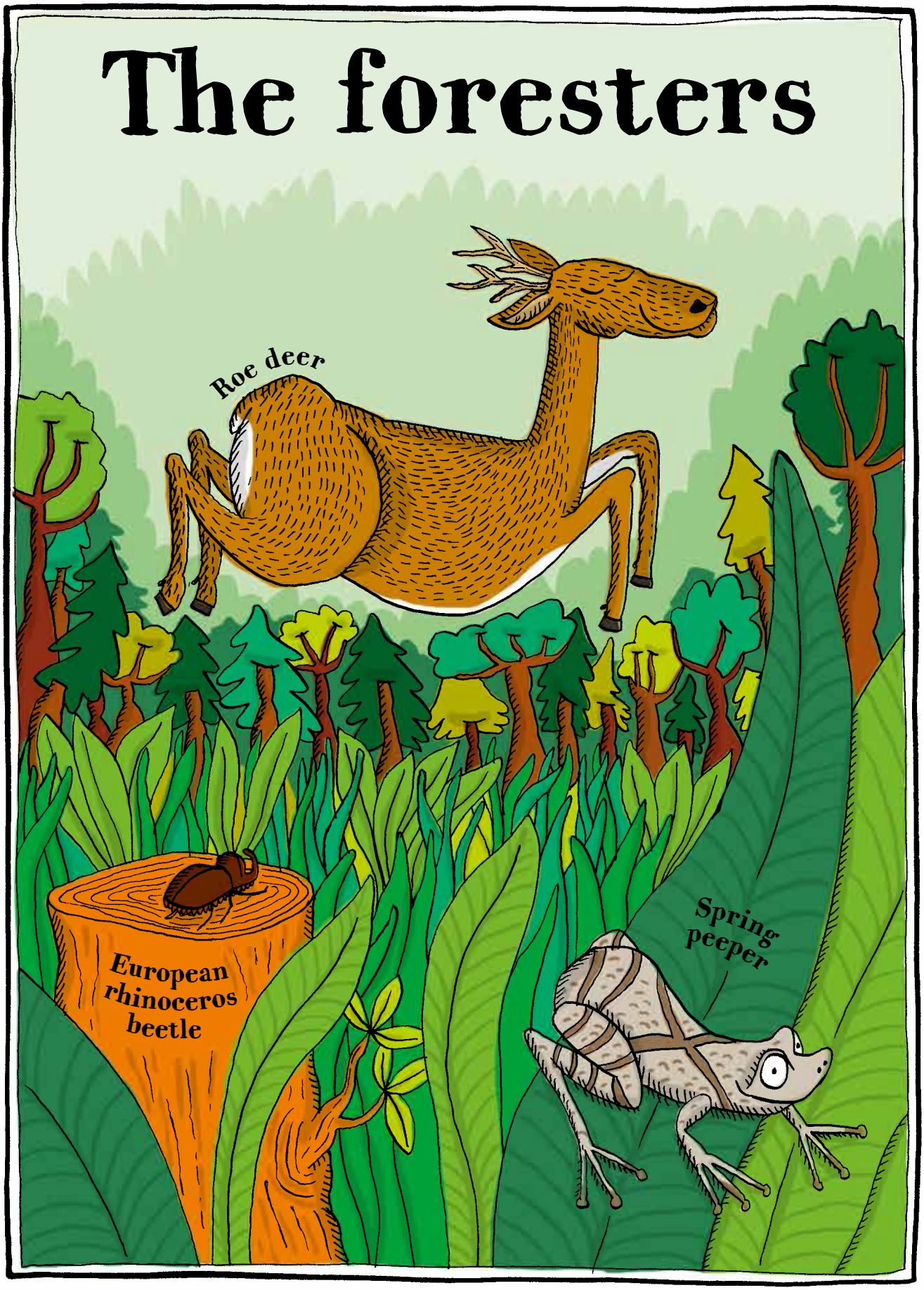

Goliath tiger fish
Wels catfish

Tick
Grizzly bear
Stoat

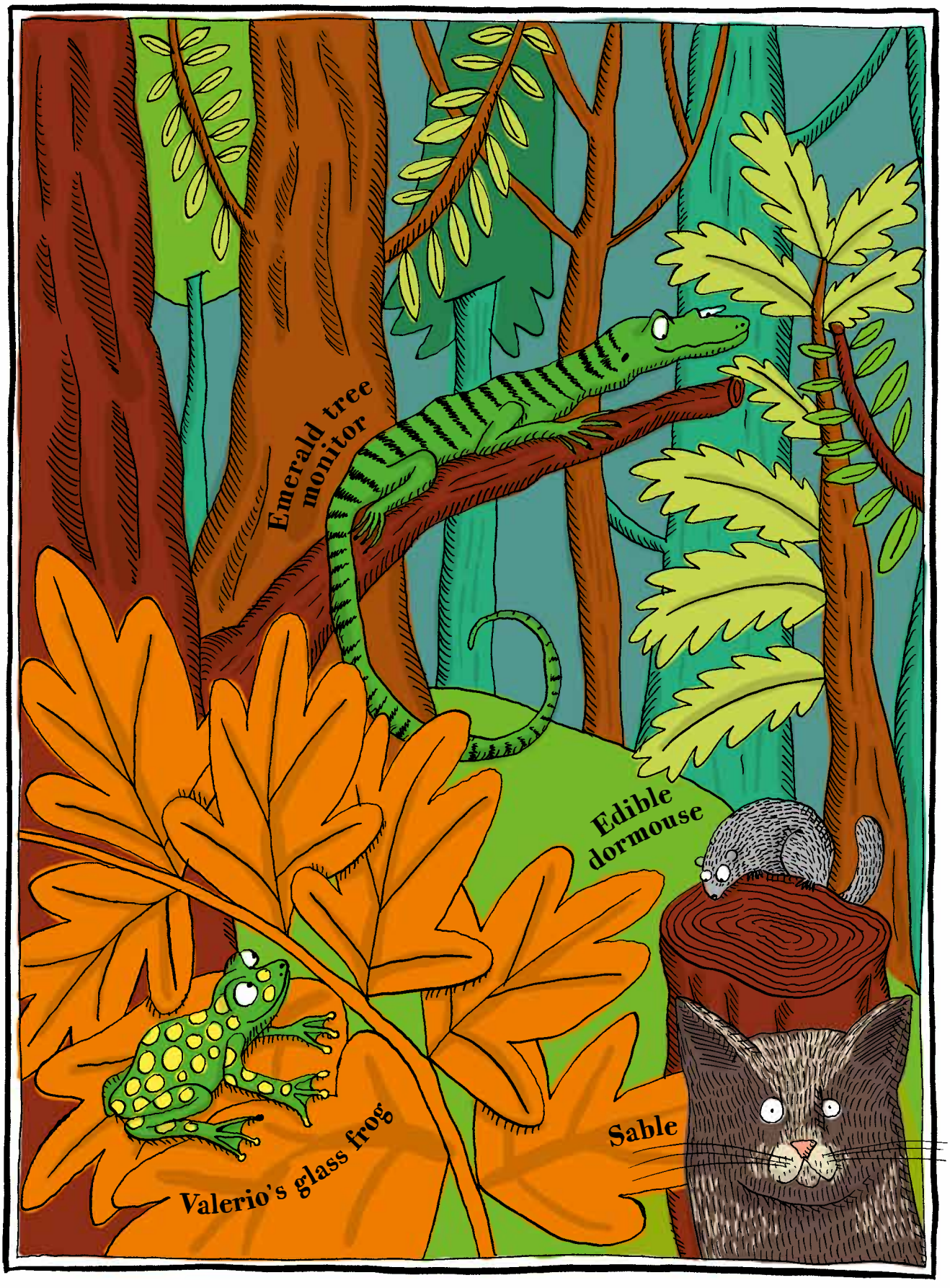
Kestrel
Inland taipan


Tiger shark
Asiatic softshell turtle

The foresters



Indri
Loris
Grove snail
Red squirrel

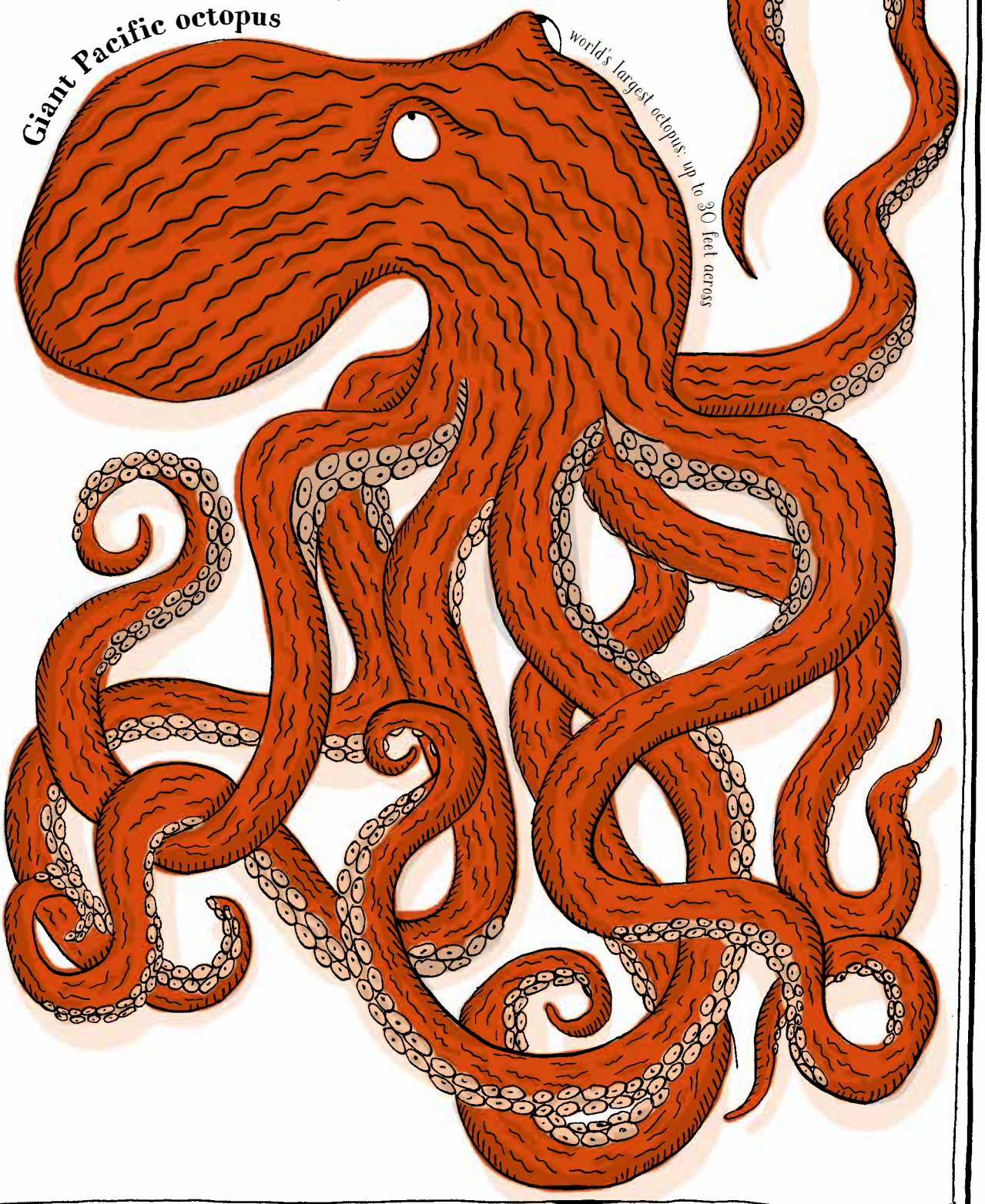

Emerald tree monitor
Edible dormouse
Sable
Valerio's glass frog

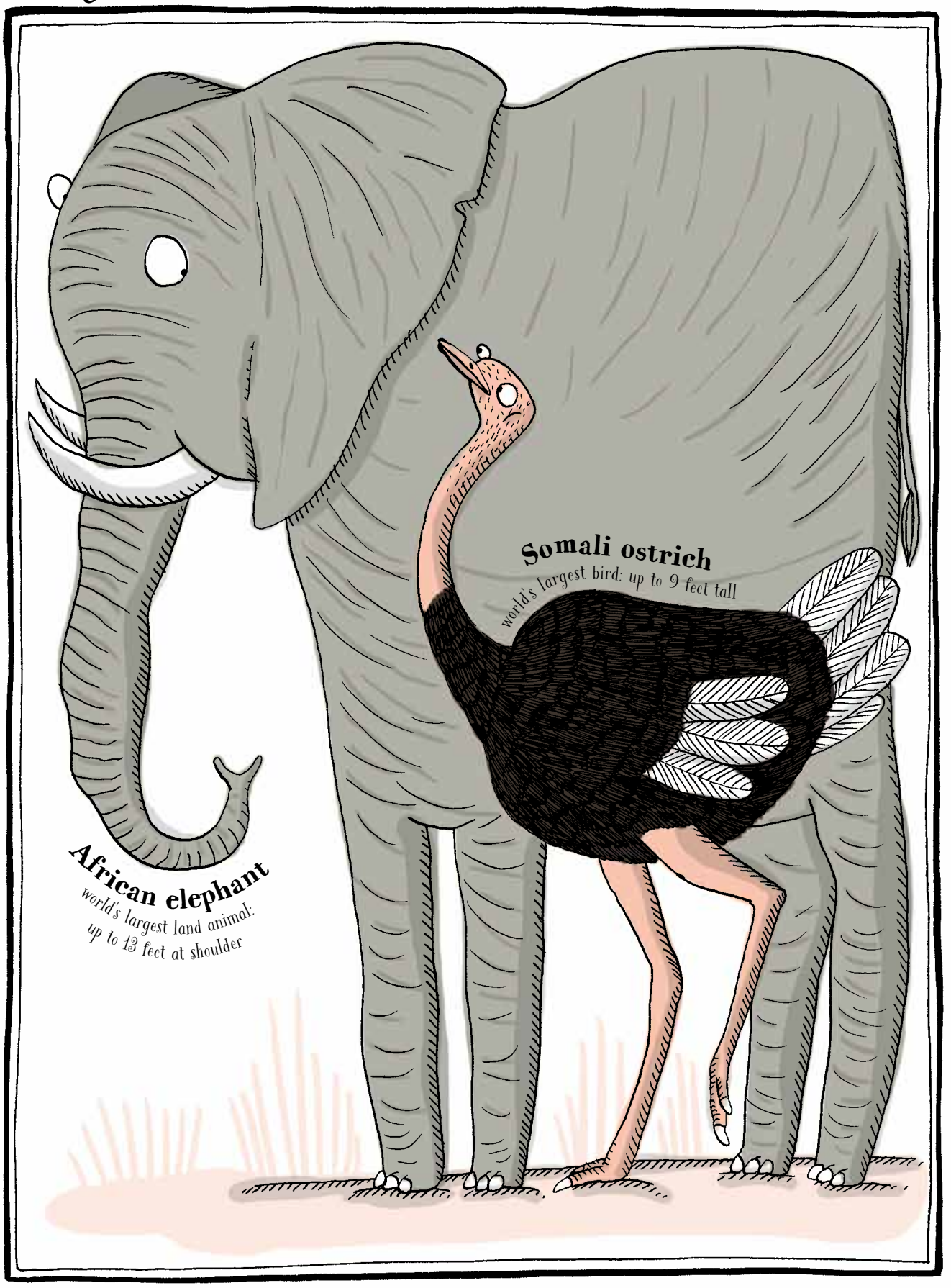
Stag beetle
Malayan tapir
Eurasian woodcock

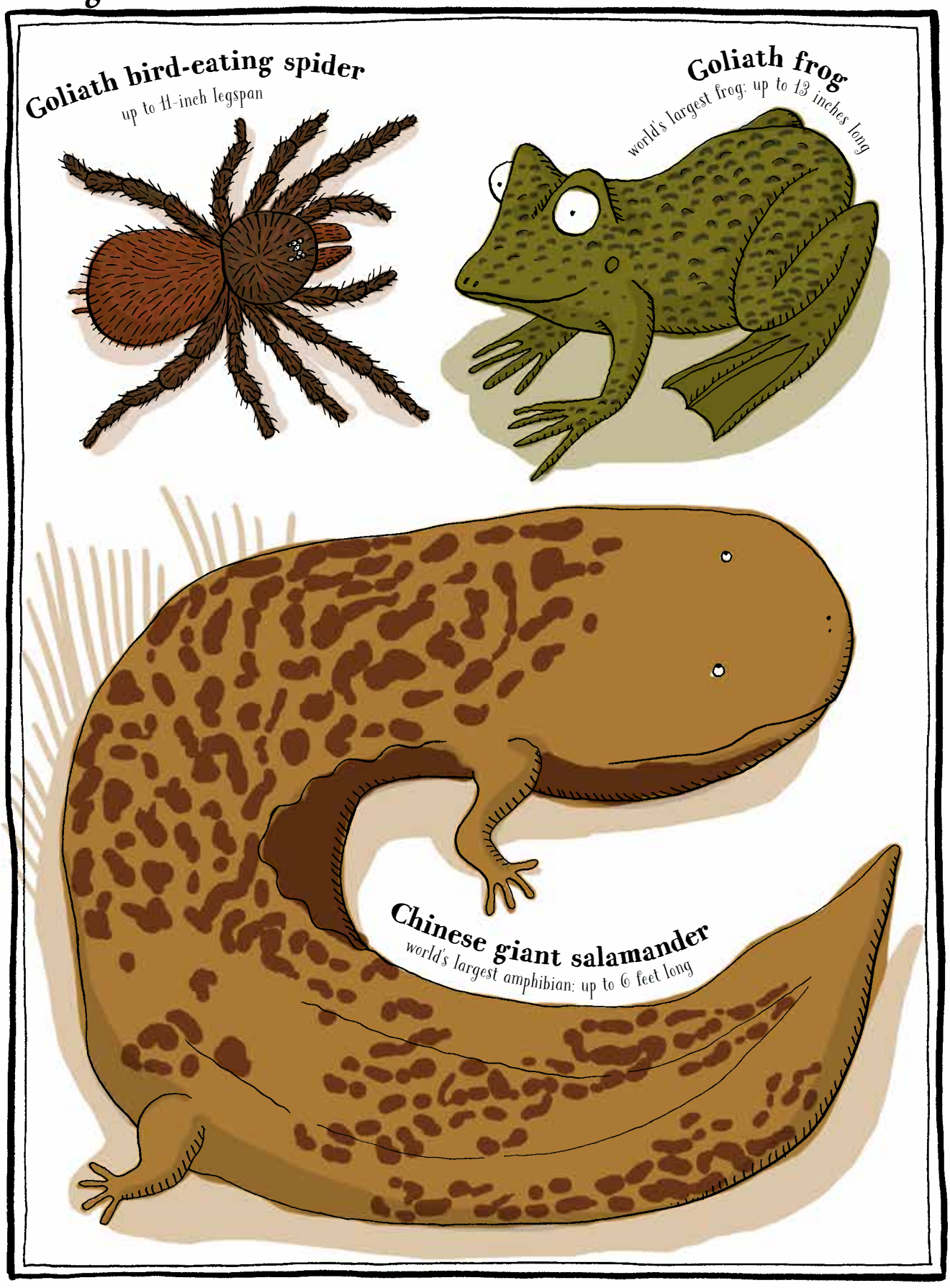
Hawfinch
Brown greater galago
Babirusa

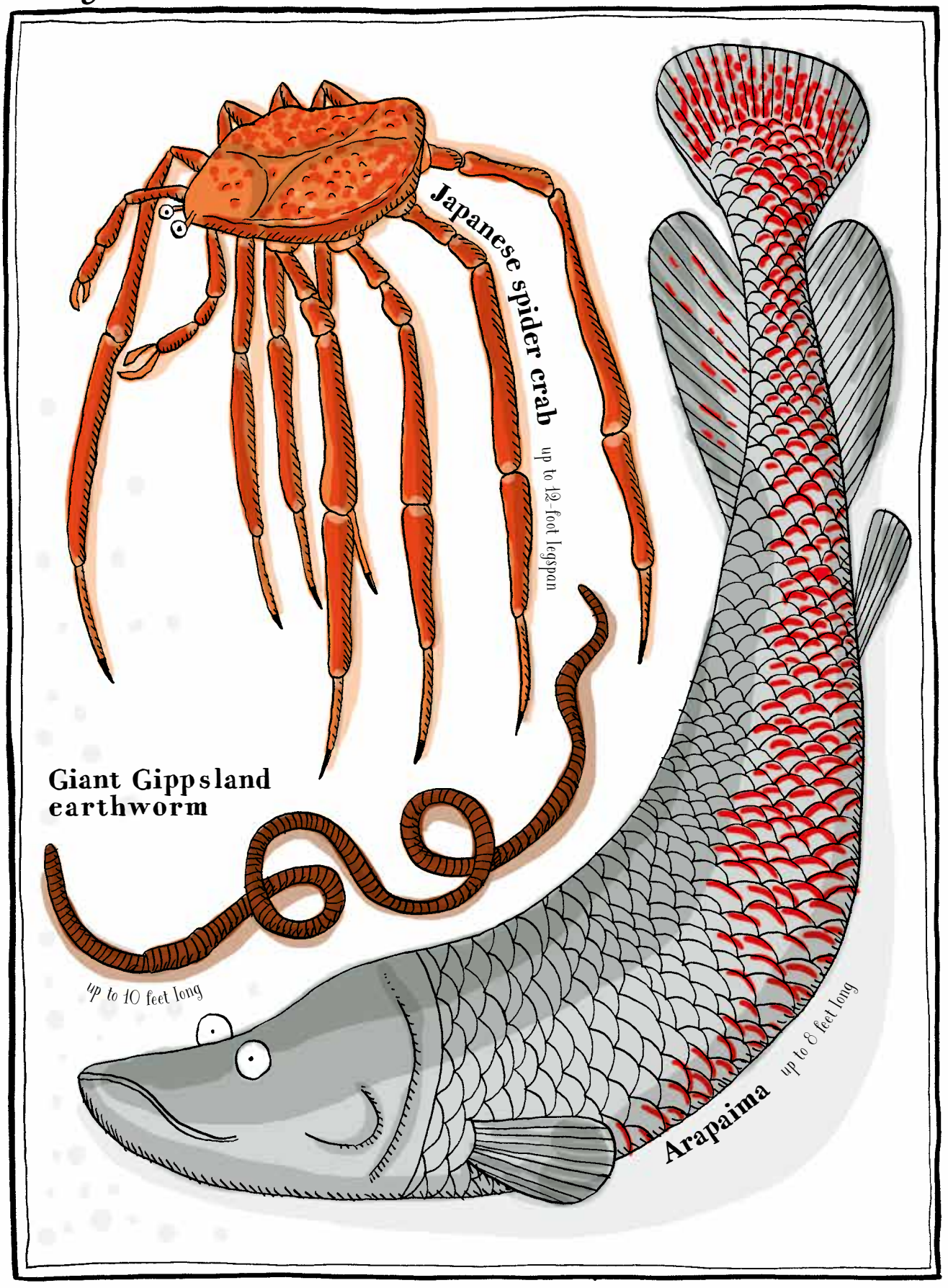
Bohemian waxwing
Turtledove
Rosalia longicorn
Wild turkey
Common wombat

The giants

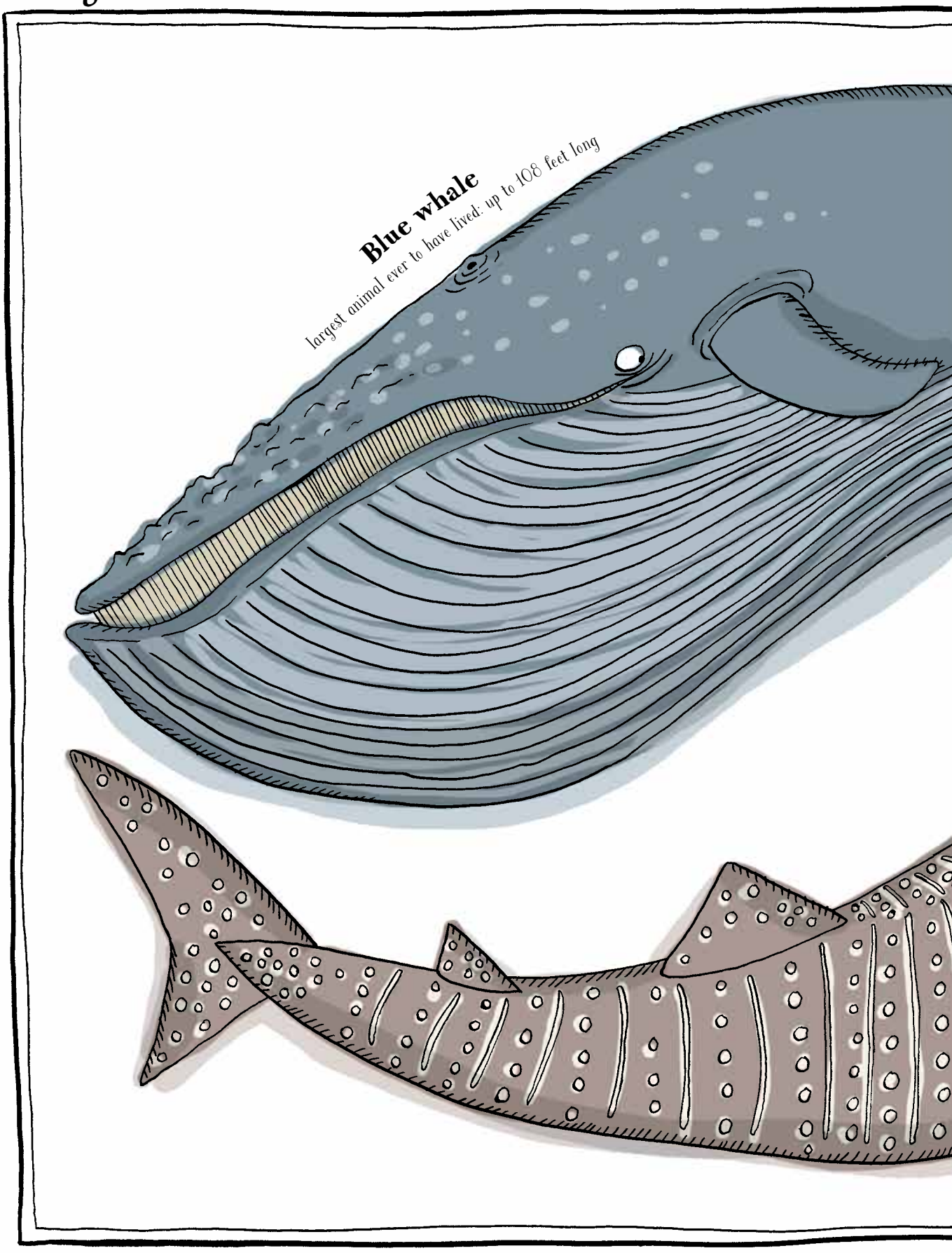

Giant Pacific octopus
world's largest octopus: up to 30 feet across

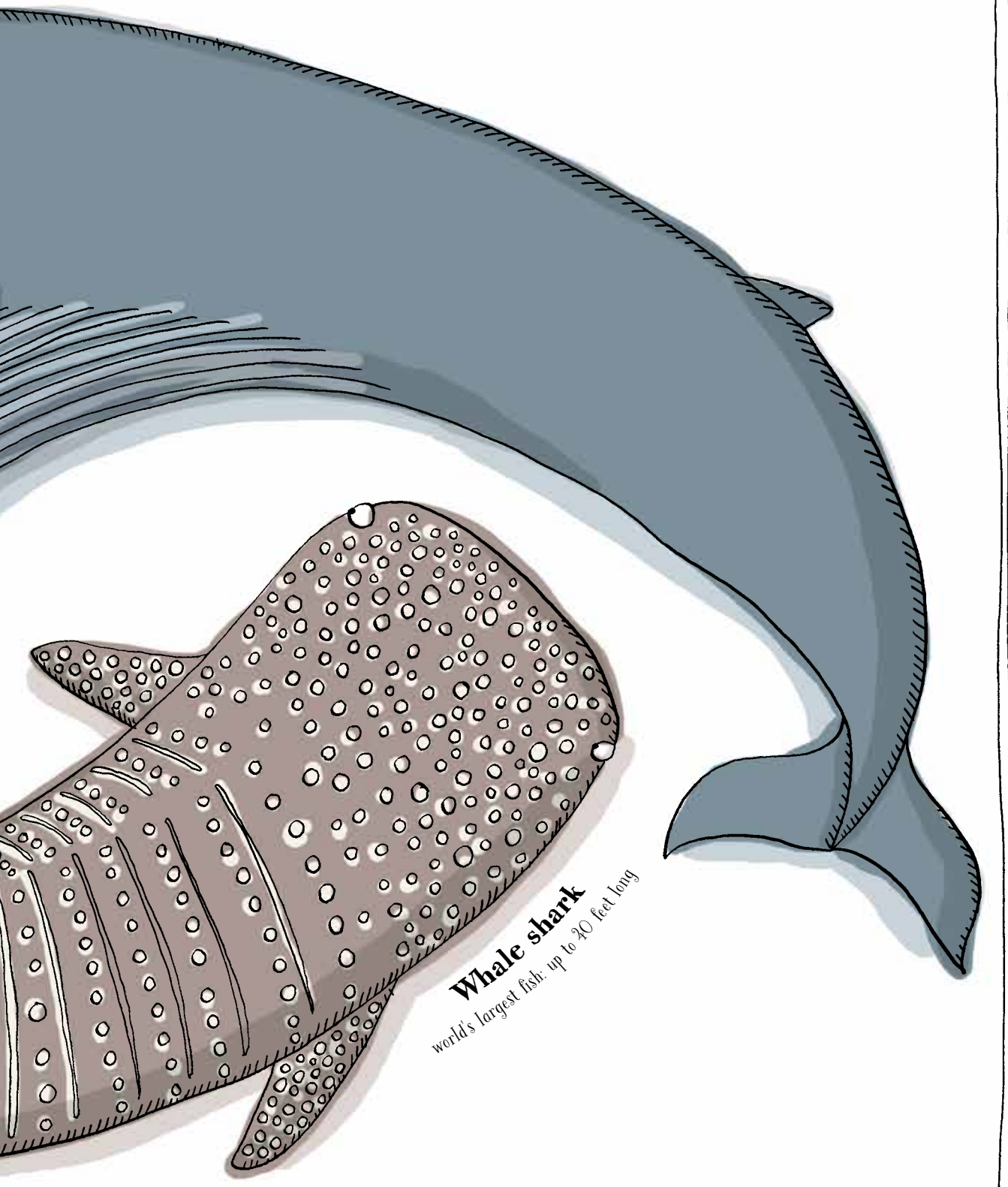

Somali ostrich
world's largest bird: up to 9 feet tall
African elephant
world's largest land animal:
up to 13 feet at shoulder


Goliath bird-eating spider
up to 11-inch legspan
Goliath frog
world's largest frog: up to 13 inches long
Chinese giant salamander
world's largest amphibian: up to 6 feet long


Japanese spider crab
up to 12-foot legspan
Giant Gippsland earthworm
up to 10 feet long
Arapaima
up to 8 feet long

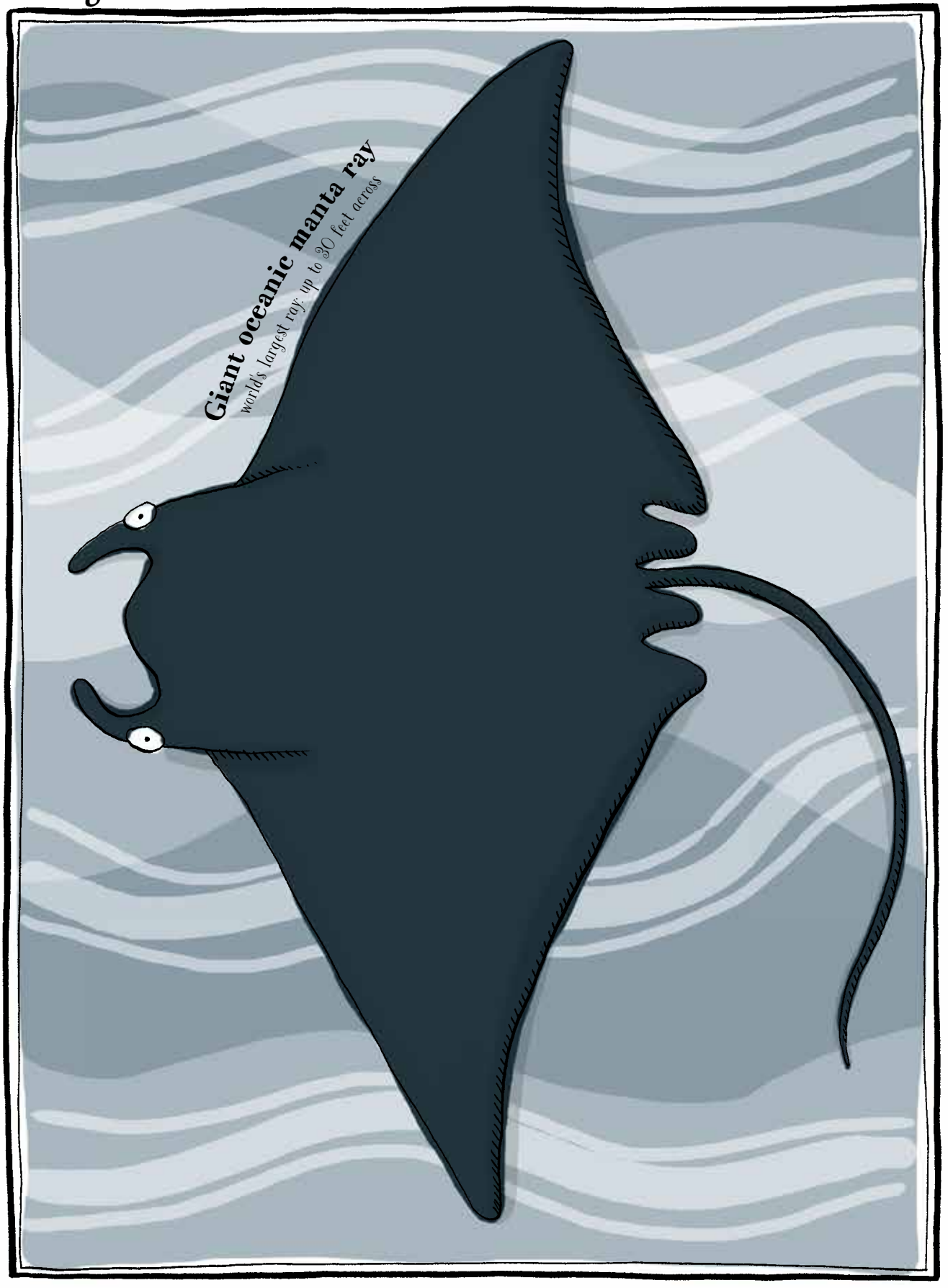
The giants

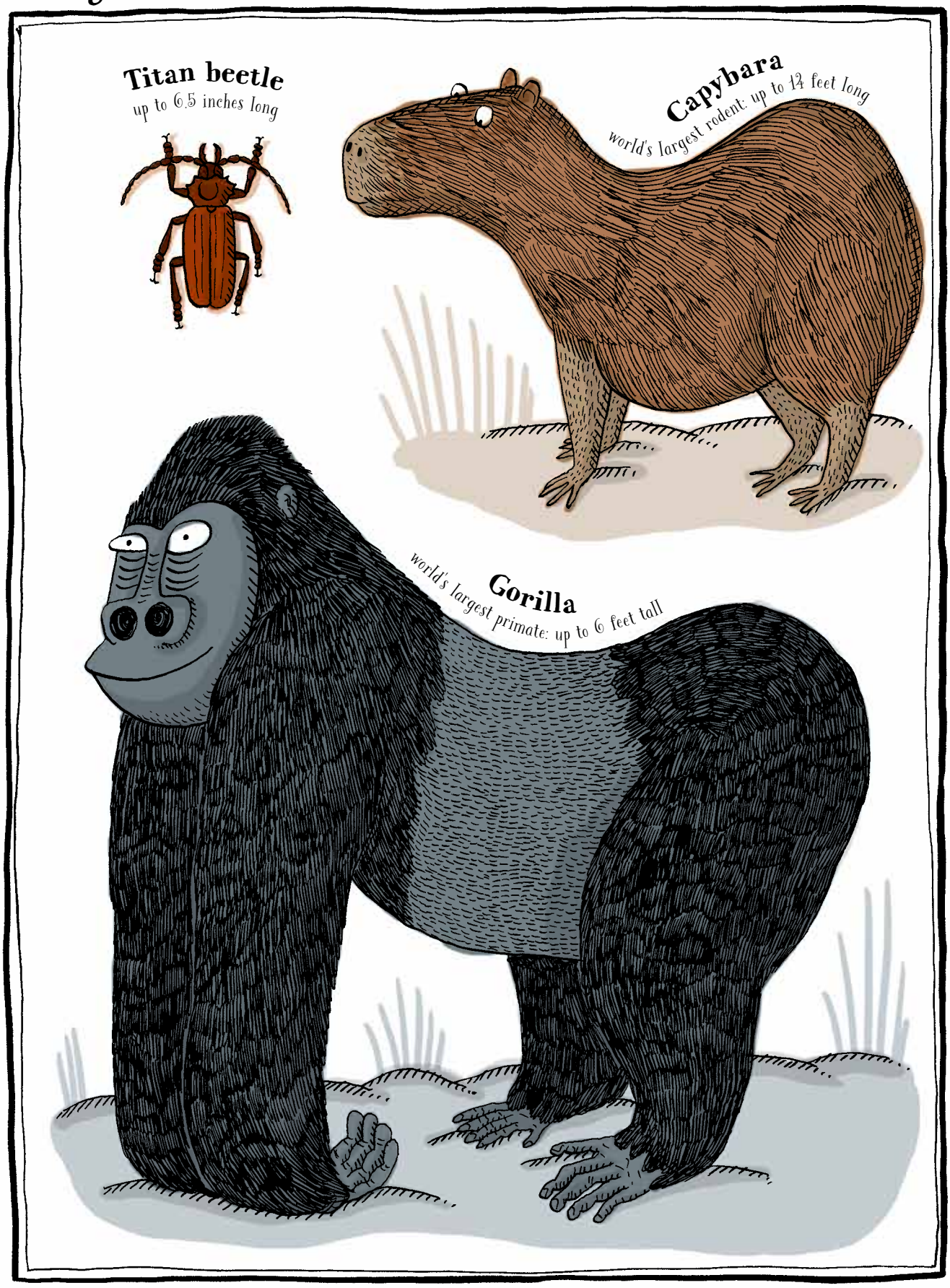

Blue whale
largest animal ever to have lived: up to 108 feet long



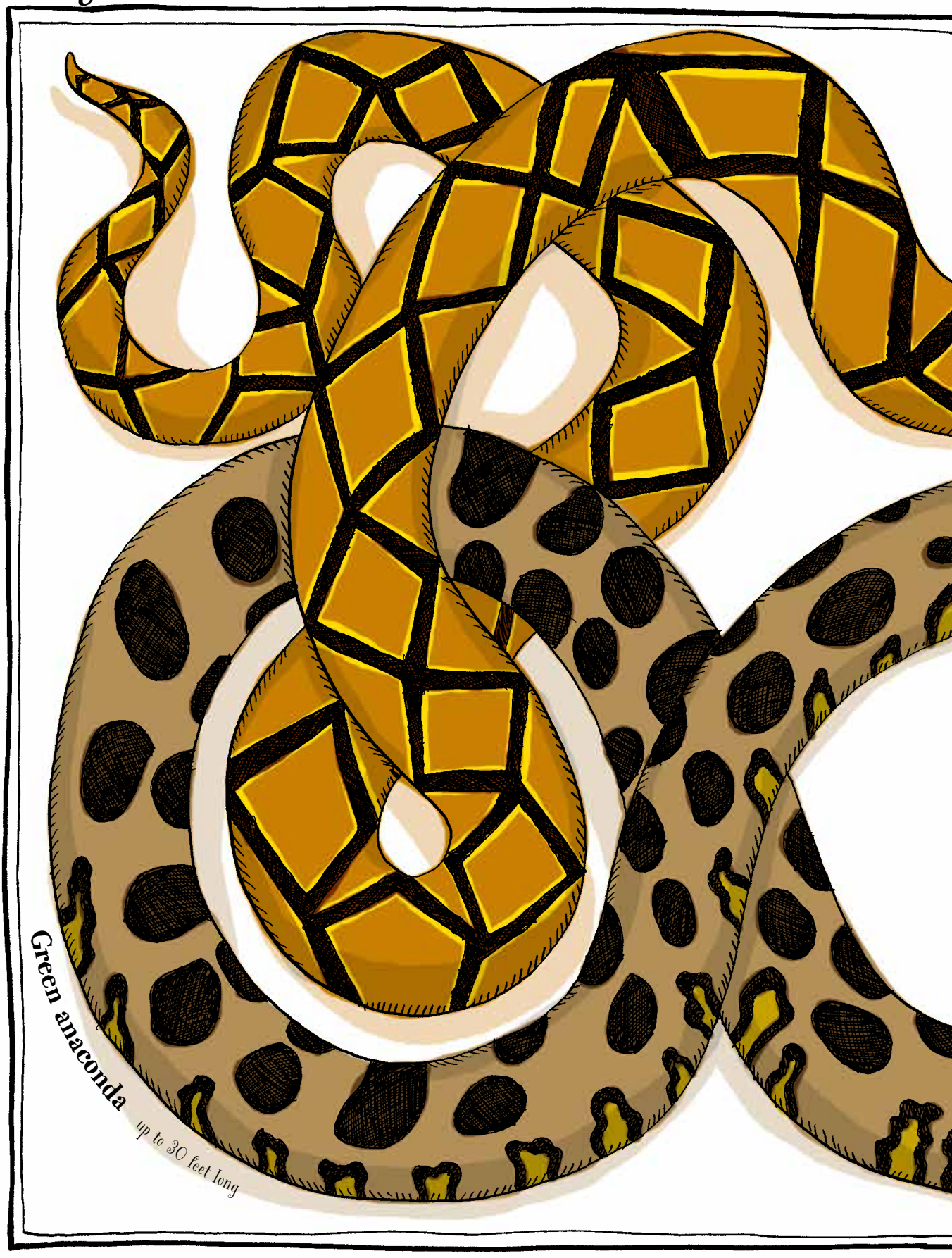
Whale shark

world's largest fish: up to 40 feet long

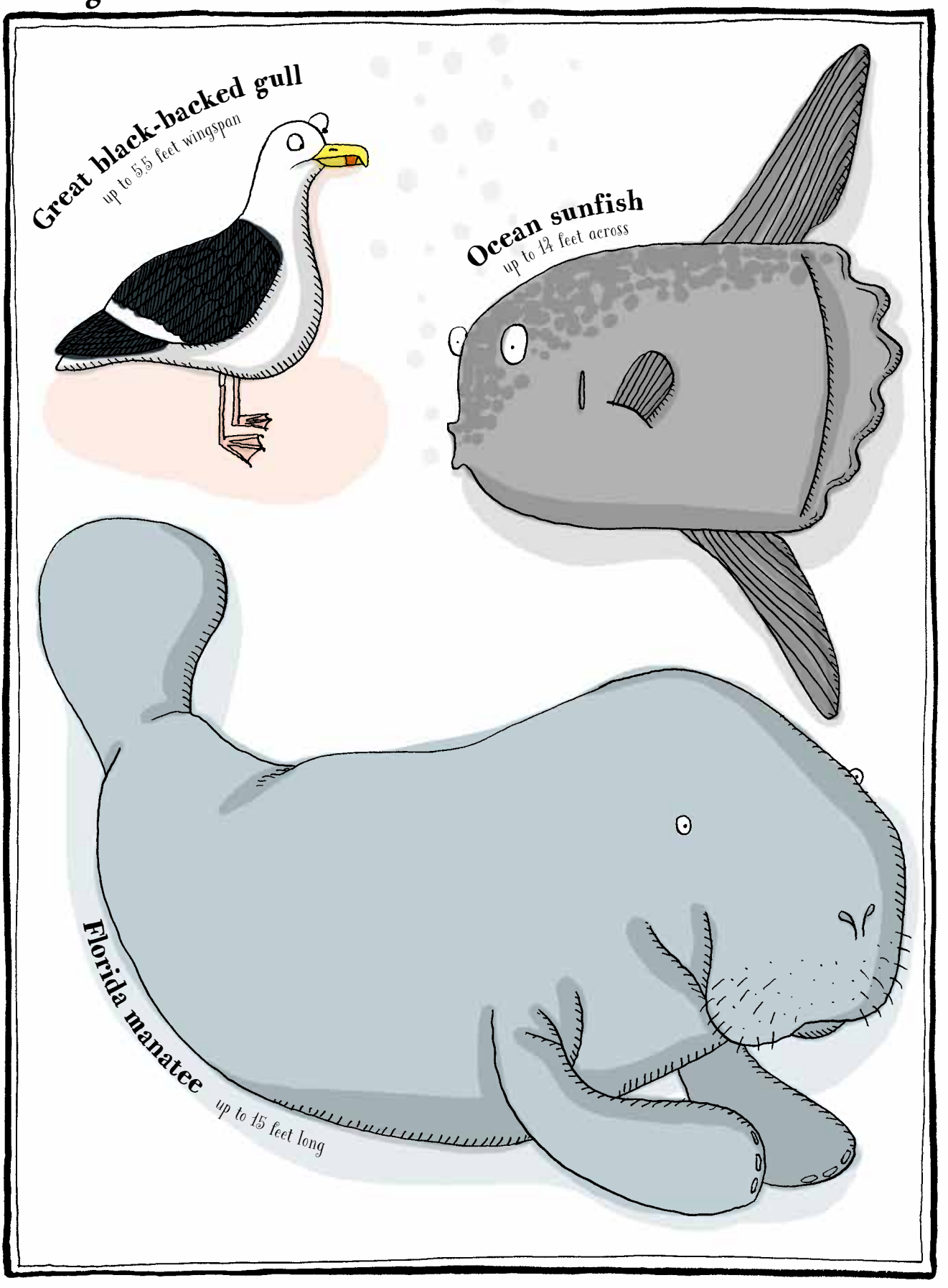

Giant oceanic manta ray
world's largest ray: up to 30 feet across


Titan beetle
up to 6.5 inches long
Capybara
world's largest rodent: up to 14 feet long
Gorilla
world's largest primate: up to 6 feet tall

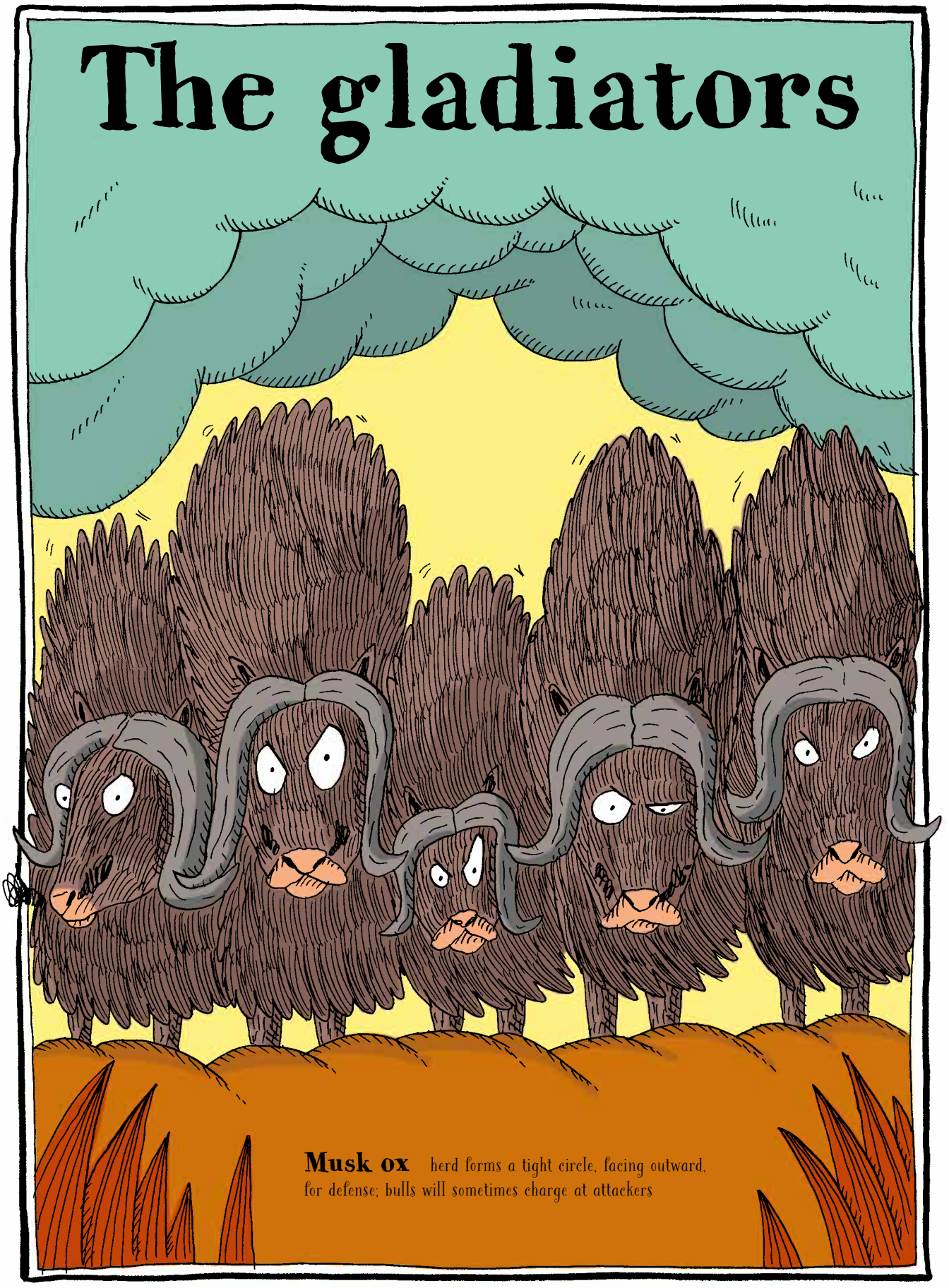
The giants



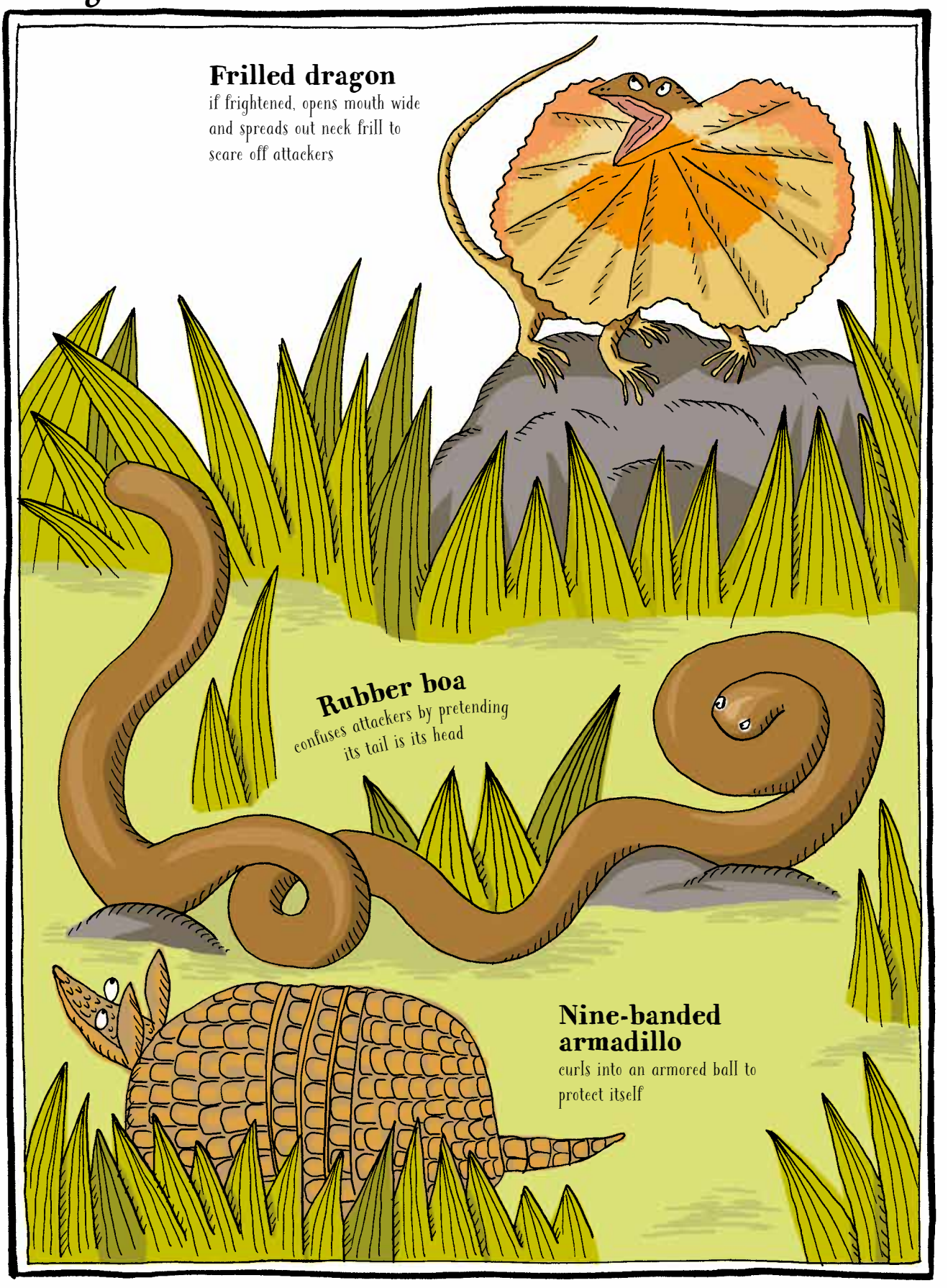
Reticulated python
up to 33 feet long


Great black-backed gull
up to 5.5 feet wingspan
Ocean sunfish
up to 14 feet across
Florida manatee
up to 15 feet long

The gladiators

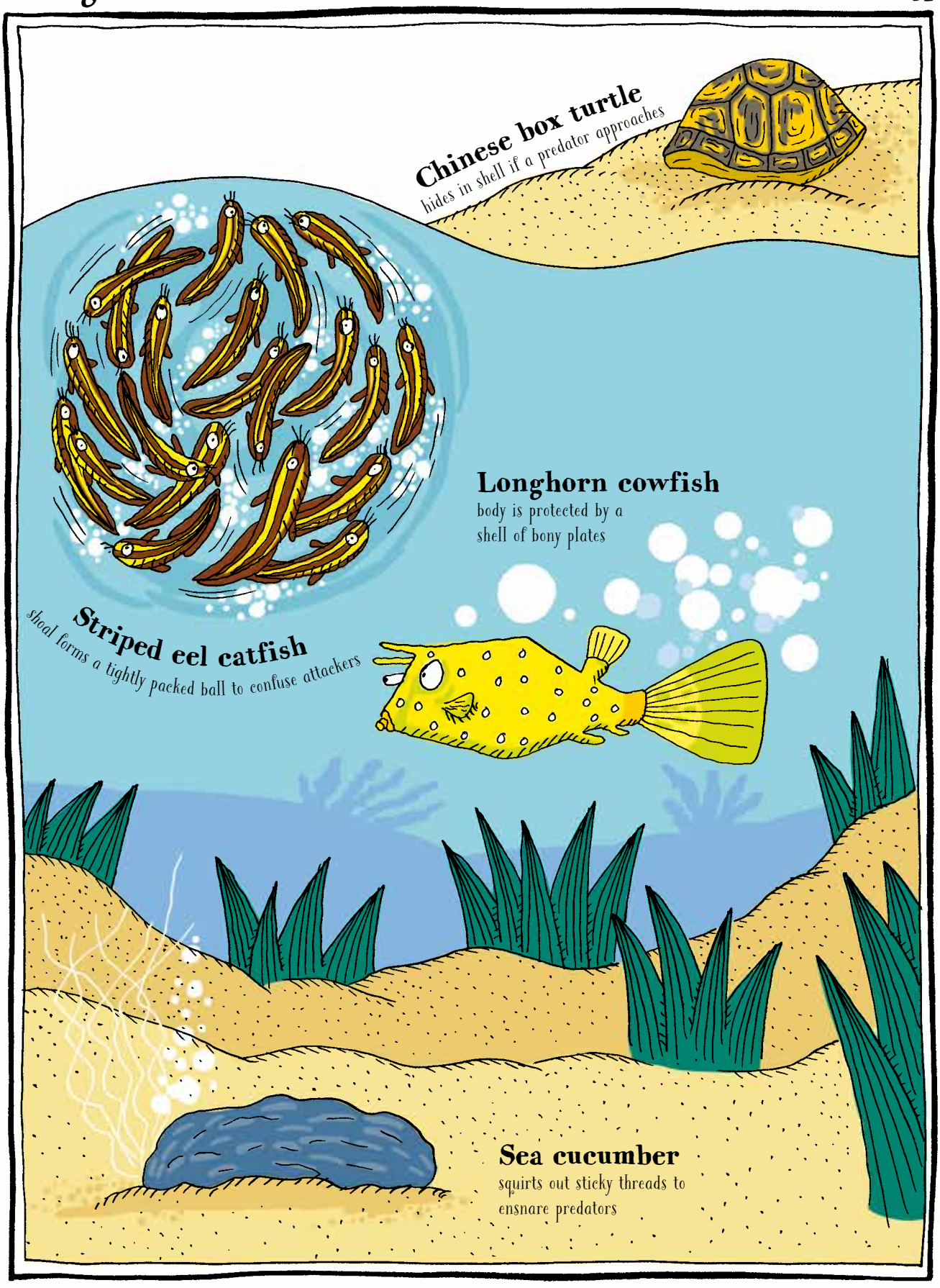


Musk ox herd forms a tight circle, facing outward, for defense; bulls will sometimes charge at attackers

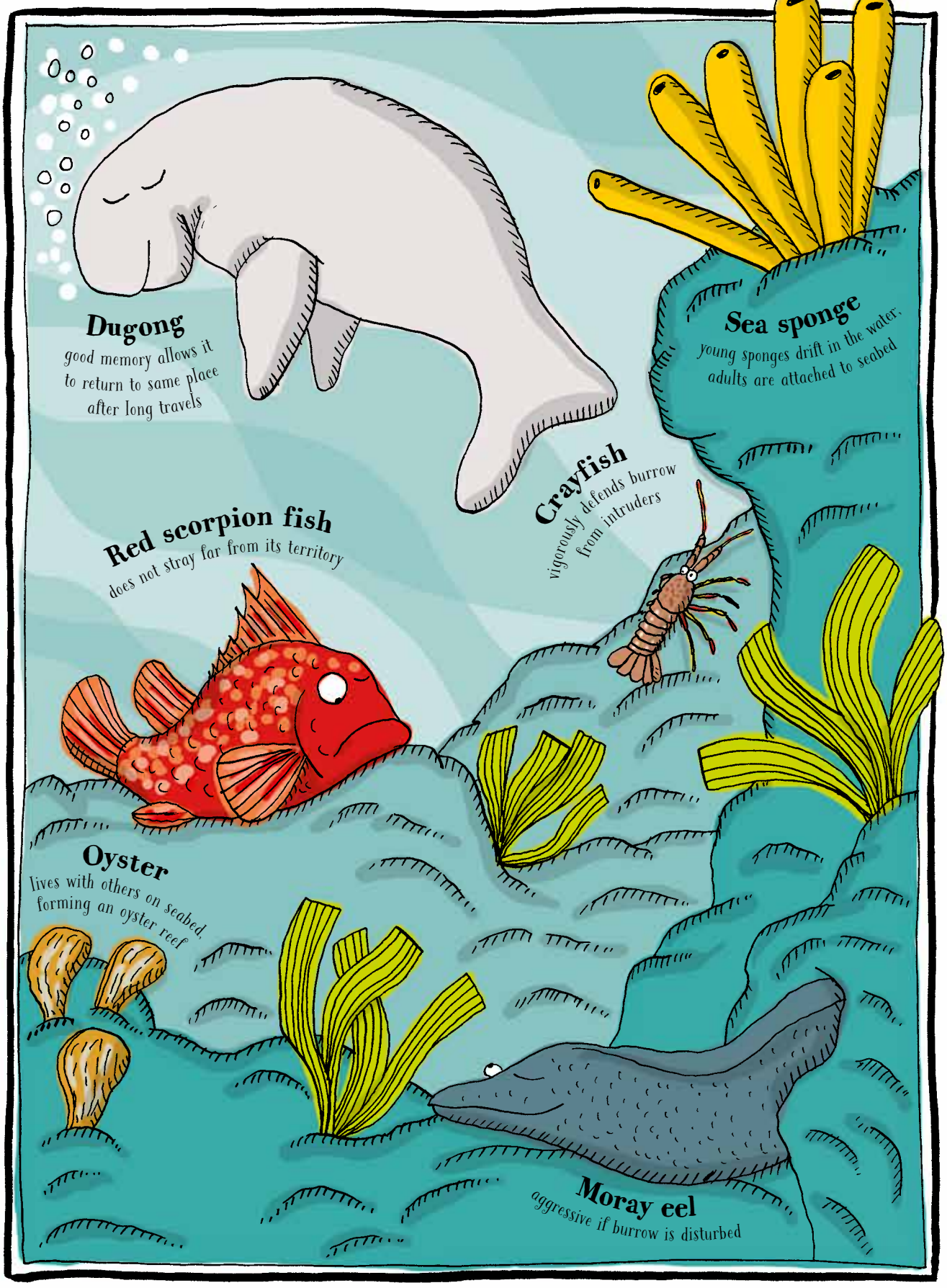

Frilled dragon
if frightened, opens mouth wide and spreads out neck frill to scare off attackers
Rubber boa
confuses attackers by pretending its tail is its head
Nine-banded armadillo
curls into an armored ball to protect itself

Cuban tree frog
oozes a toxic slime
Spanish fly
oozes a blistering poison from its leg joints
Ring-necked snake
plays dead when threatened
Striped skunk
squirts a foul-smelling liquid as a defense

Giant pangolin
rolls itself into a ball for defense
Oriental fire-bellied toad
when threatened, lies on its back to reveal its red belly, which warns predators of its toxic slime
Wood louse
curls into a ball when frightened
Opossum
plays dead to protect itself

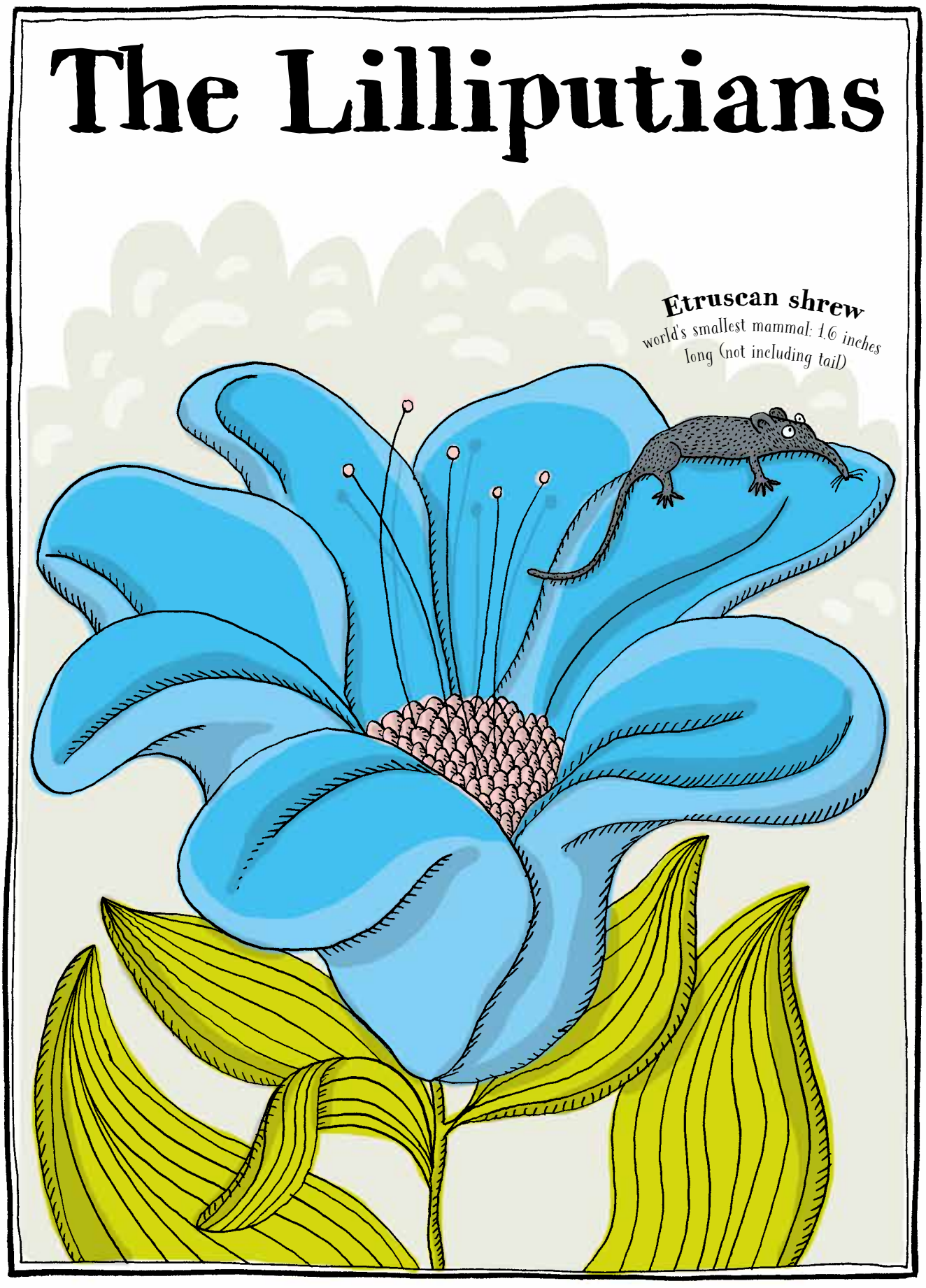

Chinese box turtle
hides in shell if a predator approaches
Longhorn cowfish
body is protected by a shell of bony plates
Striped eel catfish
shoal forms a tightly packed ball to confuse attackers
Sea cucumber
squirts out sticky threads to ensnare predators

The homebodies

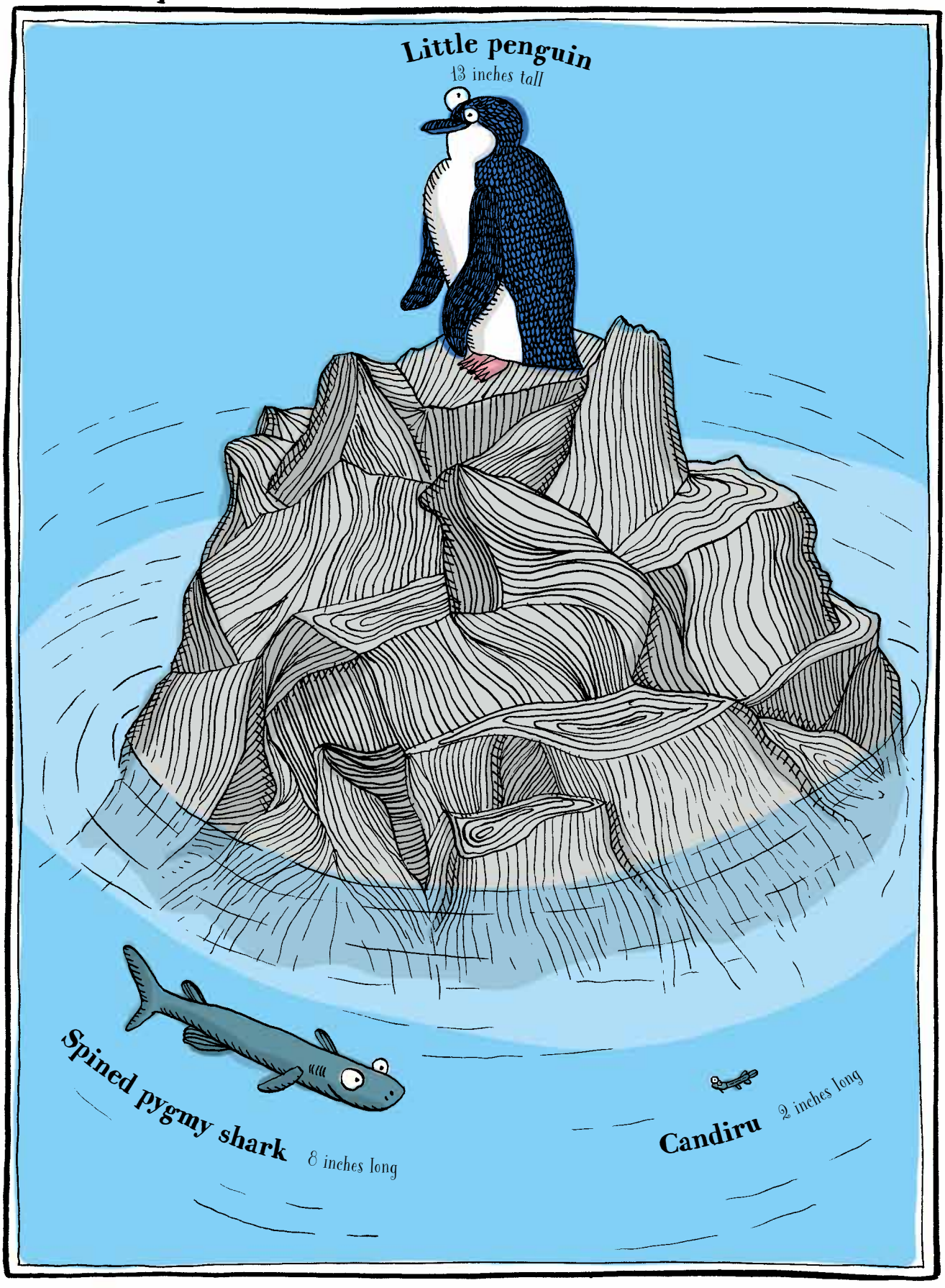

Dugong
good memory allows it to return to same place after long travels
Sea sponge
young sponges drift in the water, adults are attached to seabed
Crayfish
vigorously defends burrow from intruders
Red scorpion fish
does not stray far from its territory
Oyster
lives with others on seabed, forming an oyster reef
Moray eel
aggressive if burrow is disturbed

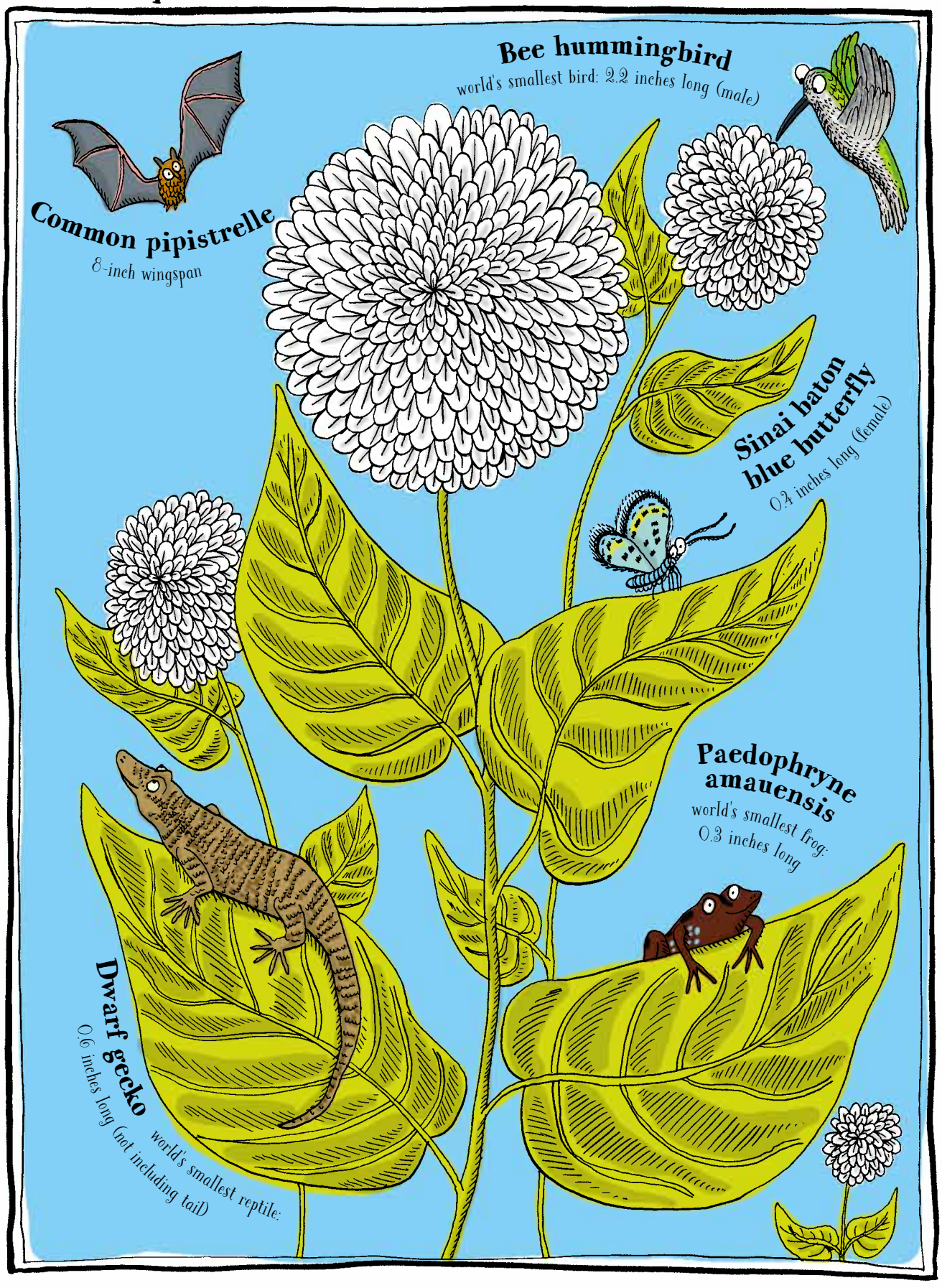
Magpie
breeding pairs have territory of about 12 acres
Hermann's tortoise
strong homing instinct
Common kingfisher
very territorial; controls
a stretch of river

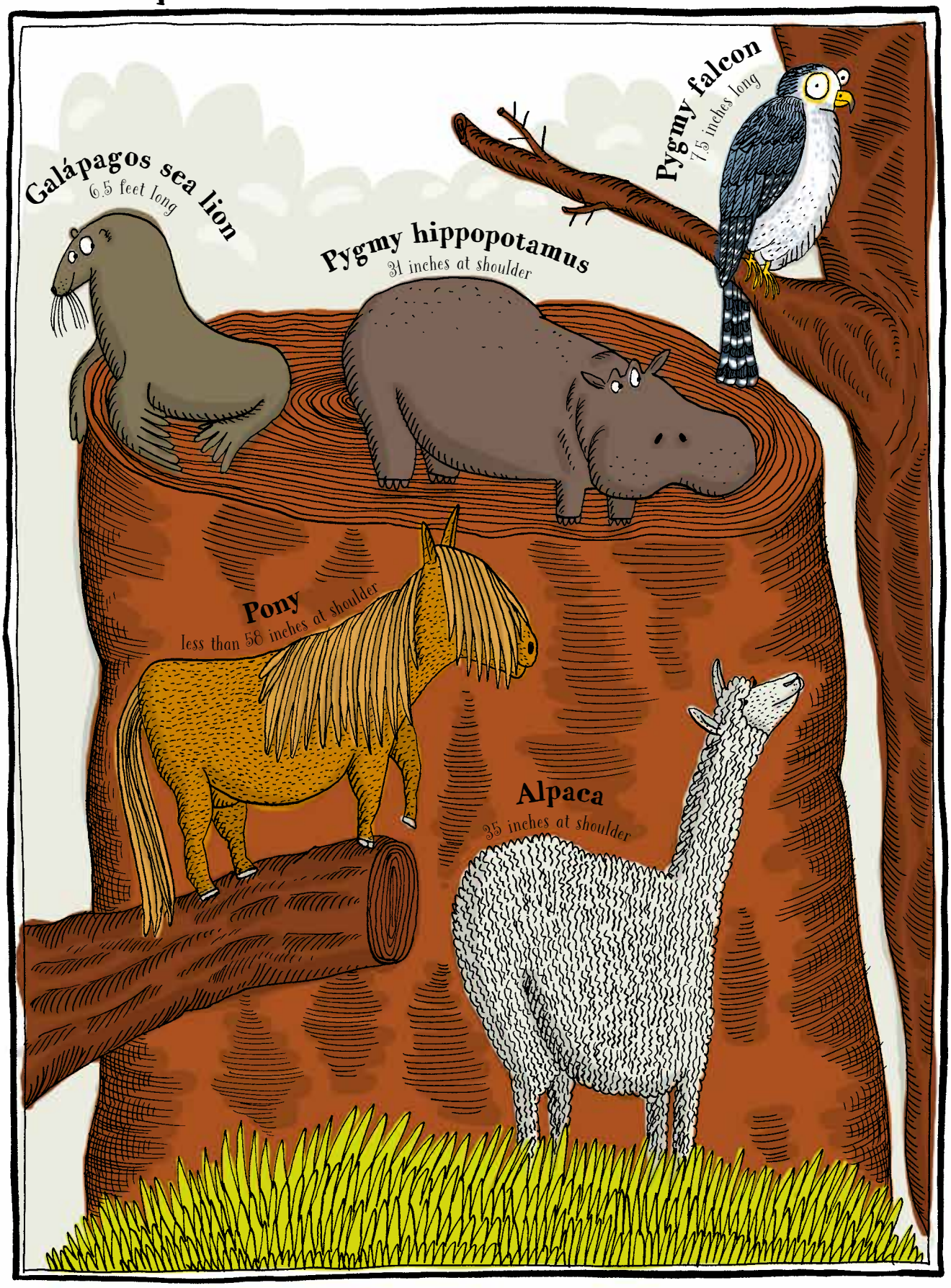
The Lilliputians



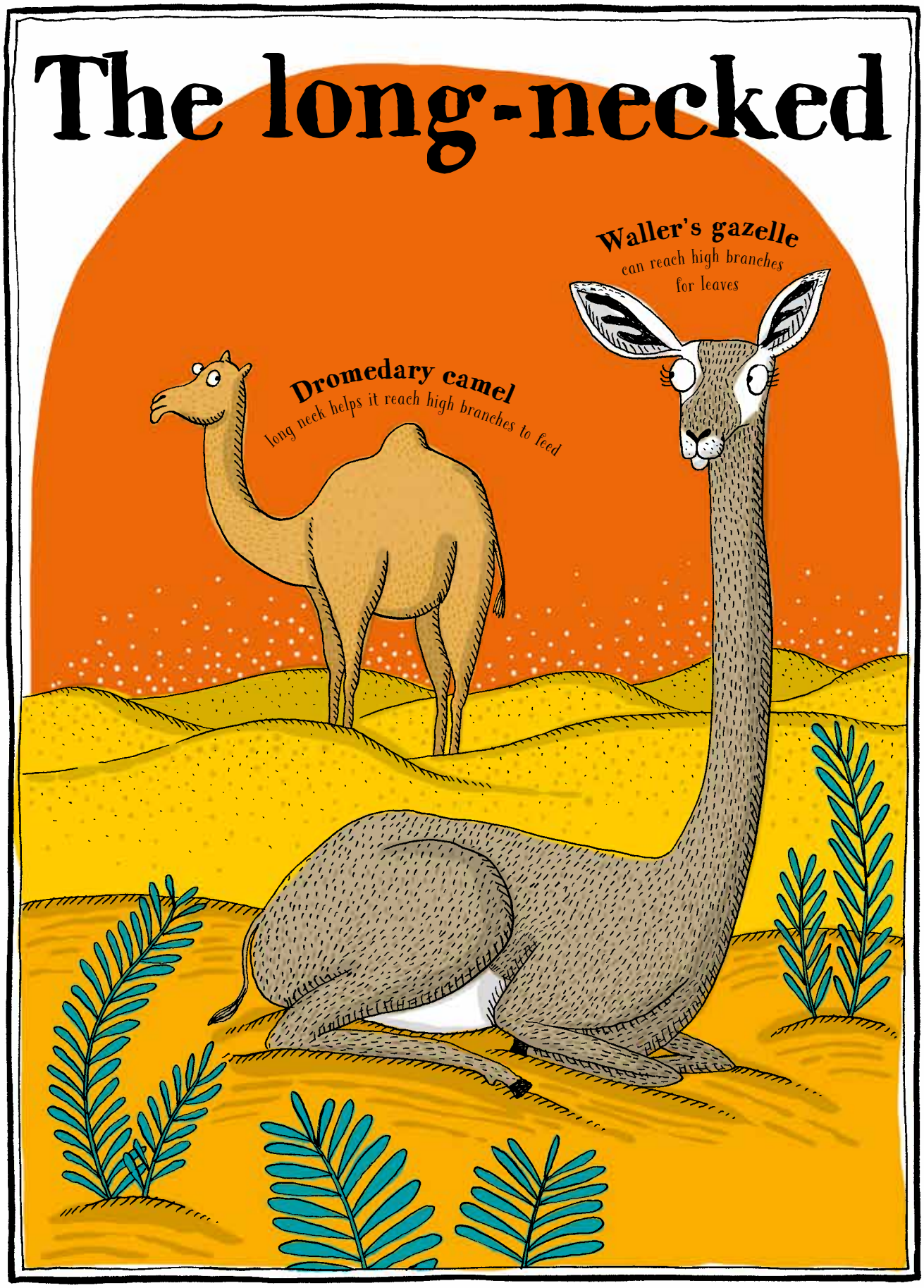
Red panda
22 inches long
(not including tail)
Lesser white-fronted goose
24 inches long

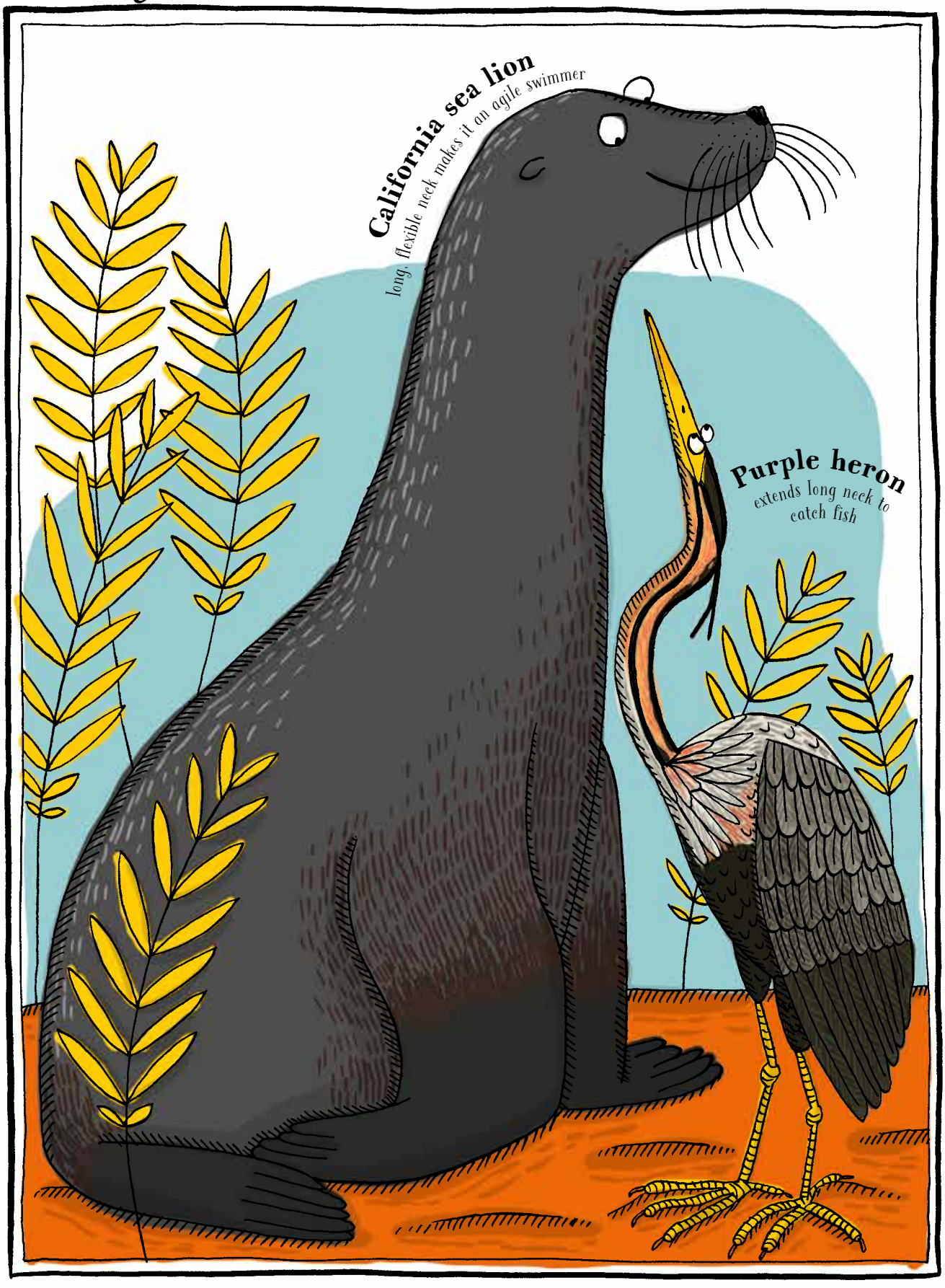

Little penguin
13 inches tall
Spined pygmy shark
8 inches long
Candiru
2 inches long

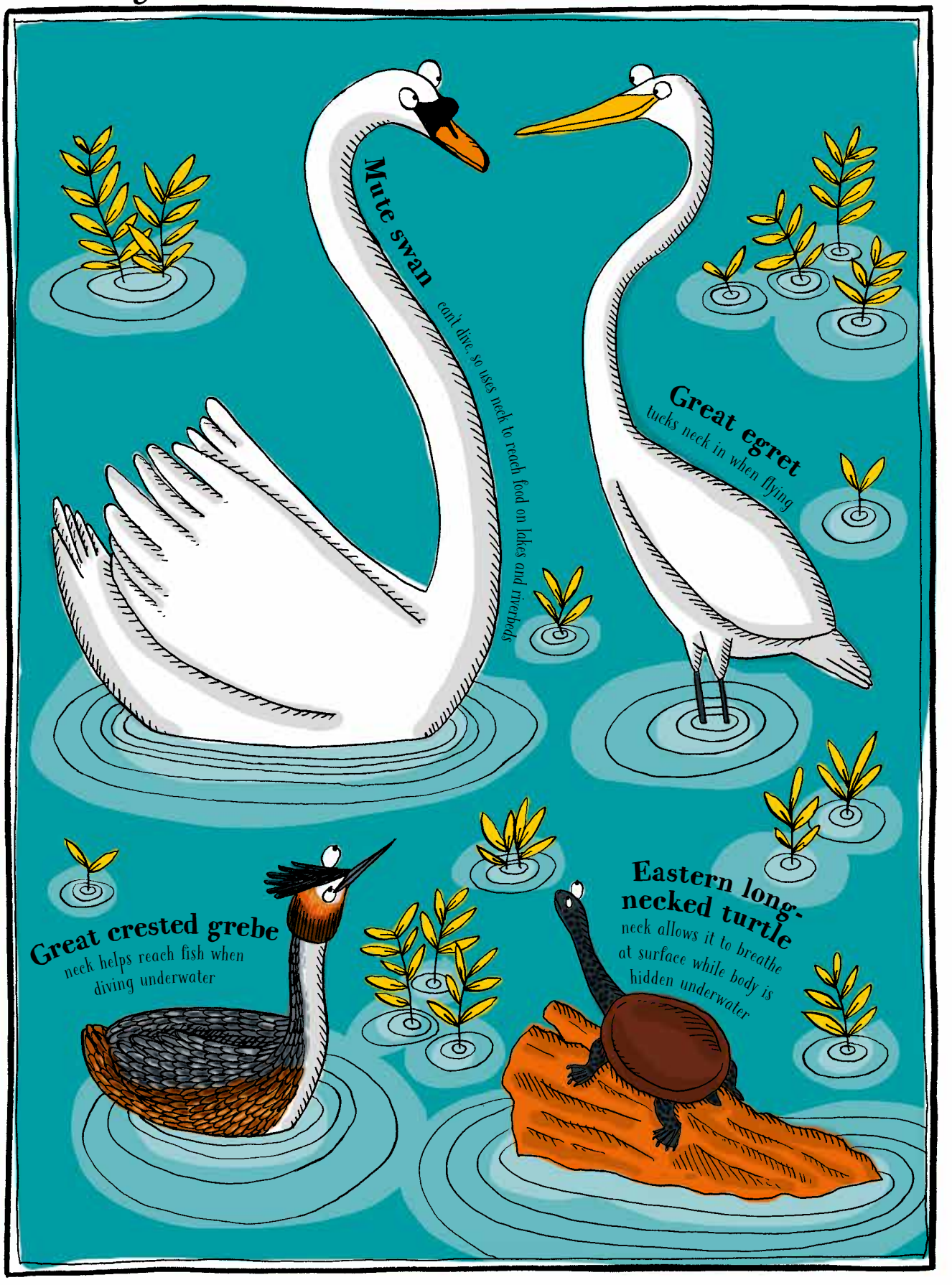

Bee hummingbird
world's smallest bird: 2.2 inches long (male)
Common pipistrelle
8-inch wingspan
Sinai baton blue butterfly
0.4 inches long (female)
Paedophryne amauensis
world's smallest frog: 0.3 inches long
Dwarf gecko
world's smallest reptile: 0.6 inches long (not including tail)

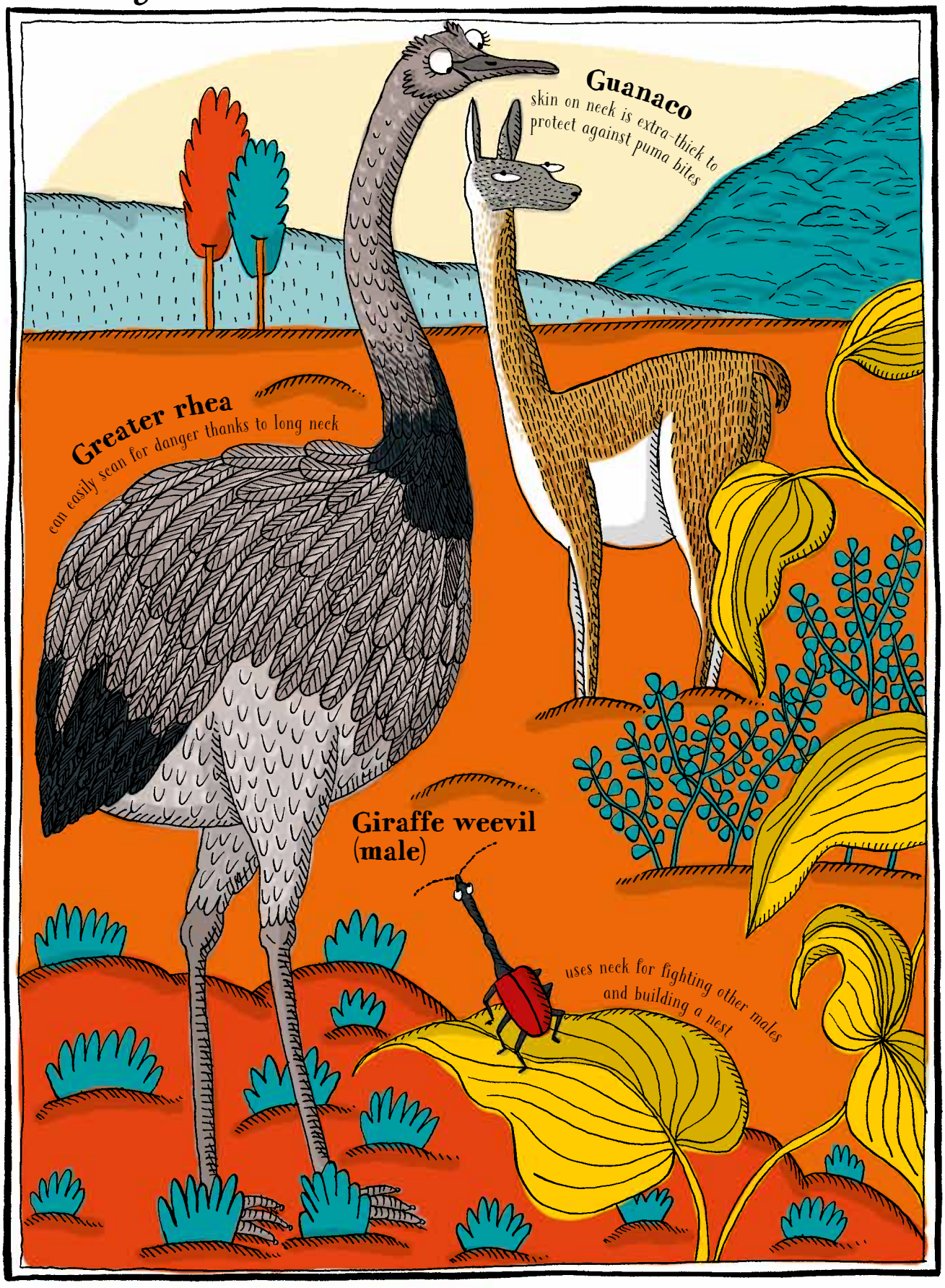

Galápagos sea lion
6.5 feet long
Pygmy hippopotamus
31 inches at shoulder
Pygmy falcon
7.5 inches long
Pony
less than 58 inches at shoulder
Alpaca
35 inches at shoulder

The long-necked

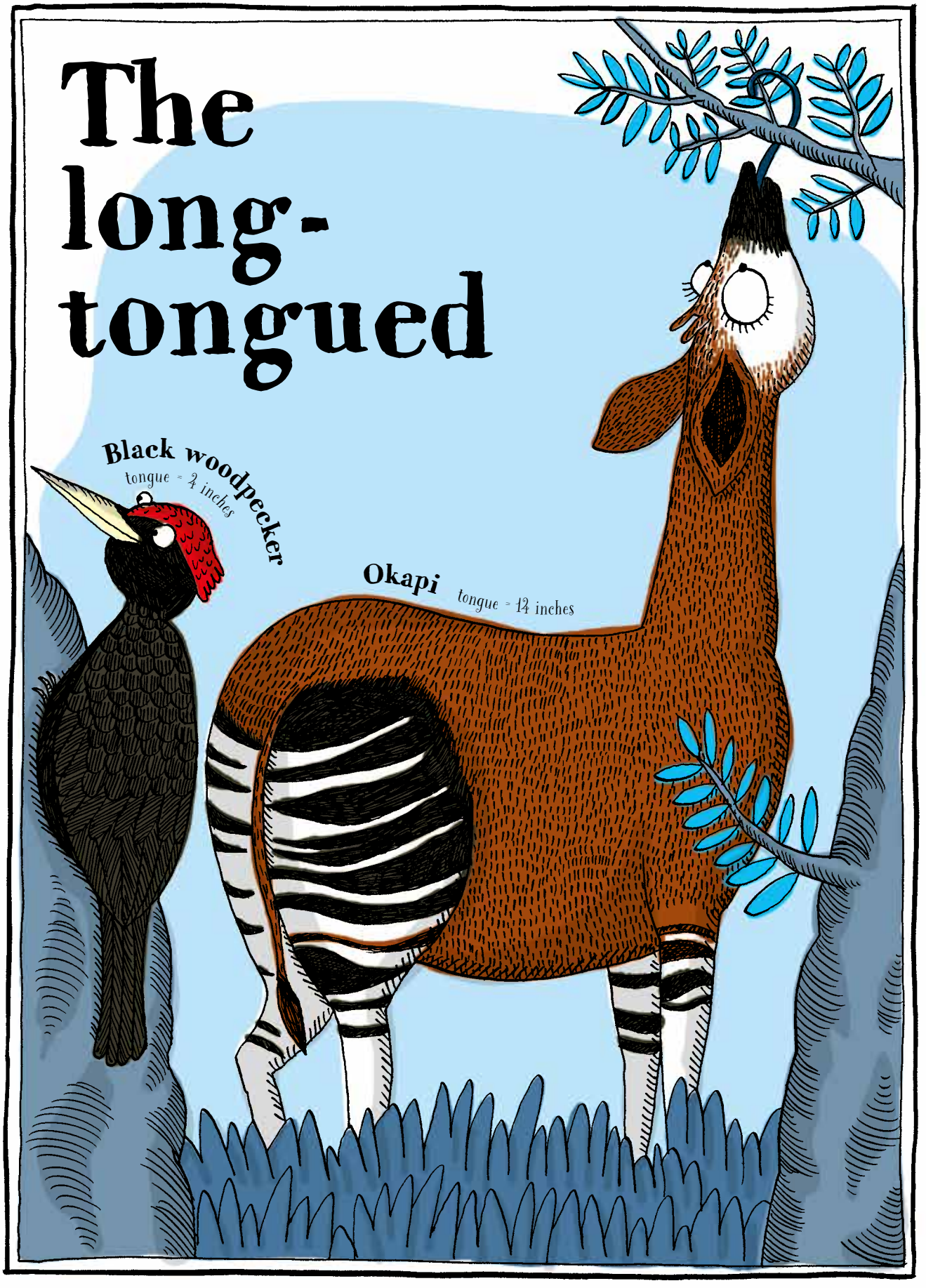


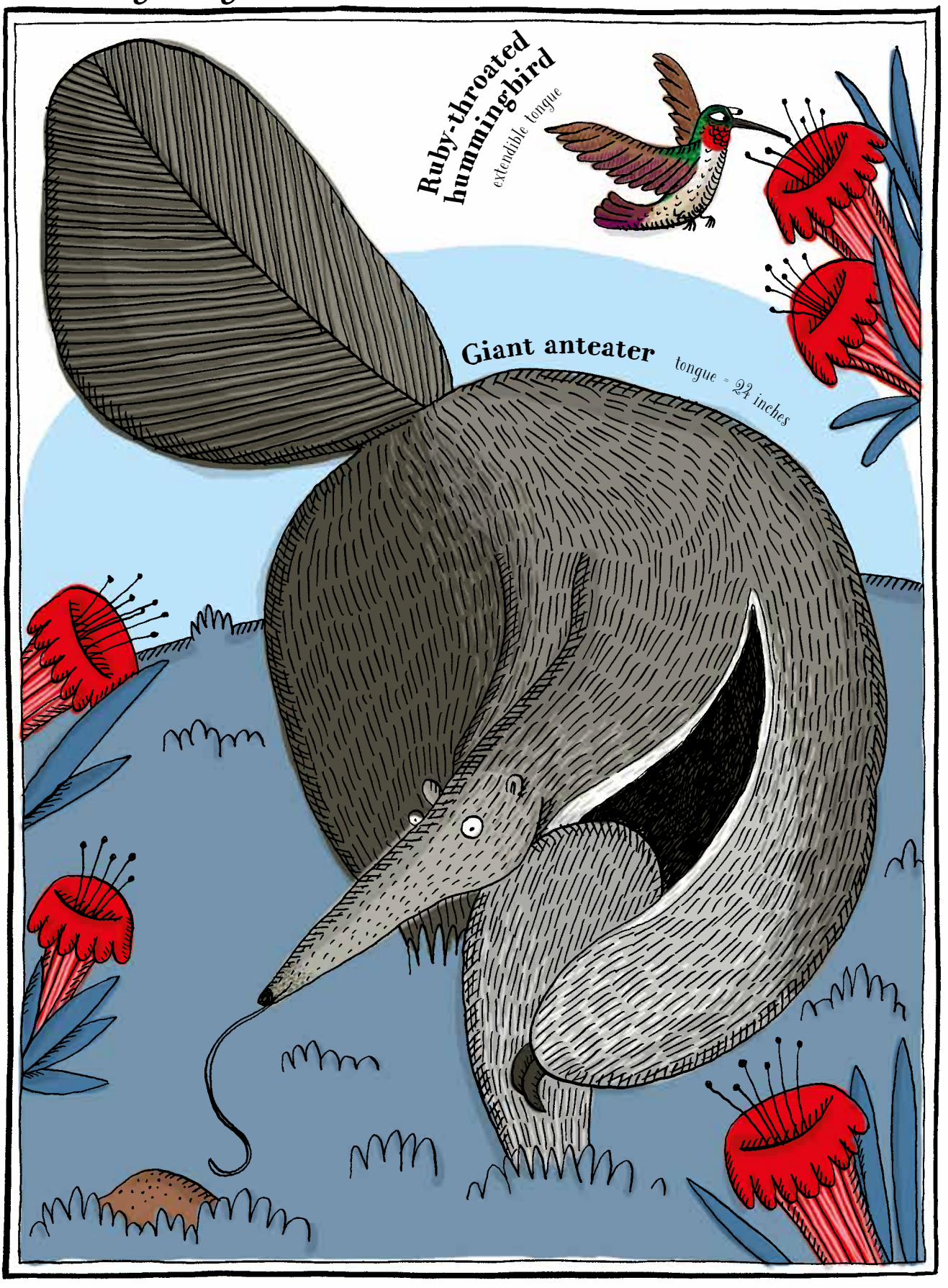

California sea lion
long, flexible neck makes it an agile swimmer
Purple heron
extends long neck to catch fish


Mute swan
can't dive, so uses neck to reach food on lakes and riverbeds
Great egret
tucks neck in when flying
Great crested grebe
neck helps reach fish when diving underwater
Eastern long-necked turtle
neck allows it to breathe at surface while body is hidden underwater


Guanaco
skin on neck is extra-thick to protect against puma bites
Greater rhea
can easily scan for danger thanks to long neck
Giraffe weevil (male)
uses neck for fighting other males and building a nest

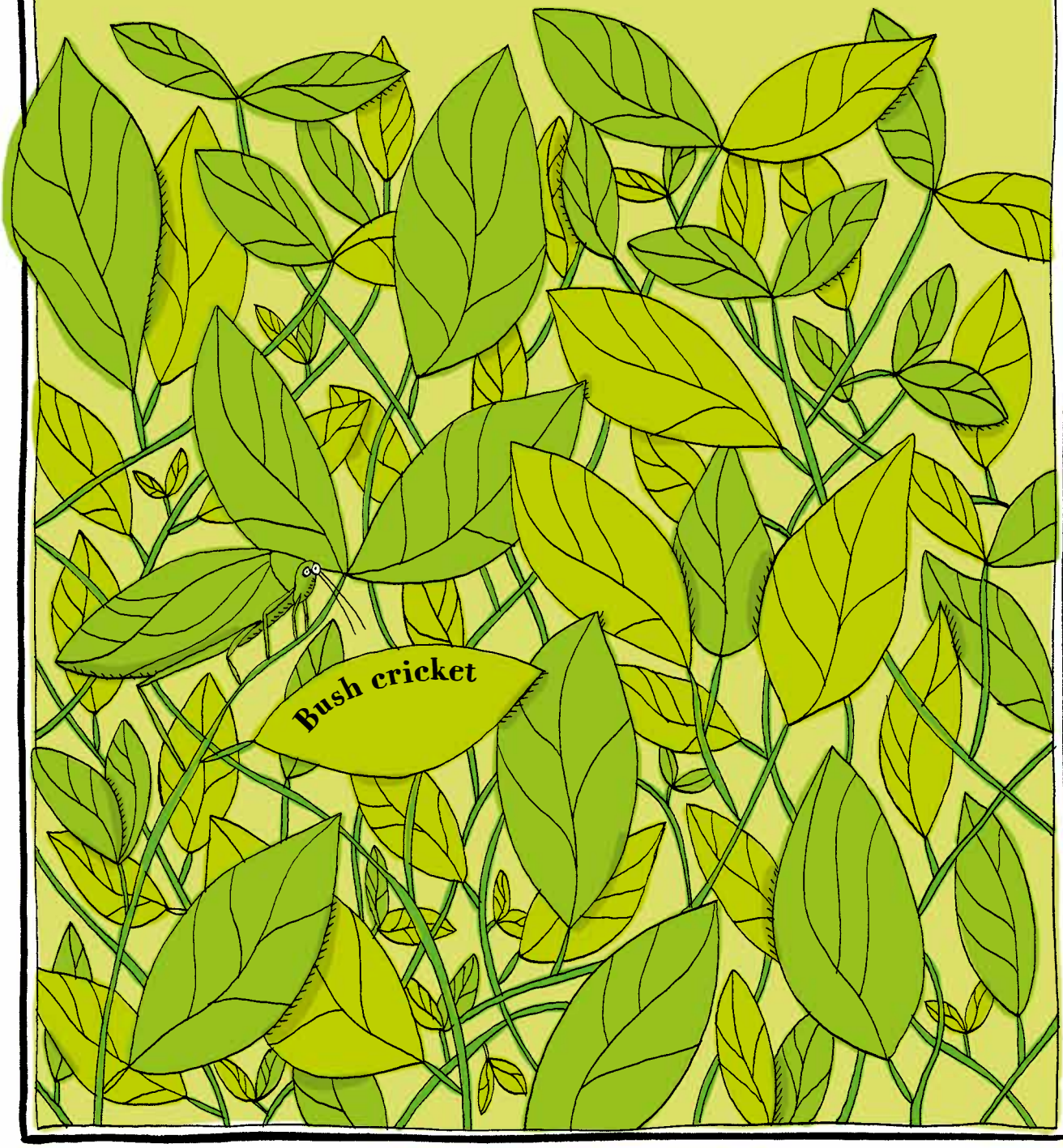
The long-tongued

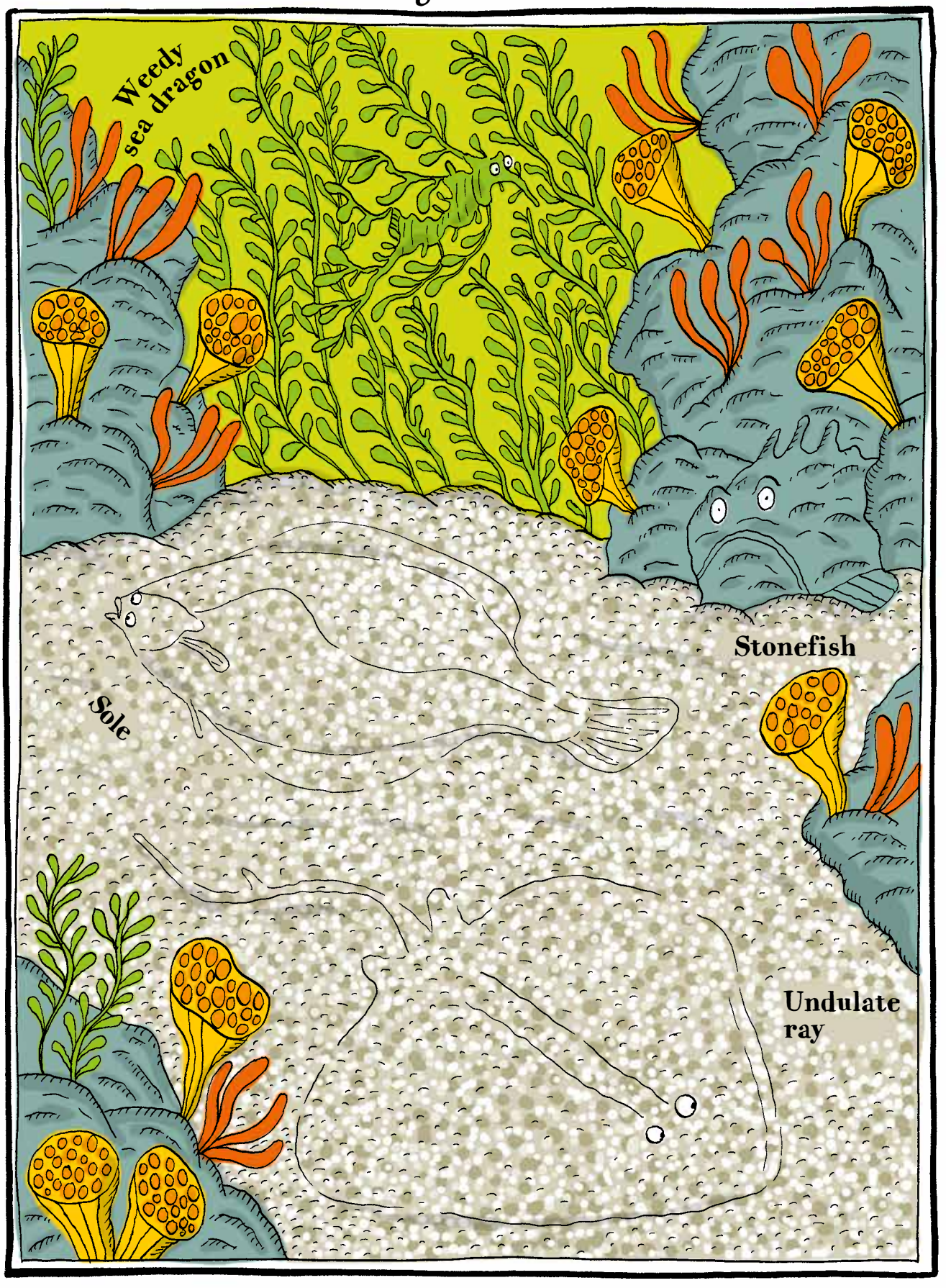


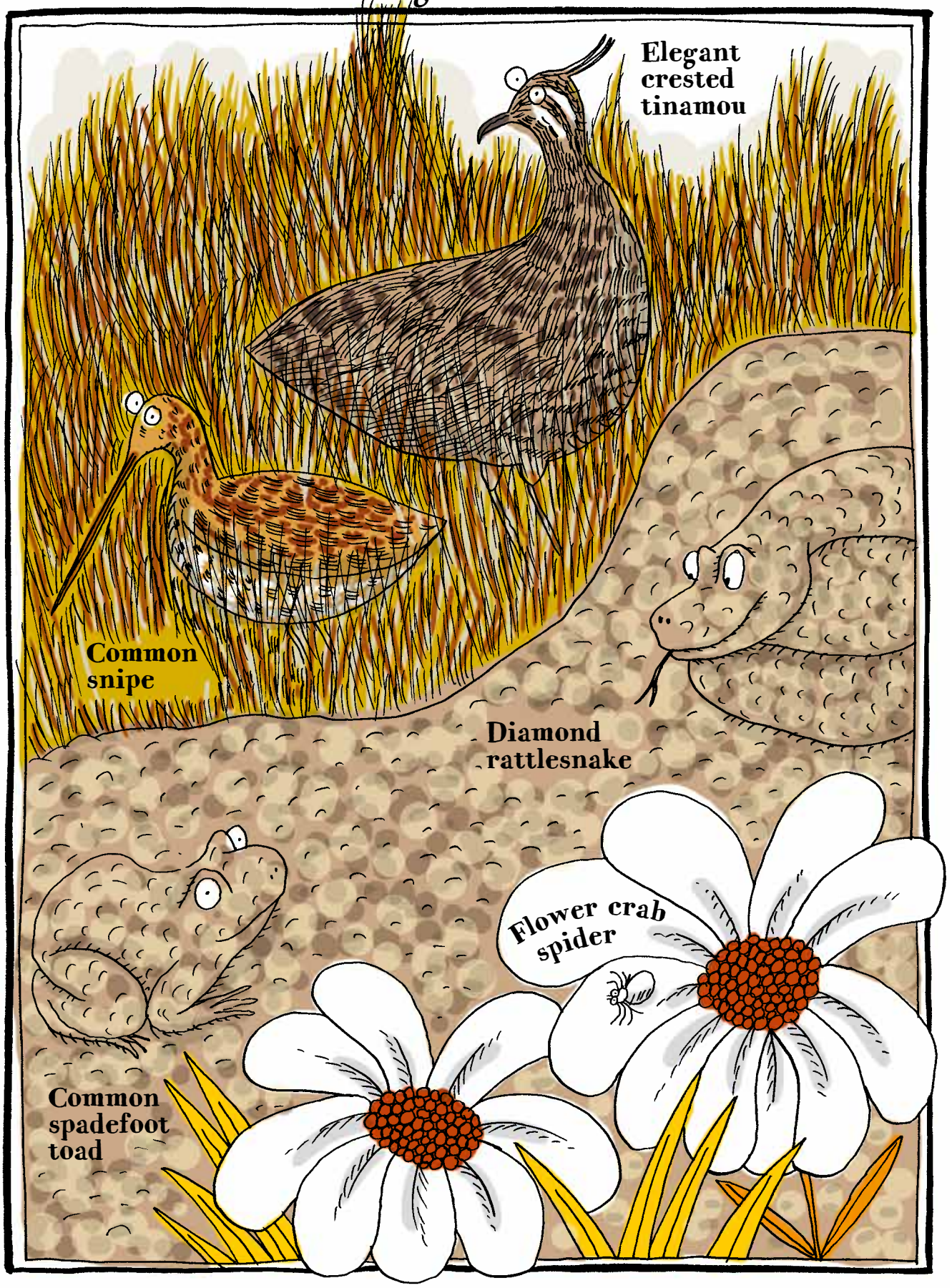

Ruby-throated hummingbird
extendible tongue
Giant anteater
tongue = 24 inches

Giraffe
tongue = 20 inches
Chameleon
tongue is longer than body
Sun bear
tongue = 10 inches
Honey possum
brush-tipped tongue
collects pollen

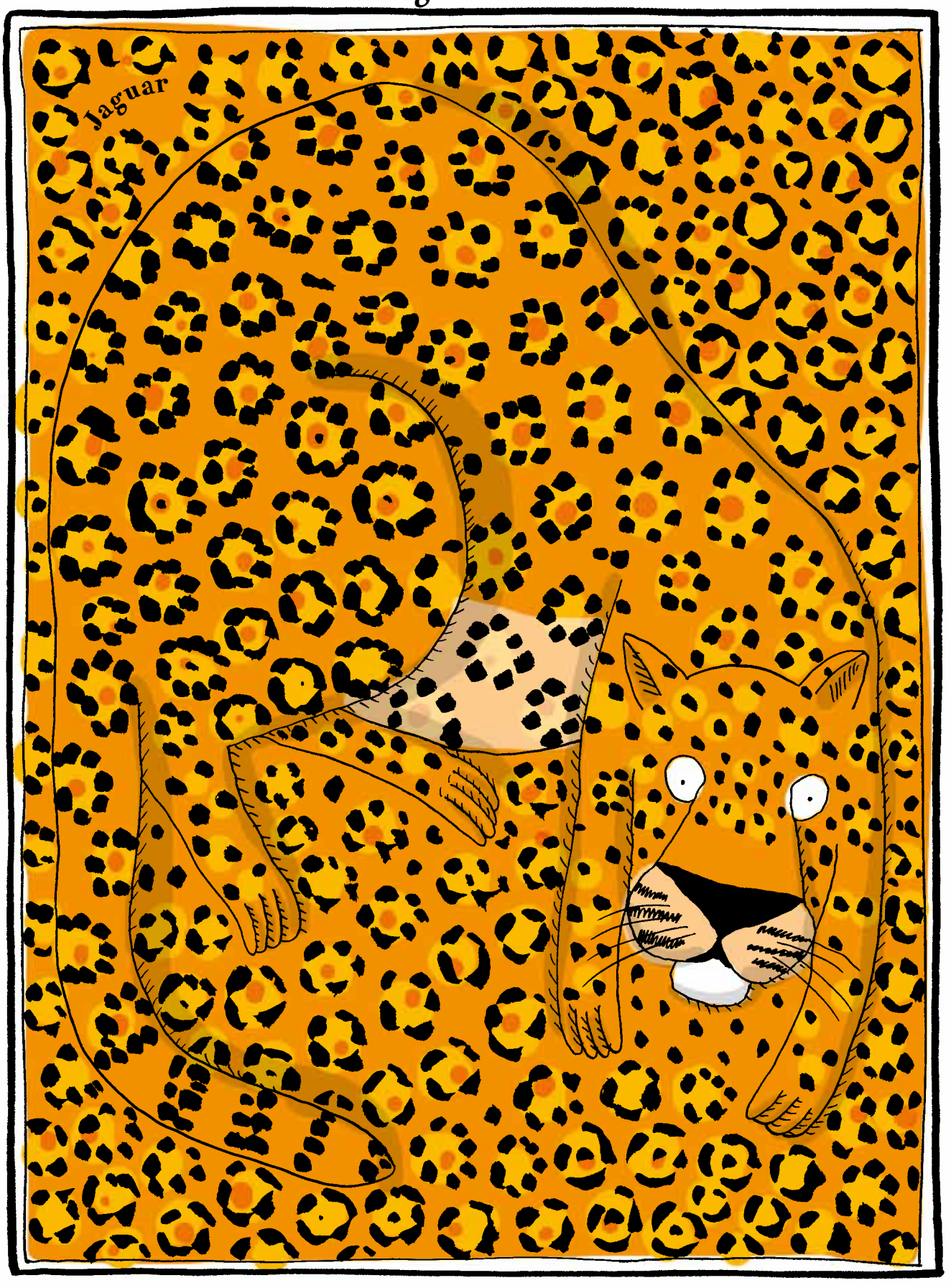
The masters of camouflage



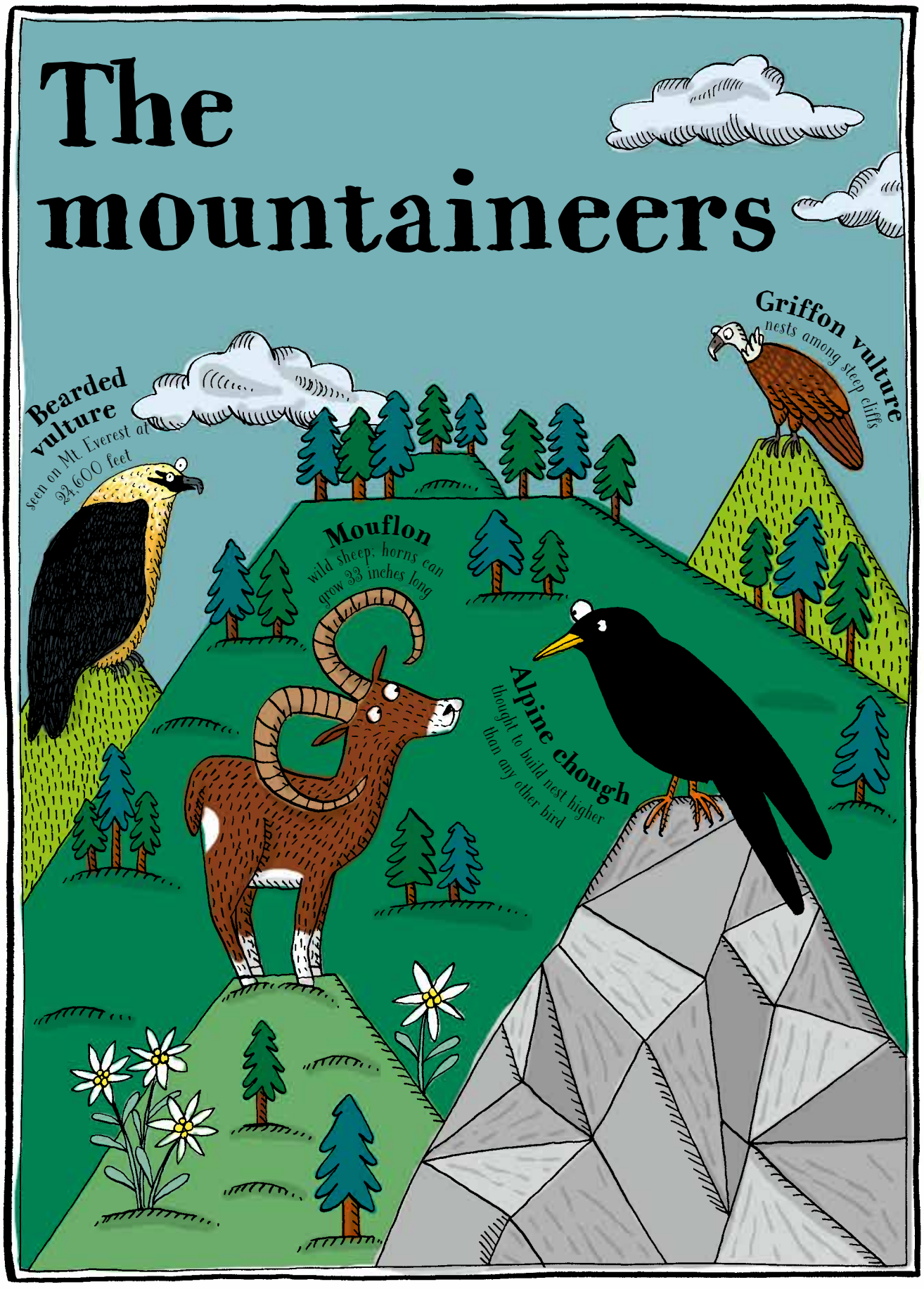

Weedy sea dragon
Stonefish
Sole
Undulate ray

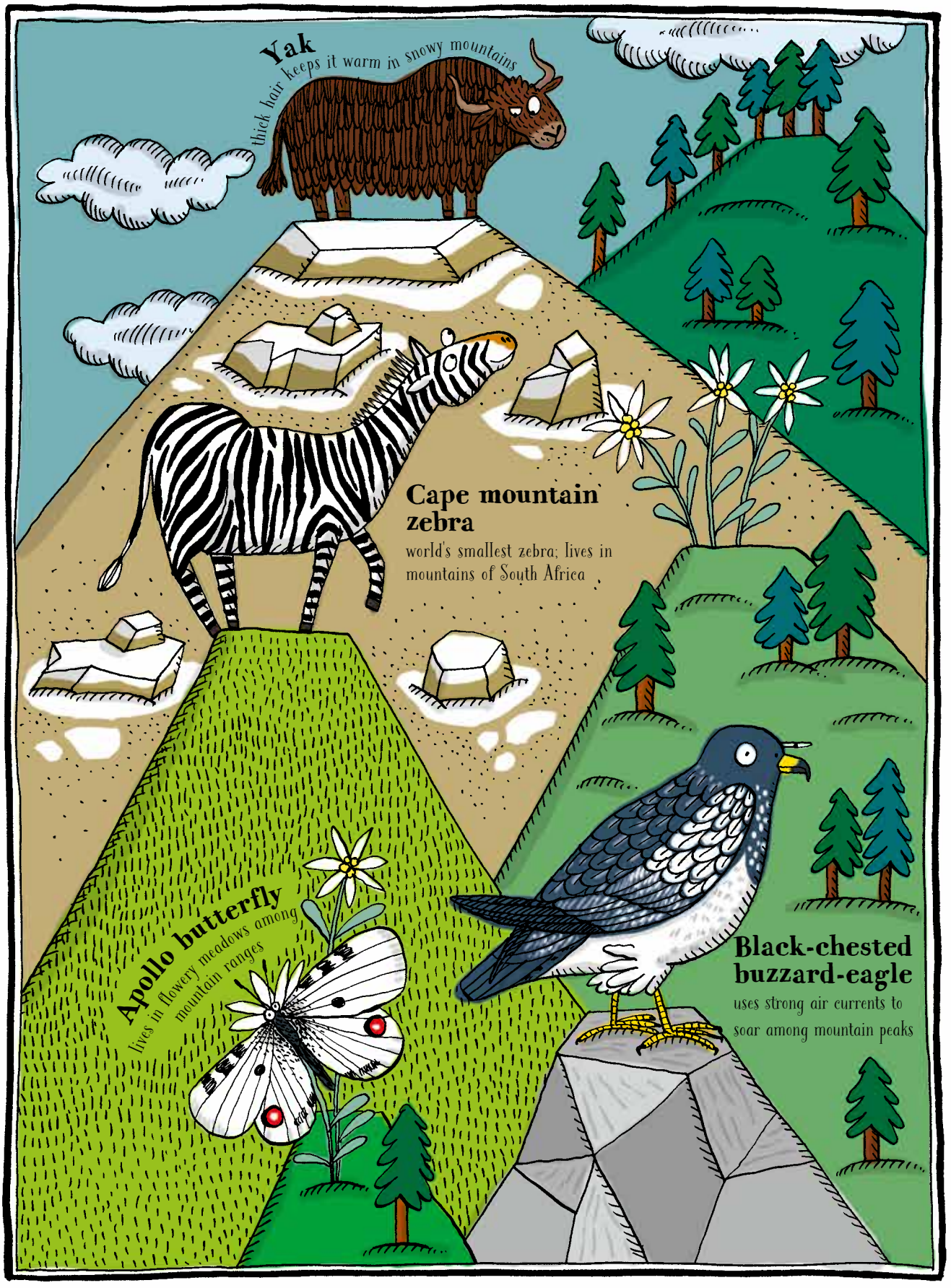

Elegant crested tinamou
Common snipe
Diamond rattlesnake
Flower crab spider
Common spadefoot toad

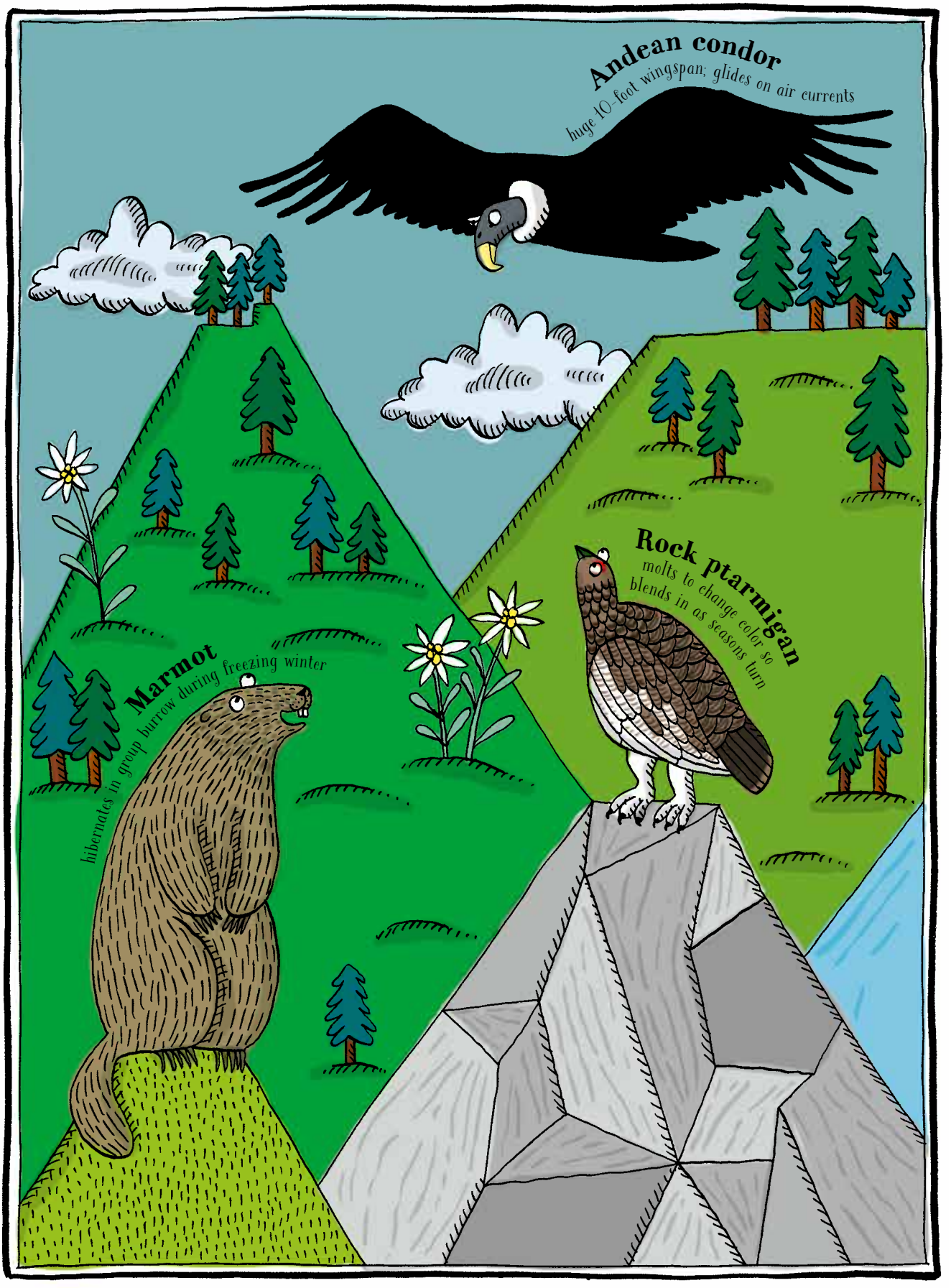
Sycamore moth
Leaf-tailed gecko
Common chameleon
Stick insect
Satanic leaf-tailed gecko

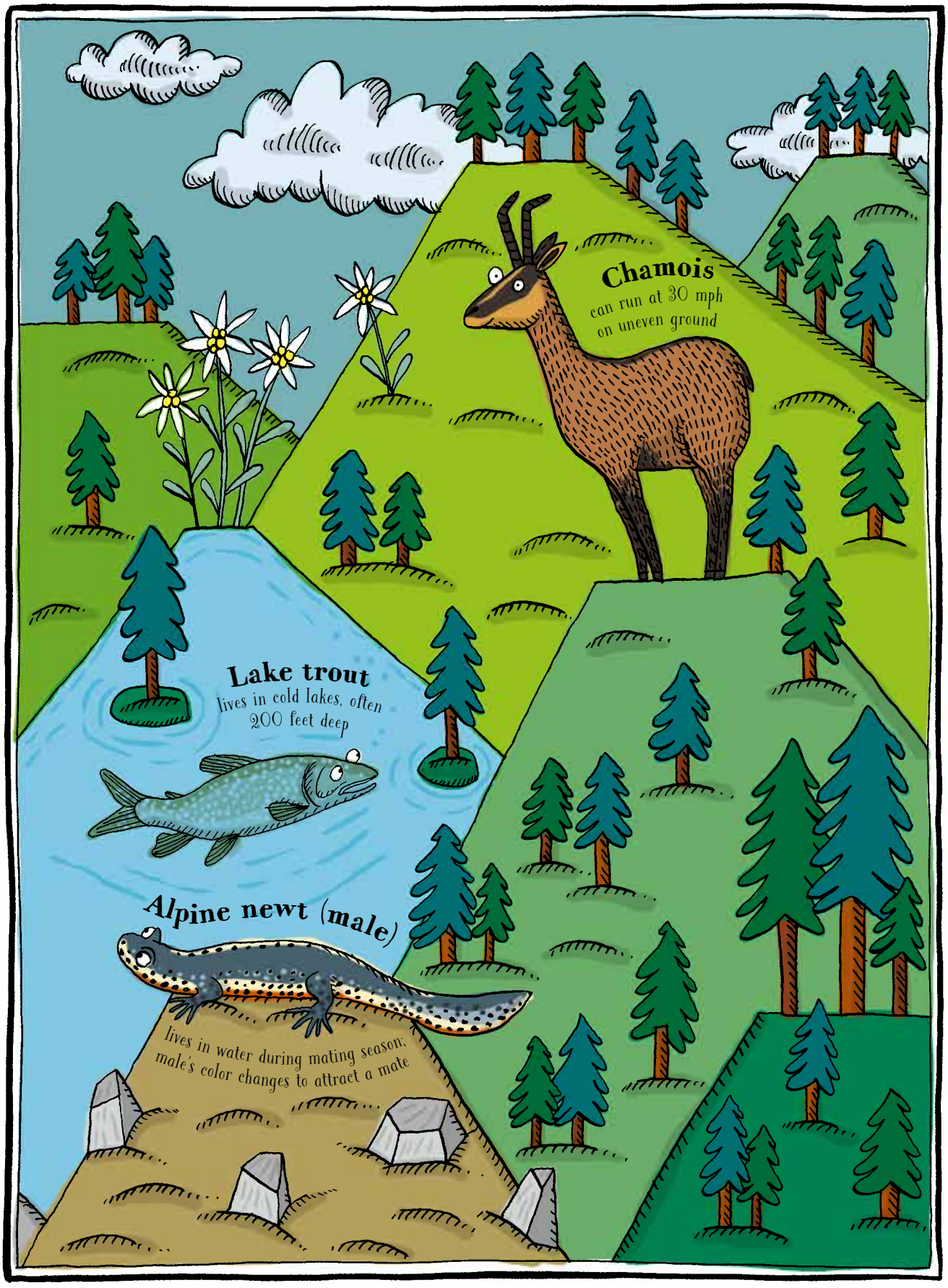

jaguar

The mountaineers

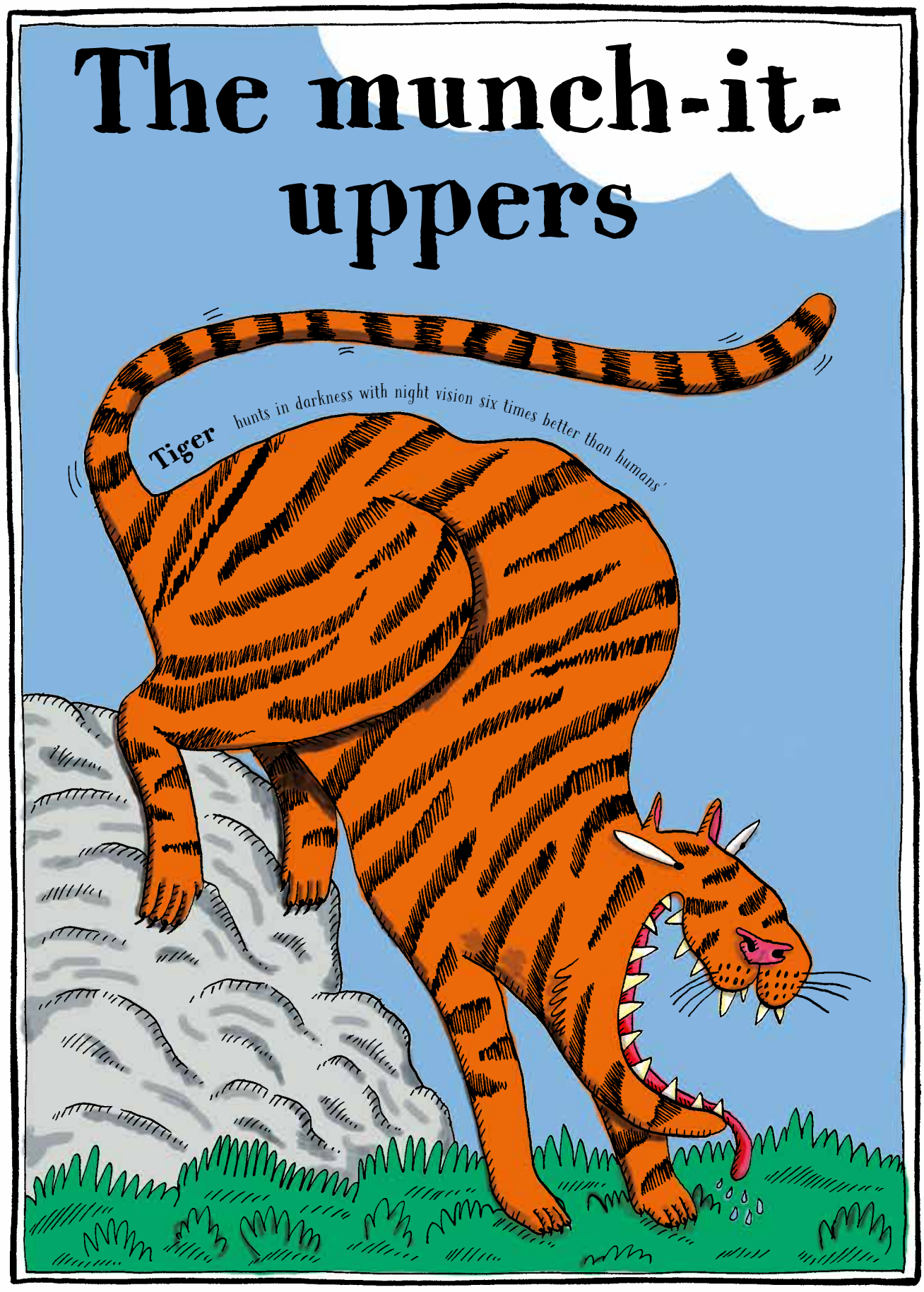


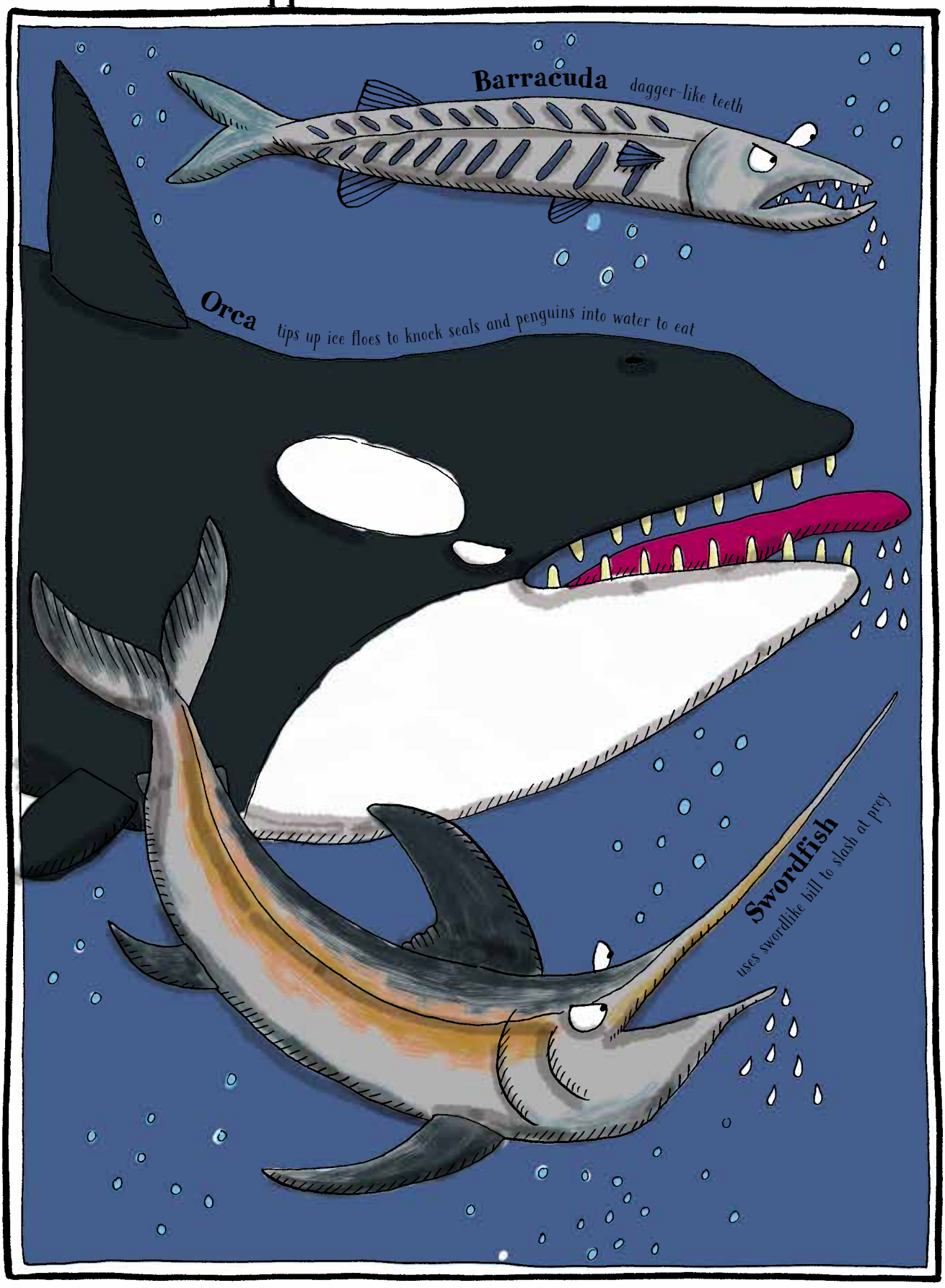

Yak
thick hair keeps it warm in snowy mountains
Cape mountain zebra
world's smallest zebra; lives in mountains of South Africa
Apollo butterfly
lives in flowery meadows among mountain ranges
Black-chested buzzard-eagle
uses strong air currents to soar among mountain peaks

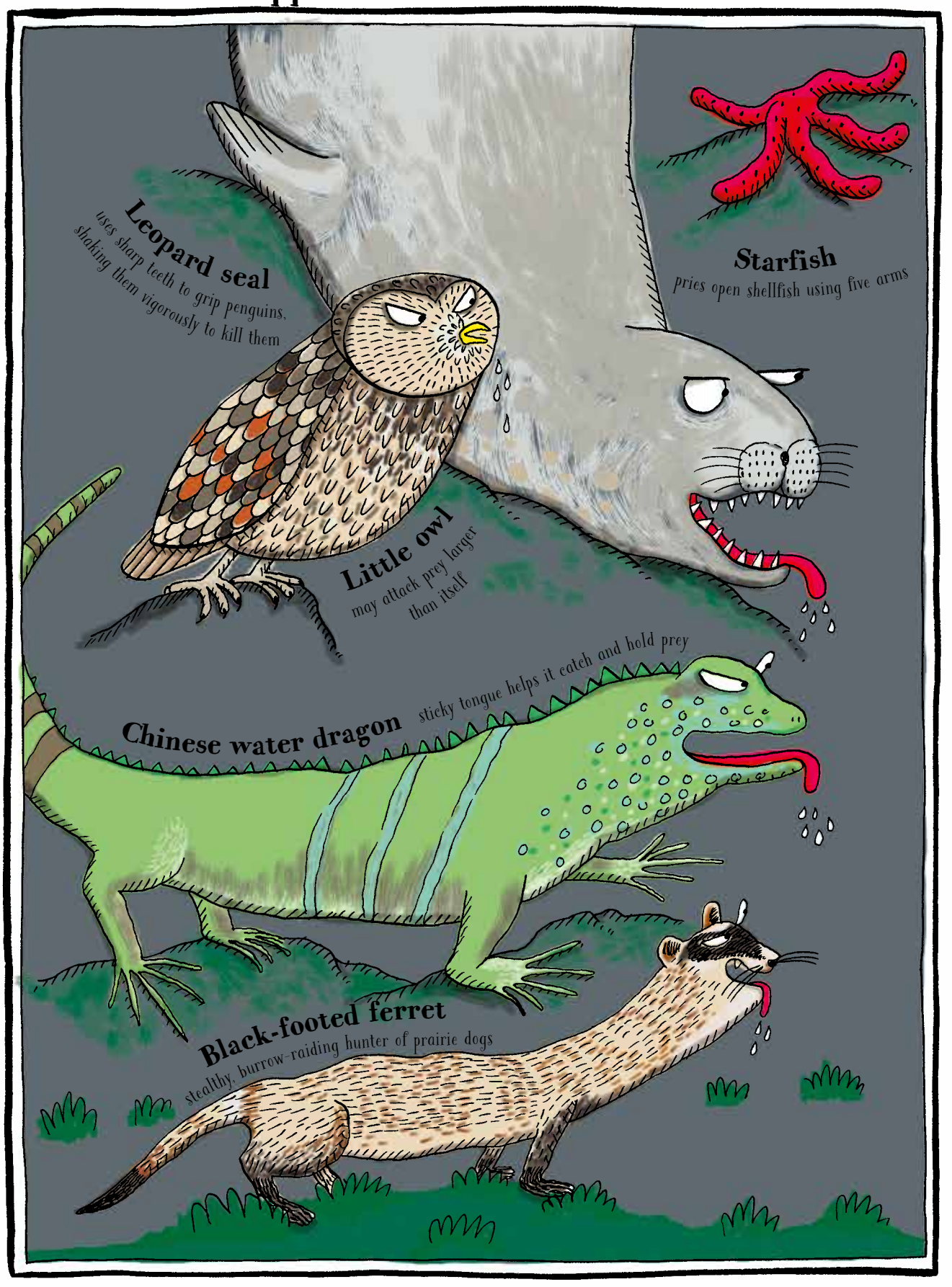

Andean condor
huge 10-foot wingspan; glides on air currents
Rock ptarmigan
molts to change color so blends in as seasons turn
Marmot
hibernates in group burrow during freezing winter

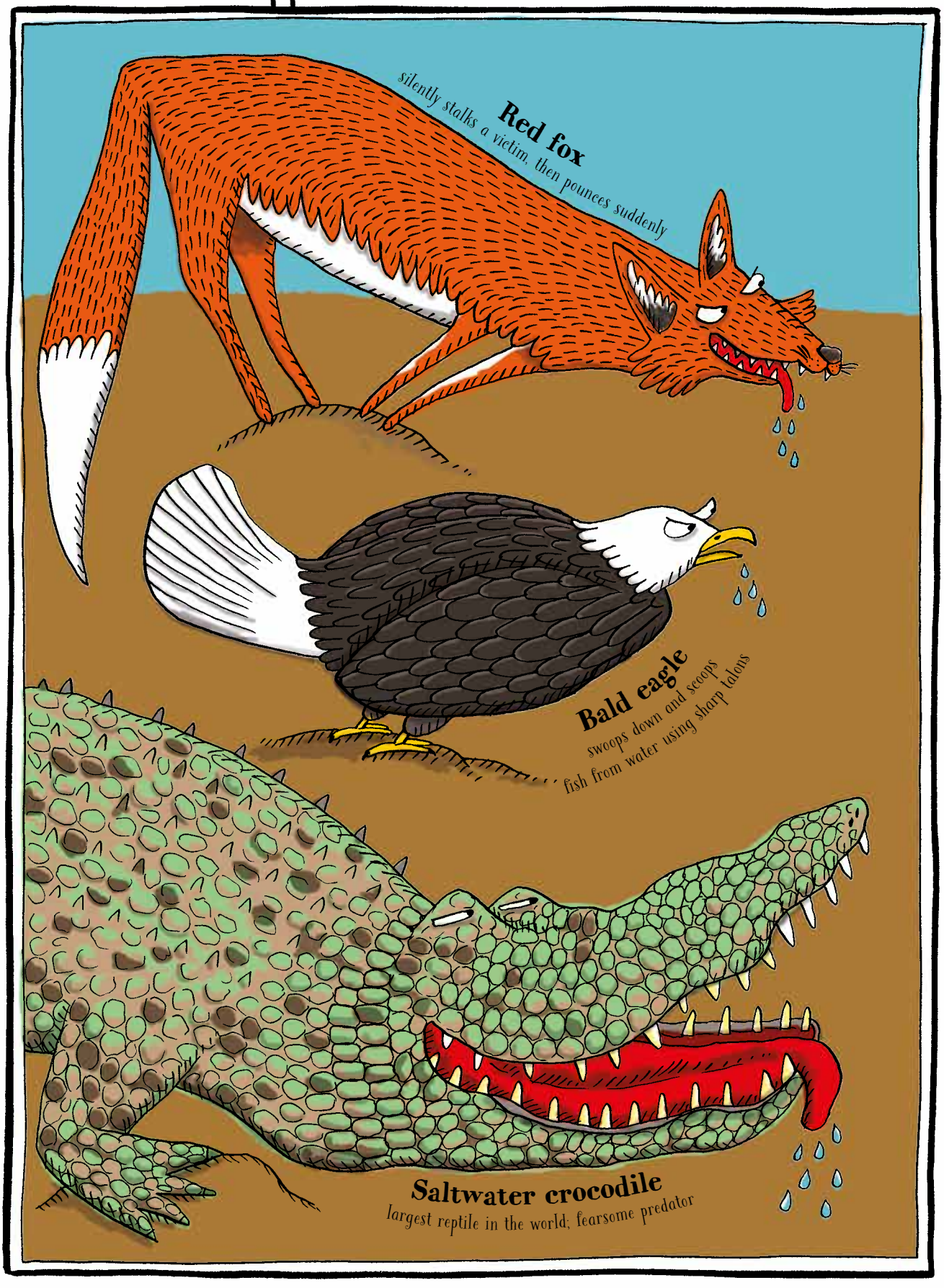

Chamois
can run at 30 mph on uneven ground
Lake trout
lives in cold lakes, often 200 feet deep
Alpine newt (male)
lives in water during mating season; male's color changes to attract a mate

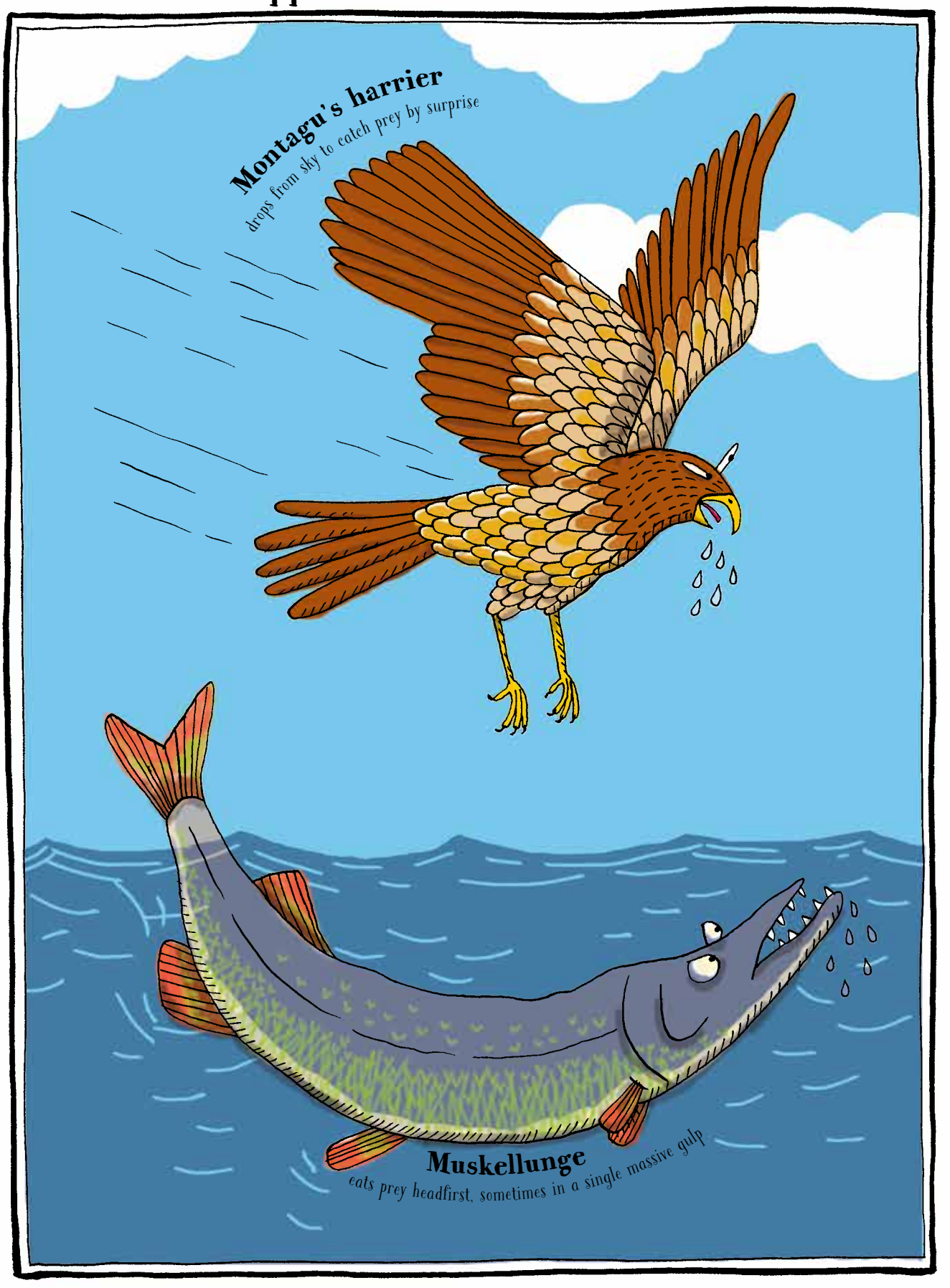
The munch-it-uppers



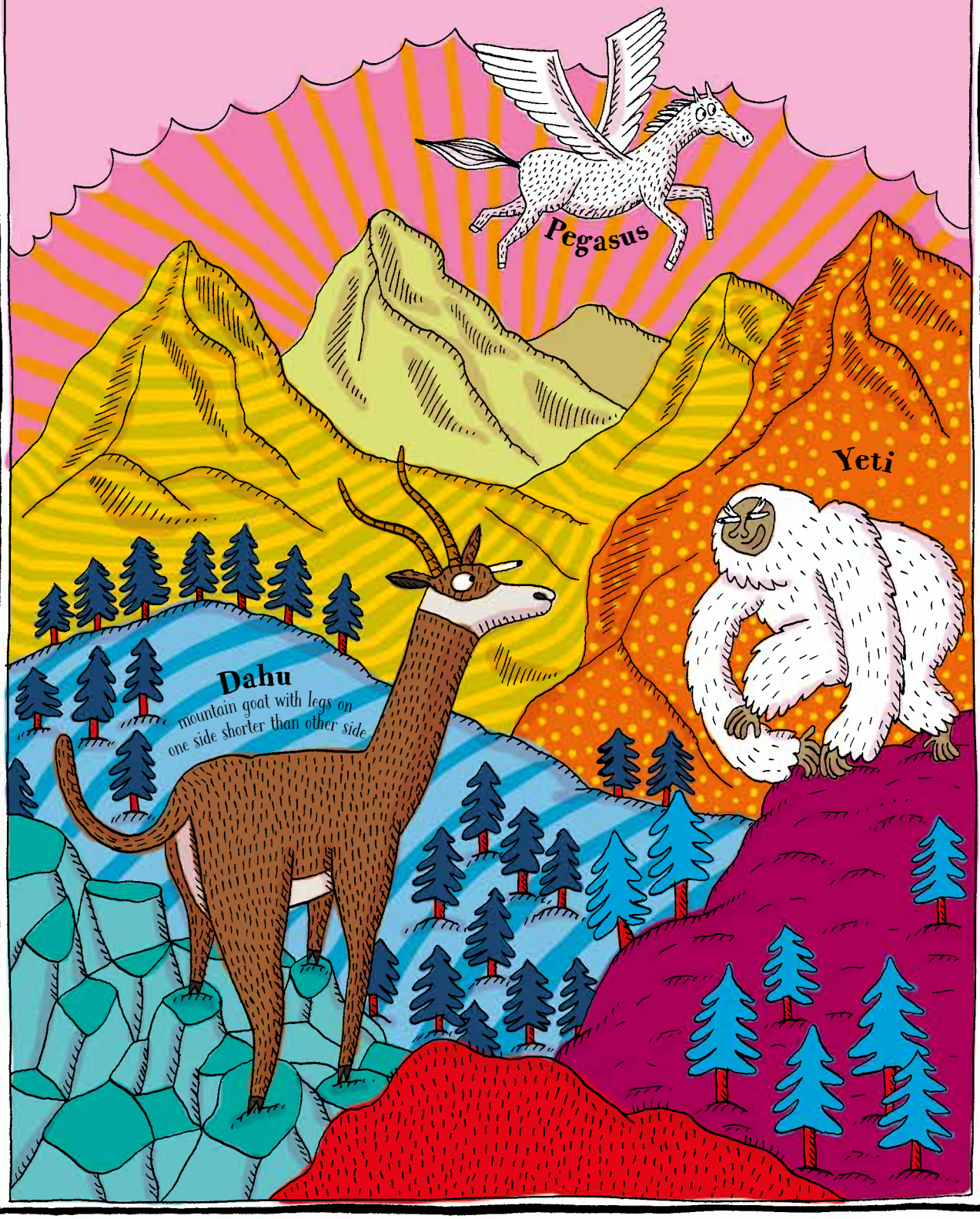

Barracuda
dagger-like teeth
Orca
tips up ice floes to knock seals and penguins into water to eat
Swordfish
uses swordlike bill to slash at prey

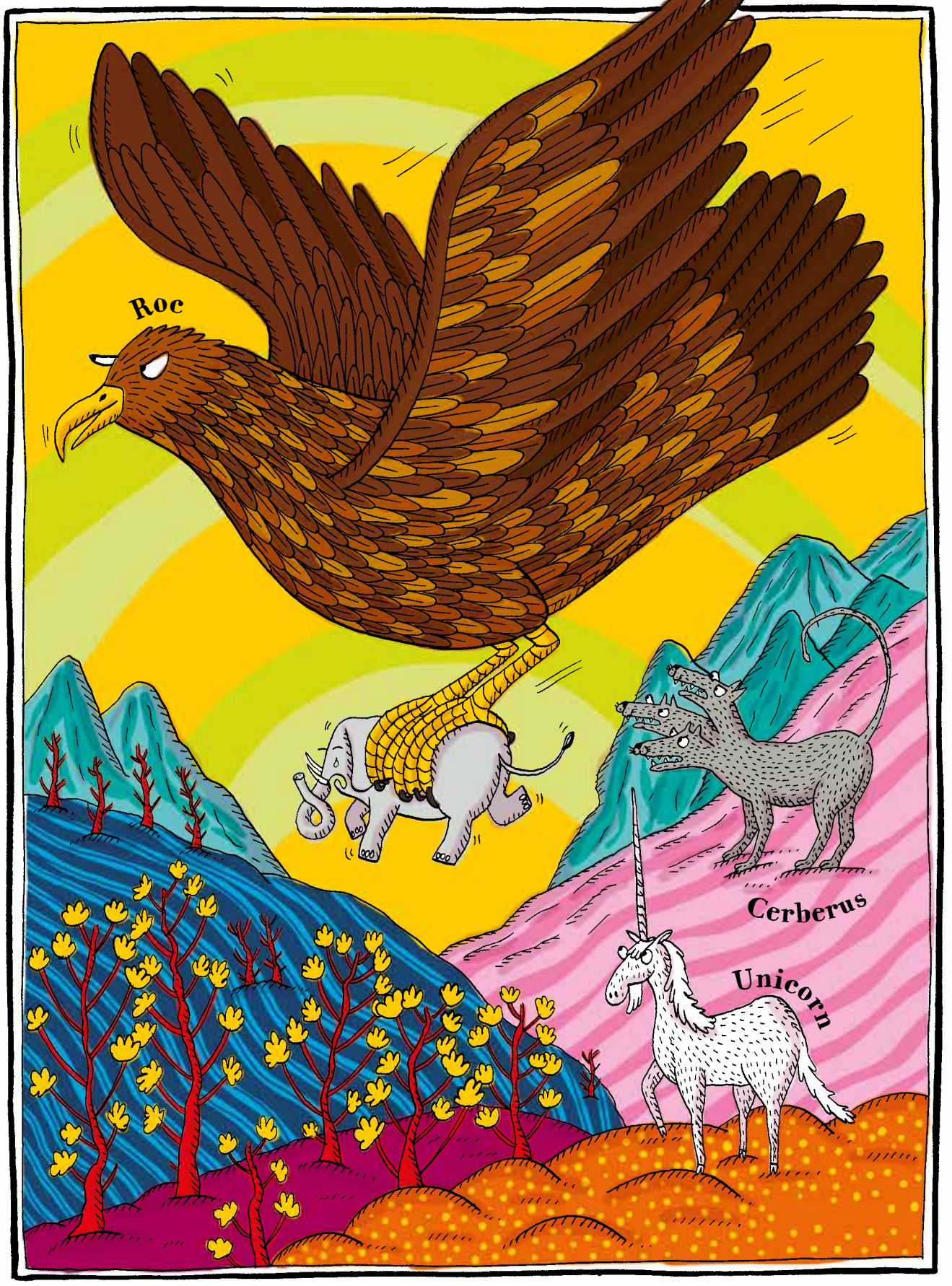

Leopard seal
uses sharp teeth to grip penguins, shaking them vigorously to kill them
Starfish
pries open shellfish using five arms
Little owl
may attack prey larger than itself
Chinese water dragon
sticky tongue helps it catch and hold prey
Black-footed ferret
stealthy, burrow-raiding hunter of prairie dogs


Red fox
silently stalks a victim, then pounces suddenly
Bald eagle
swoops down and scoops fish from water using sharp talons
Saltwater crocodile
largest reptile in the world; fearsome predator


Montagu's harrier
drops from sky to catch prey by surprise
Muskellunge
eats prey headfirst, sometimes in a single massive gulp

The mythical




Roc
Cerberus
Unicorn

Dragon
Snouter
small mammal that uses nose for everything, including jumping and fishing

Griffin
Lernaean Hydra
Baku
eater of nightmares

The night owls

Eurasian eagle-owl

night vision, powerful hearing, and silent flight make it a deadly predator

Philippine tarsier
head can swivel nearly all the way around to look about
Hazel dormouse
large eyes and ears help it survive in dark
Millipede
most have between 80 and 200 legs
Coral snake
one of world's most venomous snakes
Giant peacock moth
largest moth in Europe

Sloth
world's slowest mammal; spends most of life hanging upside down
Badger
strong sense of smell helps it find food in dark
Crocodile gecko

European conger eel
Asian tree toad
toes have sticky discs that help it climb trees
Red-eyed tree frog
sleeps during day with red eyes closed, to hide from hunters

Brazilian tapir
hides in water to avoid attackers, using snout as a snorkel
Stone loach
Squirrelfish
Kiwi
shy, flightless bird, lives only in New Zealand
Spanish moon moth

Barn owl
excellent hearing helps it find prey even in pitch-dark; one ear is slightly higher than other, helping owl pinpoint sounds

The pack animals

The pack animals

Przewalski's horse
wild horse; family groups form herds that travel together

Ring-tailed lemur
groups can contain up to 30 lemurs

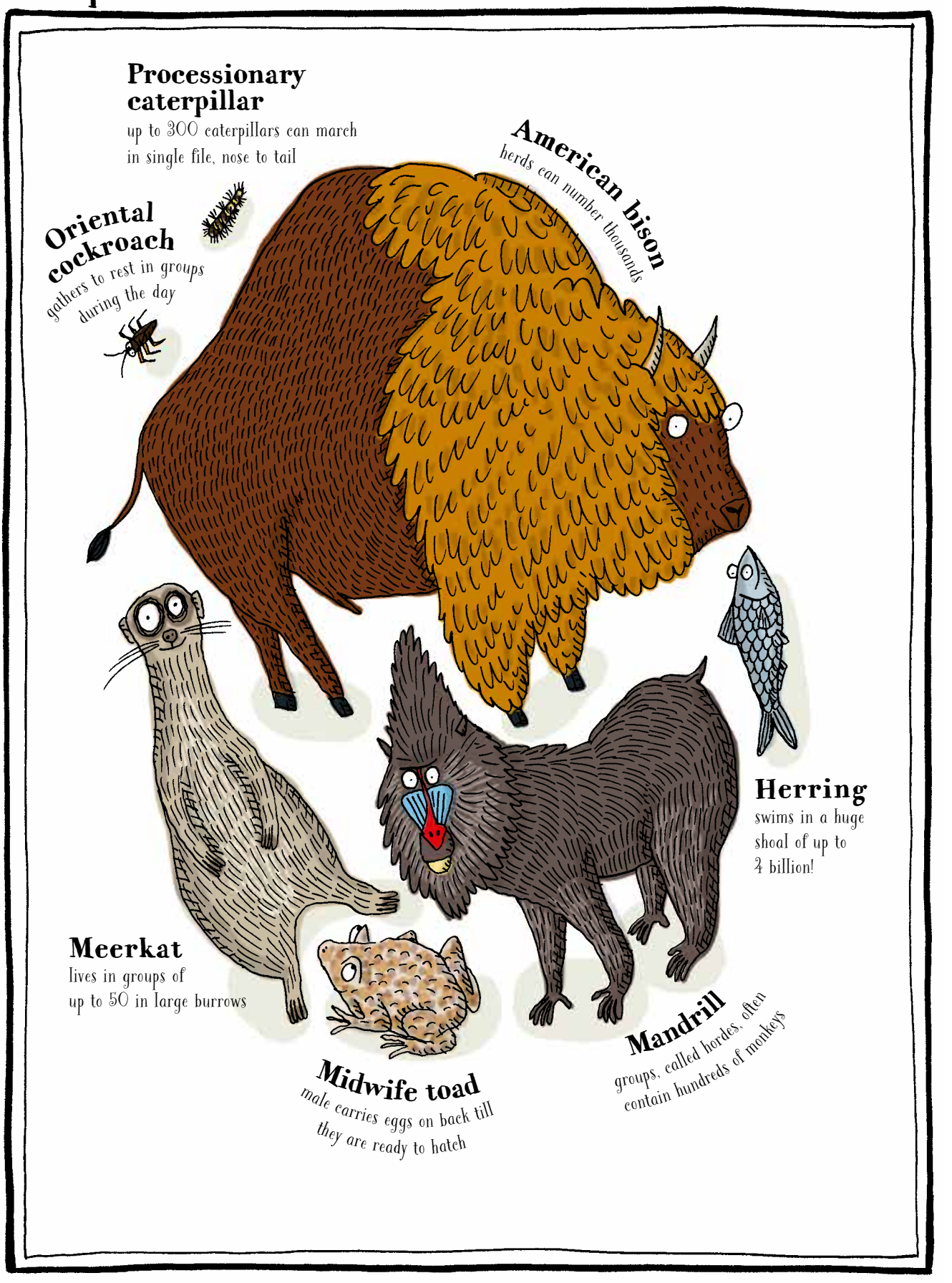
Clown loach
lives in large shoals in Indonesian waters

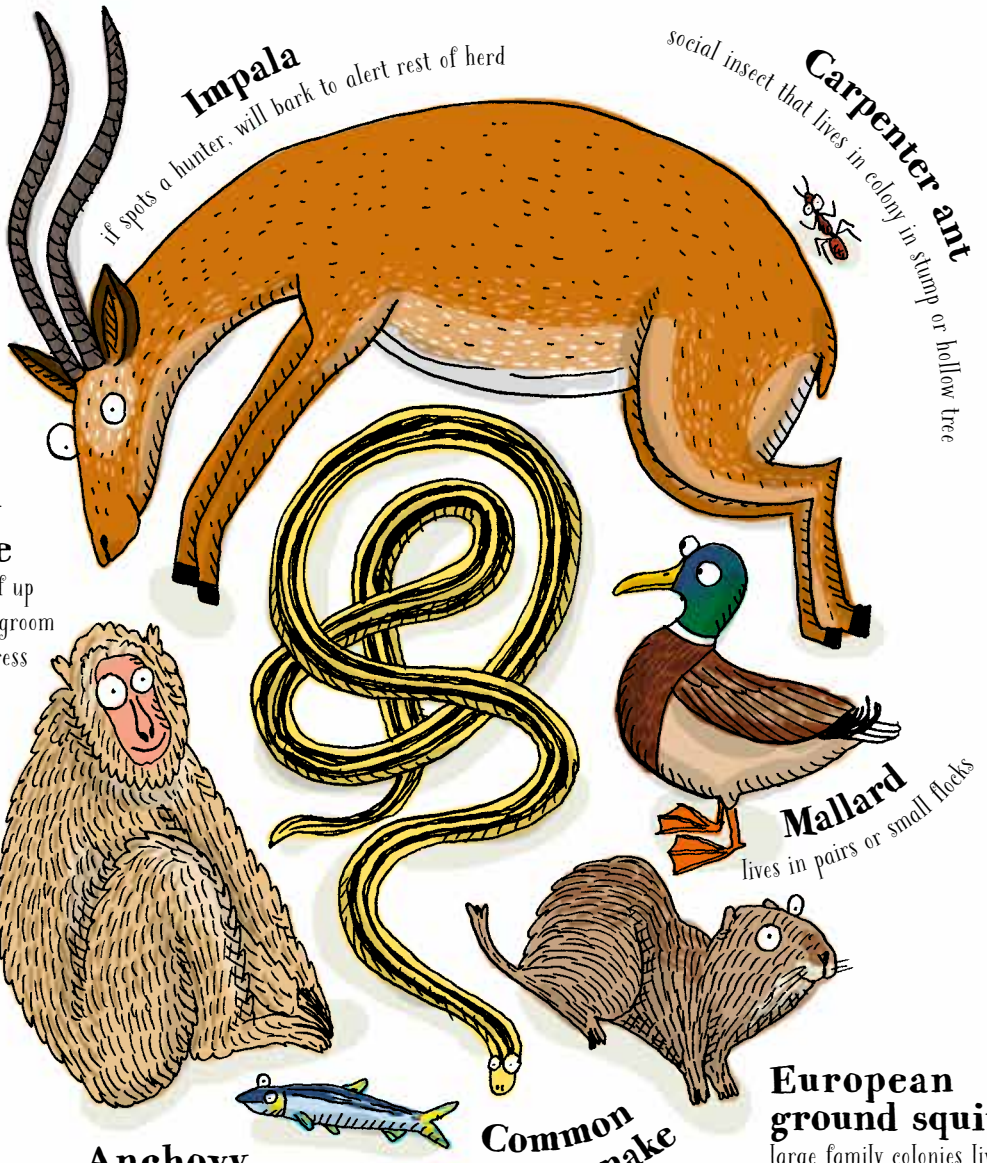
Hippopotamus
groups, called pods, can contain 100 hippos

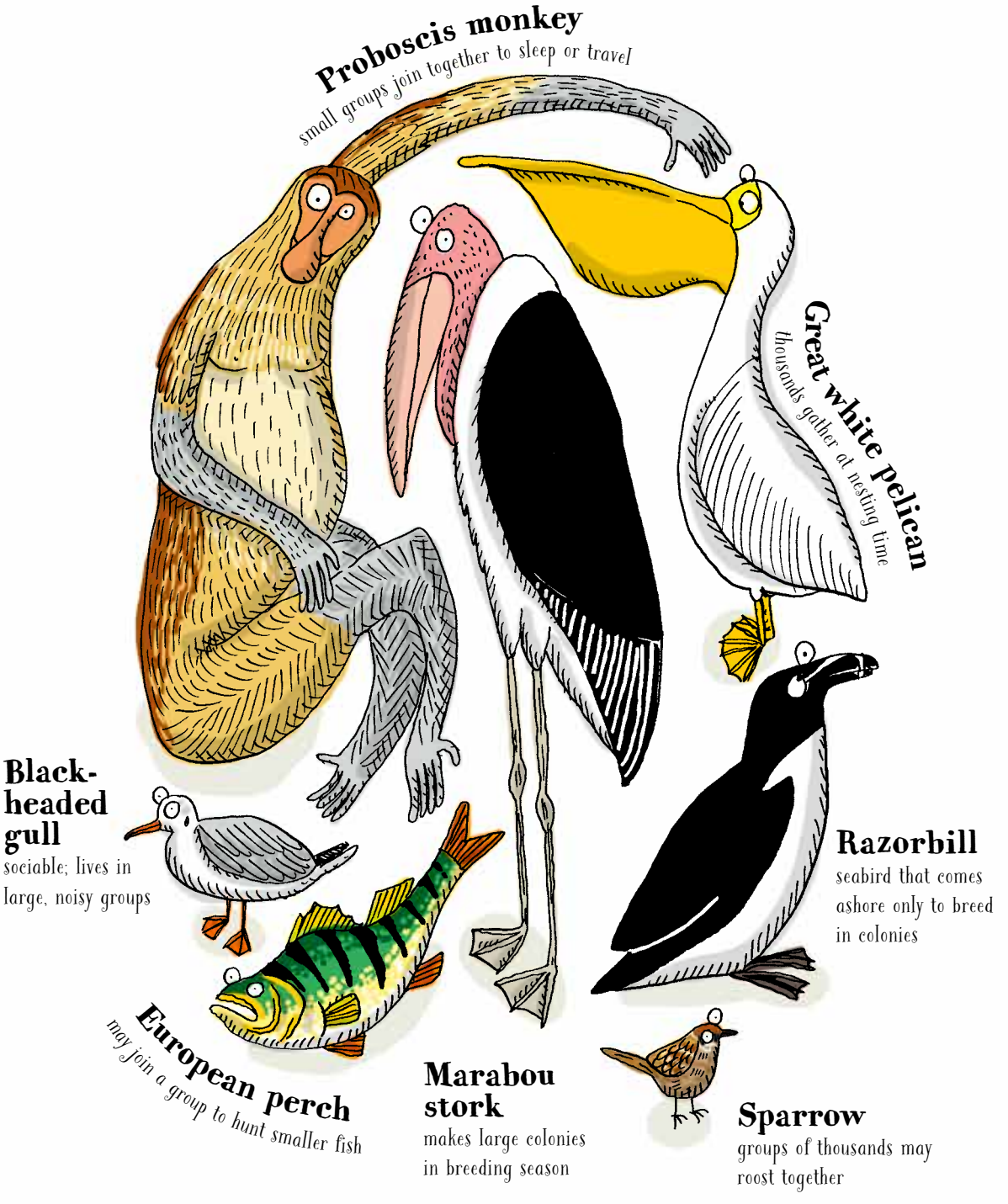
European honeybee
lives in a hive of up to 80,000

Addax
lives in a herd of up to 20

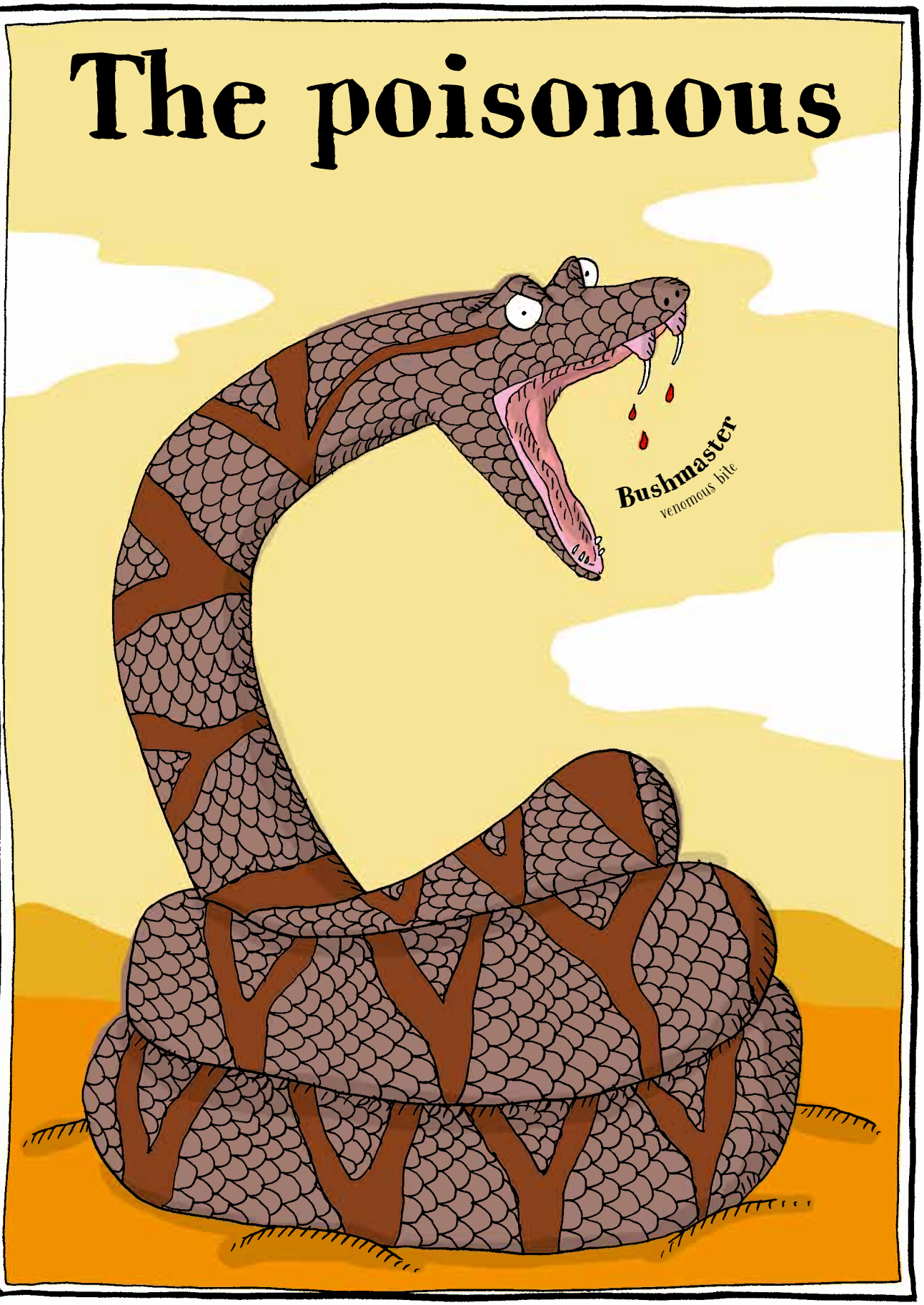
Bearded dragon
gathers in groups to feed or sunbathe

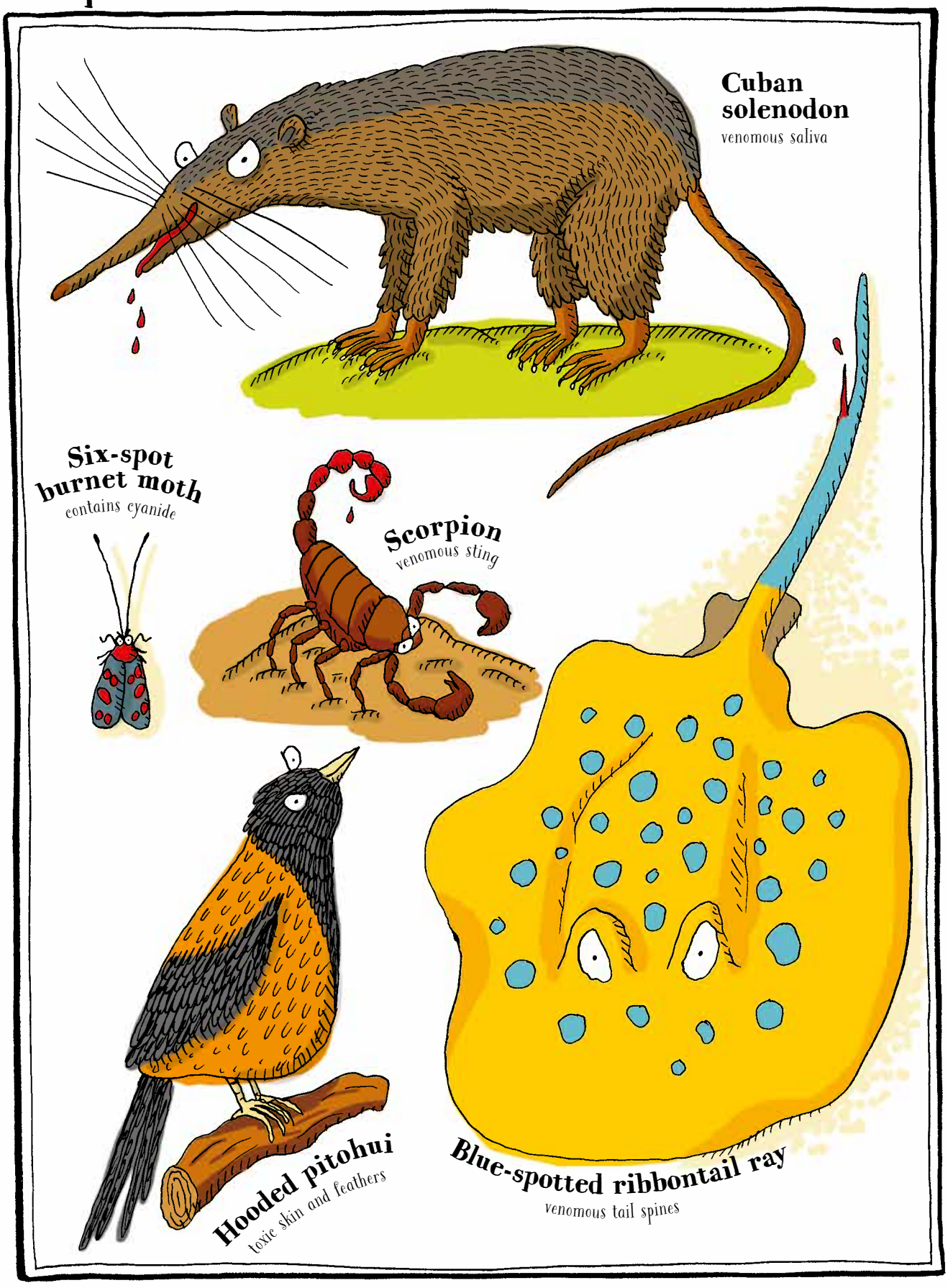

Processionary caterpillar
up to 300 caterpillars can march in single file, nose to tail
American bison
herds can number thousands
Oriental cockroach
gathers to rest in groups during the day
Herring
swims in a huge shoal of up to 4 billion!
Meerkat
lives in groups of up to 50 in large burrows
Mandrill
groups, called hordes, often contain hundreds of monkeys
Midwife toad
male carries eggs on back till they are ready to hatch

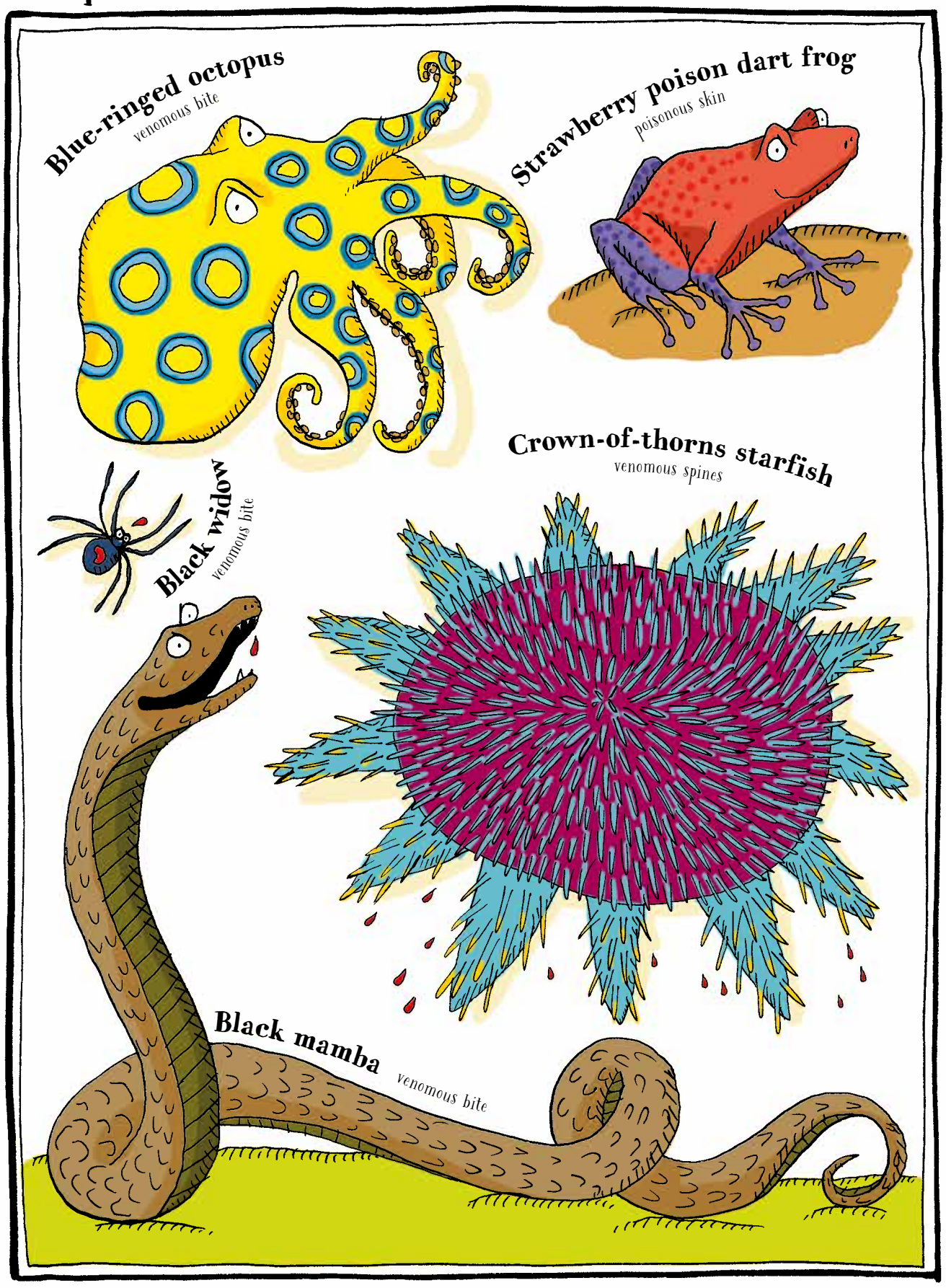

Impala
if spots a hunter, will bark to alert rest of herd
Carpenter ant
social insect that lives in colony in stump or hollow tree
Barbary macaque
lives in troop of up to 100; might groom others to de-stress
Mallard
lives in pairs or small flocks
Anchovy
gathers in shoals of millions
Common garter snake
in winter, lives in dens, often with thousands of others
European ground squirrel
large family colonies live in deep burrows

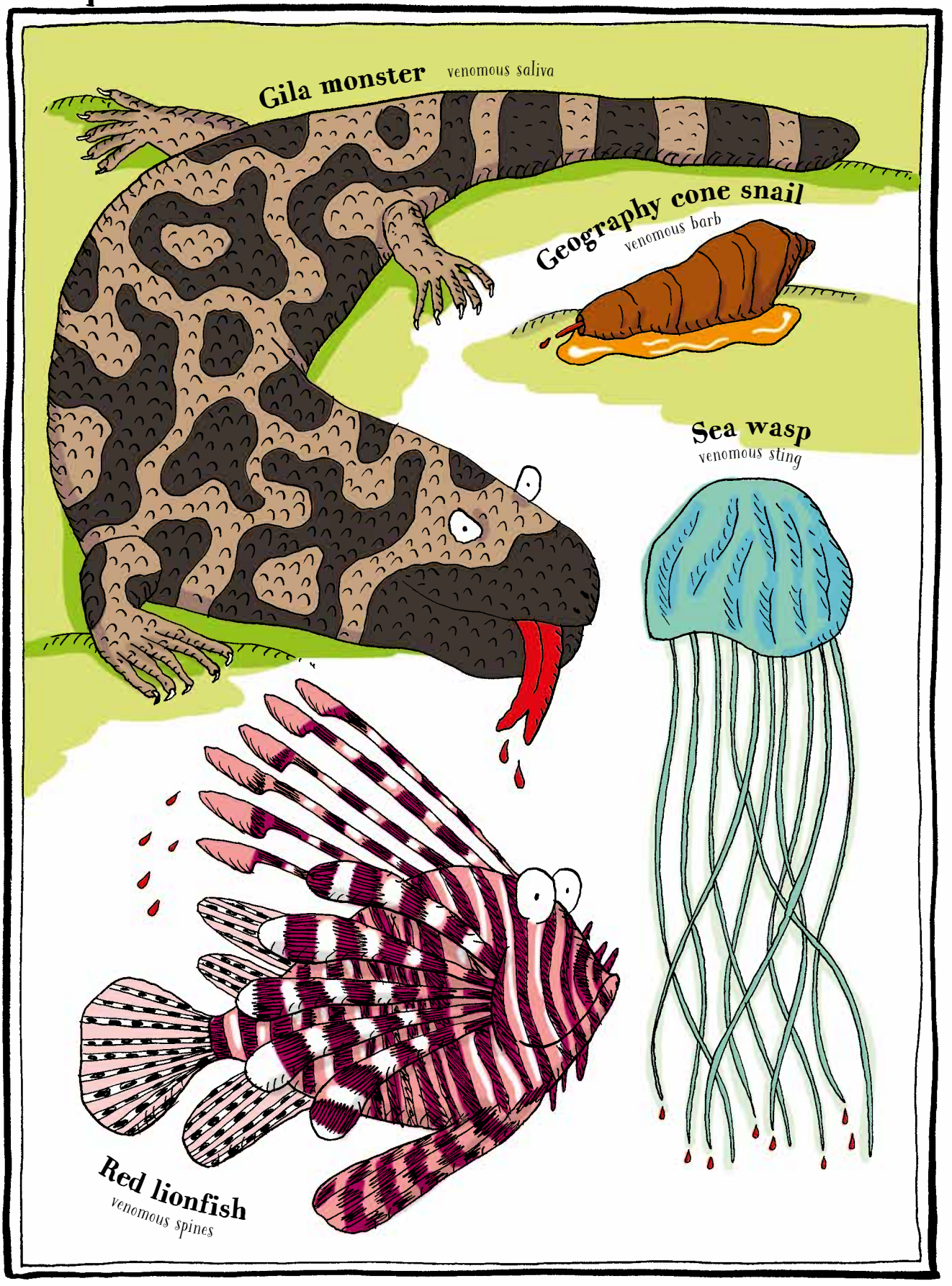

Proboscis monkey
small groups join together to sleep or travel
Great white pelican
thousands gather at nesting time
Black-headed gull
sociable; lives in large, noisy groups
Razorbill
seabird that comes ashore only to breed in colonies
European perch
may join a group to hunt smaller fish
Marabou stork
makes large colonies in breeding season
Sparrow
groups of thousands may roost together

The poisonous



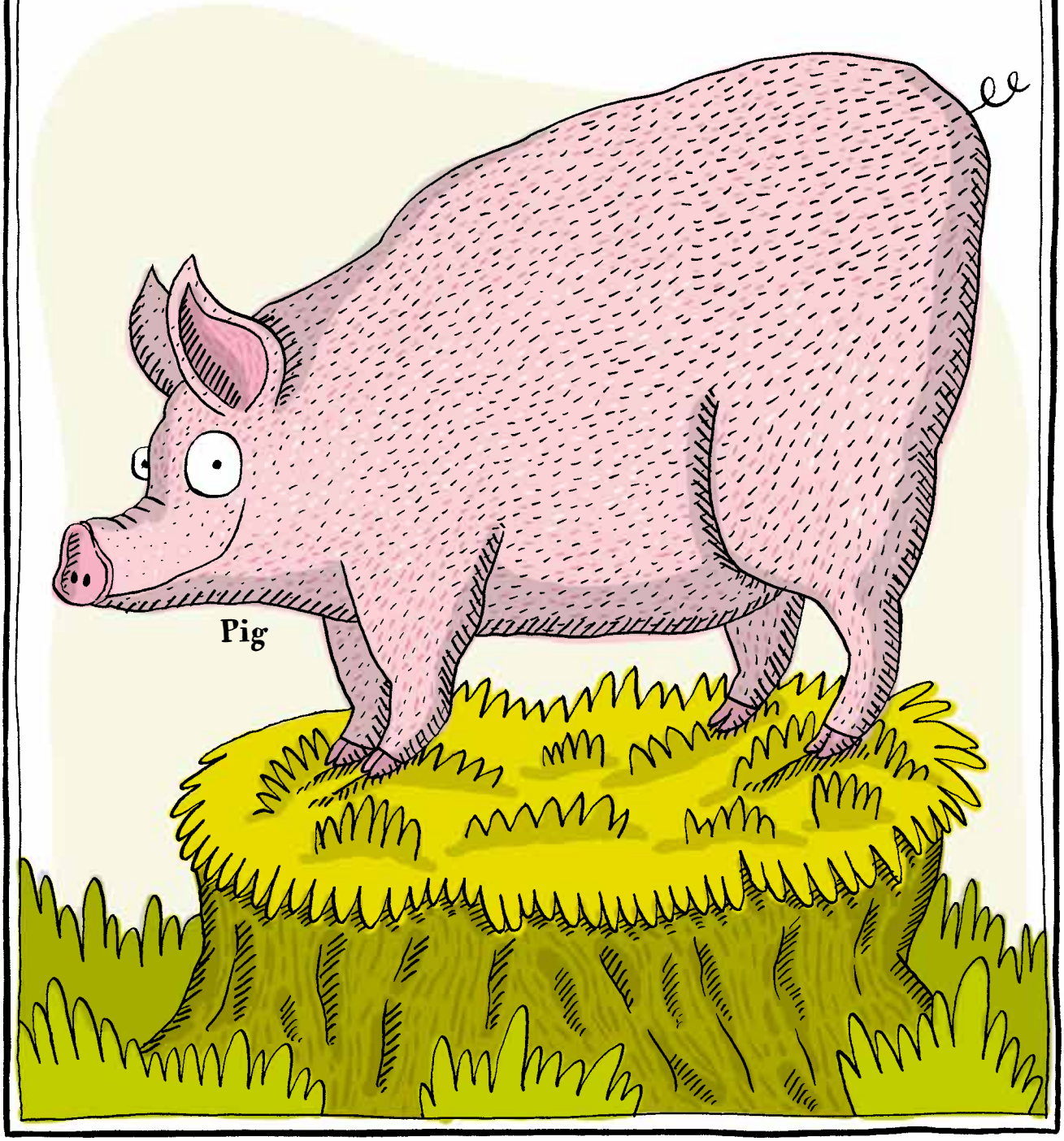

Cuban solenodon
venomous saliva
Six-spot burnet moth
contains cyanide
Scorpion
venomous sting
Hooded pitohui
toxic skin and feathers
Blue-spotted ribbontail ray
venomous tail spines

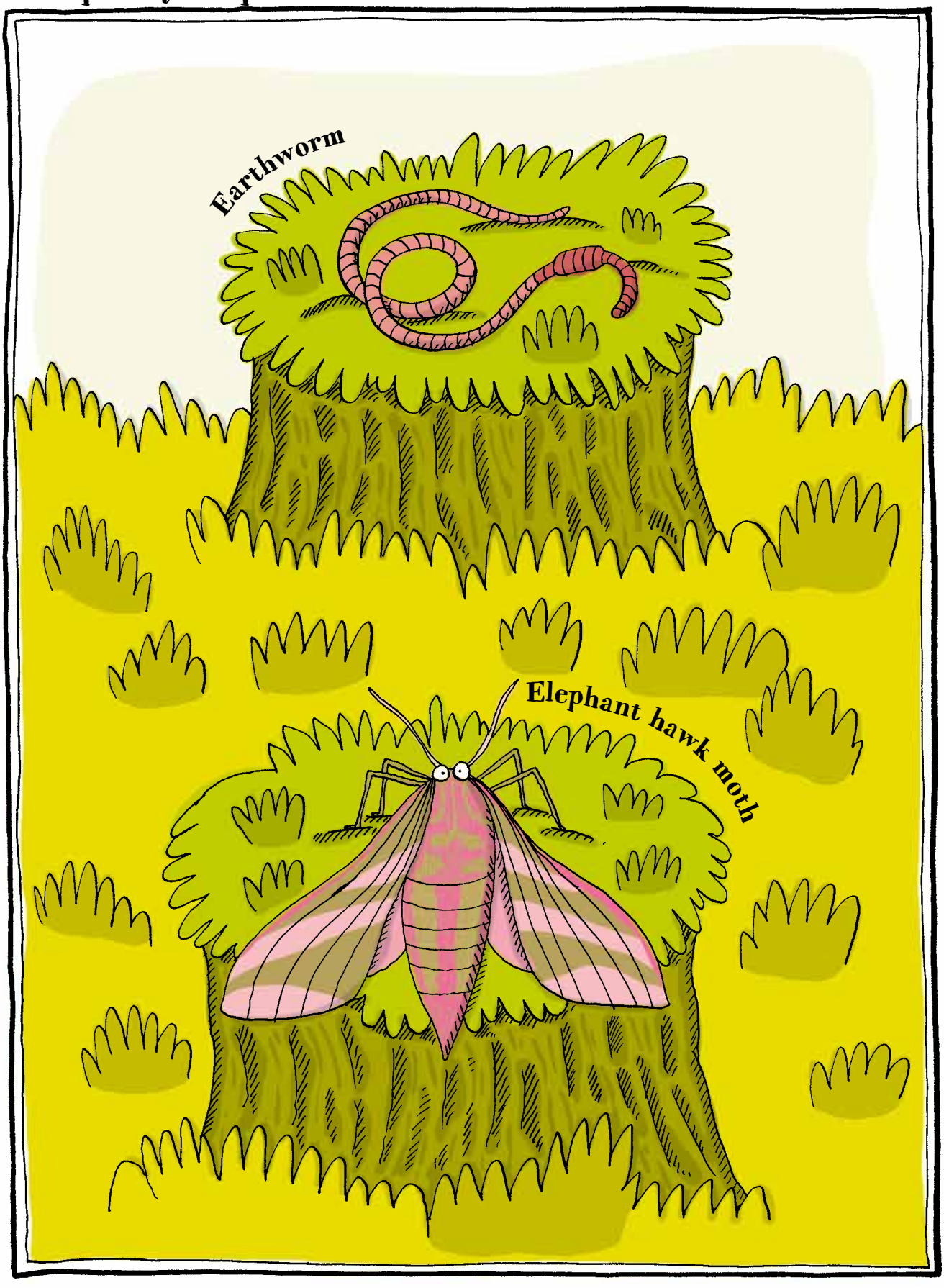

Blue-ringed octopus
venomous bite
Strawberry poison dart frog
poisonous skin
Crown-of-thorns starfish
venomous spines
Black widow
venomous bite
Black mamba
venomous bite

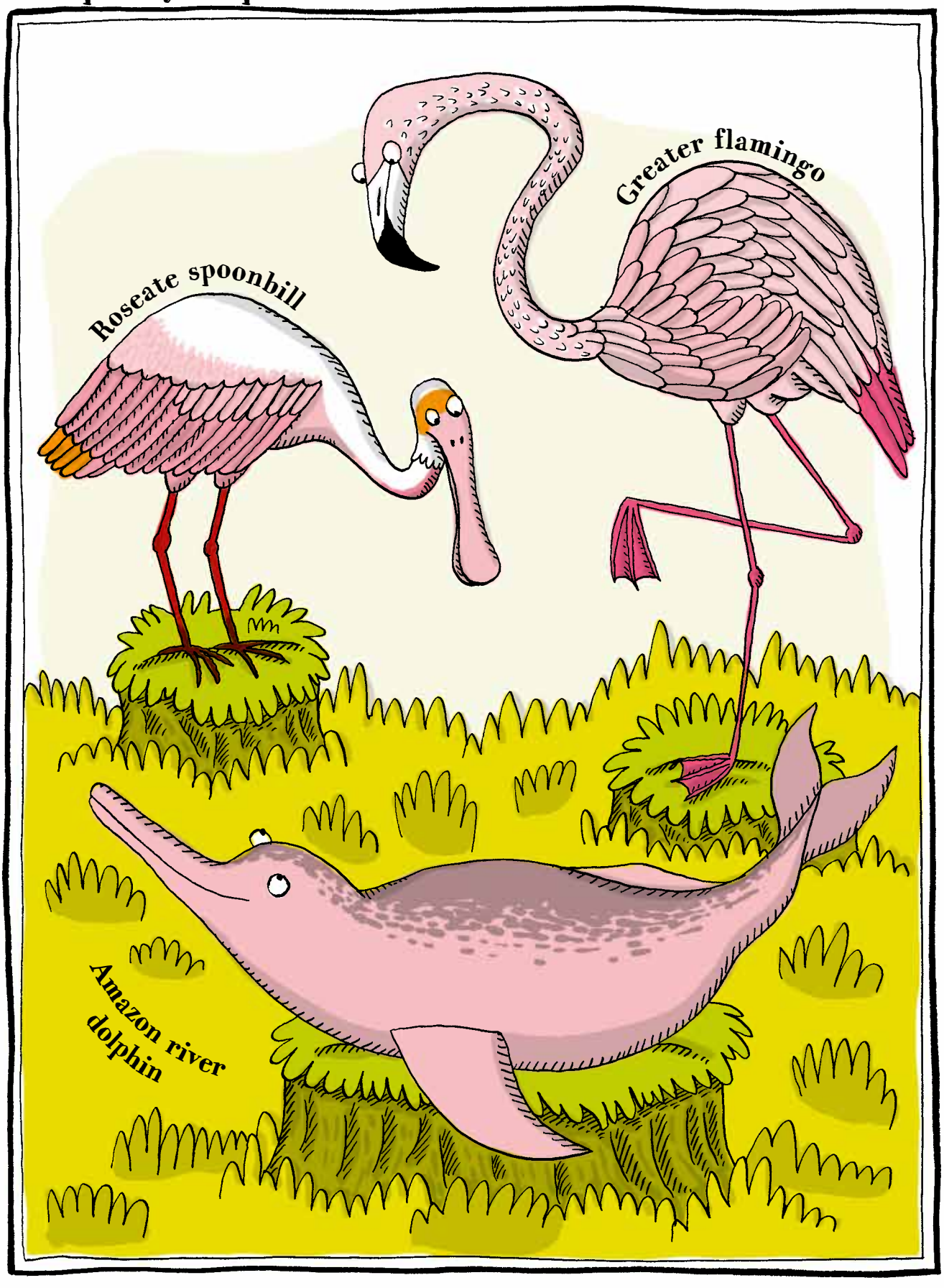

Gila monster
venomous saliva
Geography cone snail
venomous barb
Sea wasp
venomous sting
Red lionfish
venomous spines

Russell's viper
venomous bite
Platypus (male)
venomous ankle spur
Hornet
venomous sting

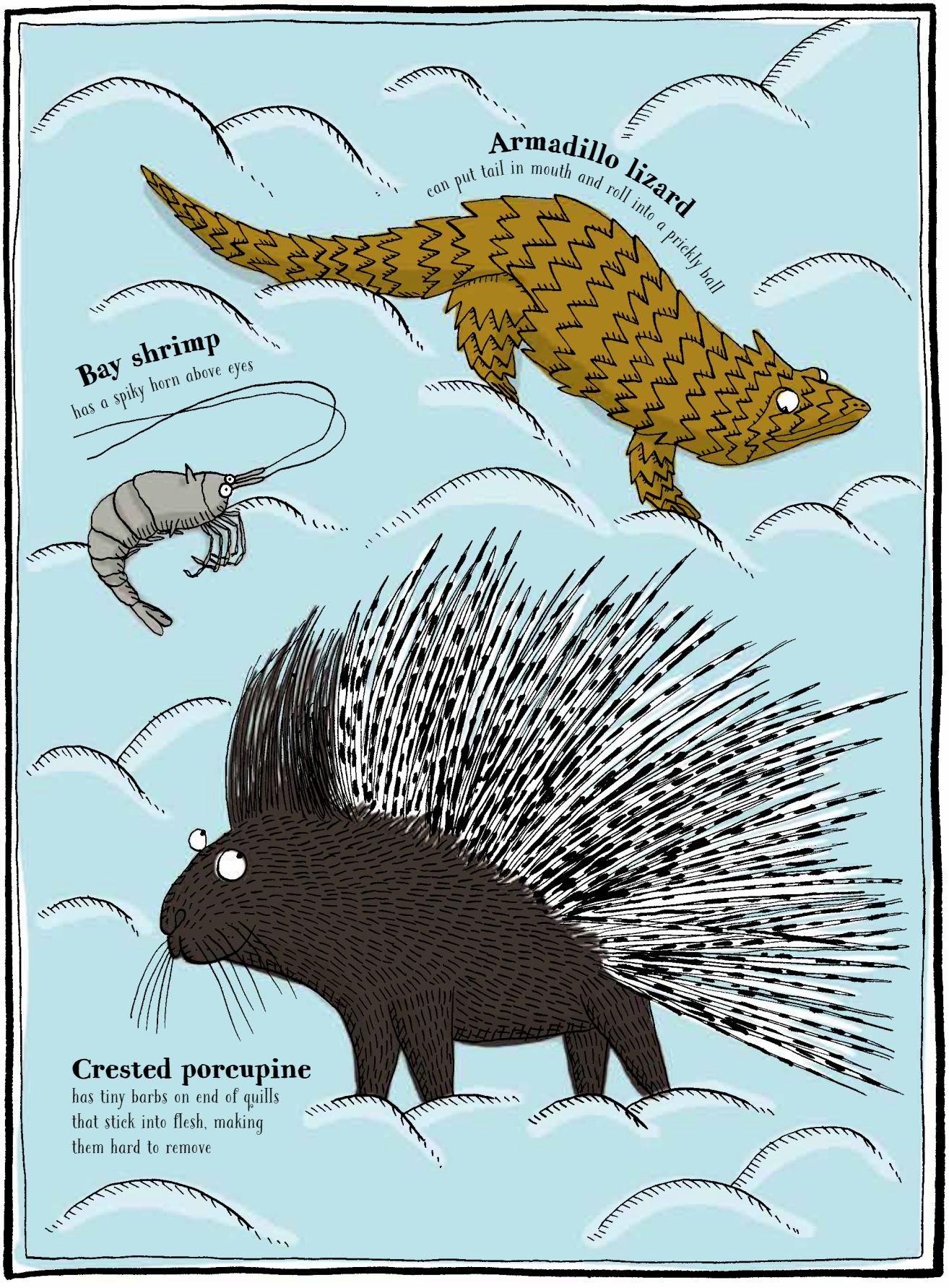
The pretty-in-pinks

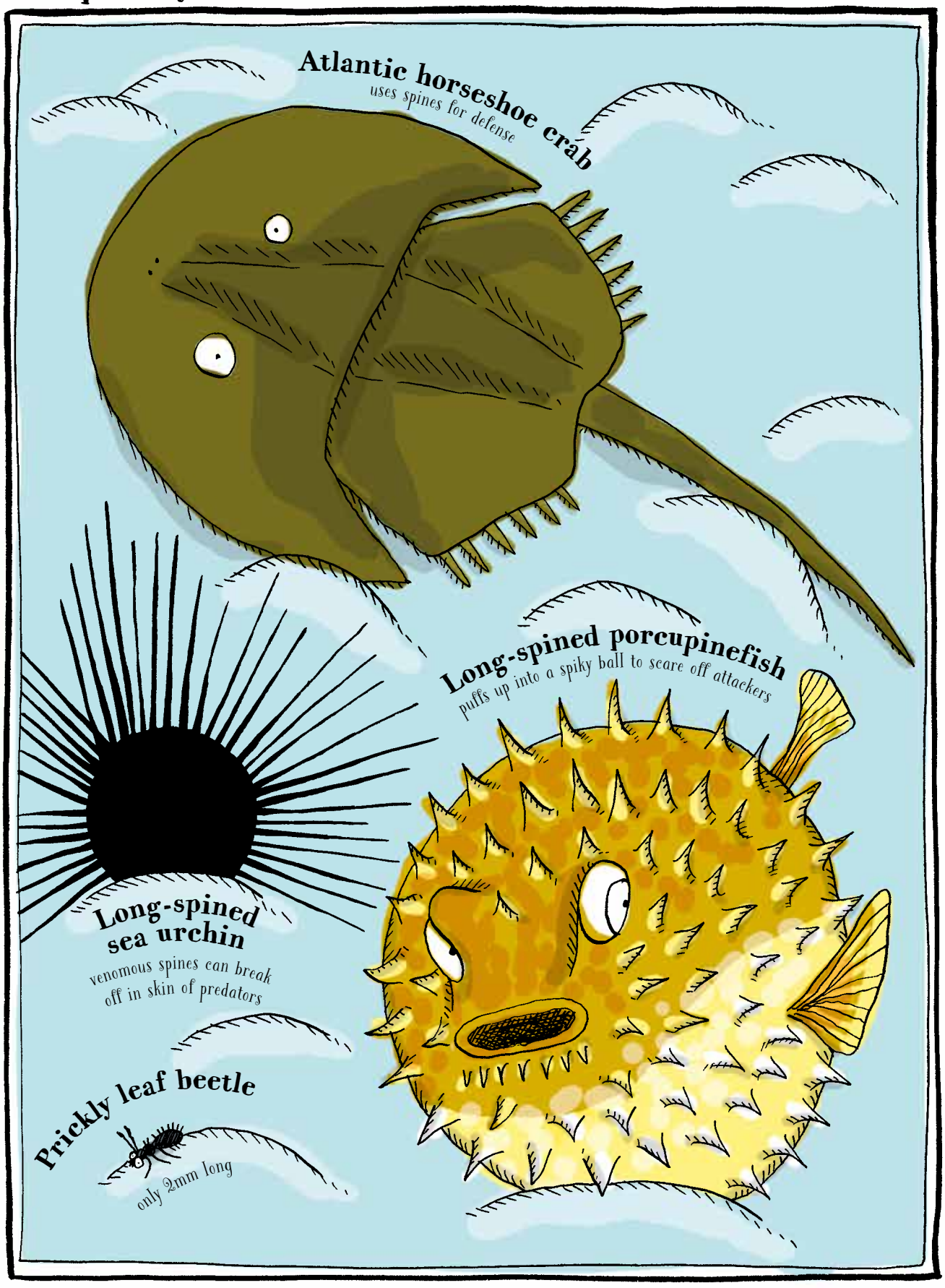


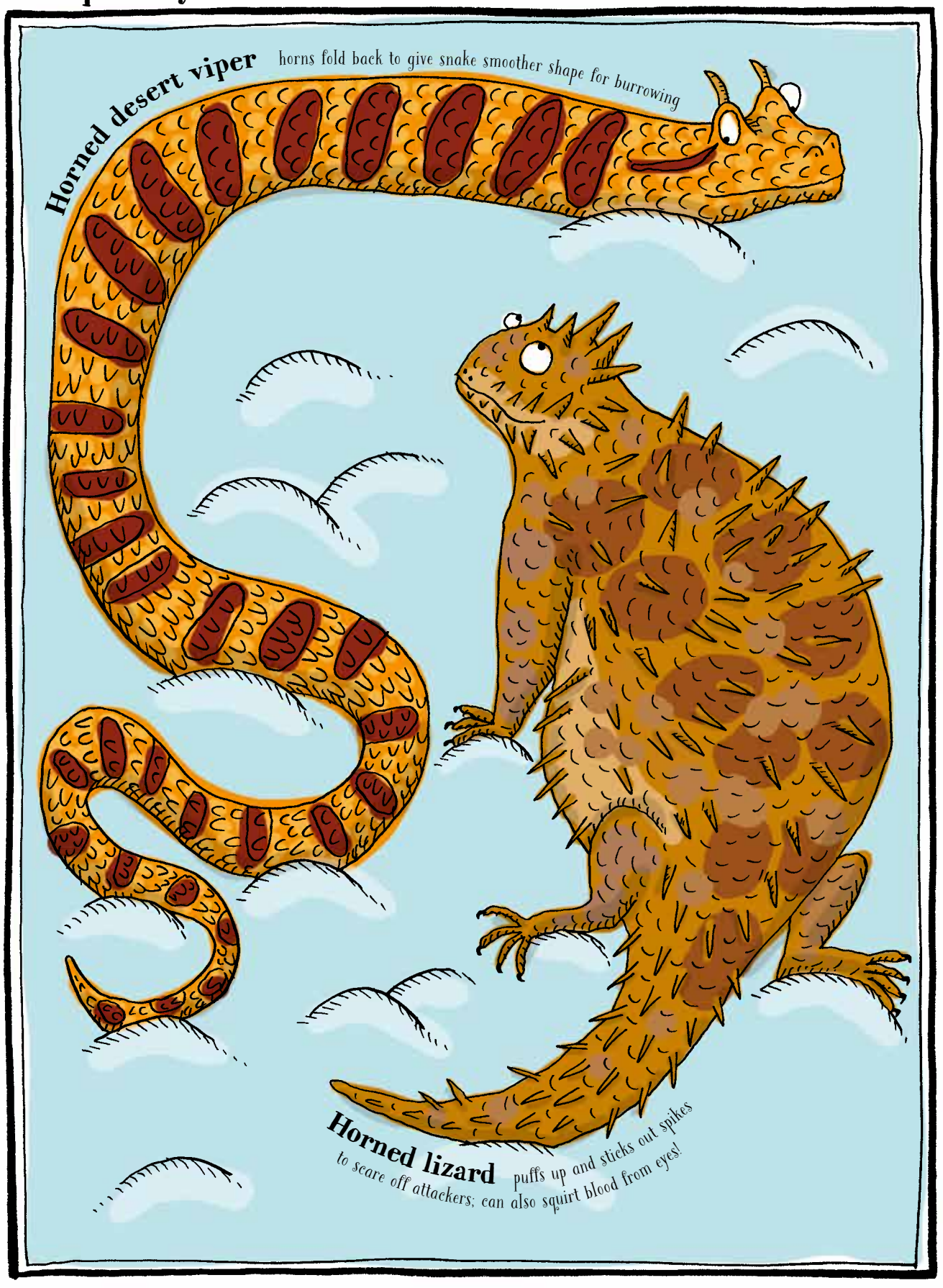

Earthworm
Elephant hawk moth


Greater flamingo
Roseate spoonbill
Amazon river dolphin

The prickly ones


Armadillo lizard
can put tail in mouth and roll into a prickly ball
Bay shrimp
has a spiky horn above eyes
Crested porcupine
has tiny barbs on end of quills that stick into flesh, making them hard to remove

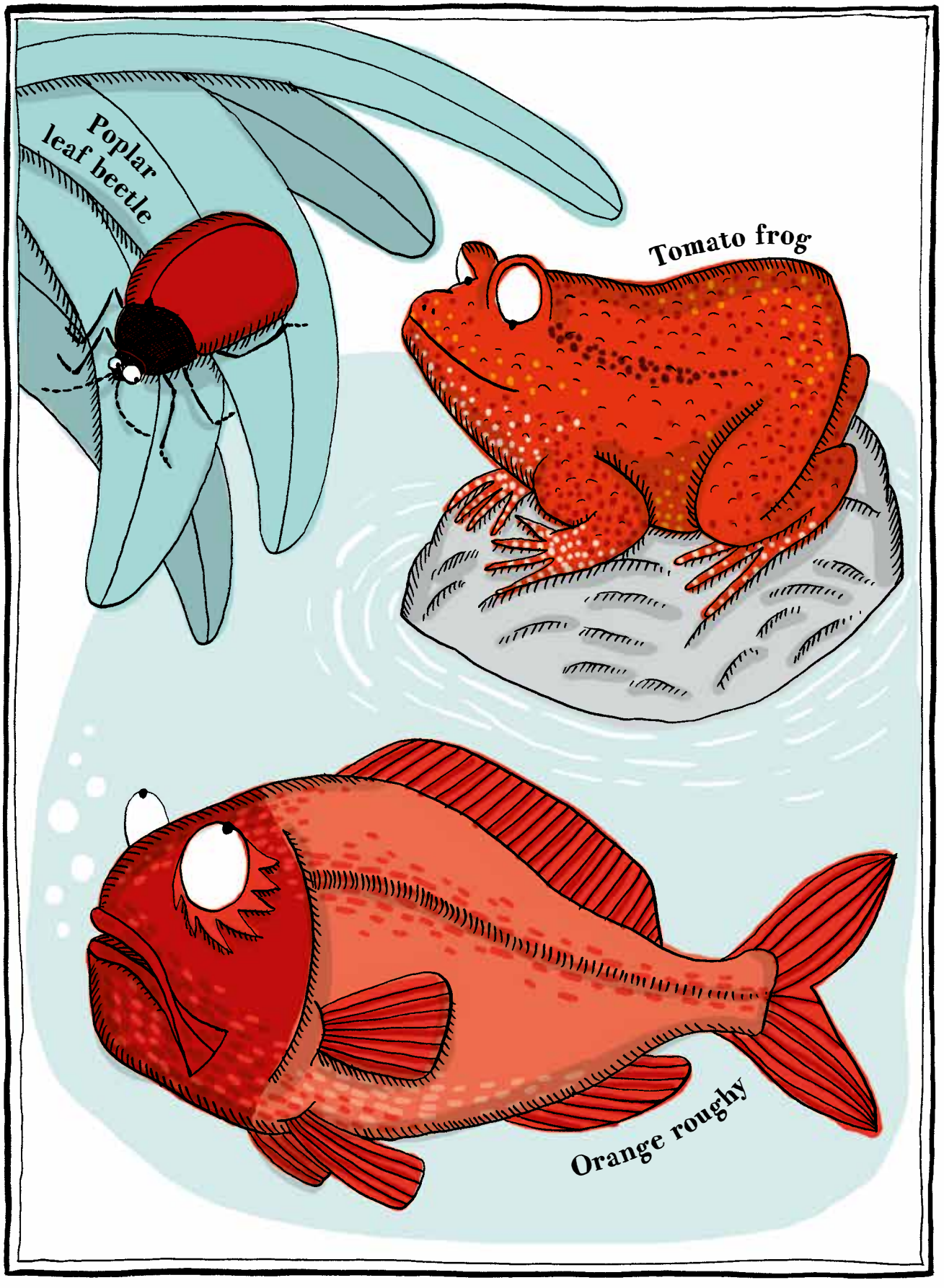

Atlantic horseshoe crab
uses spines for defense
Long-spined porcupinefish
puffs up into a spiky ball to scare off attackers
Long-spined sea urchin
venomous spines can break off in skin of predators
Prickly leaf beetle
only 2mm long


Horned desert viper
horns fold back to give snake smoother shape for burrowing
Horned lizard
puffs up and sticks out spikes to scare off attackers; can also squirt blood from eyes!

The redheads

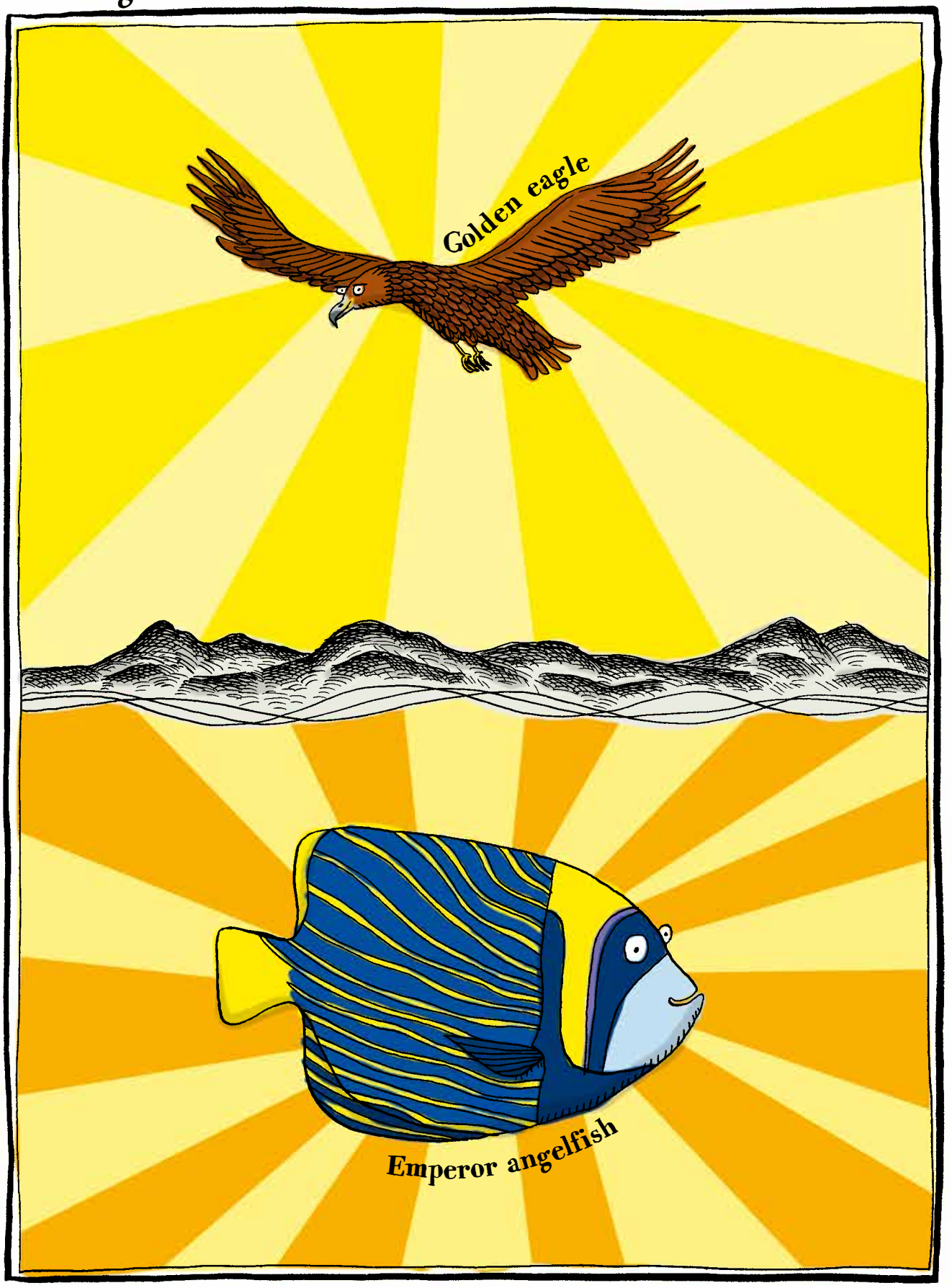
Cardinal beetle
Northern cardinal (male)

Crimson rosella
Scarlet tanager
Vermilion flycatcher


Poplar leaf beetle
Tomato frog
Orange roughy

Red weevil
Scarlet ibis
Firebug
Red salamander

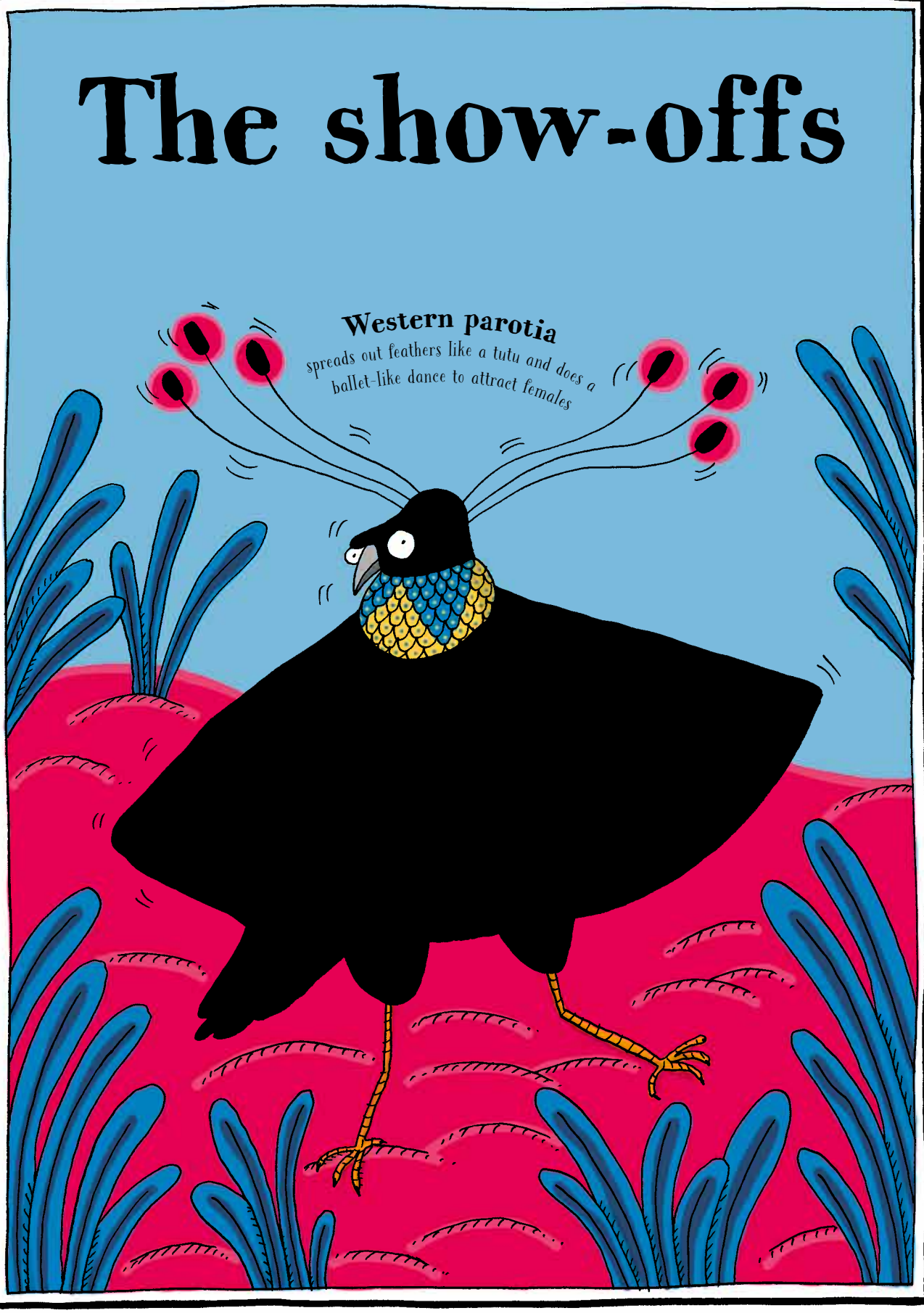
The regal

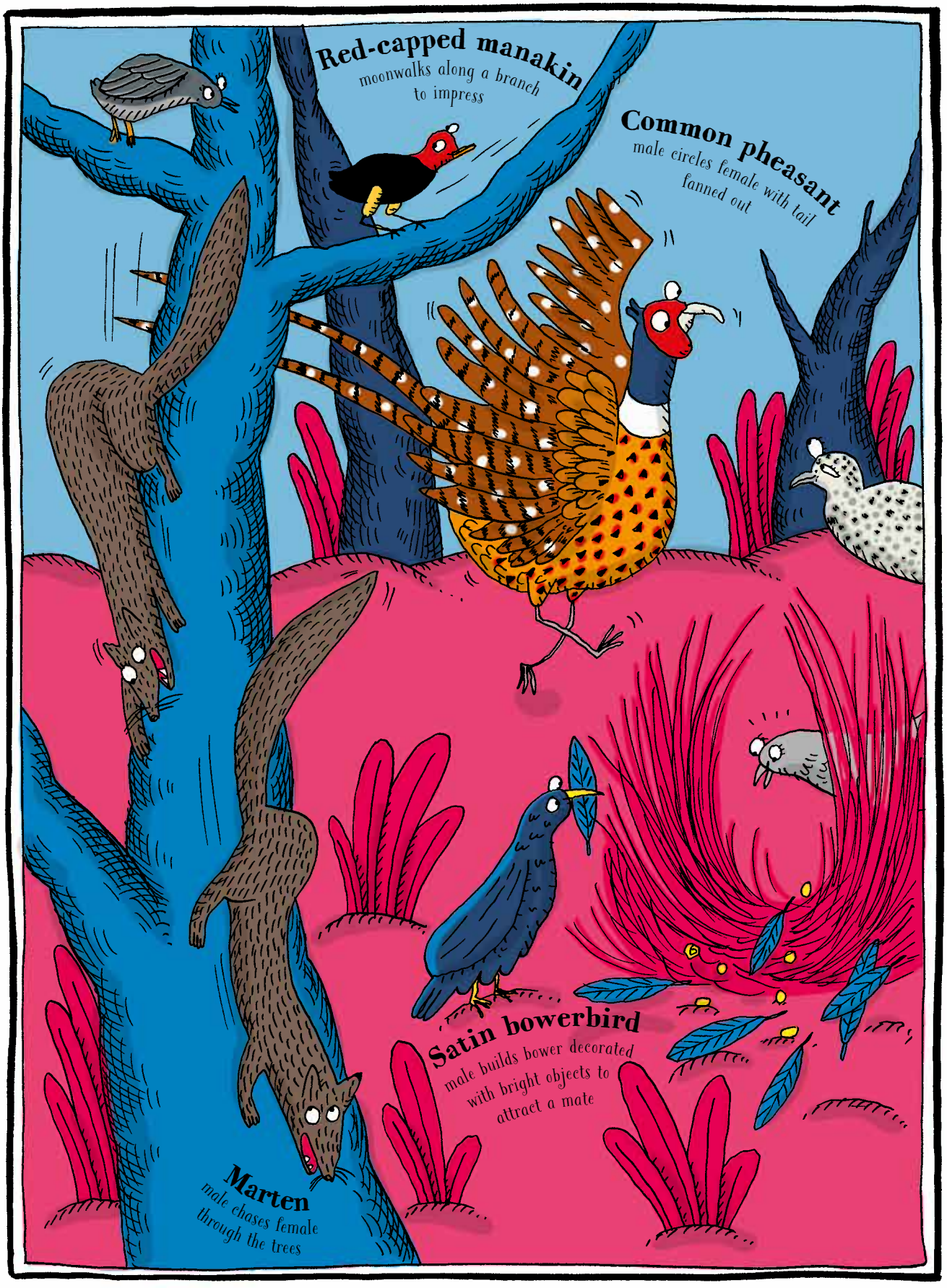

Golden eagle
Emperor angelfish

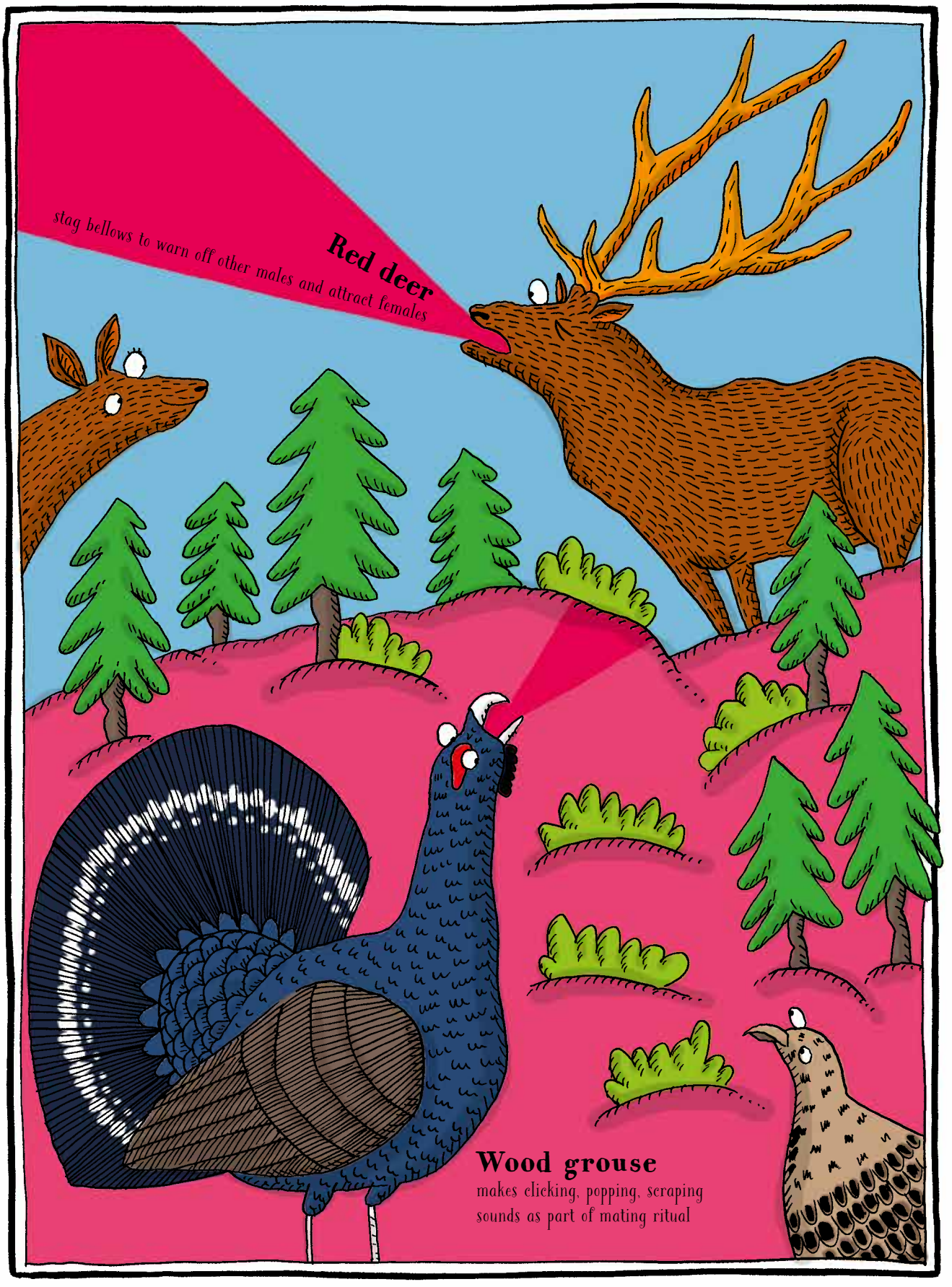
King snake
White tiger
Emperor penguin
Crowned sandgrouse

King cobra
Royal python

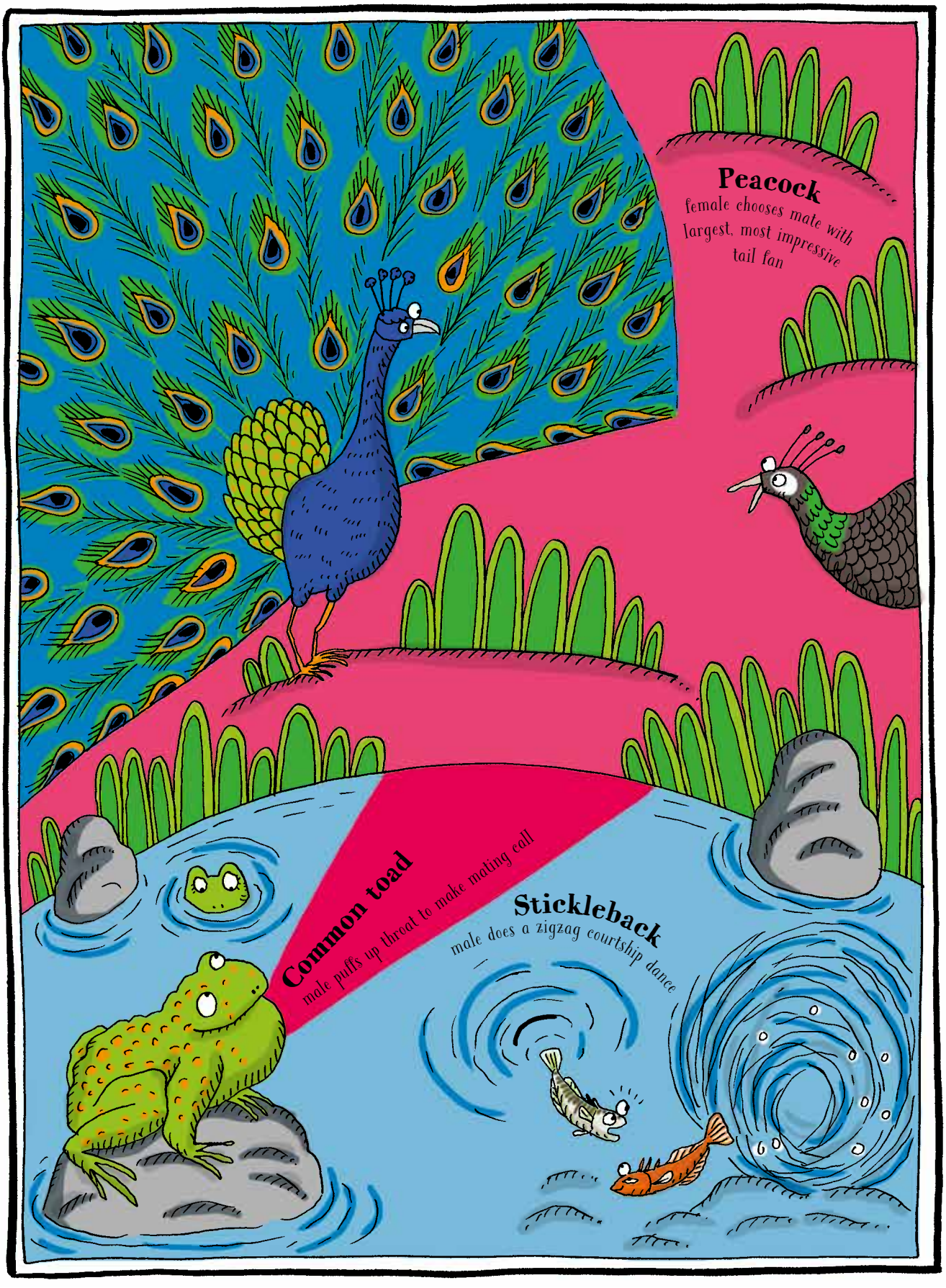
The show-offs




Red-capped manakin
moonwalks along a branch to impress
Common pheasant
male circles female with tail fanned out
Satin bowerbird
male builds bower decorated with bright objects to attract a mate
Marten
male chases female through the trees

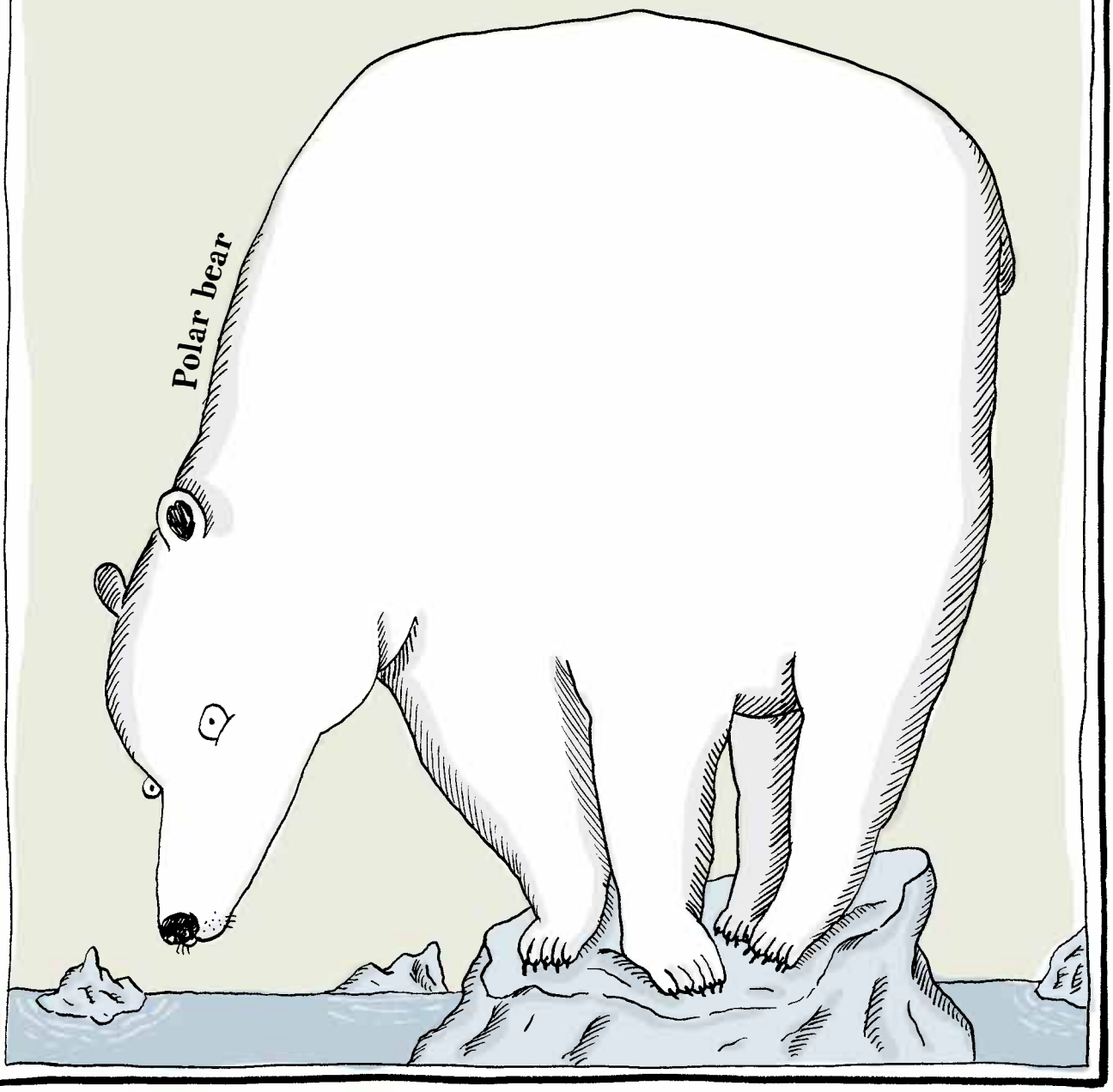

Red deer
stag bellows to warn off other males and attract females
Wood grouse
makes clicking, popping, scraping sounds as part of mating ritual

Superb lyrebird
male fans tail, dances, and sings to impress a mate
Magnificent frigate bird
male puffs up red throat-pouch like a balloon

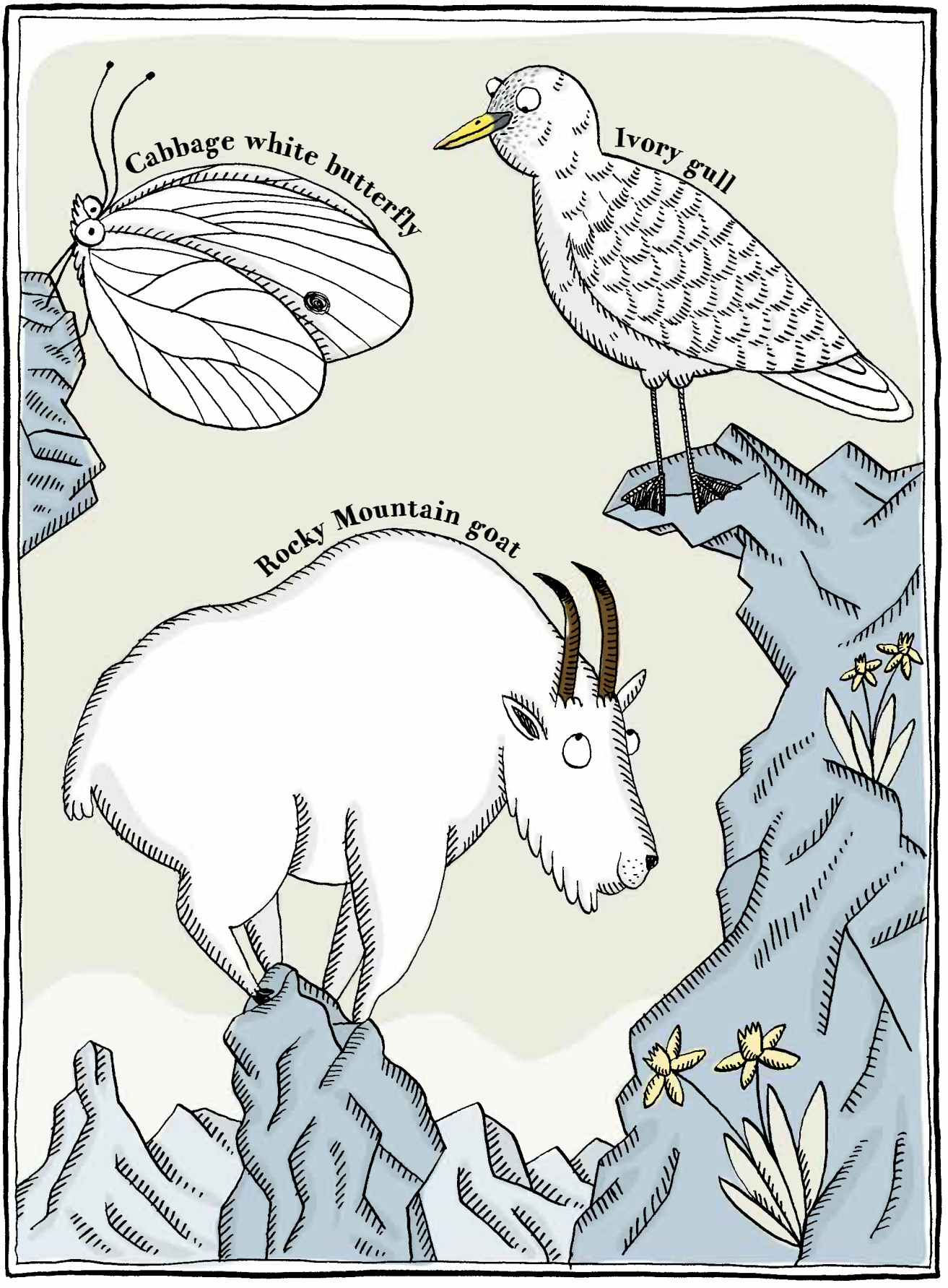

Peacock
female chooses mate with largest, most impressive tail fan
Common toad
male puffs up throat to make mating call
Stickleback
male does a zigzag courtship dance

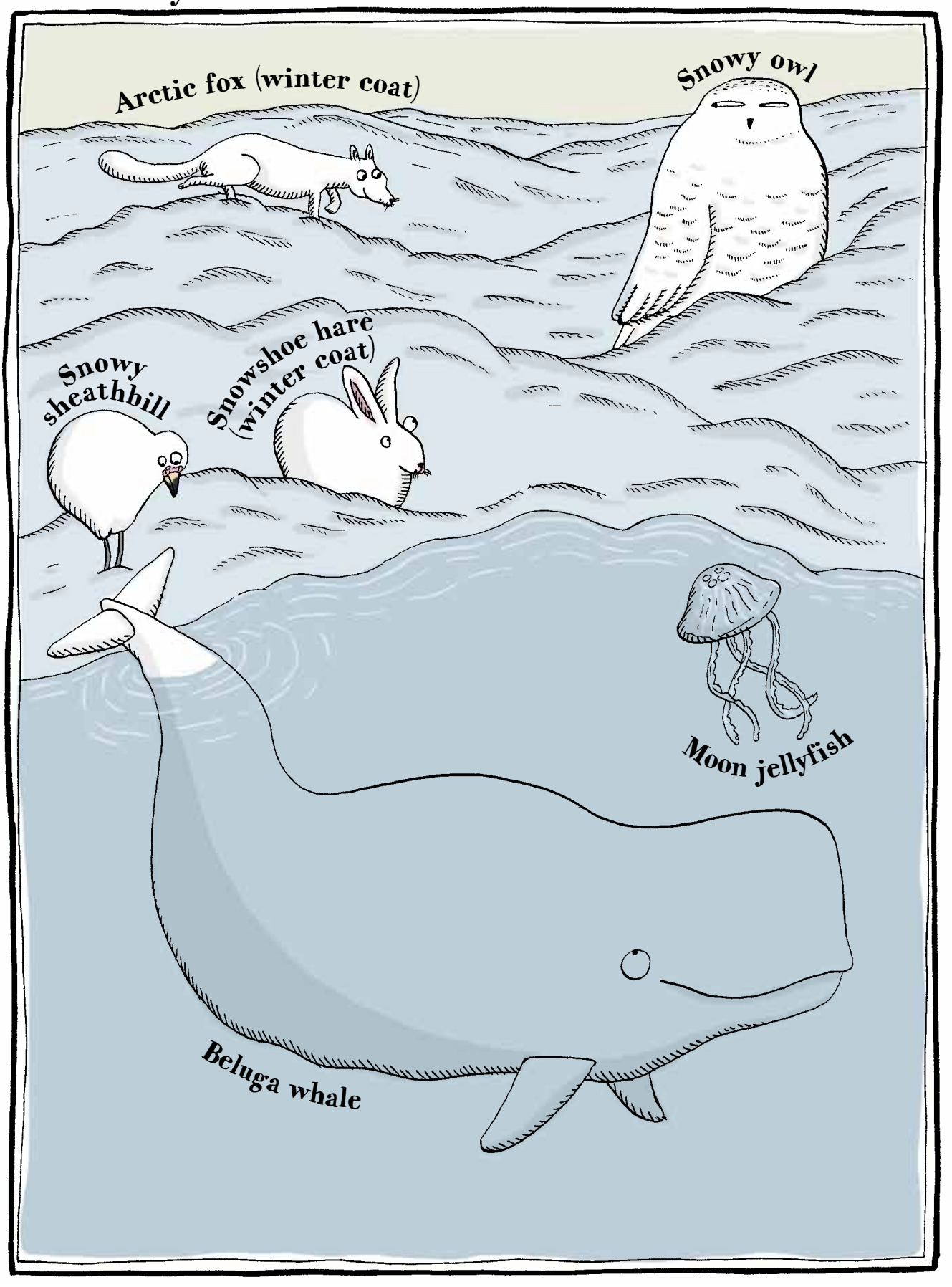
Toco toucan
male offers female gifts of food
Grey-crowned crane
bows, jumps, and dances

The snowy-whites

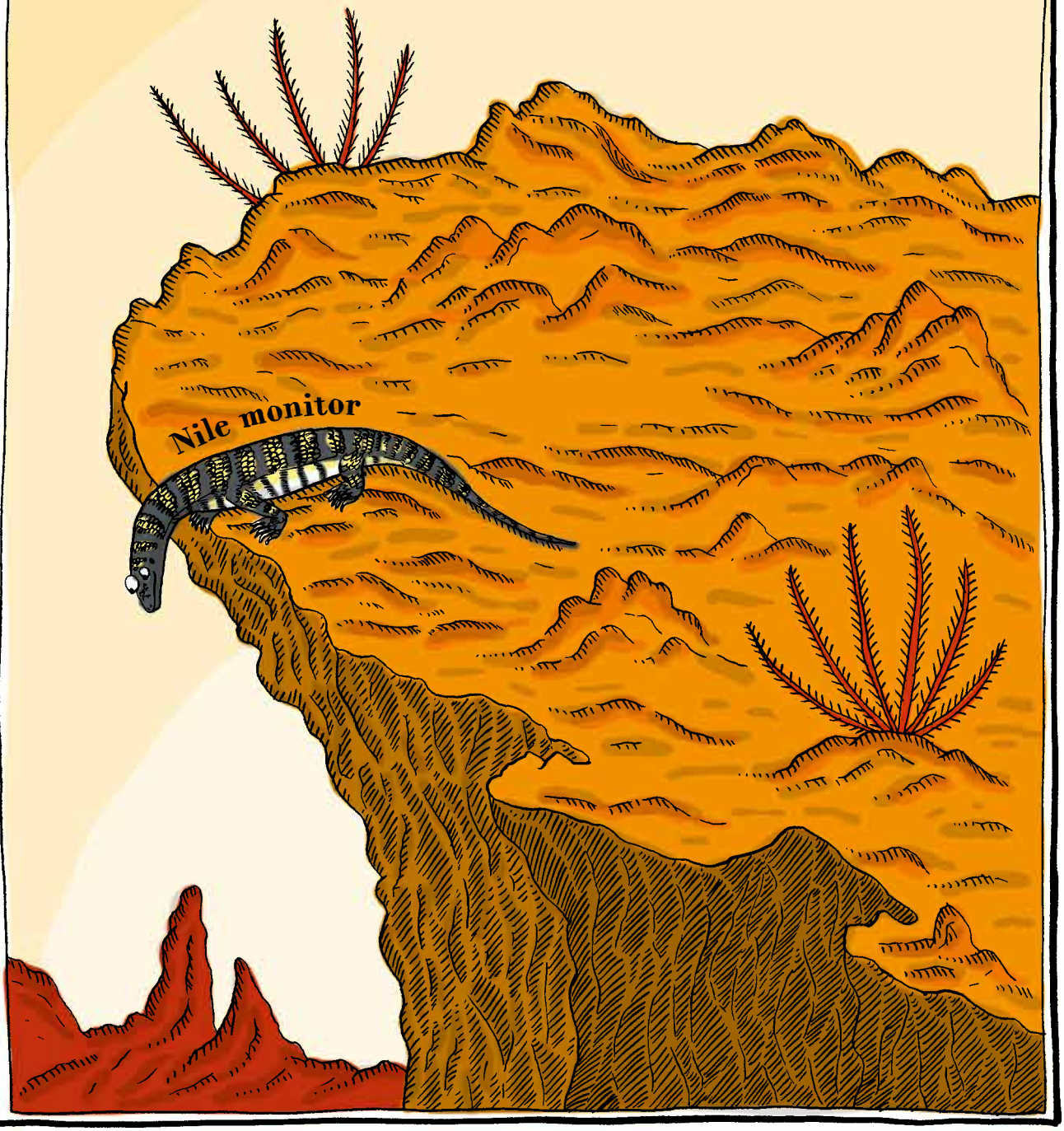


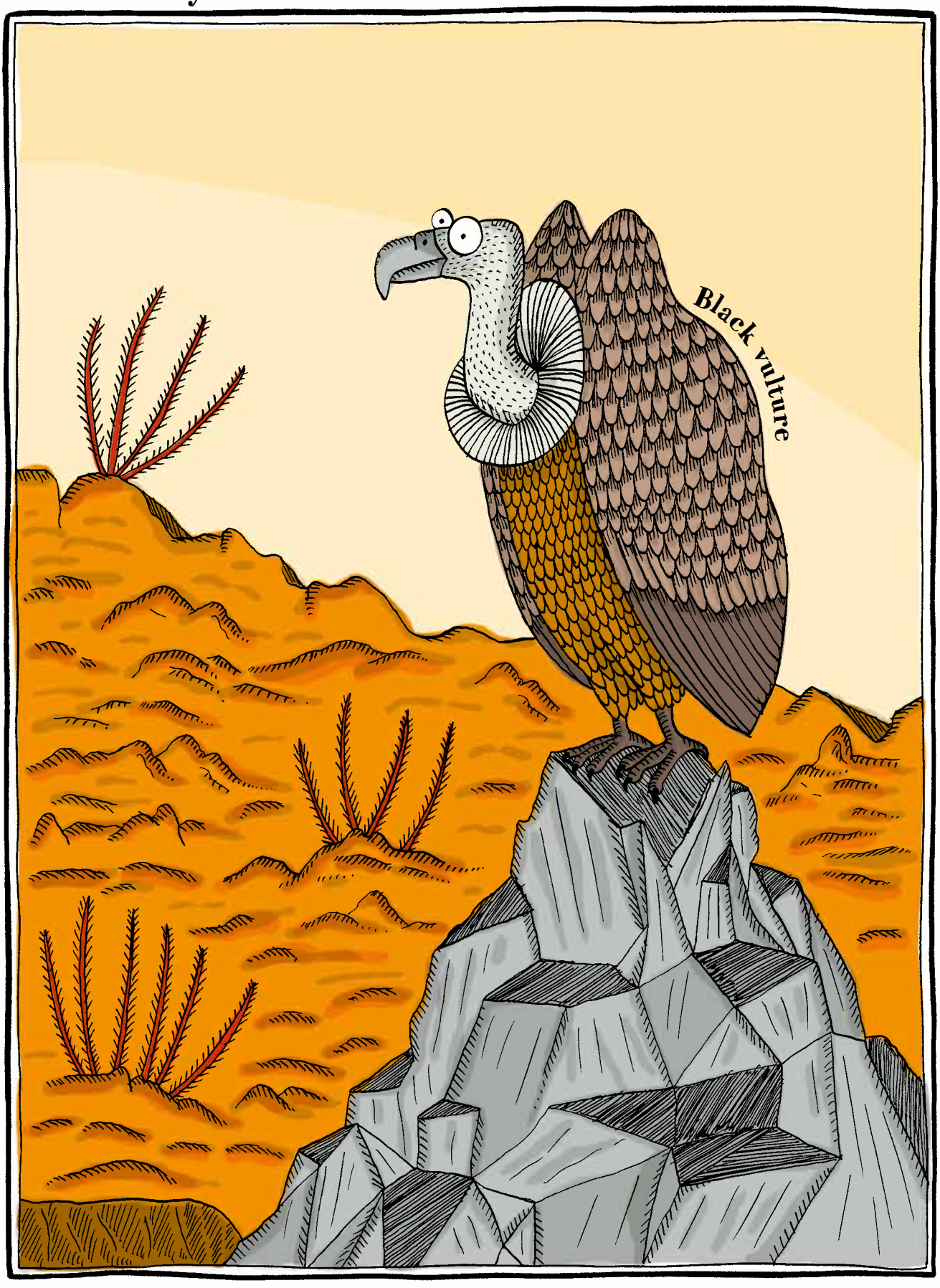
White cockatoo
Swan moth
Greenhouse whitefly

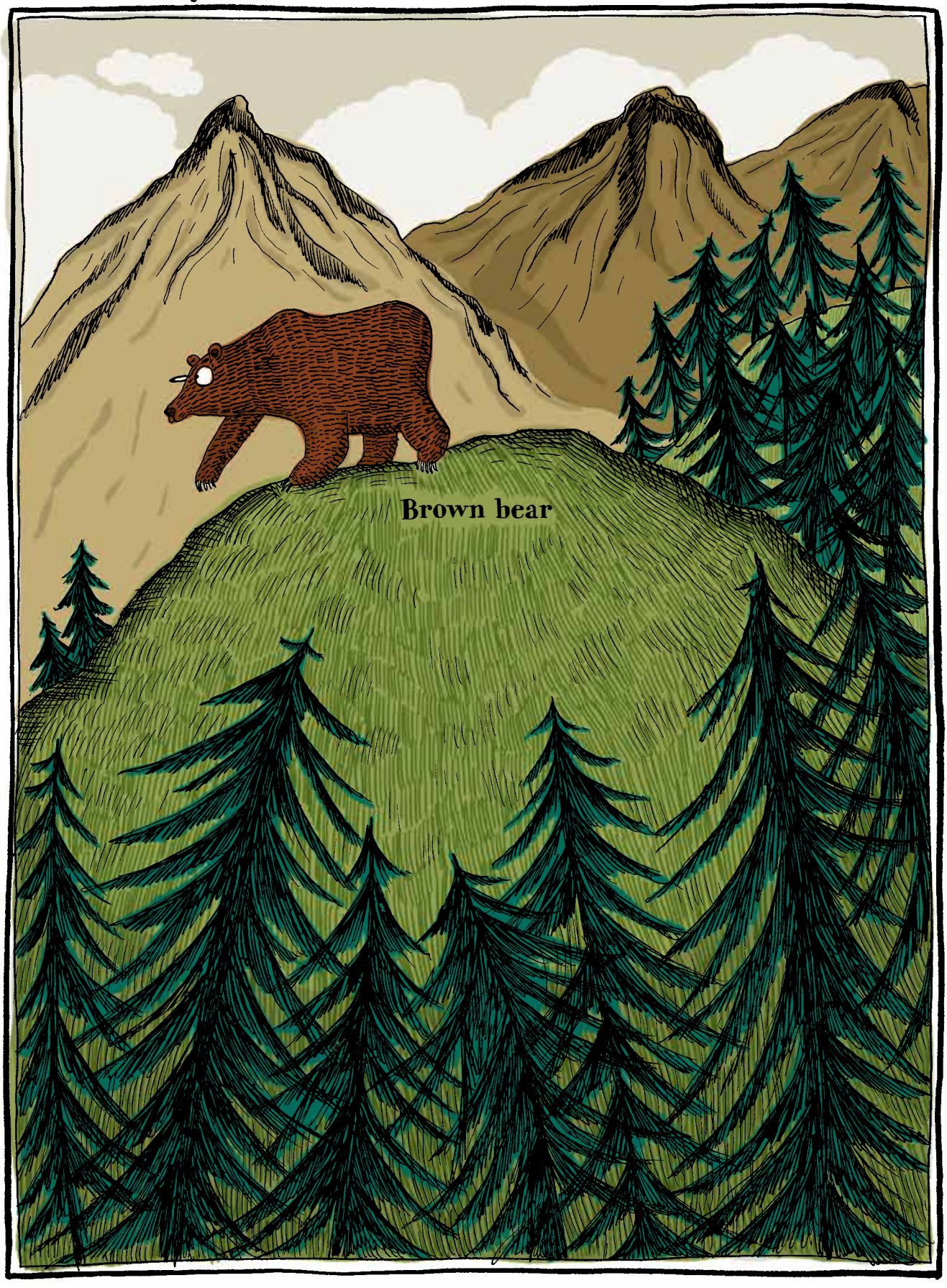

Cabbage white butterfly
Ivory gull
Rocky Mountain goat

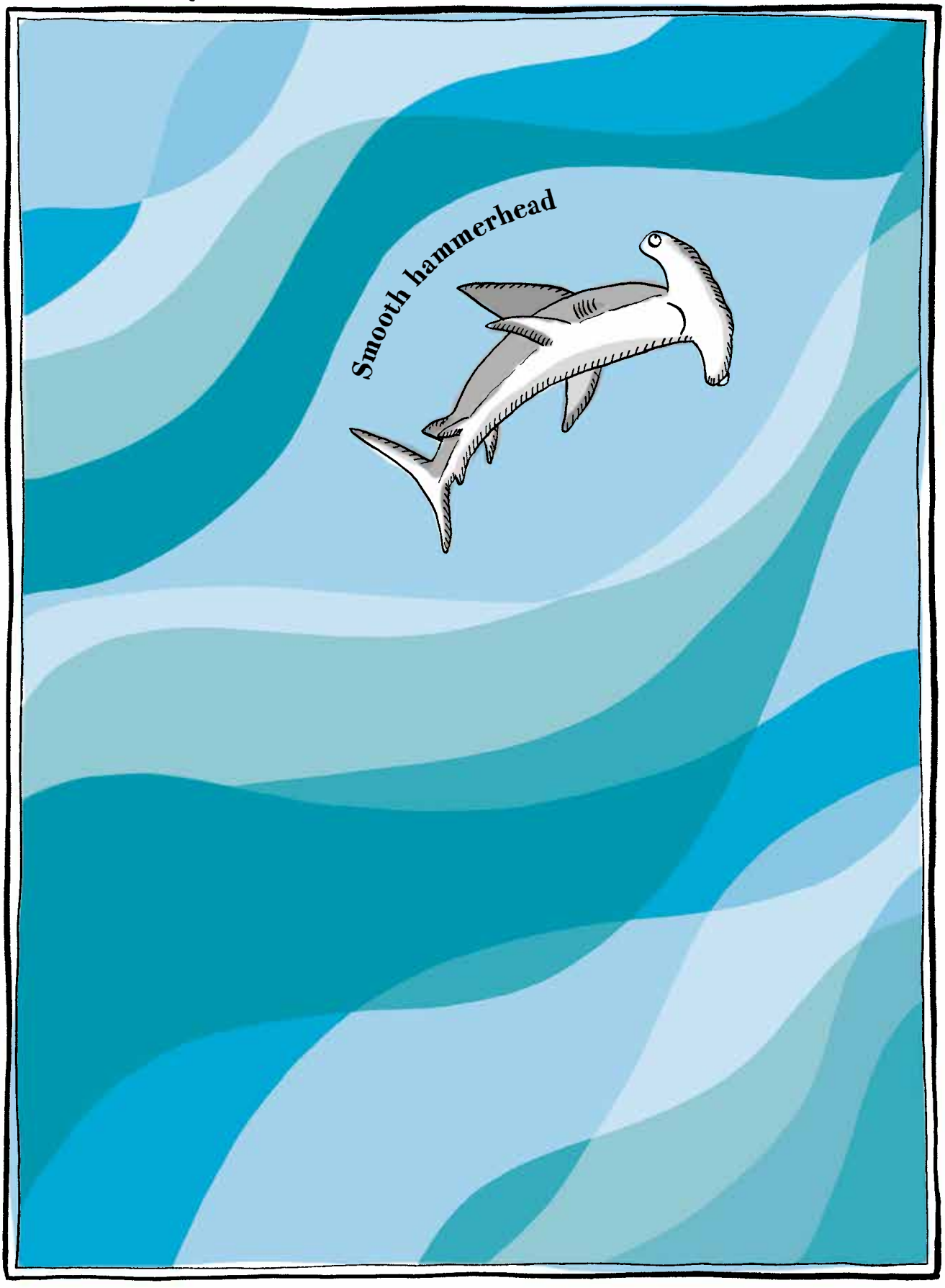

Arctic fox (winter coat)
Snowy owl
Snowy sheathbill
Snowshoe hare (winter coat)
Moon jellyfish
Beluga whale

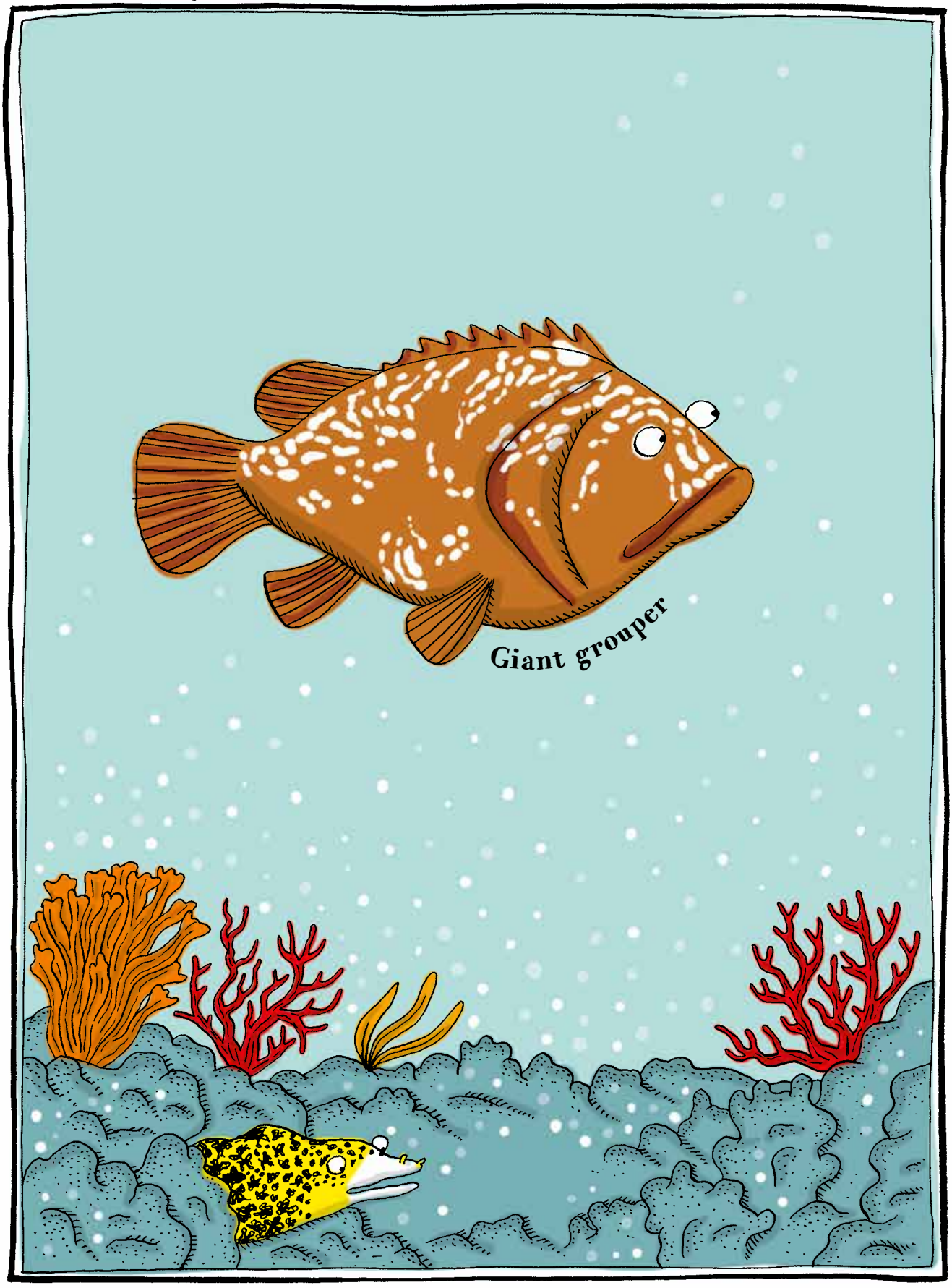
The solitary

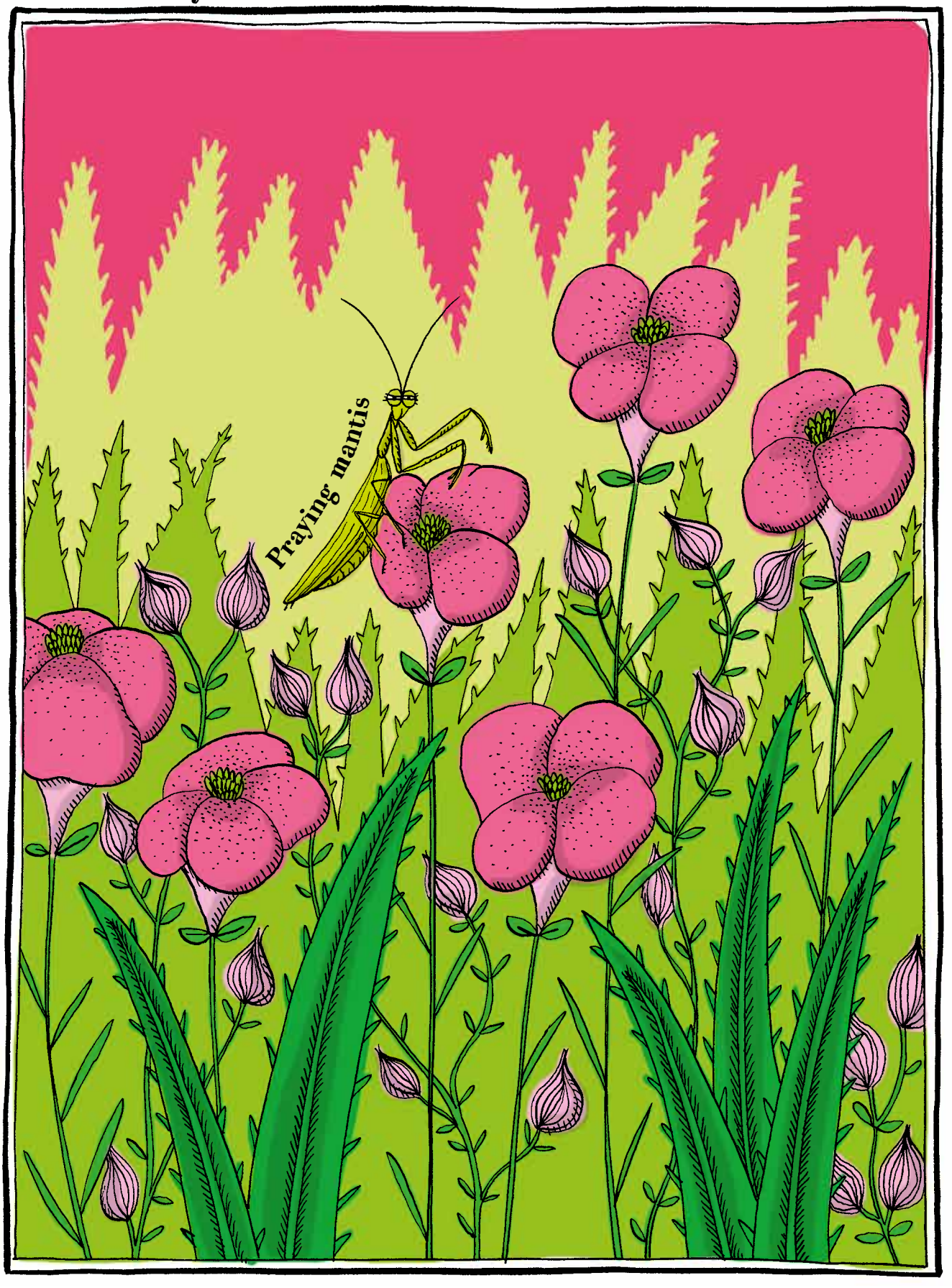



Black vulture

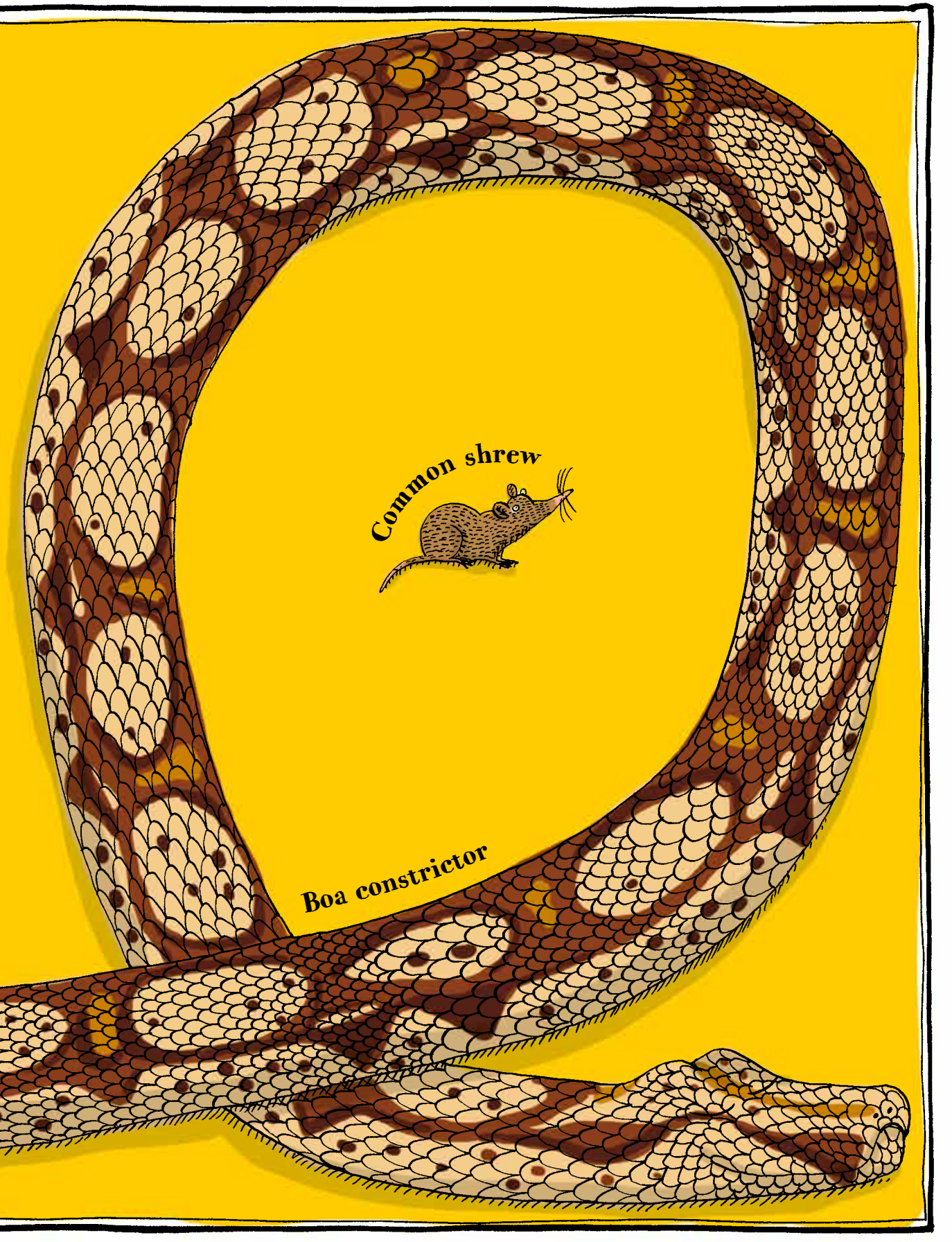

Brown bear

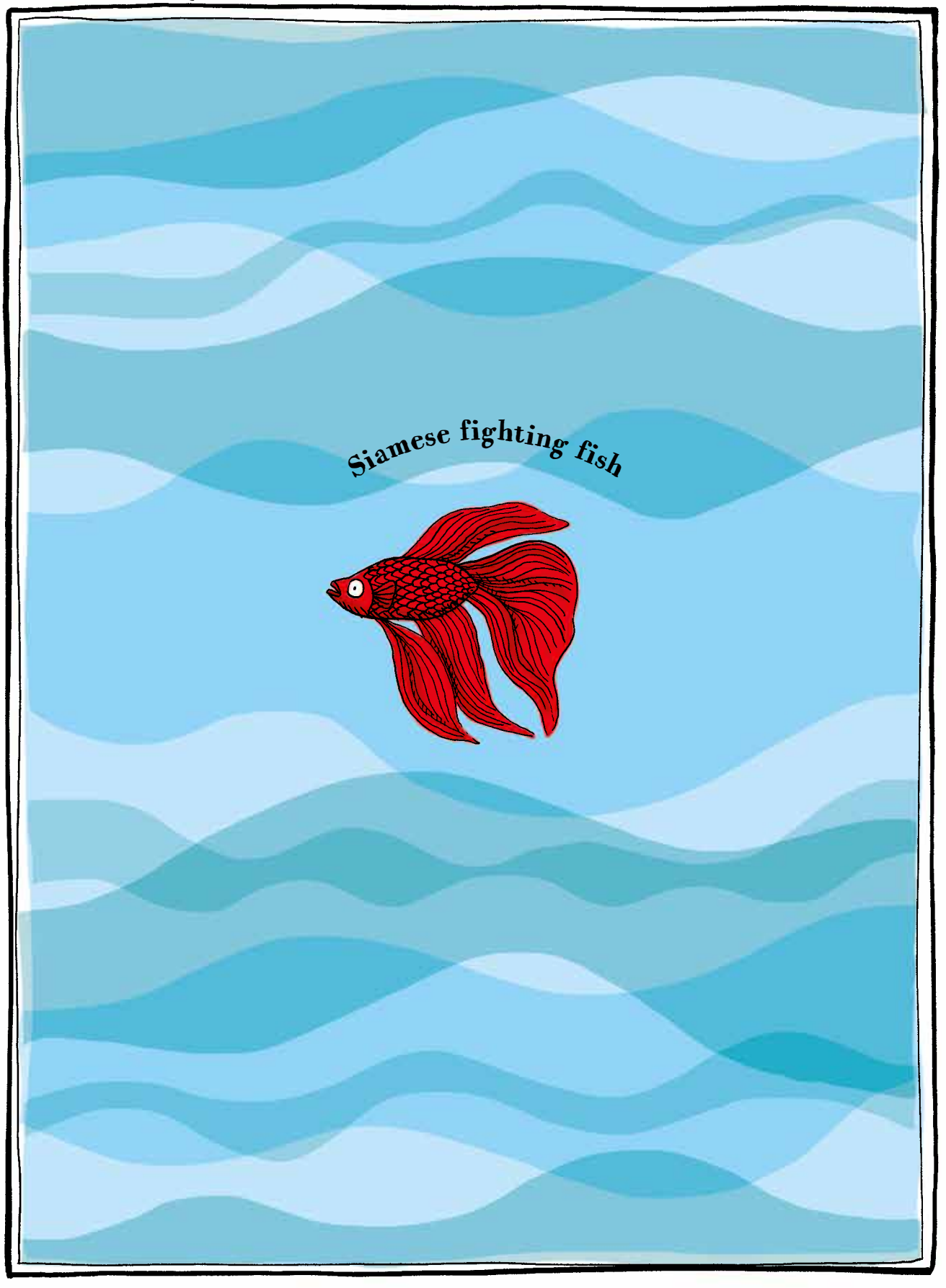

Smooth hammerhead

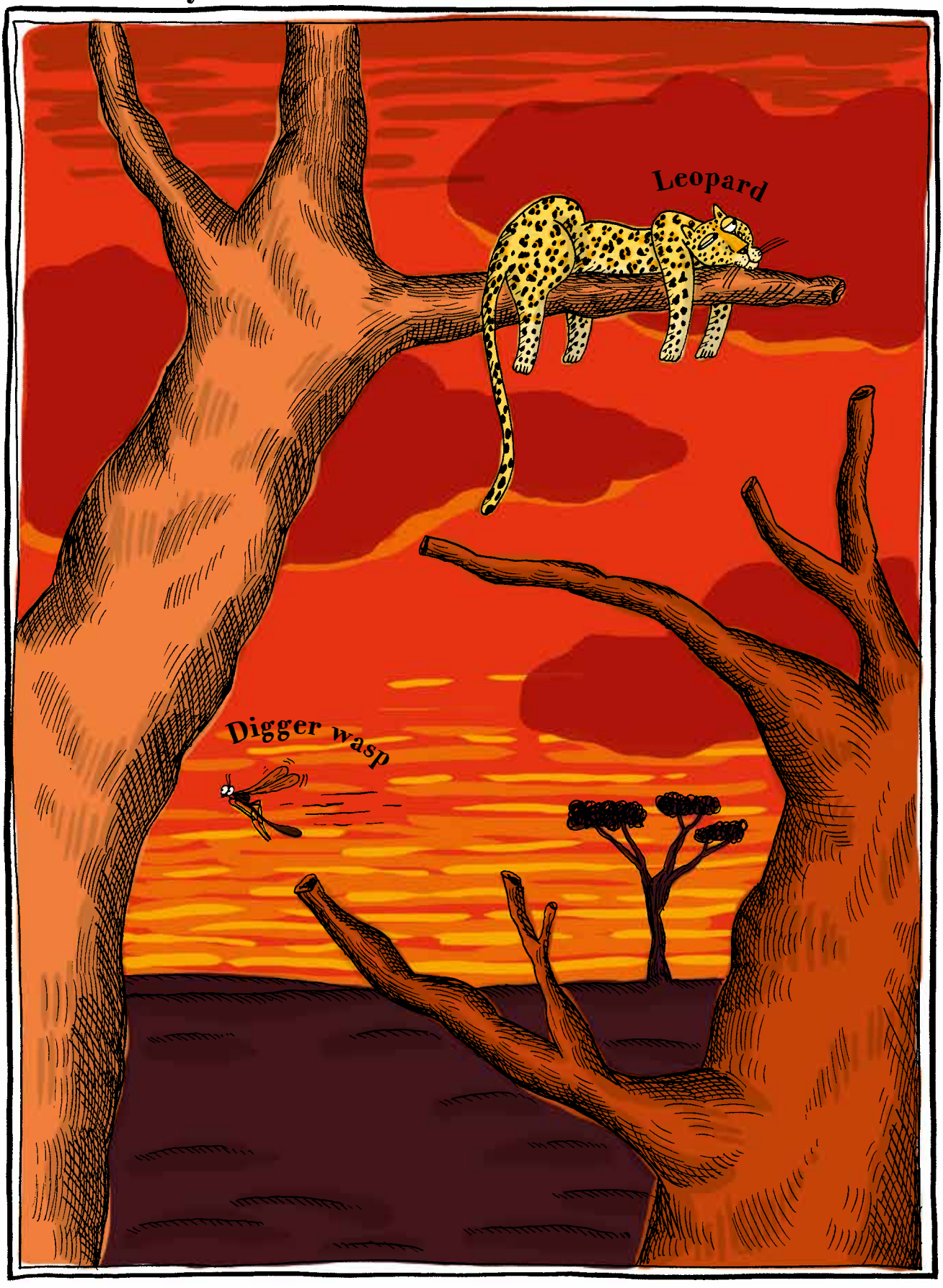

Giant grouper

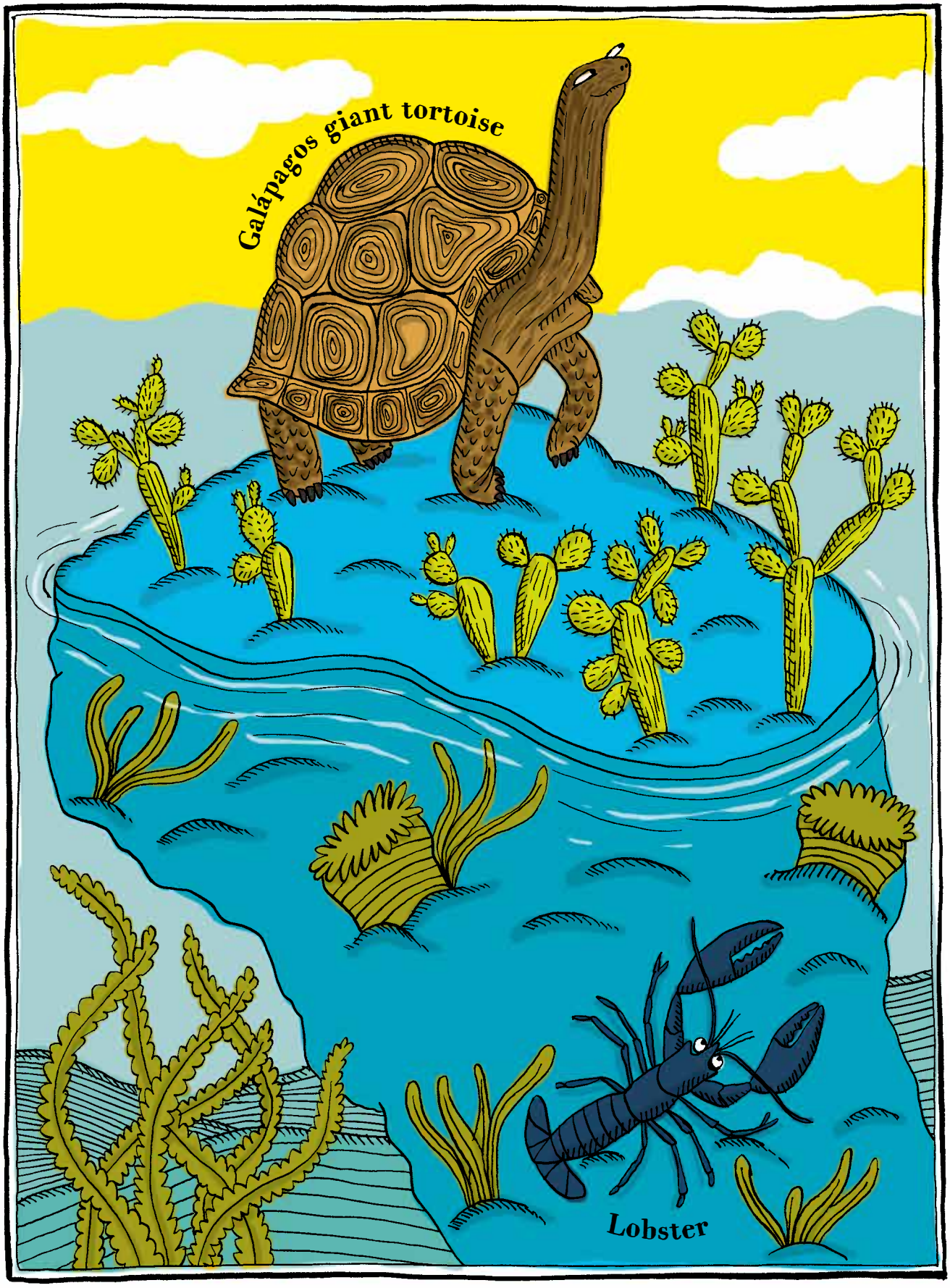

Praying mantis

The solitary

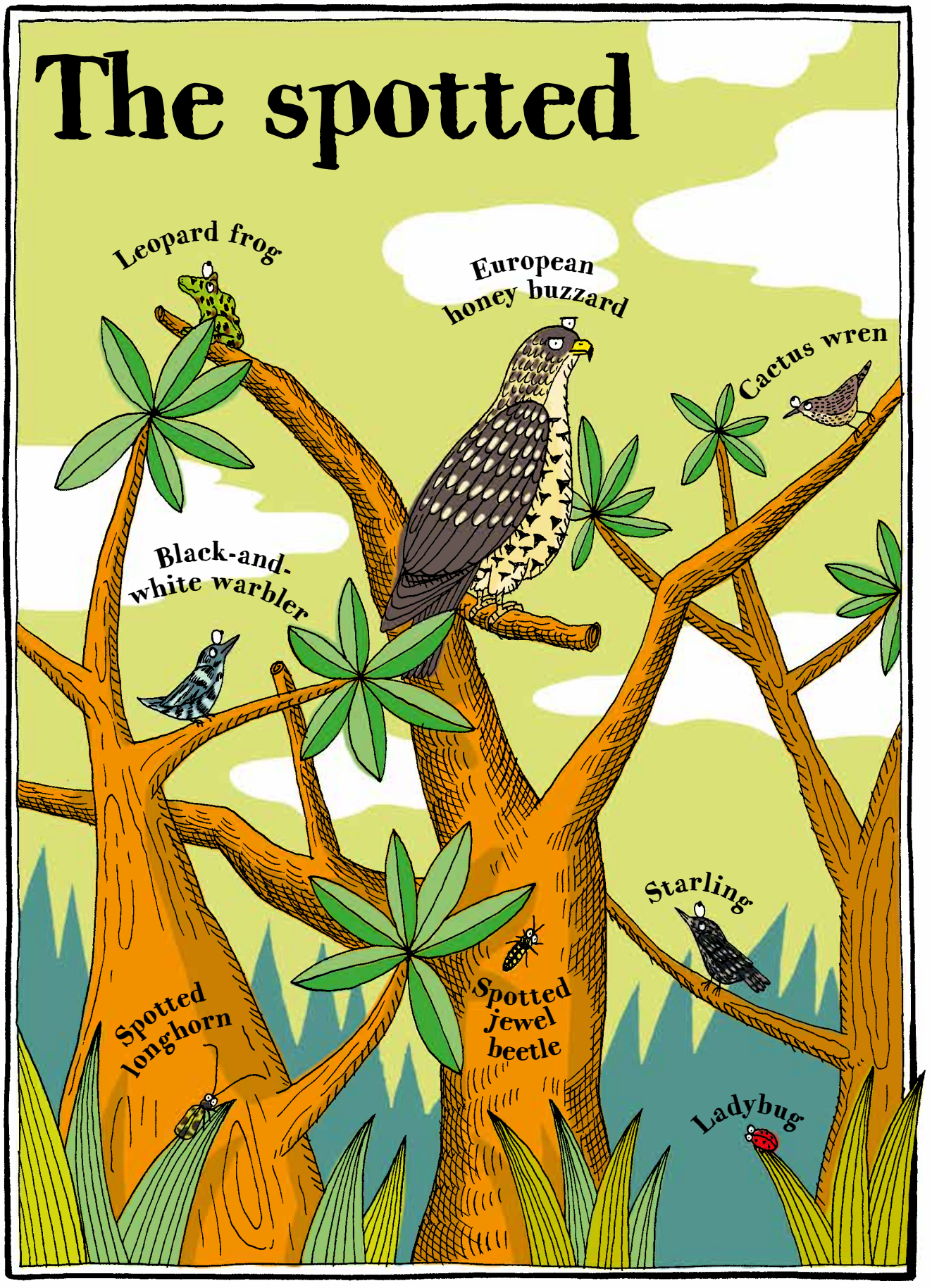

Common shrew
Boa constrictor

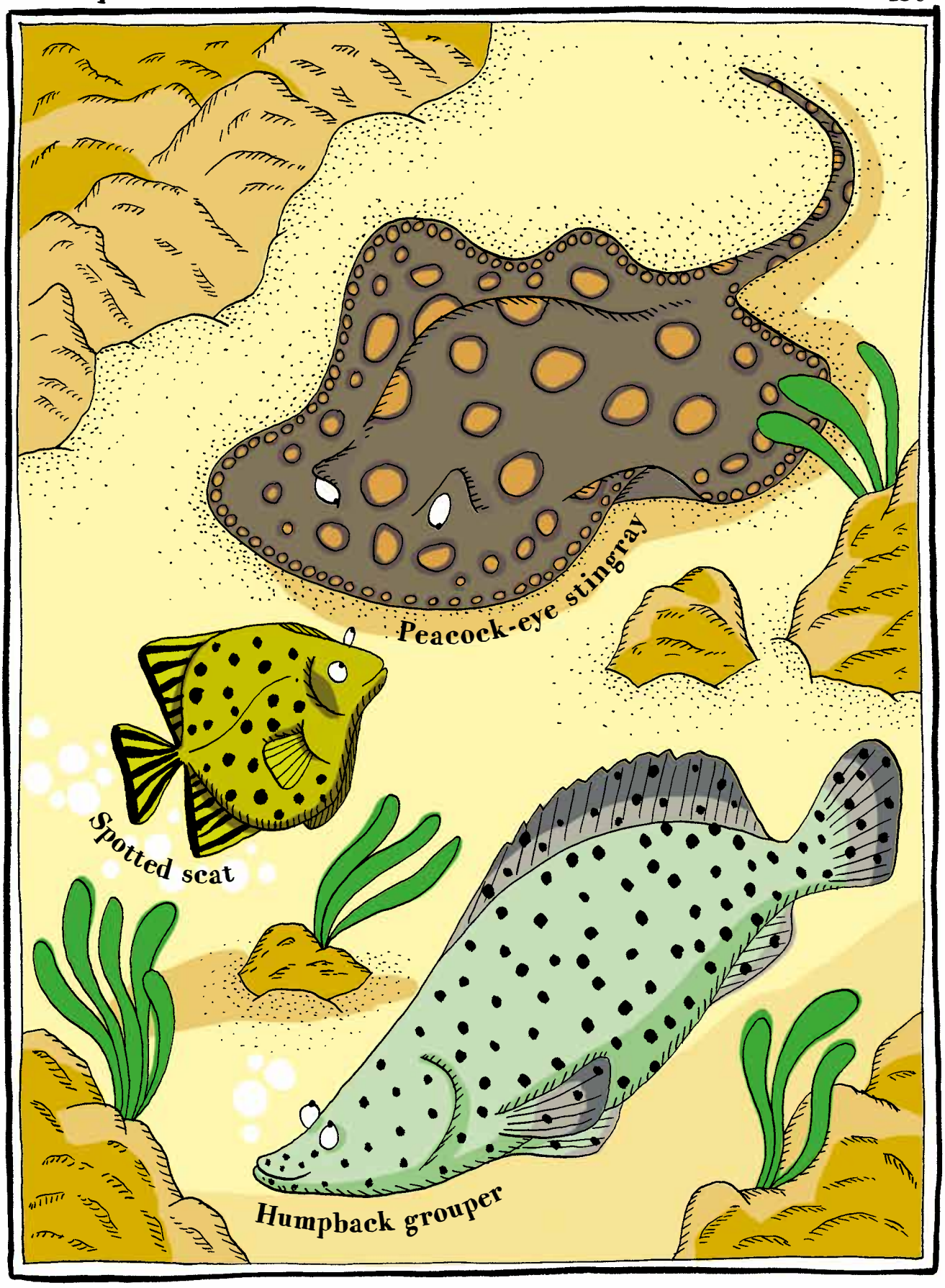

Siamese fighting fish

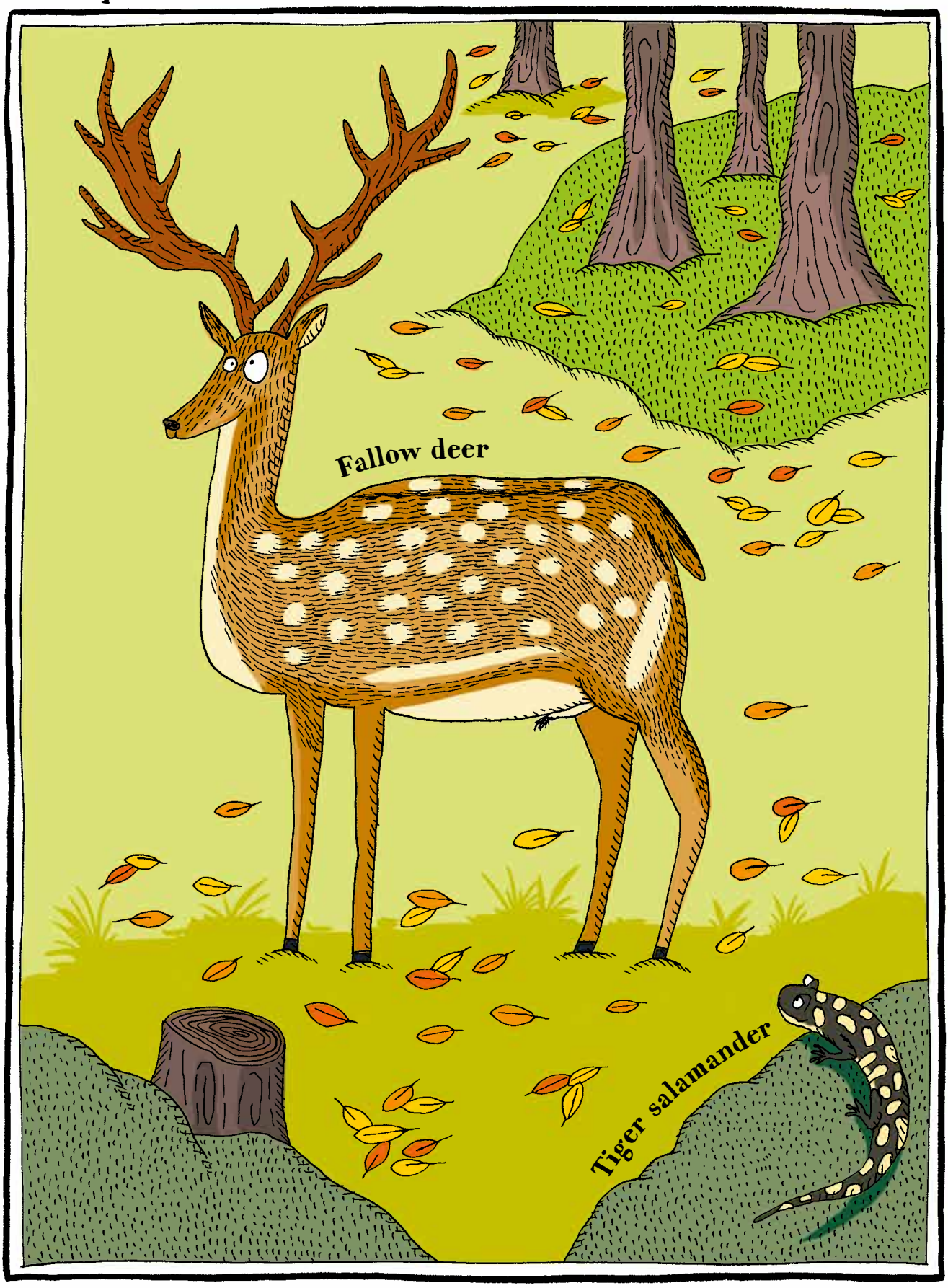

Leopard
Digger wasp


Galápagos giant tortoise
Lobster

The spotted

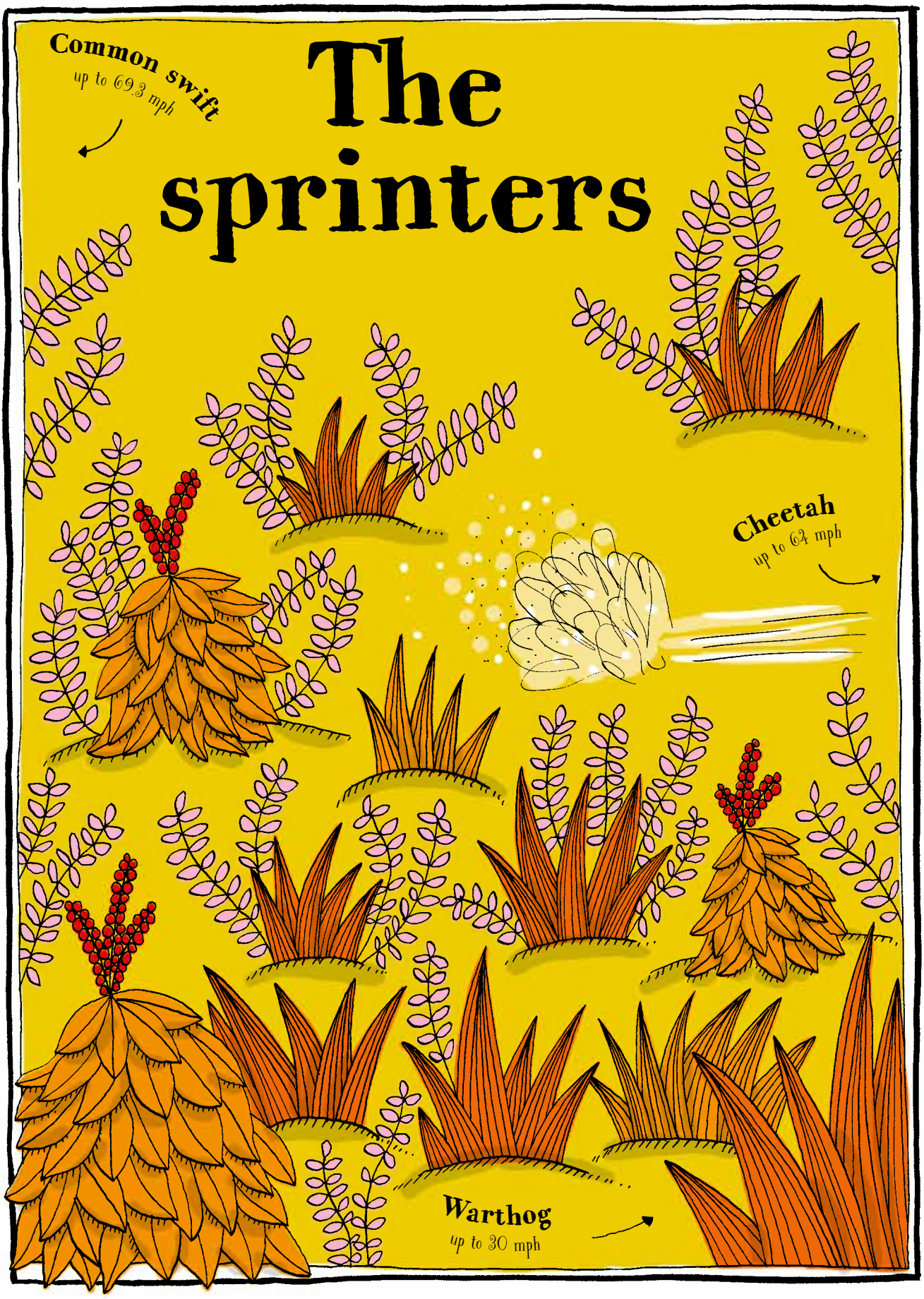

Leopard frog
European honey buzzard
Cactus wren
Black-and-white warbler
Starling
Spotted jewel beetle
Spotted longhorn
Ladybug

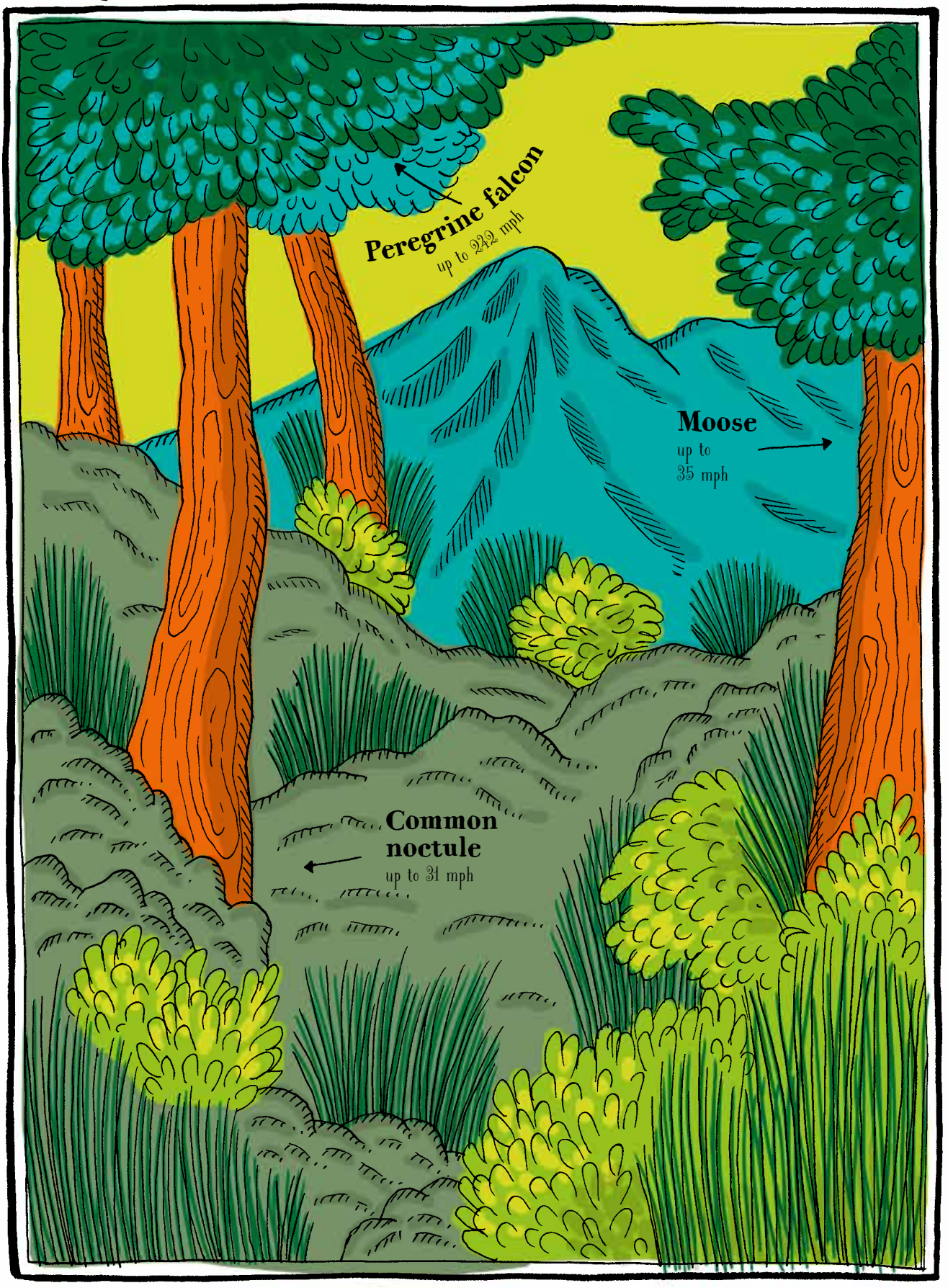

Peacock-eye stingray
Spotted scat
Humpback grouper

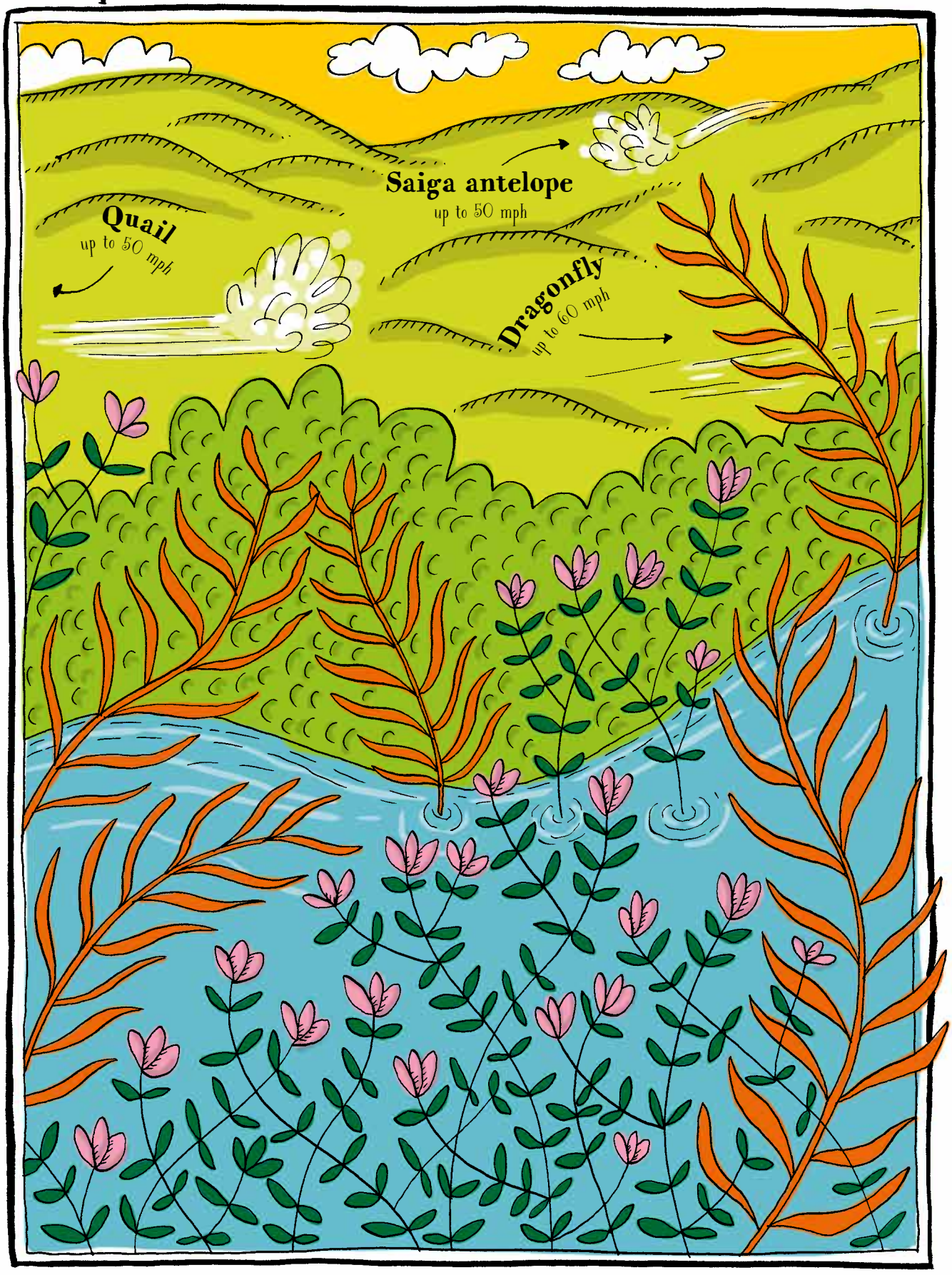

Fallow deer
Tiger salamander

Silver-washed fritillary butterfly
Marsh fly
Quoll
Leopard slug
Leopard gecko

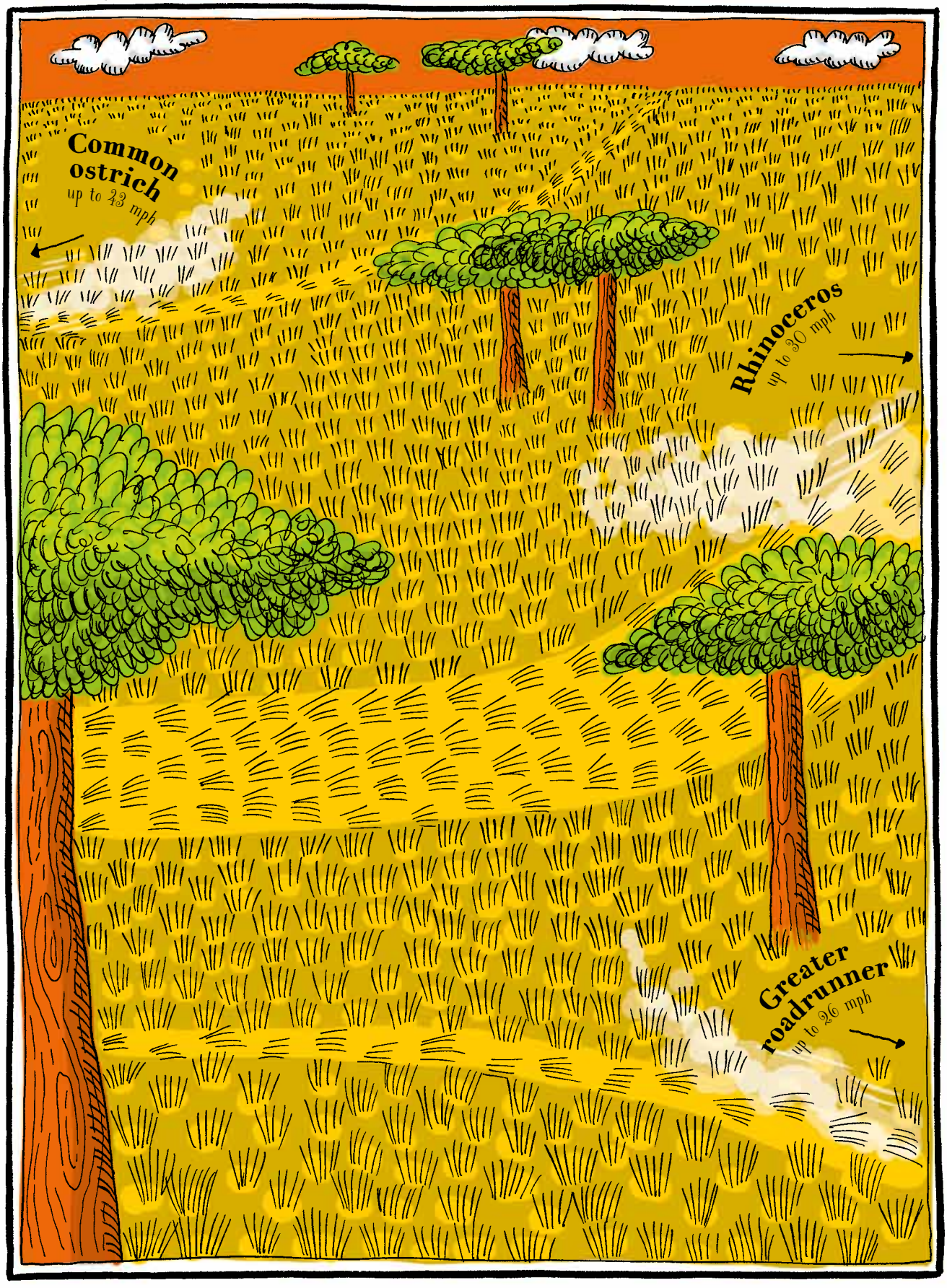
The sprinters



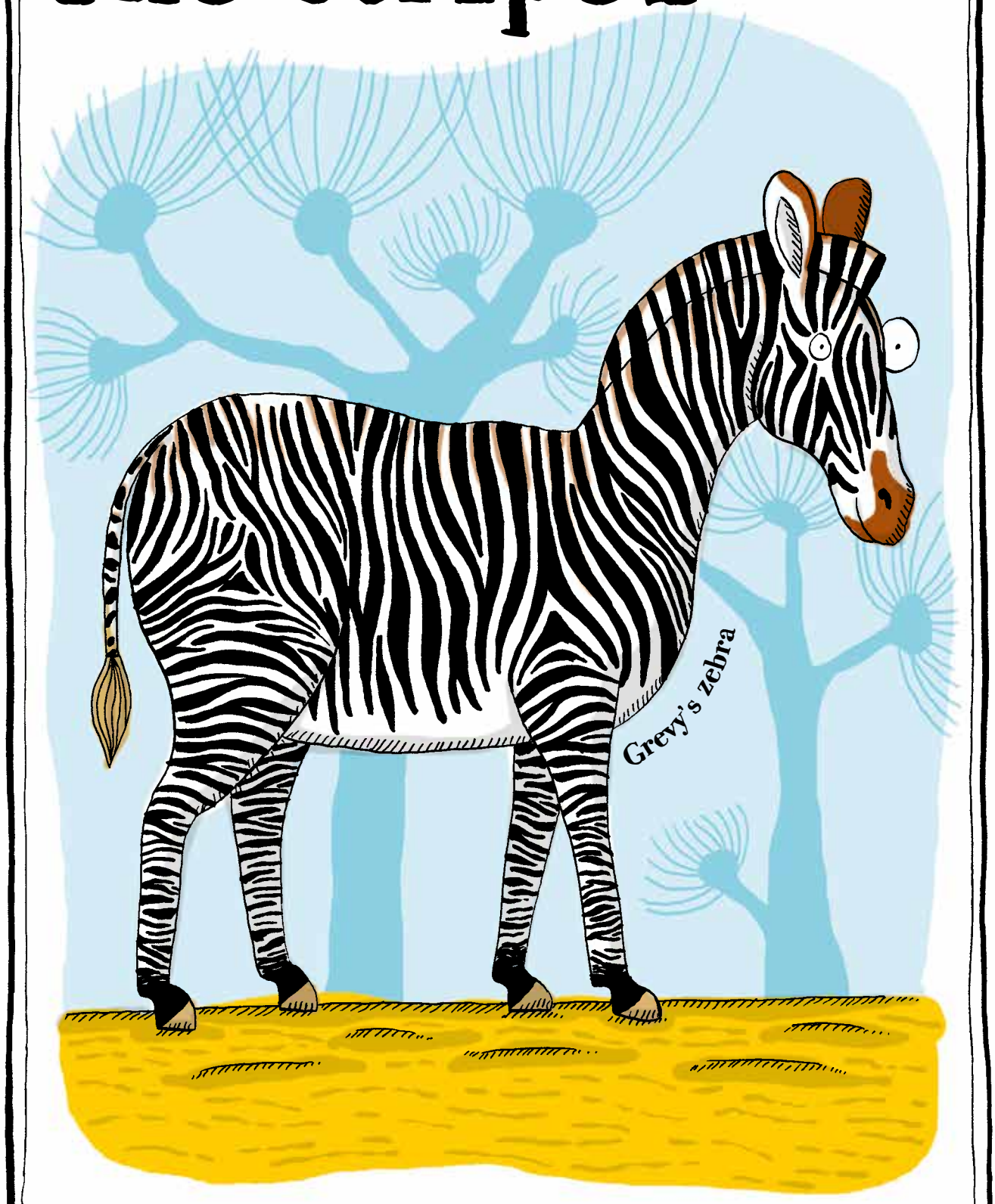

Peregrine falcon
up to 242 mph
Moose
up to
35 mph
Common
noctule
up to 31 mph

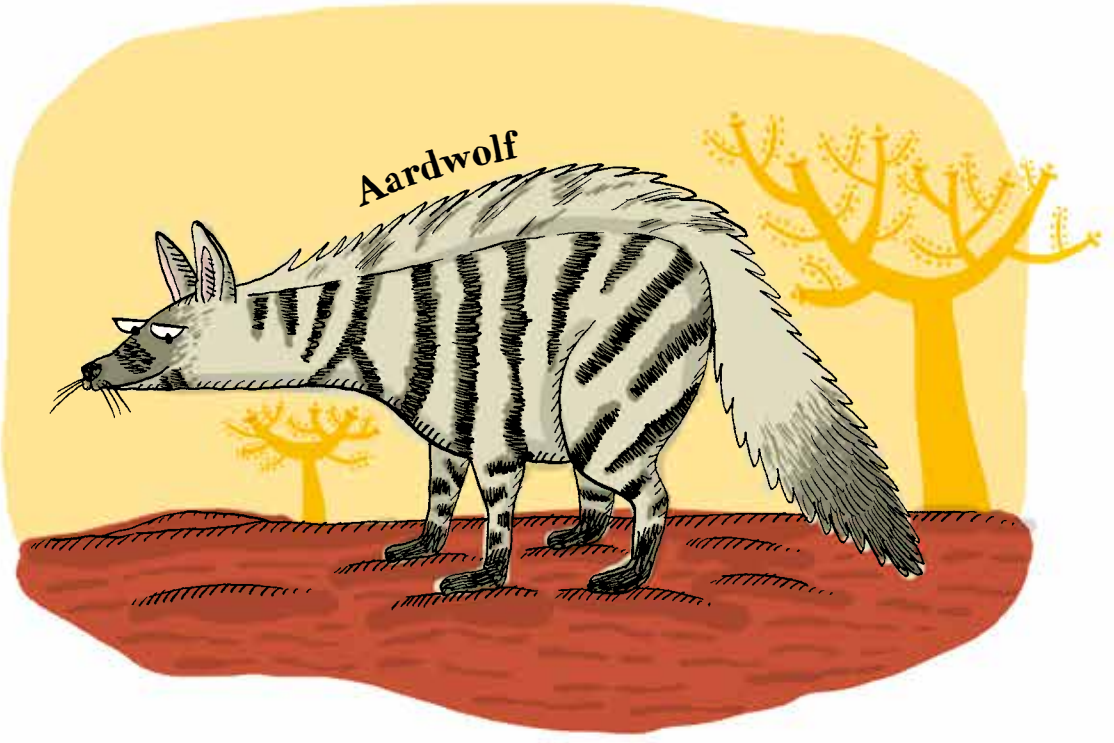

Saiga antelope
up to 50 mph
Quail
up to 50 mph
Dragonfly
up to 60 mph

Red Sea ghost crab
up to 10 mph
Mako shark
up to 46 mph
Tuna
up to 37 mph


Common ostrich
up to 43 mph
Rhinoceros
up to 30 mph
Greater roadrunner
up to 26 mph

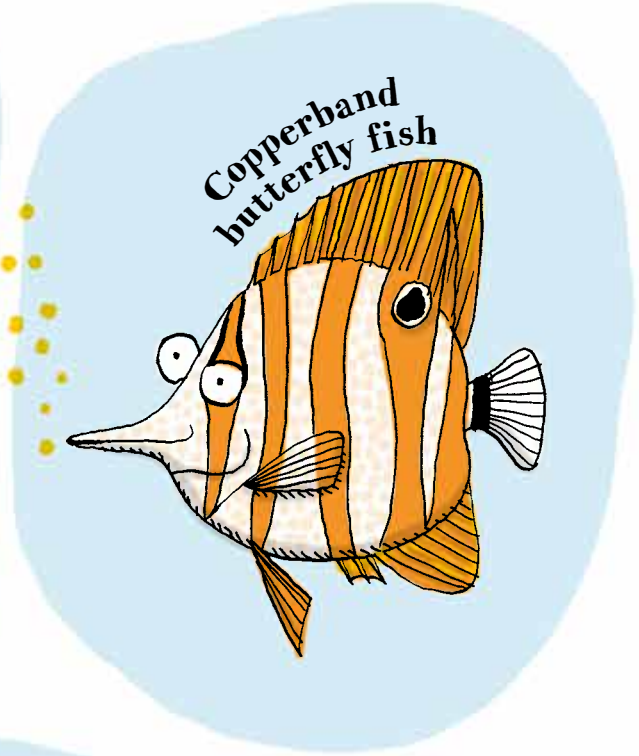
The striped

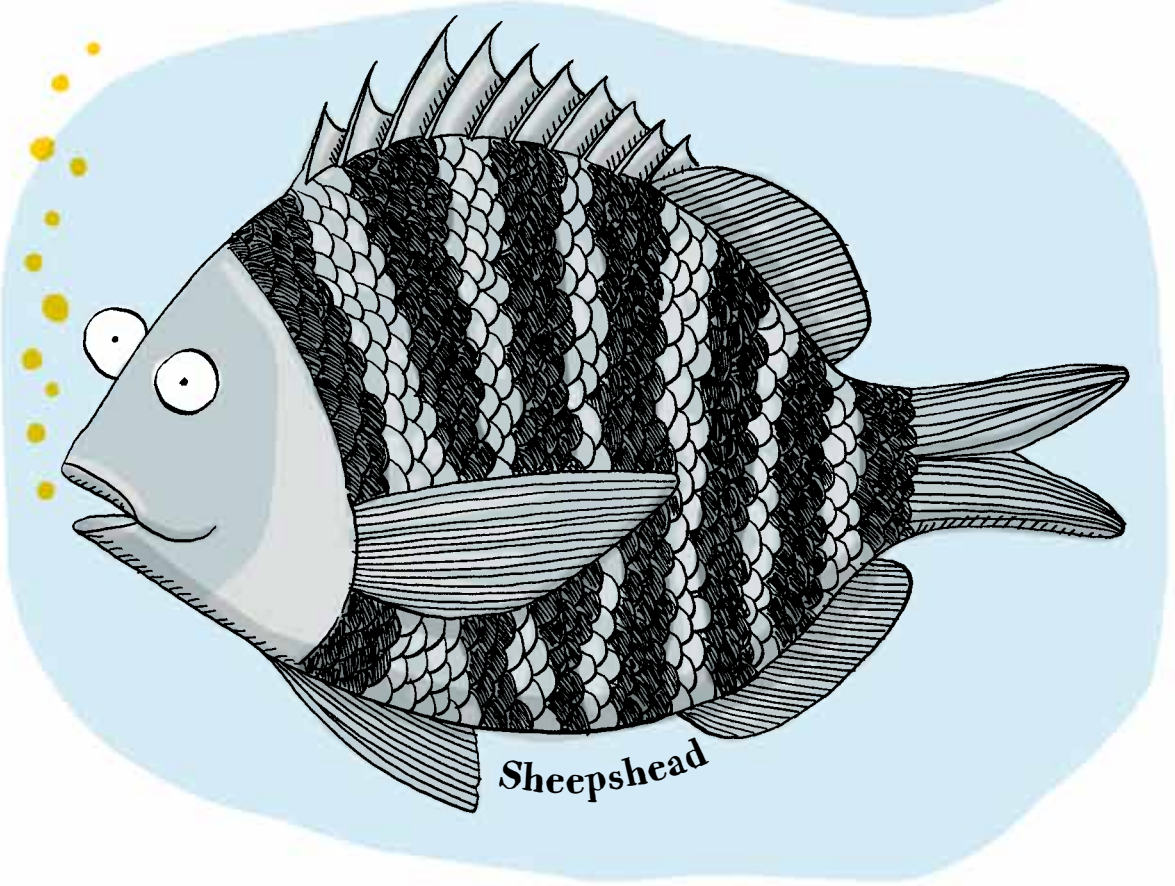



Aardwolf

Striped hyena

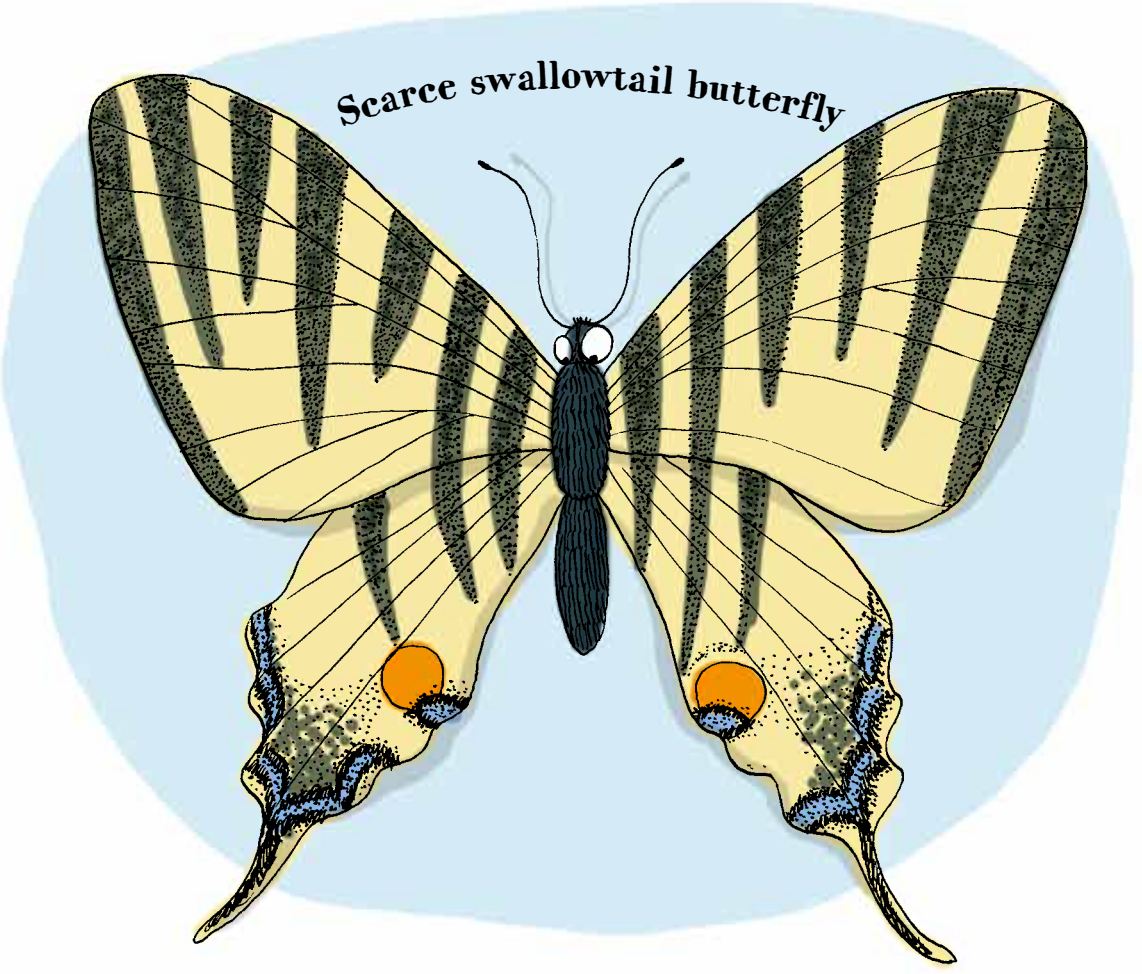
Moorish idol

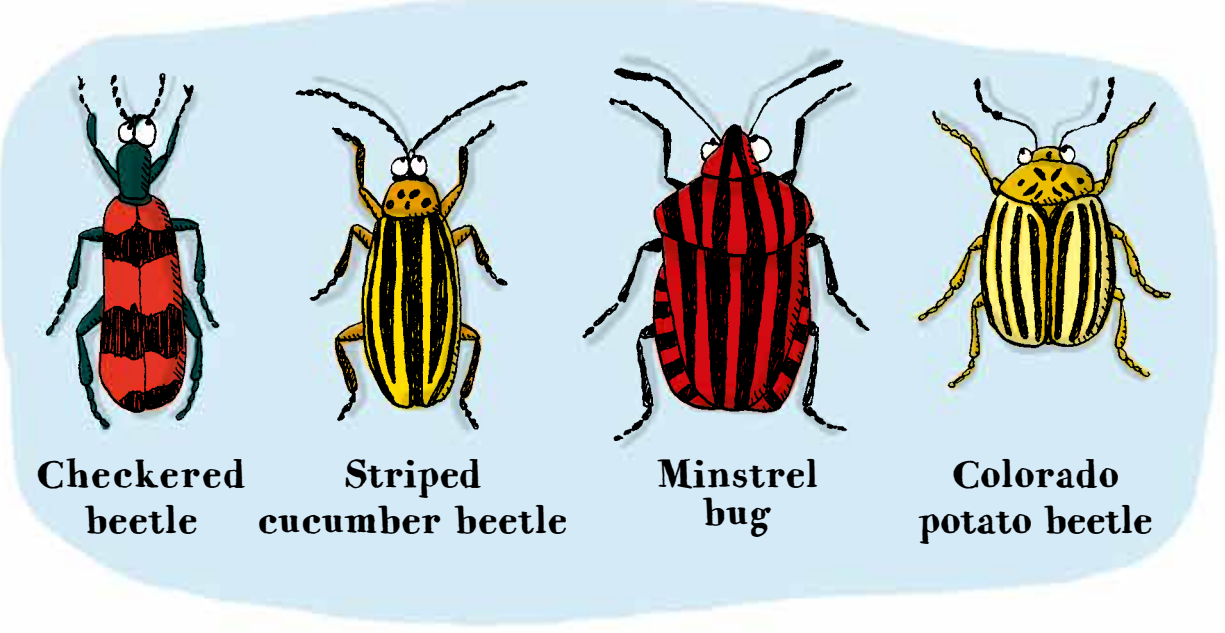

Copperband butterfly fish


Sheepshead

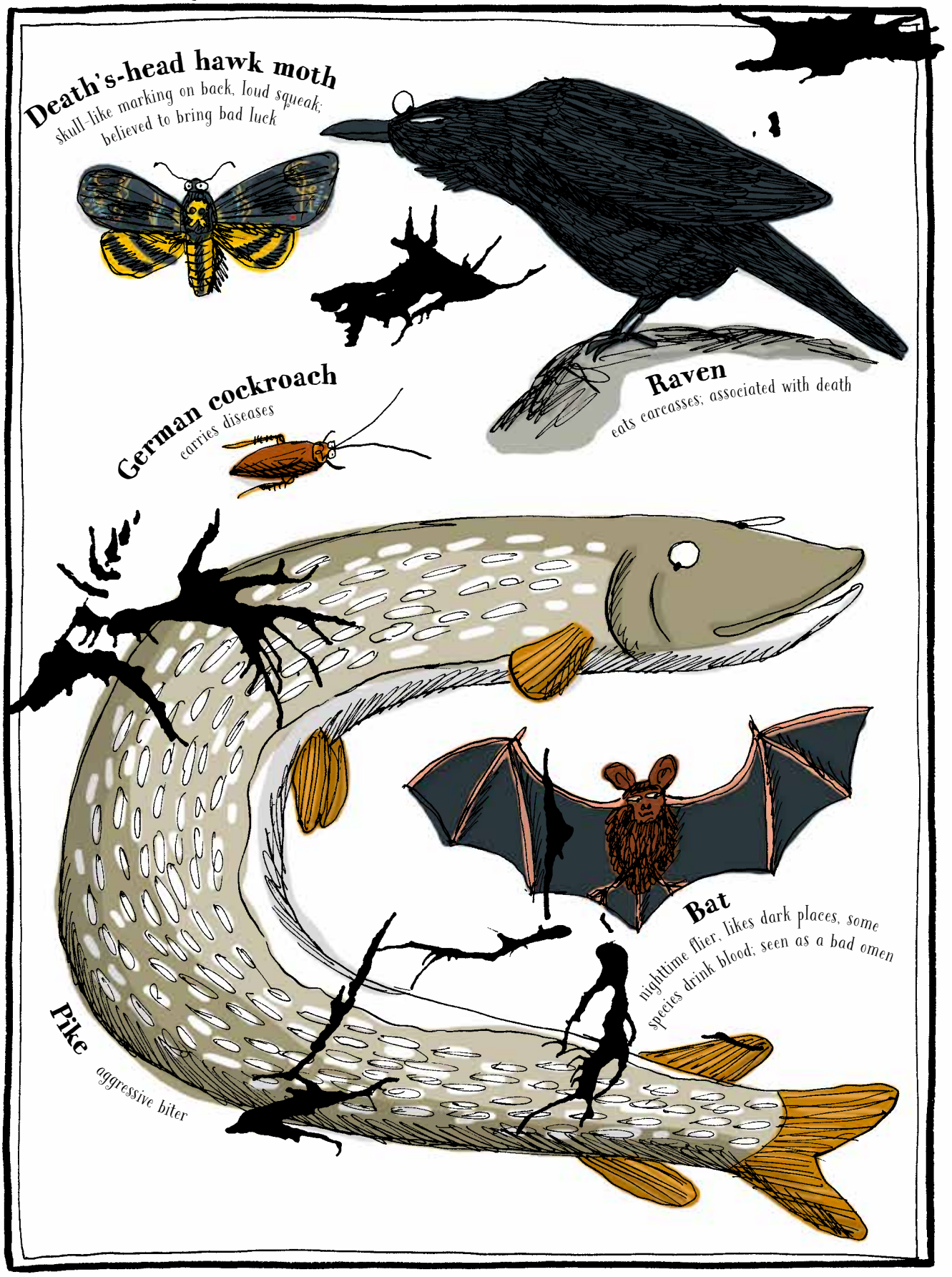
Fiji banded iguana
Bandy-bandy
Banded sea krait

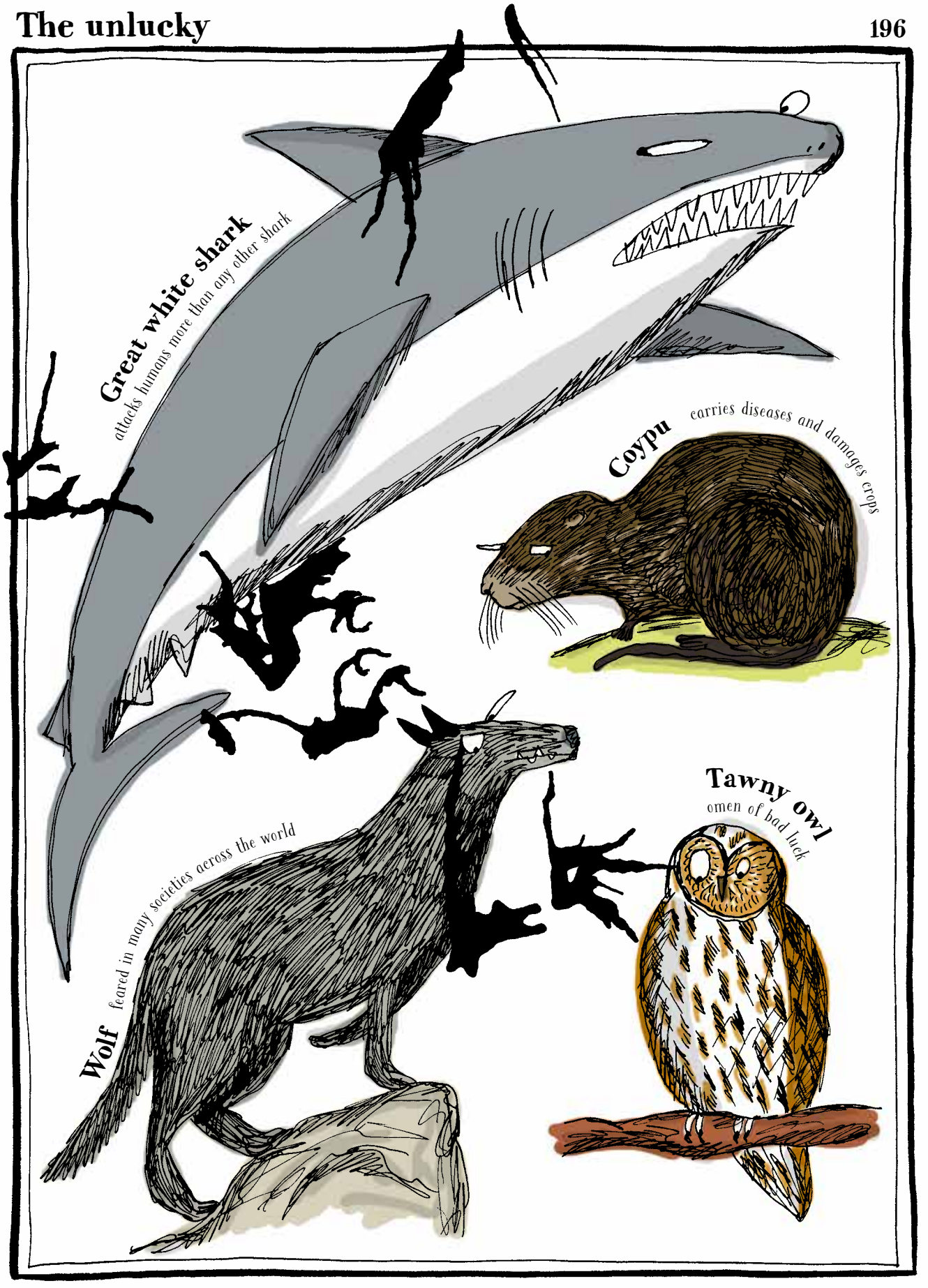
Leopard ground squirrel
Barred antshrike
Numbat
Banded mongoose

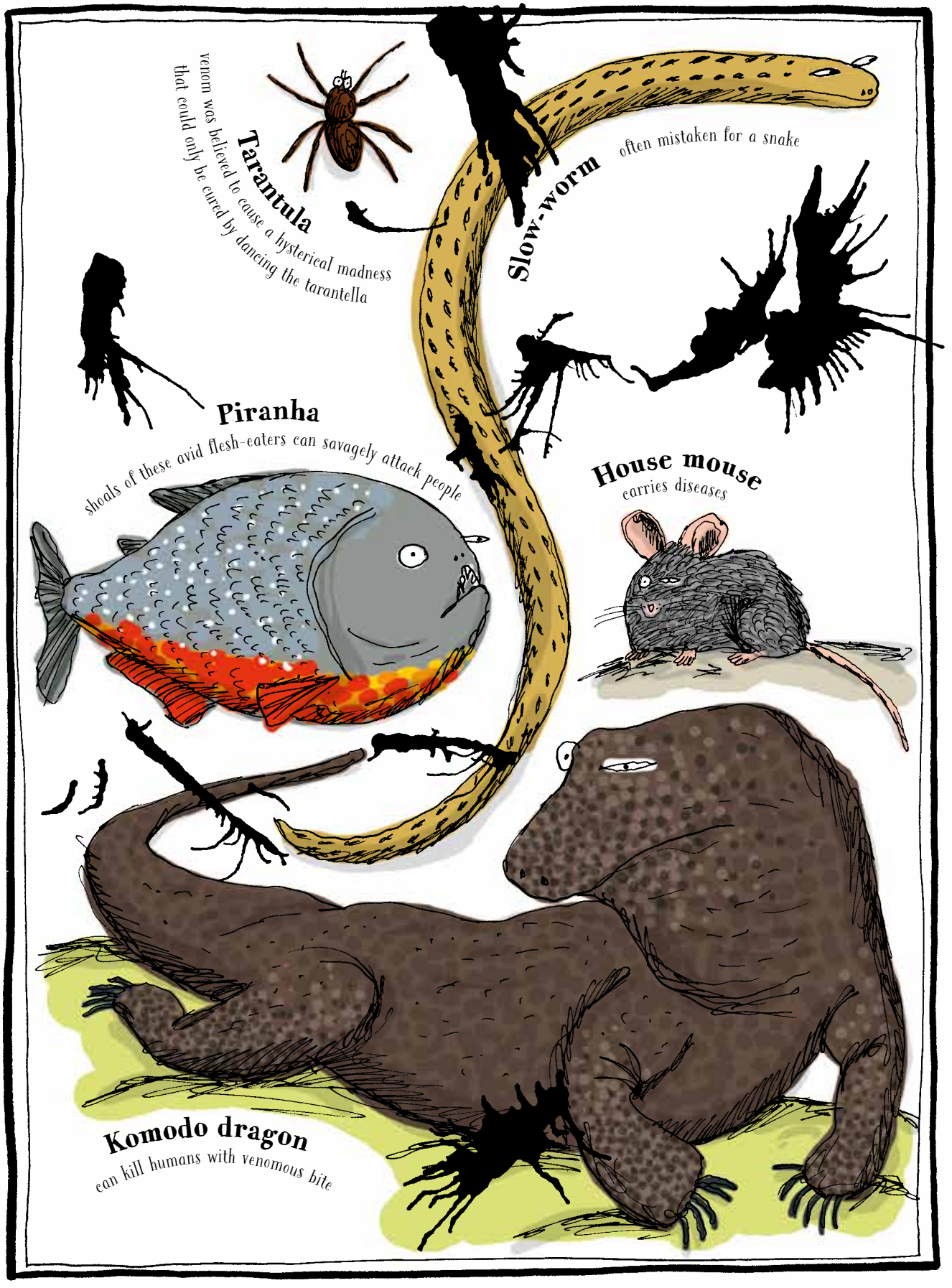

Scarce swallowtail butterfly


Checkered beetle
Striped cucumber beetle
Minstrel bug
Colorado potato beetle

The unlucky

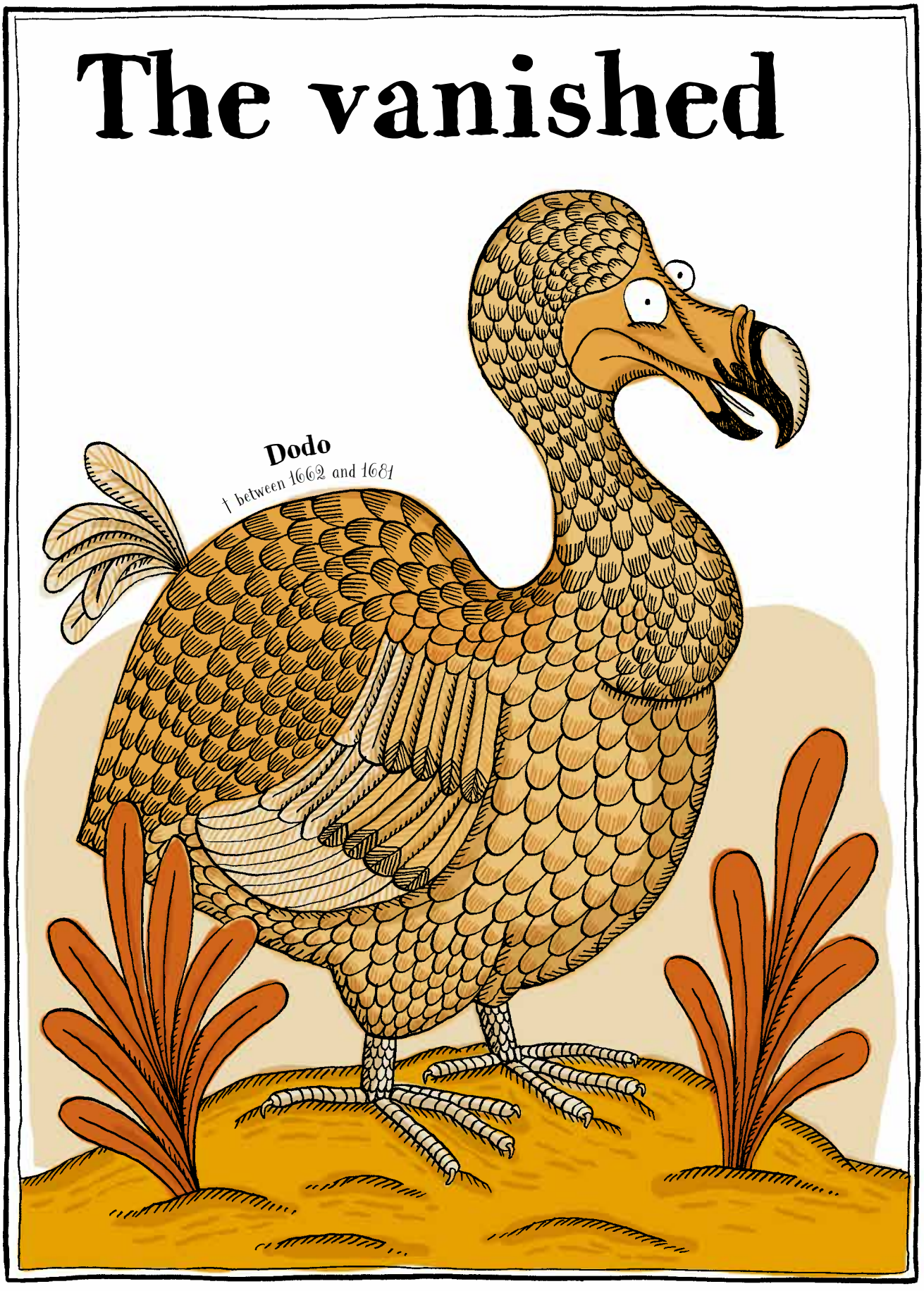

Death's-head hawk moth
skull-like marking on back, loud squeak; believed to bring bad luck
Raven
eats carcasses; associated with death
German cockroach
carries diseases
Bat
nighttime flier, likes dark places, some species drink blood; seen as a bad omen
Pike
aggressive biter

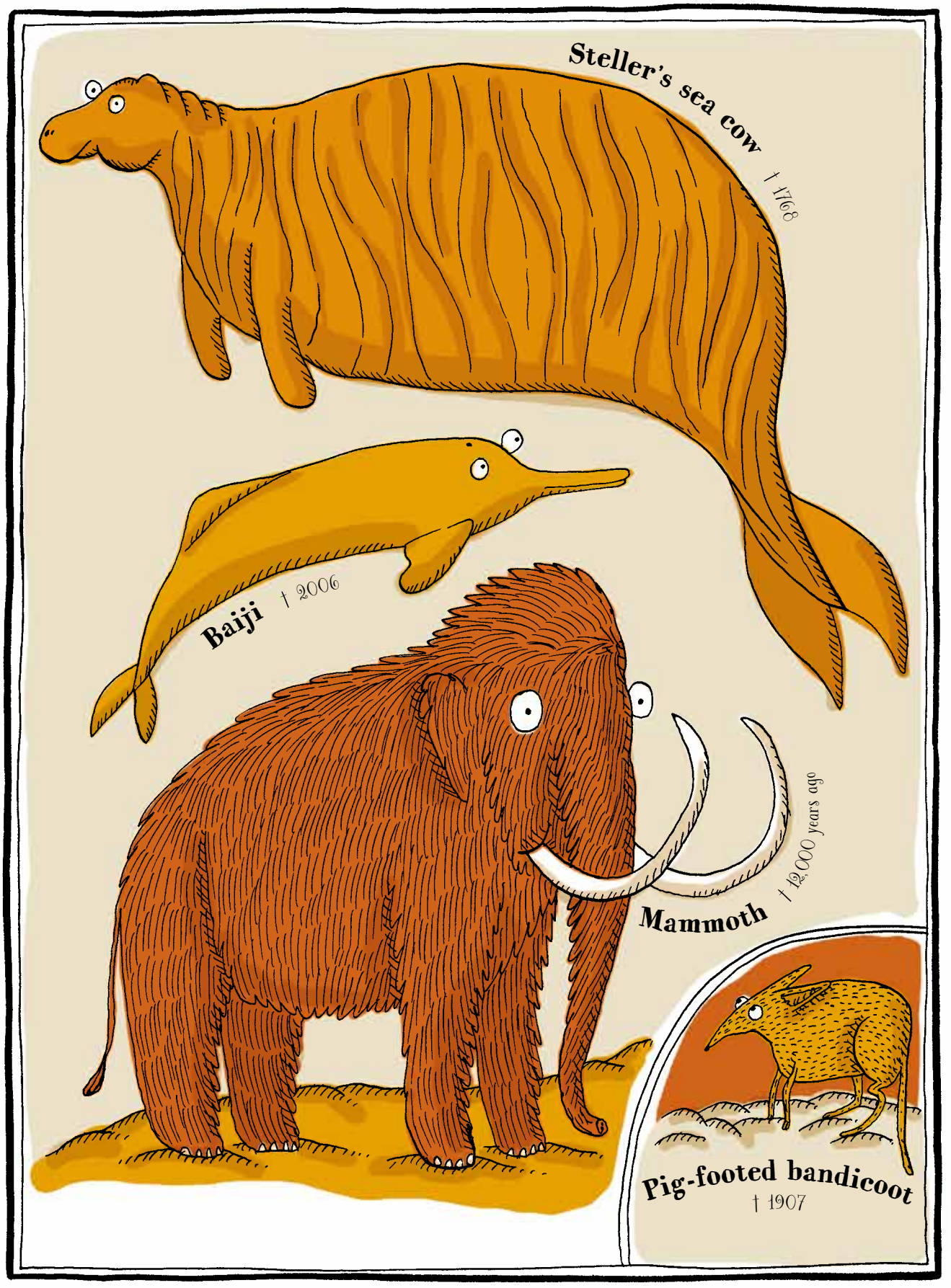

Great white shark
attacks humans more than any other shark
Coypu
carries diseases and damages crops
Tawny owl
omen of bad luck
Wolf
feared in many societies across the world


Tarantula
venom was believed to cause a hysterical madness that could only be cured by dancing the tarantella
Slow-worm
often mistaken for a snake
Piranha
shoals of these avid flesh-eaters can savagely attack people
House mouse
carries diseases
Komodo dragon
can kill humans with venomous bite

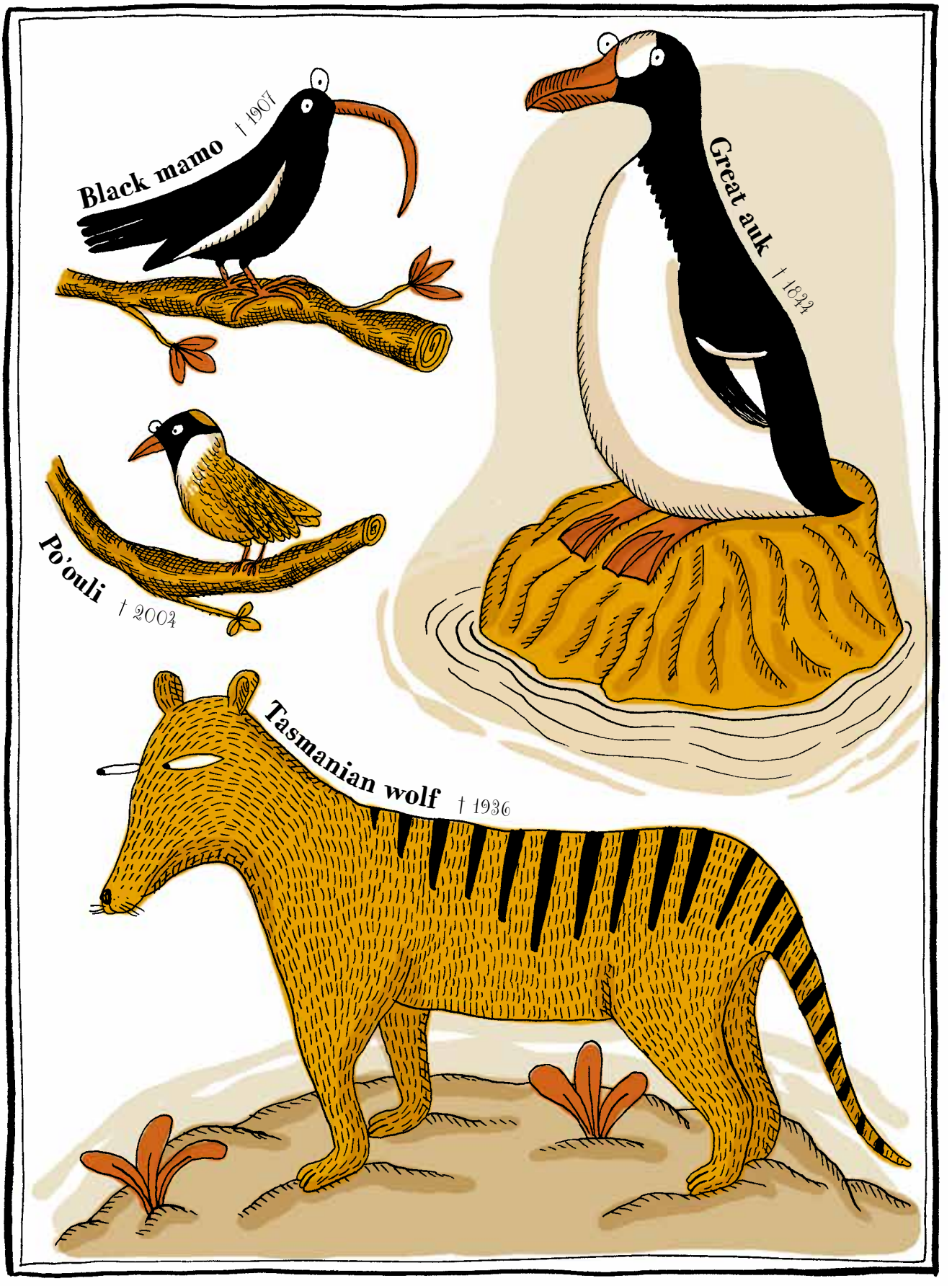
Hoopoe
seen as an omen of war or death in some cultures
Fire salamander
said to be able to withstand flames
Earwig
said to pierce the eardrums of sleepers
Brown rat
carries diseases

The vanished



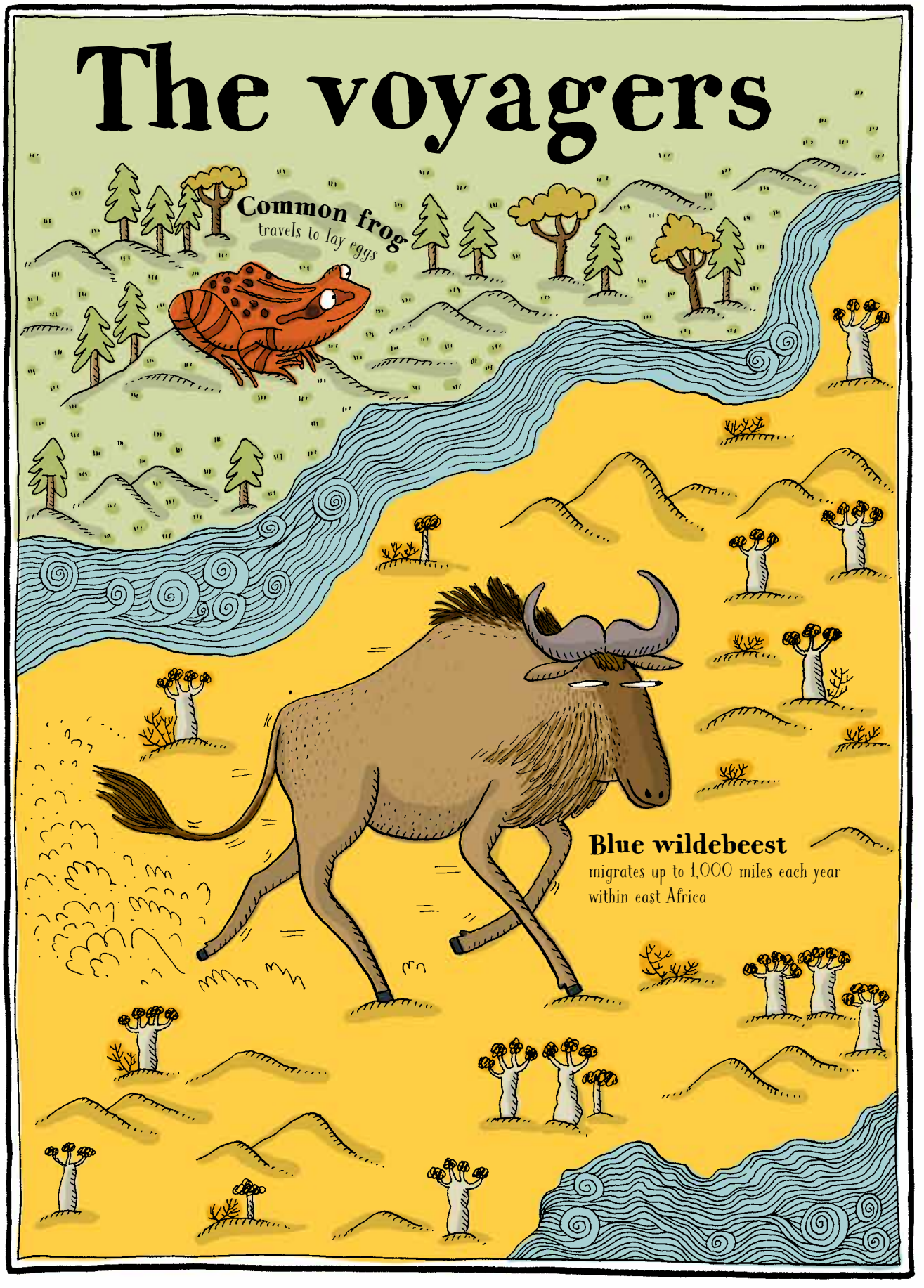

Steller's sea cow
† 1768
Baiji
† 2006
Mammoth
† 12,000 years ago
Pig-footed bandicoot
† 1907

Labrador duck † 1875
Rodrigues rail † 1726
Quagga † 1883

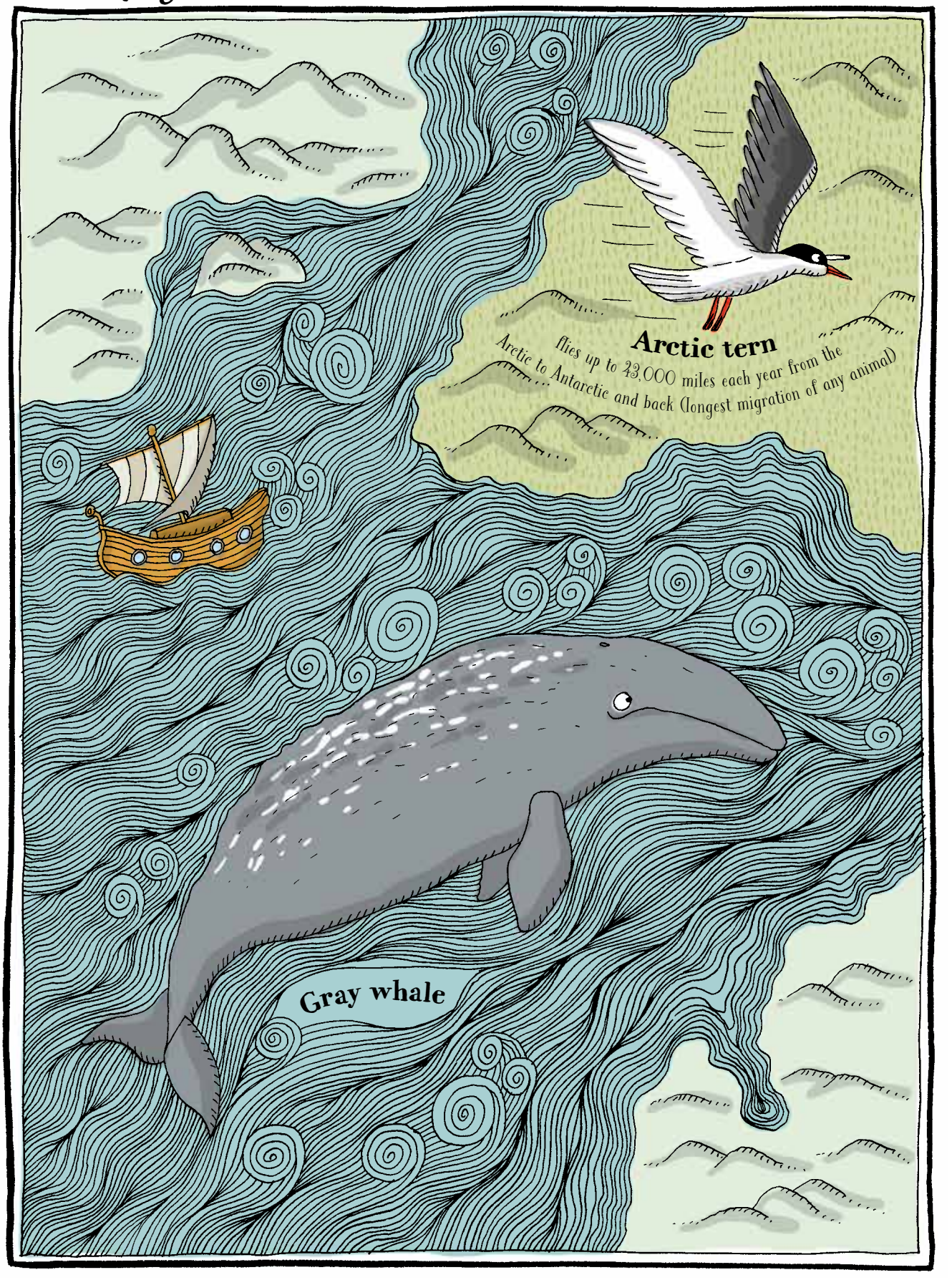

Black mamo † 1907
Great auk † 1844
Po'ouli † 2004
Tasmanian wolf † 1936

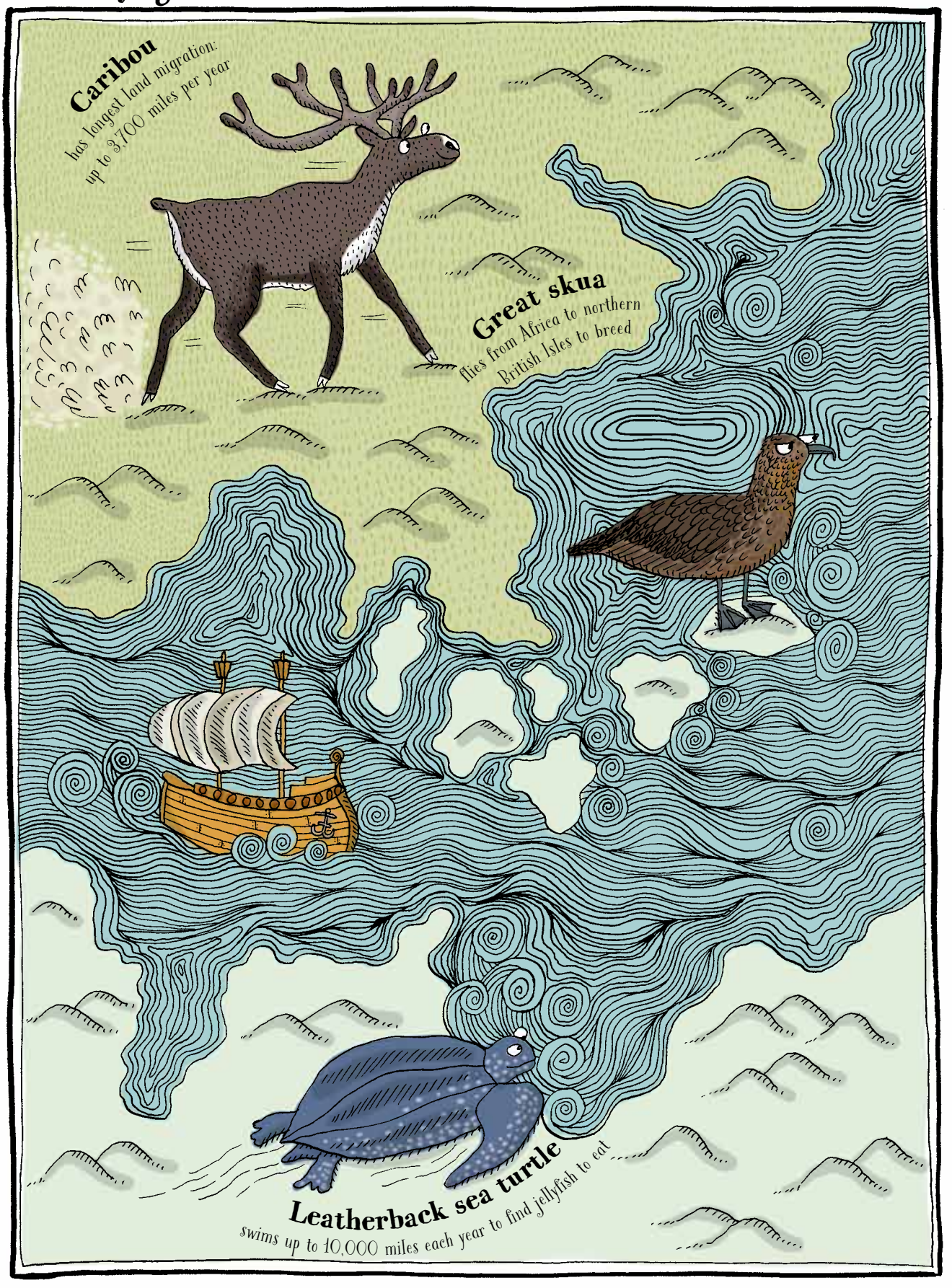
Dinosaurs
† 65 million years ago

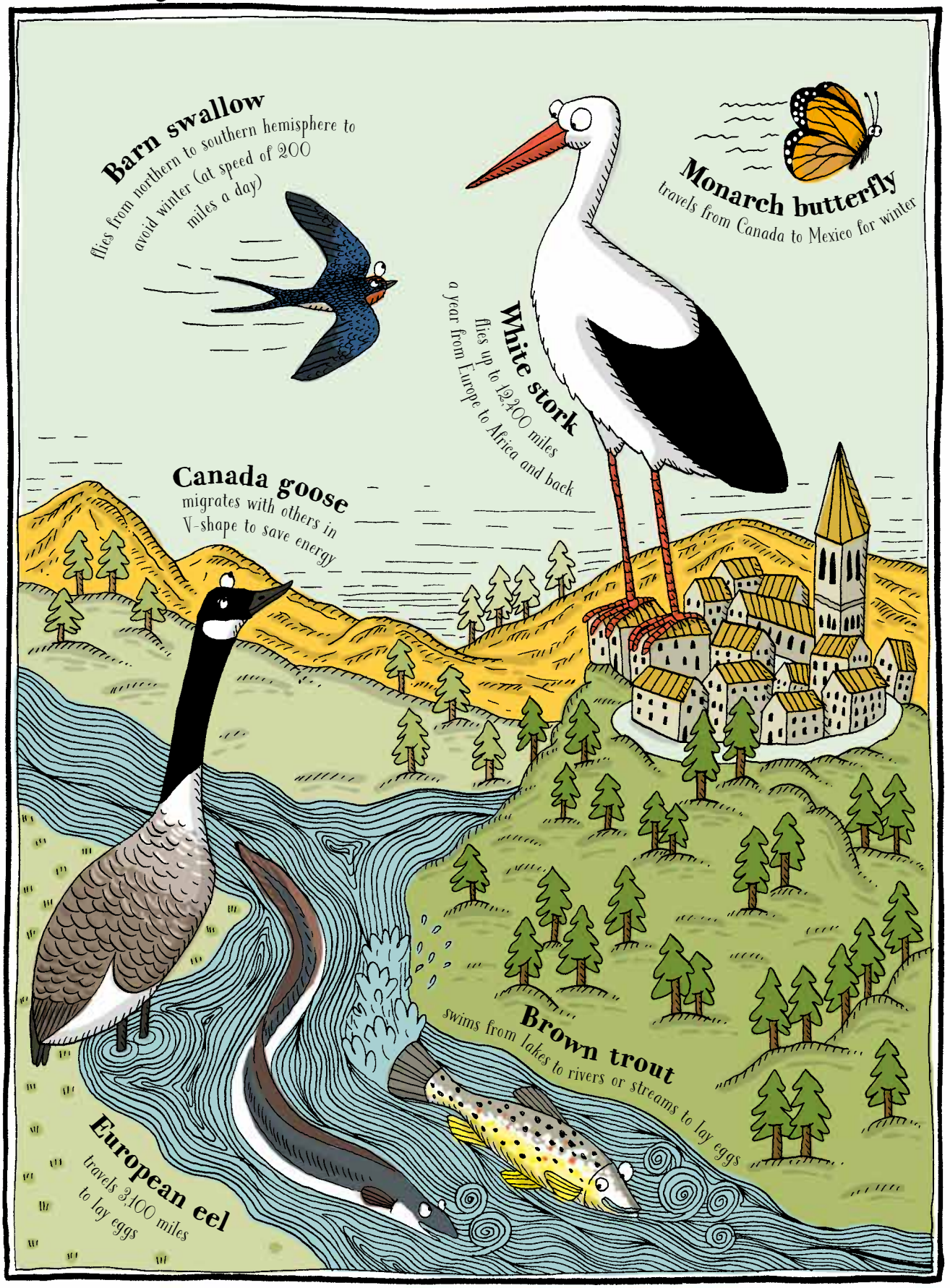
The voyagers



Emu
travels long way to reach feeding areas
Cosmopolitan butterfly
Ruff
some travel 18,600 miles each year from Siberia to Africa
Migratory locust
swarms with millions of others; can fly more than 80 miles per day


Arctic tern
flies up to 43,000 miles each year from the Arctic to Antarctic and back (longest migration of any animal)
Gray whale


Caribou
has longest land migration:
up to 3,700 miles per year
Great skua
flies from Africa to northern
British Isles to breed
Leatherback sea turtle
swims up to 10,000 miles each year to find jellyfish to eat


Barn swallow
flies from northern to southern hemisphere to avoid winter (at speed of 200 miles a day)
White stork
flies up to 12,400 miles a year from Europe to Africa and back
Monarch butterfly
travels from Canada to Mexico for winter
Canada goose
migrates with others in V-shape to save energy
Brown trout
swims from lakes to rivers or streams to lay eggs
European eel
travels 3,100 miles to lay eggs

Acknowledgments

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my mother and my father for their constructive criticism and unconditional support,
Aldo for his advice and his comforting presence,
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Ignacio, Jean-Marie, Jess, Matthew, Melanie, Mirjana, Moudja, Olga, Peggy, and Valerie

—A.B.

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