

The Berenstain Bears' **NATURE GUIDE**



Everything small bears and
kids need to know about the
wonderful world of Nature

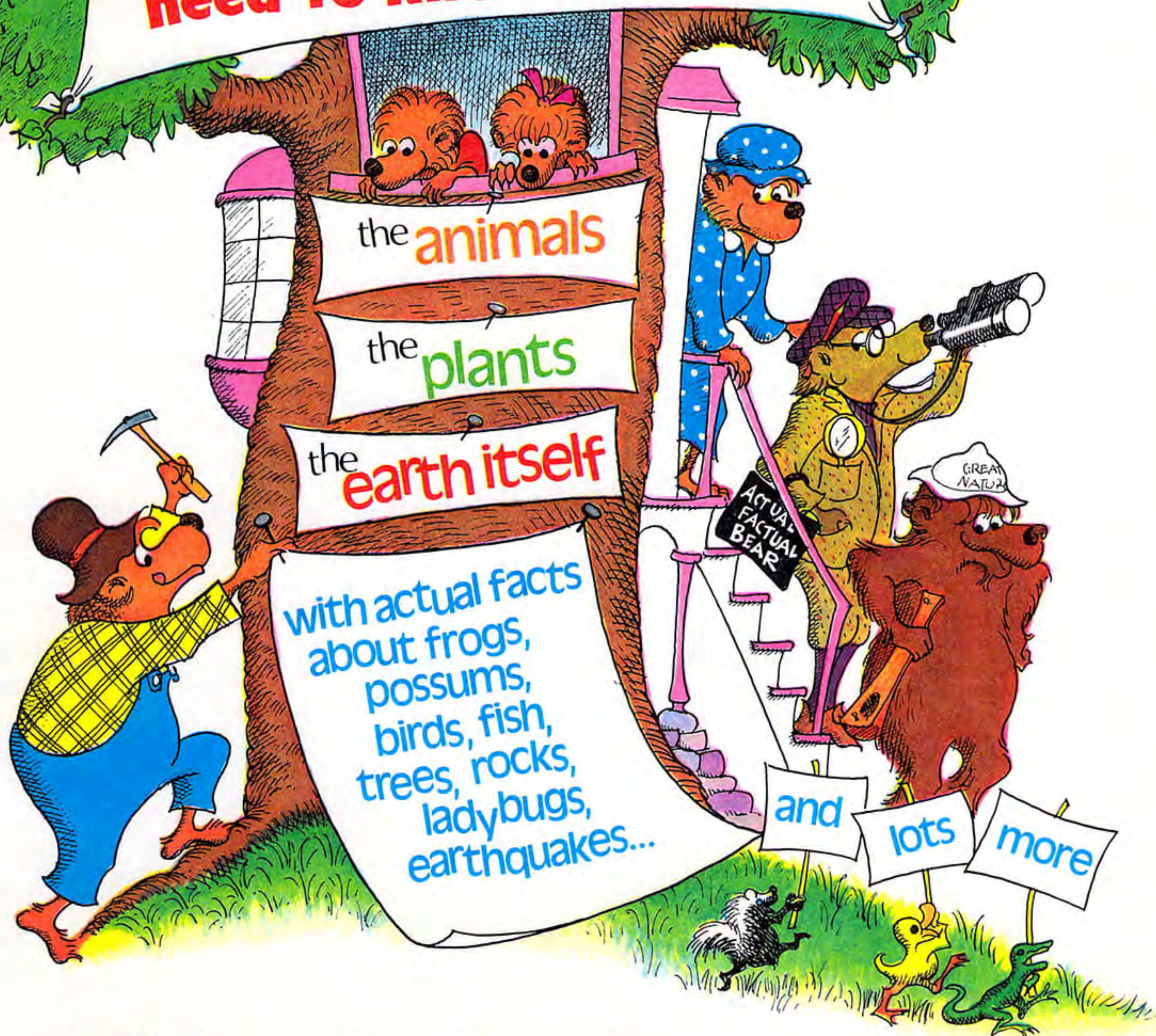
by Stan & Jan Berenstain

Welcome to the Bears' Nature Walk



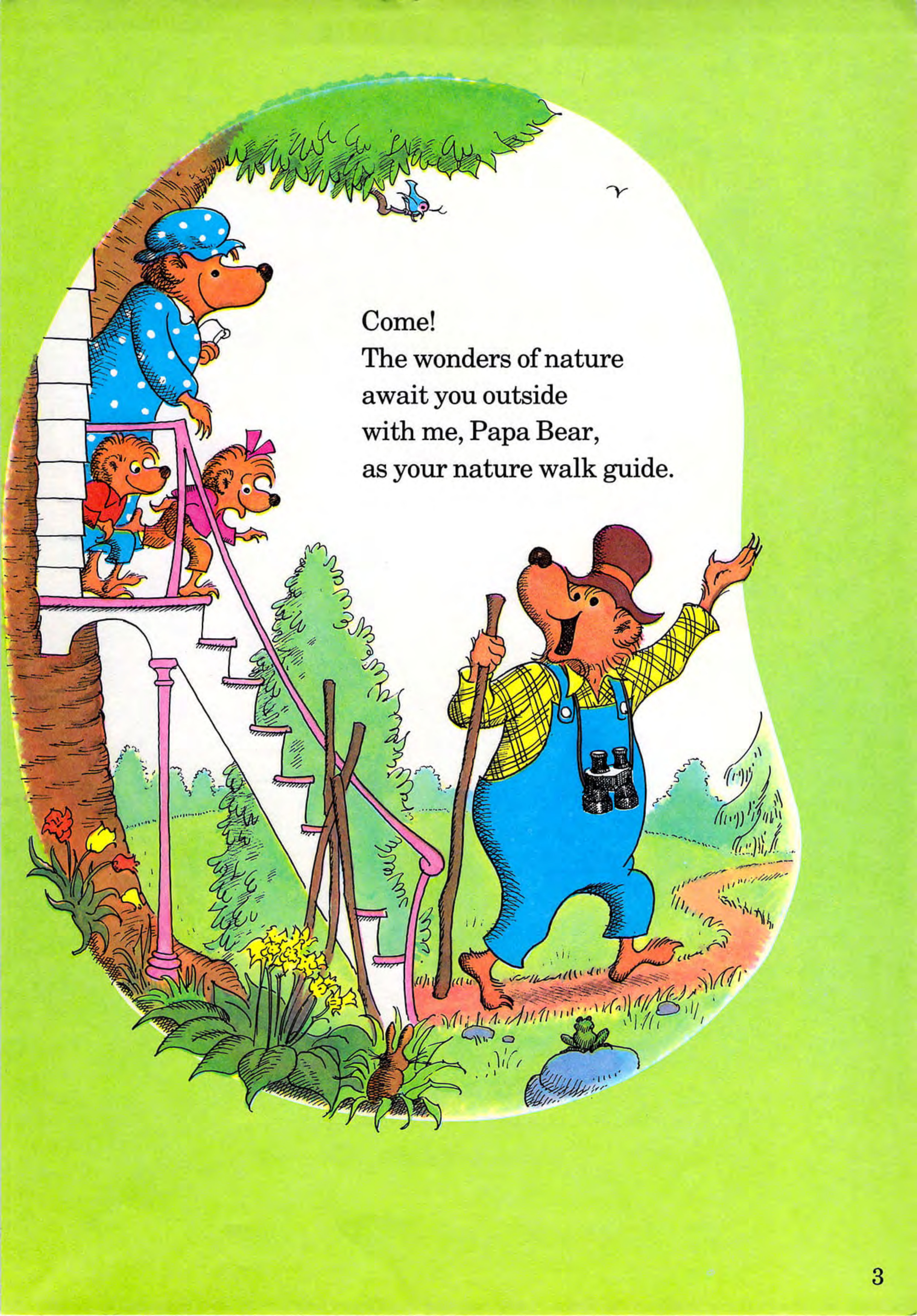
The Berenstain Bears' NATURE GUIDE

**Almost everything
small bears and kids
need to know about...**



by **Stan and Jan Berenstain**

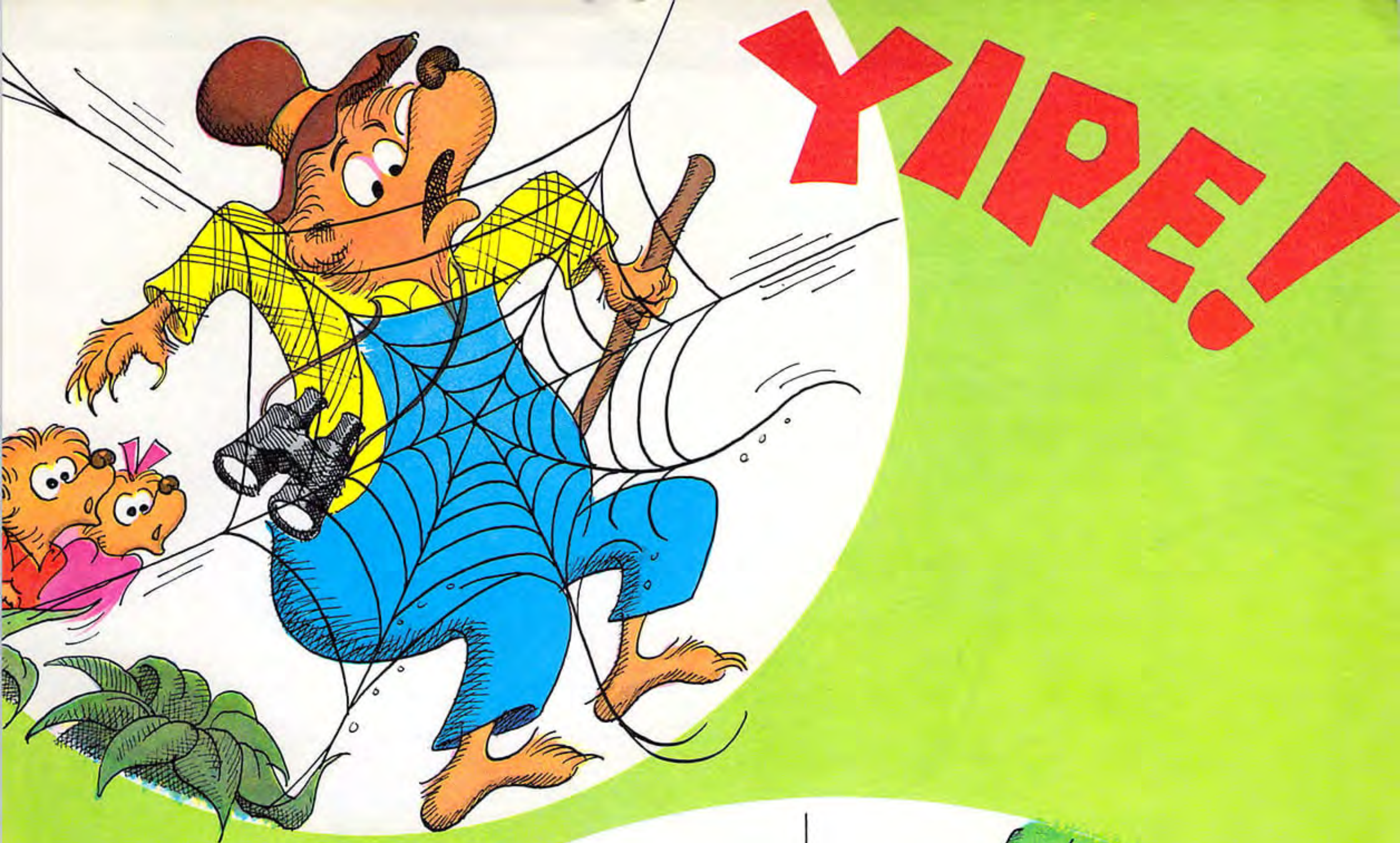
Random House • New York



Come!
The wonders of nature
await you outside
with me, Papa Bear,
as your nature walk guide.

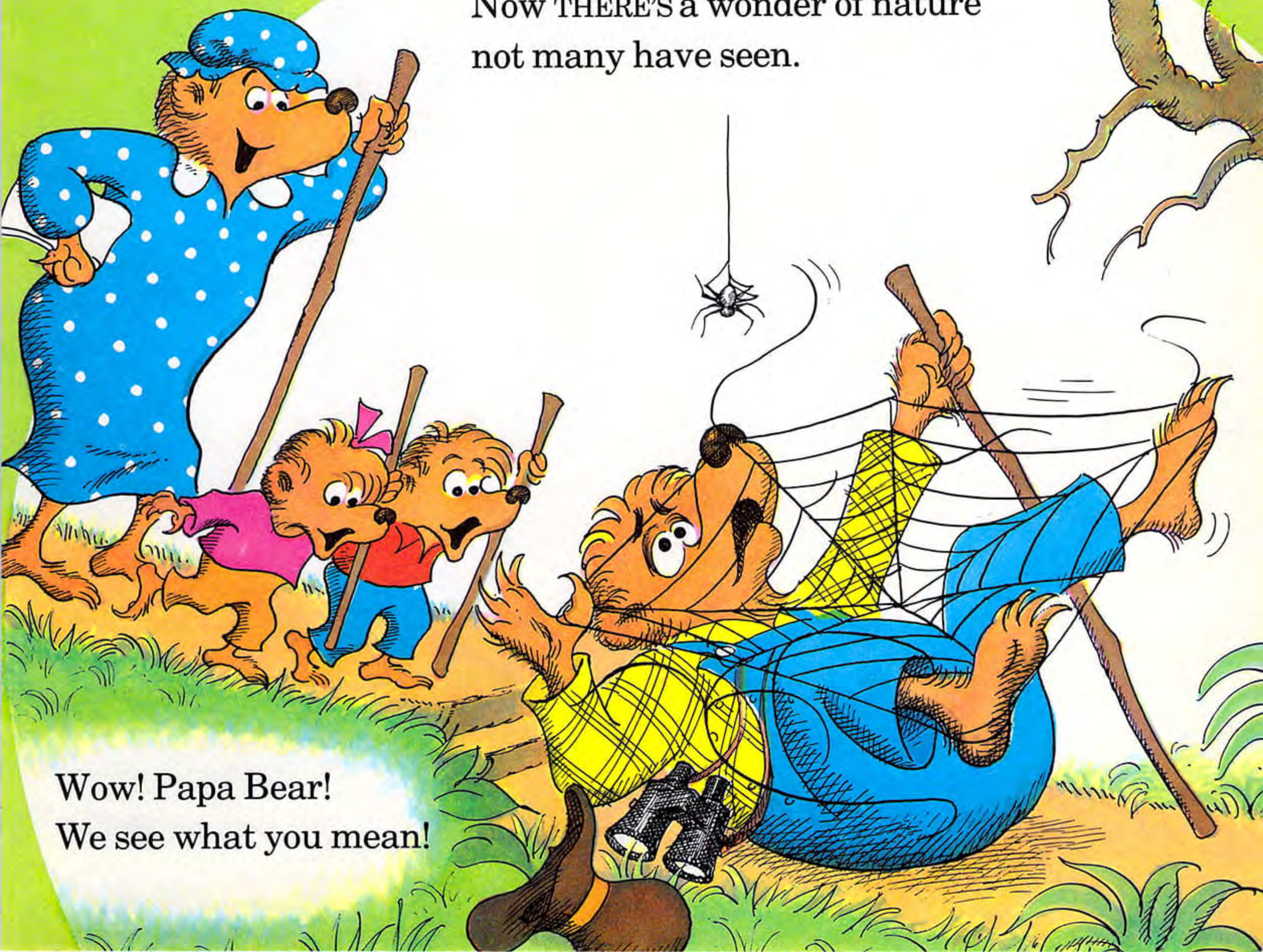


In all my years
as a nature guide
I have followed one rule
far and wide:
Be alert for any
sign or sound –
the wonders of nature
are all around!



YIPE!!

Now THERE'S a wonder of nature
not many have seen.



Wow! Papa Bear!
We see what you mean!

Ah, yes. Nature is happening
every minute.

And some of us get
very caught up in it.

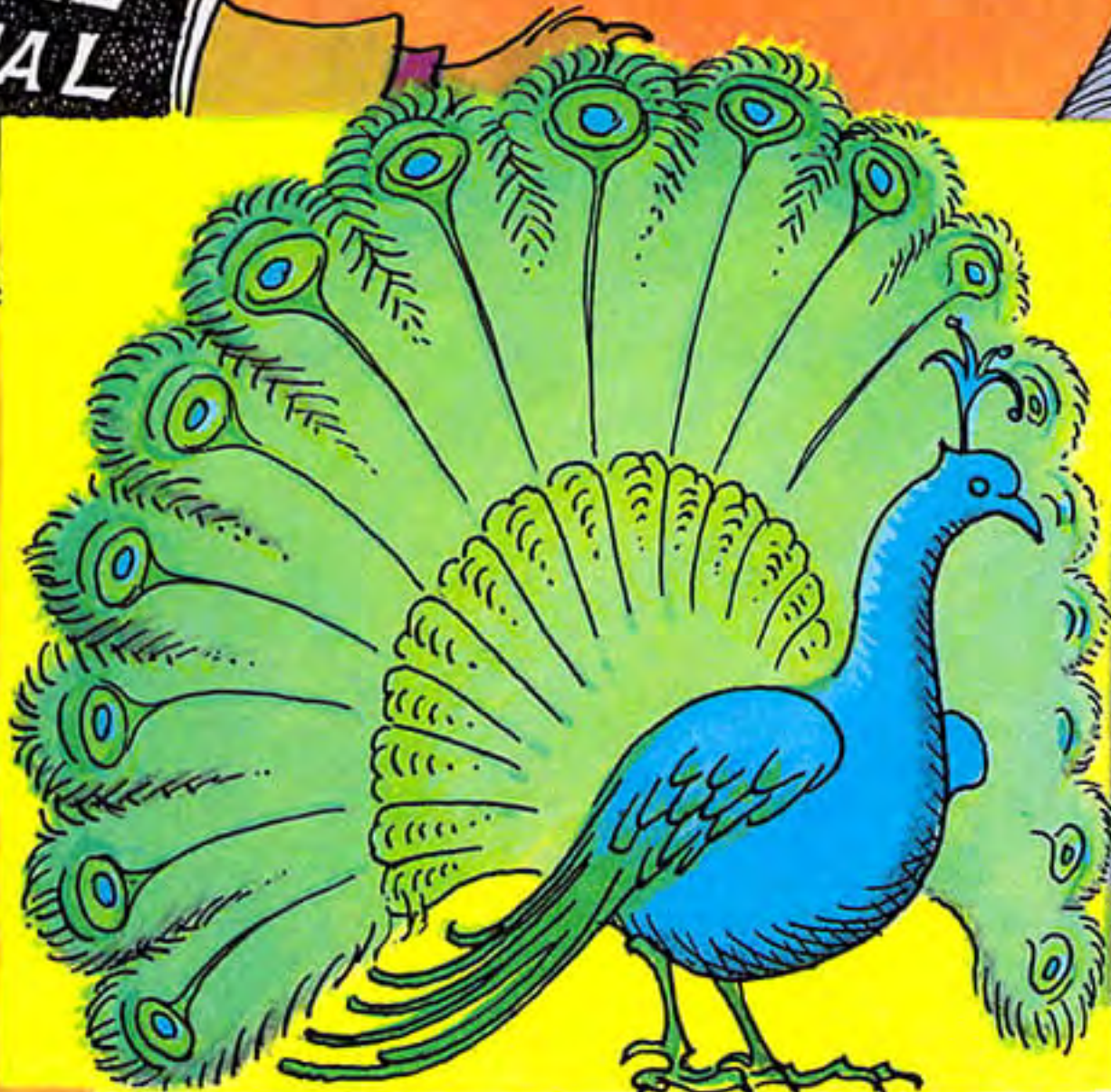


ACTUAL FACTS ABOUT NATURE

WHAT IS NATURE?

It's everybody
and everything—

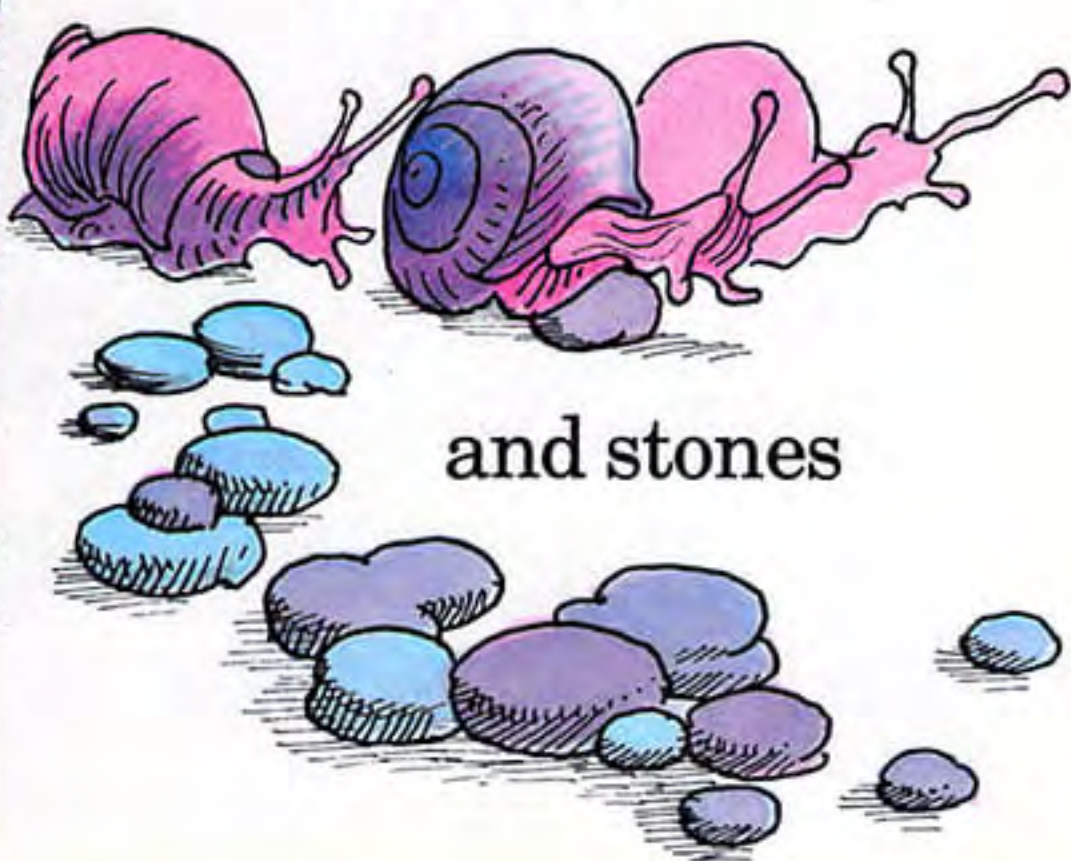
a peacock's tail,



a butterfly's wing.



It's snails



and stones



and dinosaur bones.

Volcanoes!

Earthquakes . . .

Cousin Liz!

That's just a PART

of what nature is.



Nature is
THE WORLD OF ANIMALS—



from the biggest whale . . .

to the smallest flea.

IT'S THE WORLD OF PLANTS—

from the tiniest weed . . .



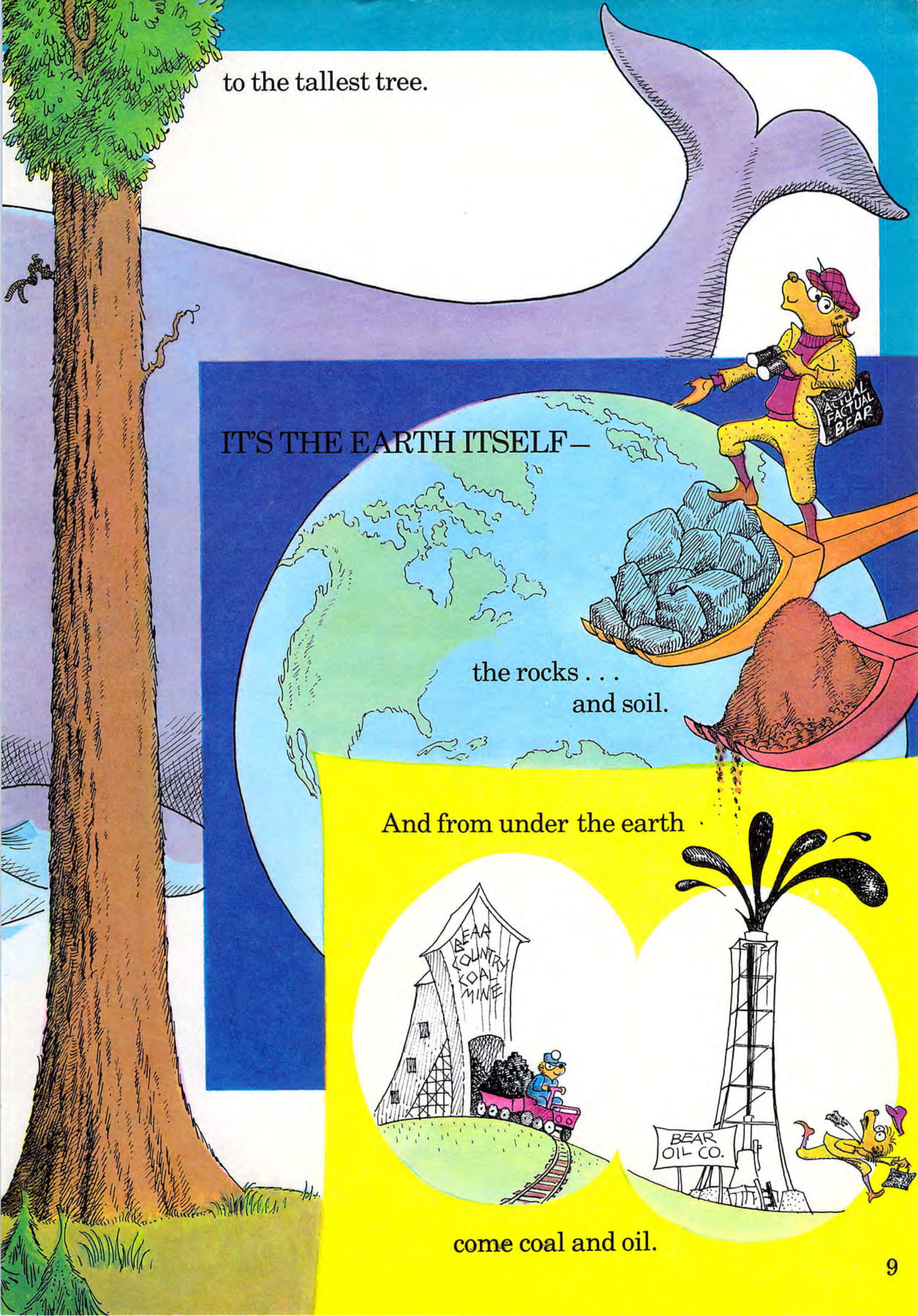
to the tallest tree.

IT'S THE EARTH ITSELF —

the rocks . . .
and soil.

And from under the earth

come coal and oil.



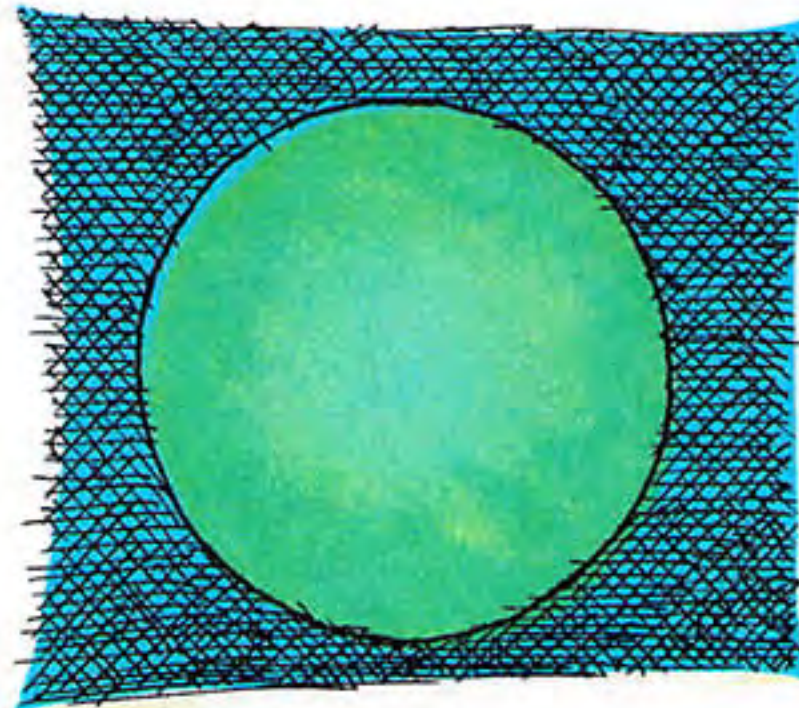
Nature is every person,
thing, and place
here on Earth
and out in space.

Nature's the sun,

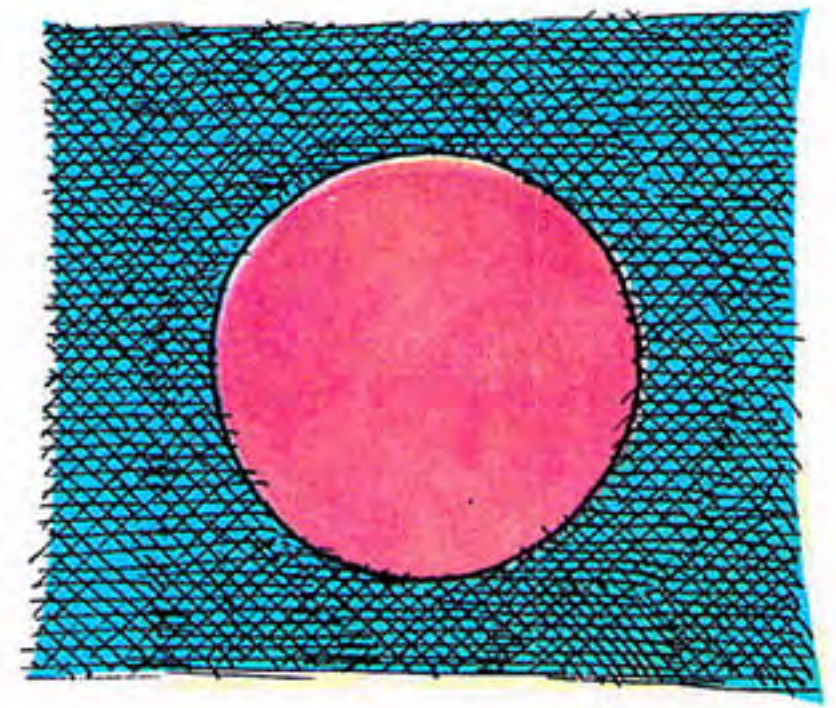
the moon,

the stars.

It's faraway planets



like Venus



and Mars.

It's the mountains,

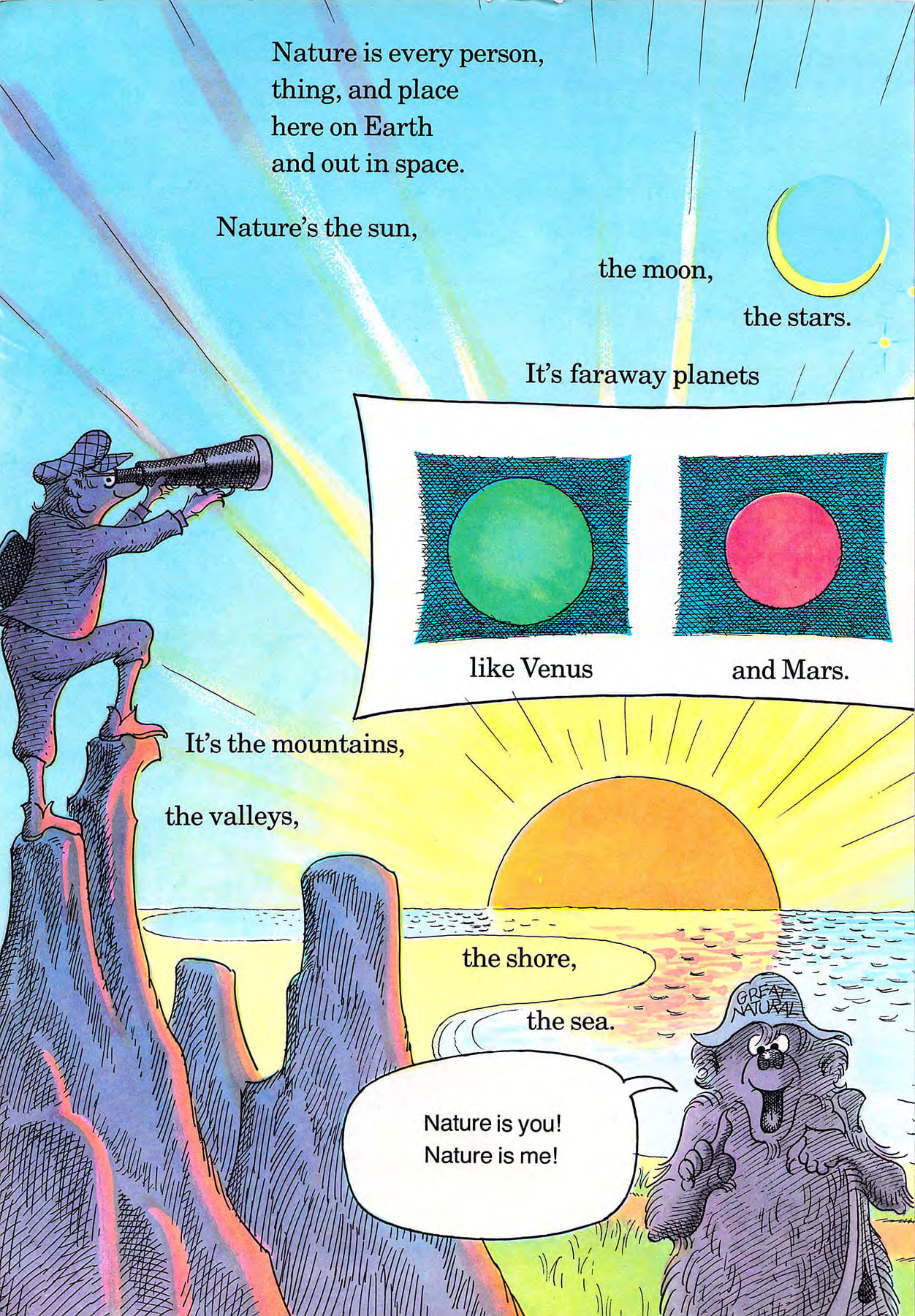
the valleys,

the shore,

the sea.

Nature is you!
Nature is me!

GREAT
NATURAL





It's all that IS
or WAS
or EVER WILL BE!

And that's a lot
to talk about
on just one nature
walkabout.

WE SENSE NATURE all around

We see it,
smell it.
We hear its
sound.

THINGS WE CAN SEE:

buttercups

a bumblebee

a possum hanging
from a tree

seven babies
on her back

a hummingbird

a beaver's track

crawly creatures
under rocks

cockleburs
caught on socks

A hungry bear!

Will you please
excuse us fish?
We're Great Natural's
favorite dish!





I see **BLUE**!

The blue jay is
a lovely sight—
all blue with bits
of black and white.

I see **RED**!

What is so red
as a
woodpecker's head?

We see a wasp
daubing mud.

We see a snake,

a new green bud,

milkweed pods,
milkweed seeds,

a heron hiding
in the reeds.

We see a web.
We see a spider.

I walk on water!
I'm a
water strider.

We see our friend
the ladybug.

OOH!

UGH!

We see a giant
orange slug!

SOME THINGS WE HEAR:

The loud rat-tat
of the woodpecker's beak.

The hoot owl's
who-o-o!

The mouse's squeak.

The bright, sparkling sound
of a Bear Country creek.

We hear a crow.

CAW! CAW!

We hear the beaver's
gnaw, gnaw.

Whip-poor-will!
Whip-poor-will!
My song and name
sound the same.

We hear a burp.

We hear a chirp.

Did you know
that when a cricket sings
he's only rubbing
his two front wings?



SOME THINGS WE SMELL:

Fresh, clean
pine,

sweet red grapes
on the vine.

The ones that fall
soon smell sour.

We smell an onion.

We smell a flower.

It's a special treat
for my nose
when I bend down
and smell a rose!

We smell grass,

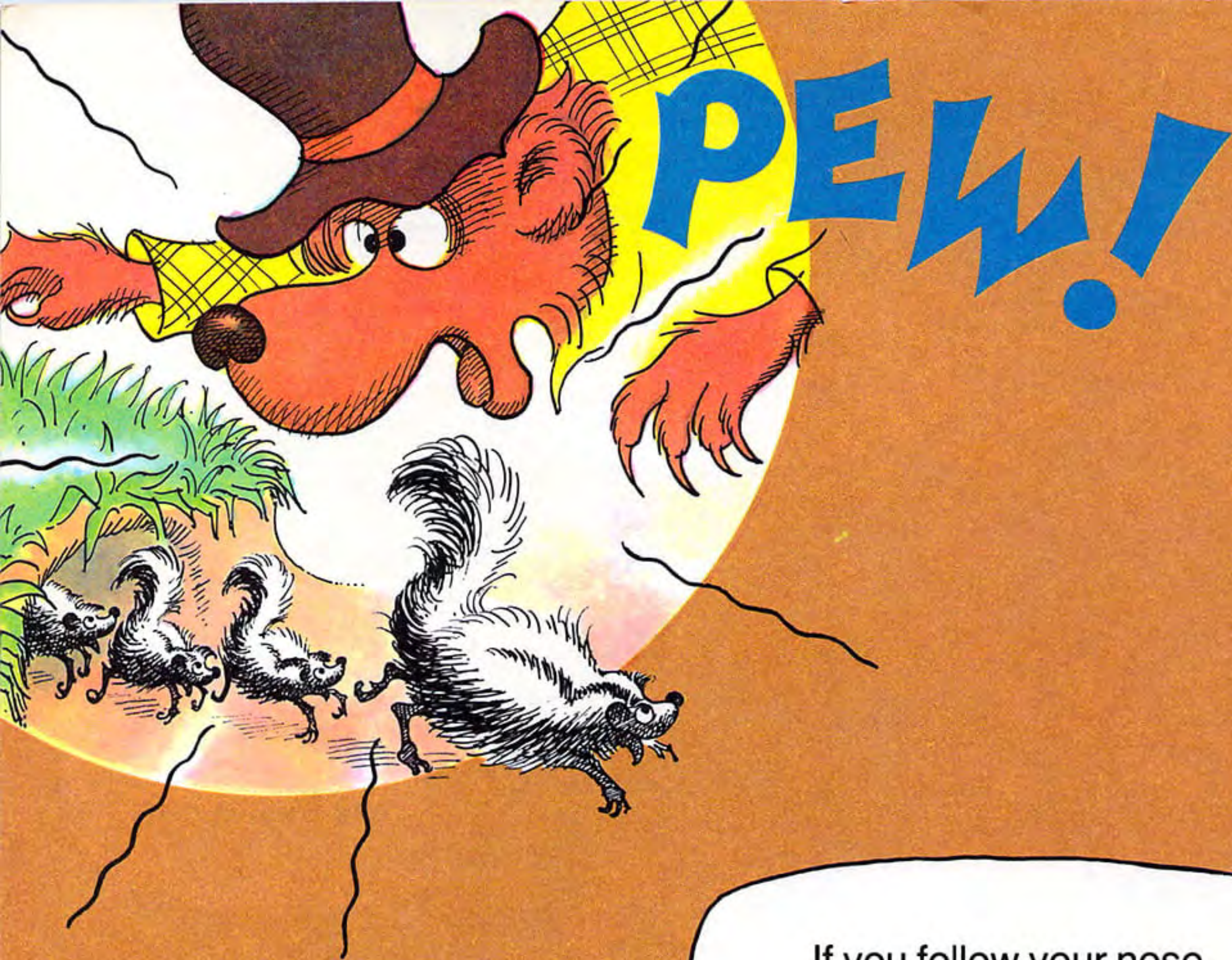
moss,

fresh-cut wood.

That stinkbug
doesn't smell
so good!

Yes, to study nature
really well,
you must always use
your sense of smell.

Just a minute,
Papa Bear!
Do not put your nose
in there!



If you follow your nose
to where SKUNKS are . . .

You'll find you have followed
your nose too far!



ACTUAL FACTS ABOUT The World of ANIMALS



ARE YOU AN ANIMAL ?

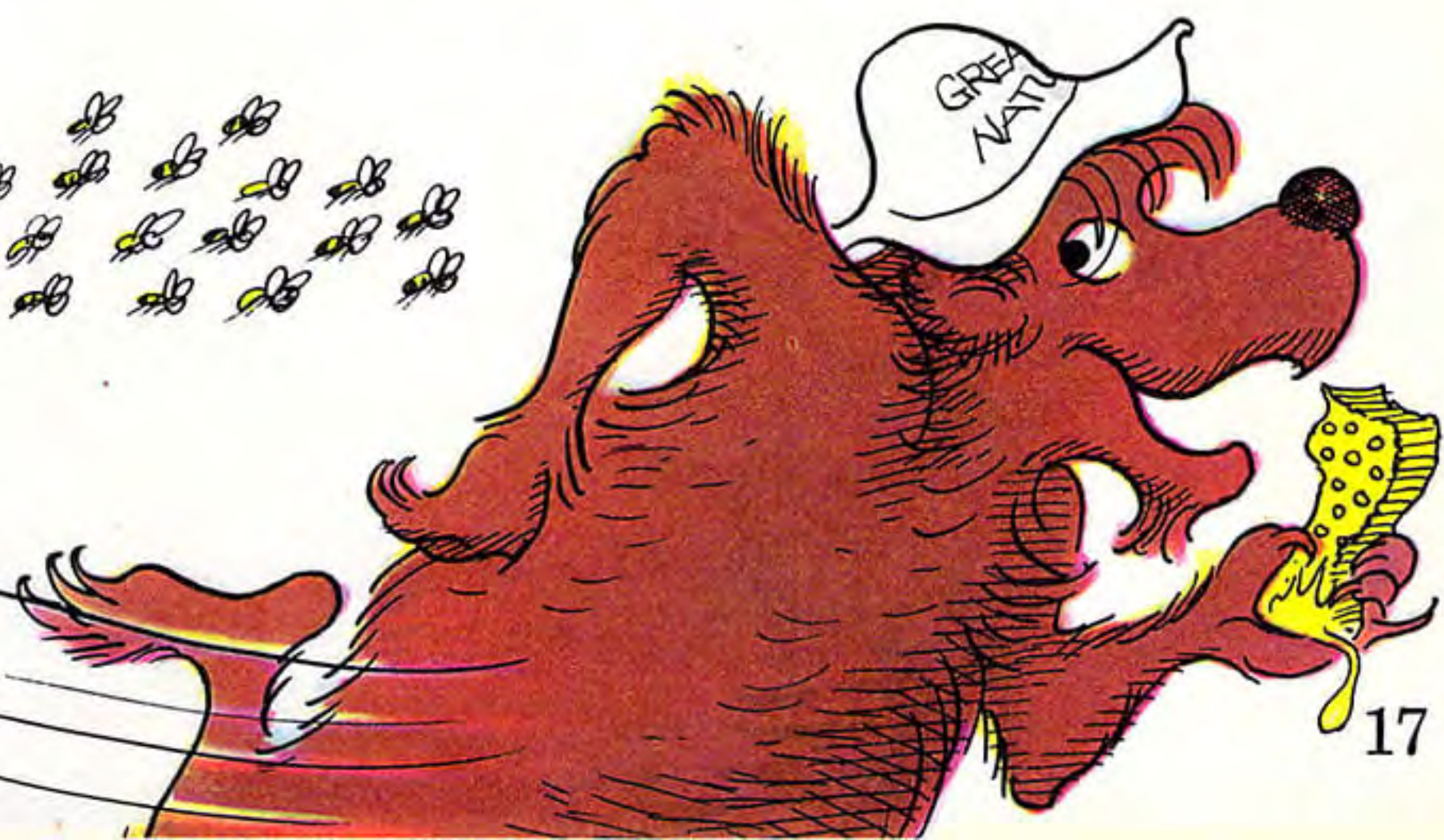
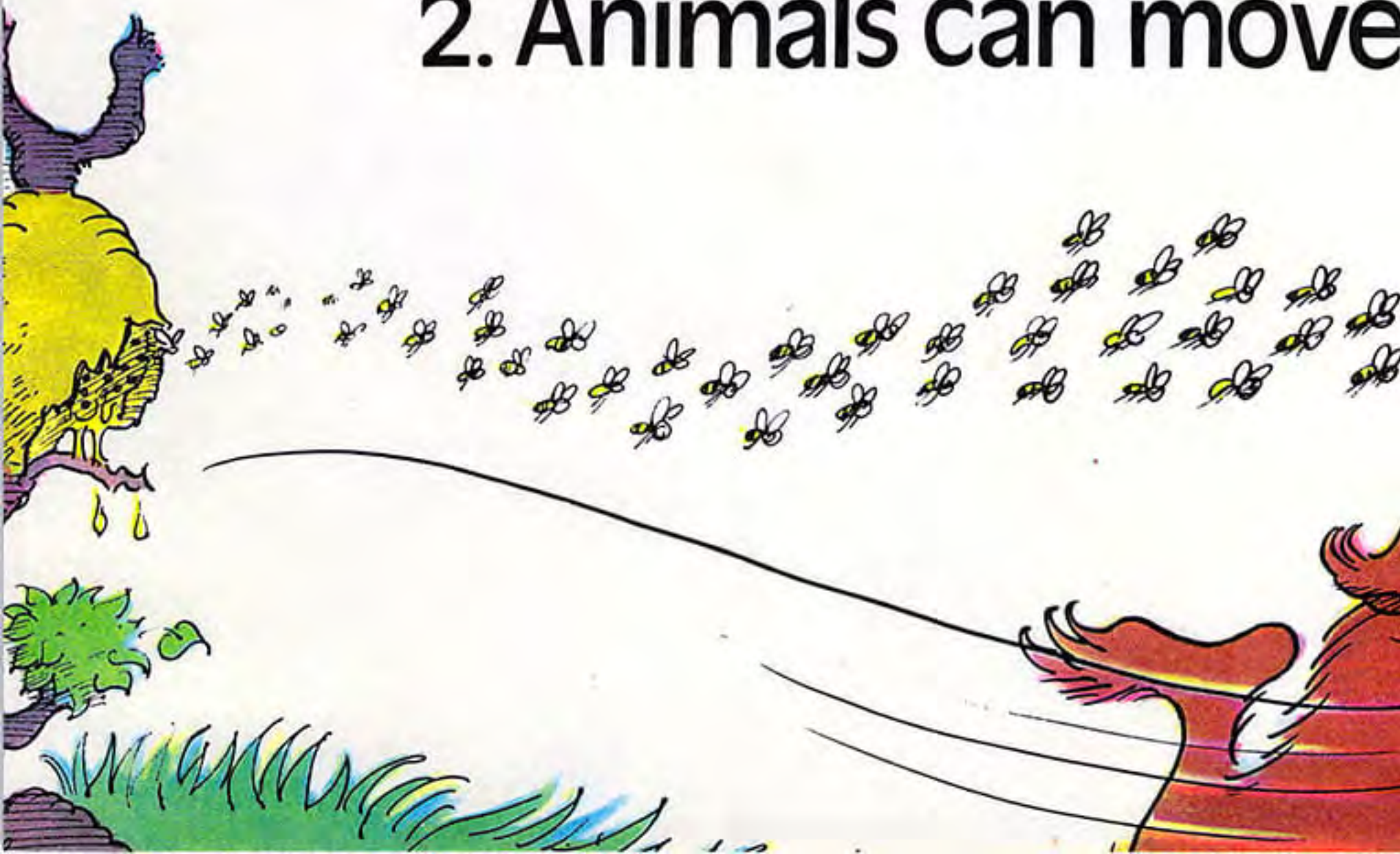
1. Animals are living things

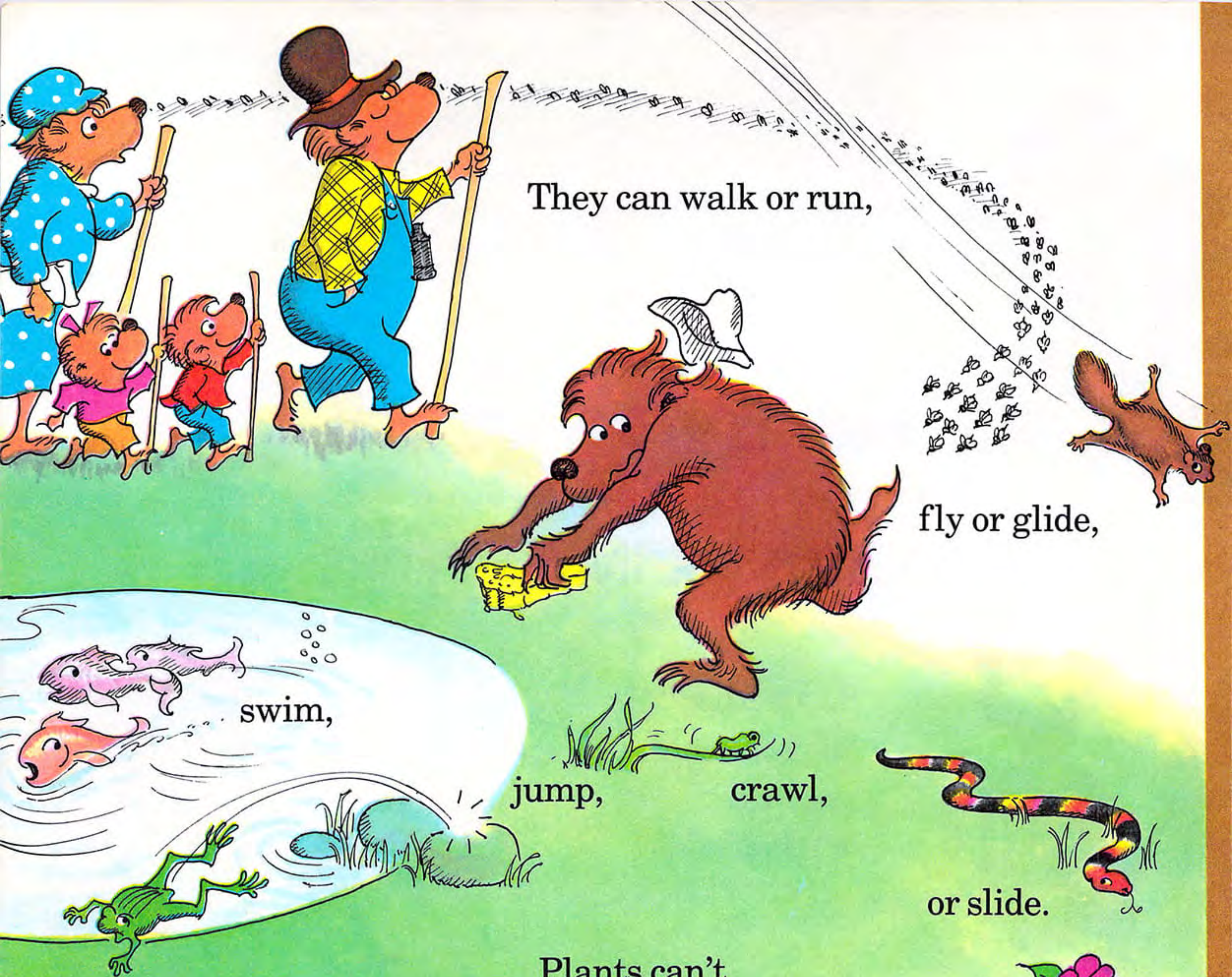
So whether
you're a bear
or a bird
or a honeybee,

if you're ALIVE,
you just might be—
an ANIMAL.



2. Animals can move around





They can walk or run,

fly or glide,

swim,

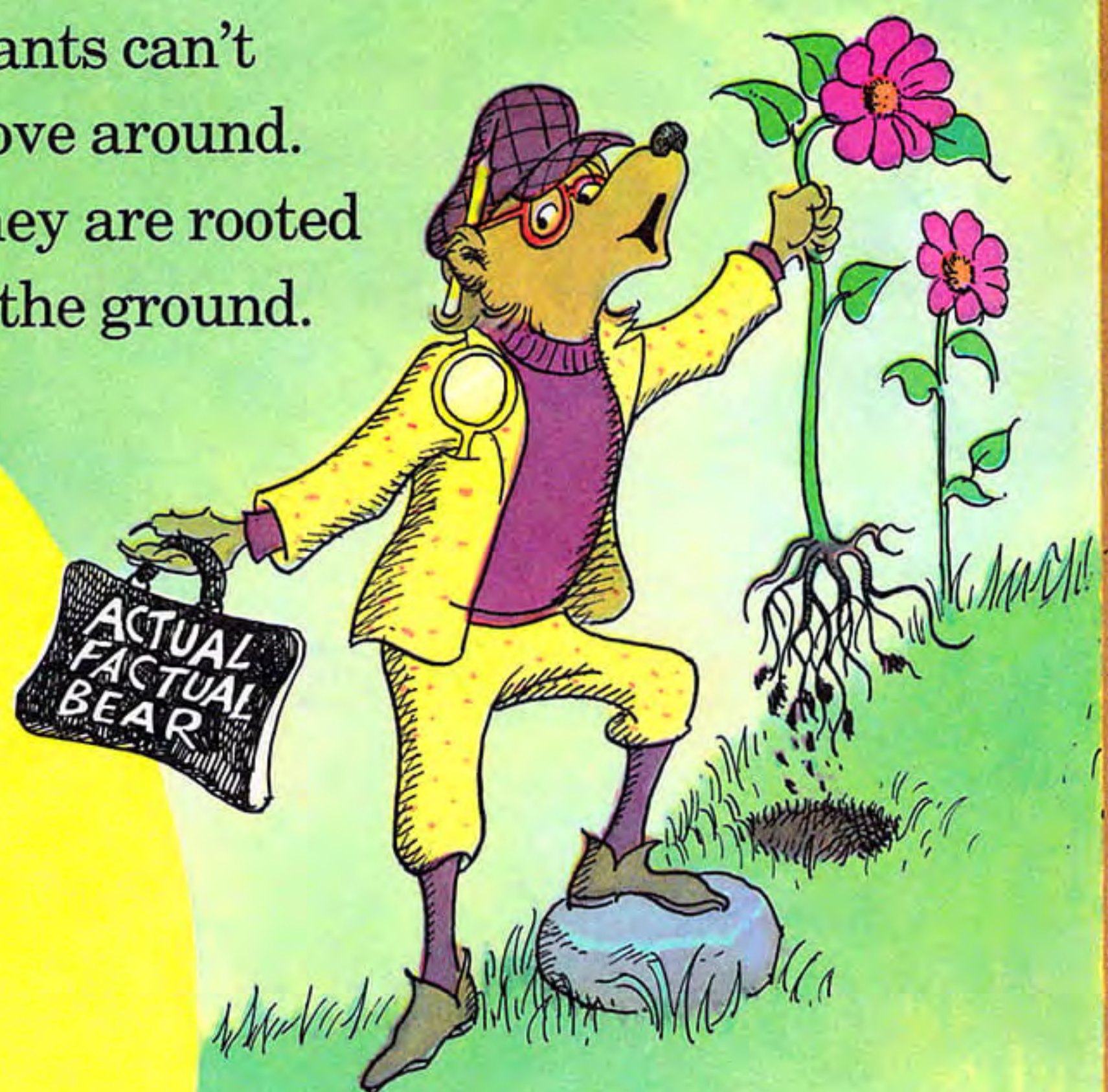
jump,

crawl,

or slide.

Plants can't
move around.
They are rooted
to the ground.

So,
if you're **ALIVE**
and **MOVE AROUND**
and are not rooted
to the ground,
then it seems,
at least so far,
an animal
is what you are.



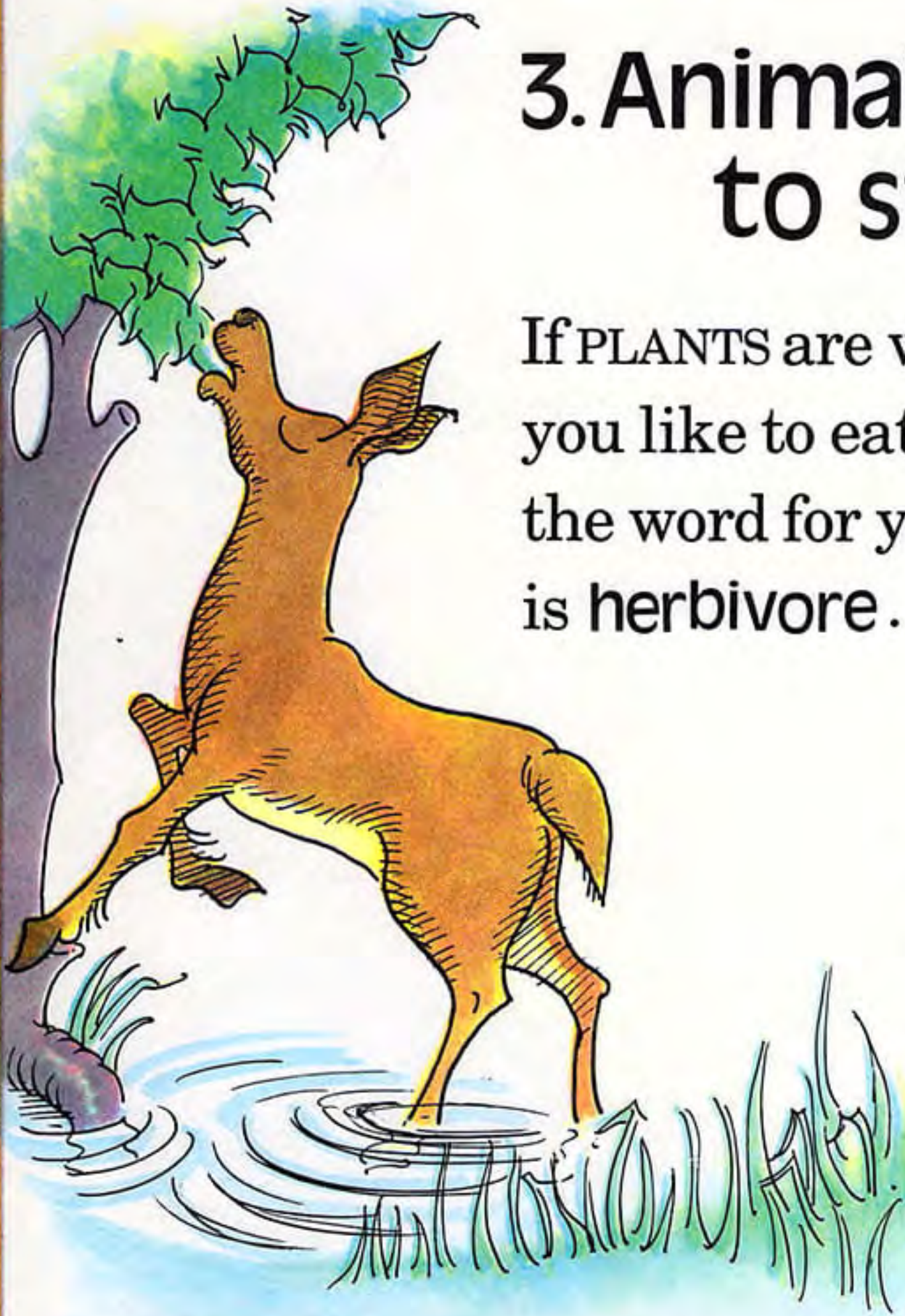


A few animals ARE
rooted to the ground.

The sponge is one.
To be a sponge
is not much fun.

3. Animals need food to stay alive

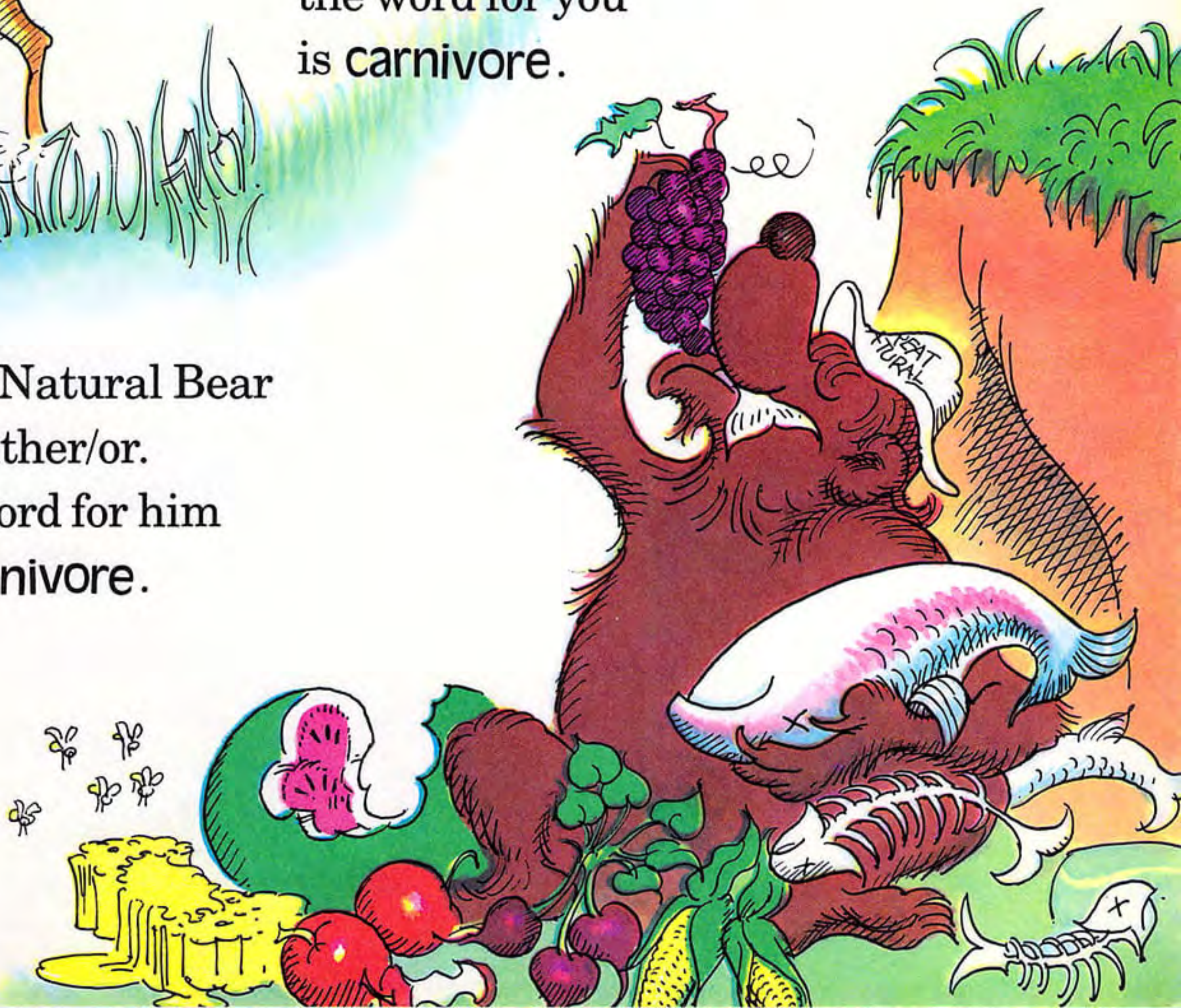
If PLANTS are what
you like to eat,
the word for you
is herbivore.



If MEAT is what
you like to eat,
the word for you
is carnivore.



Great Natural Bear
eats either/or.
The word for him
is omnivore.



So-o-o,
if you're ALIVE
and MOVE AROUND,
if you NEED FOOD
to survive,
it's beginning
more and more
to seem
that you can join
the animal team!



4. Animals reproduce

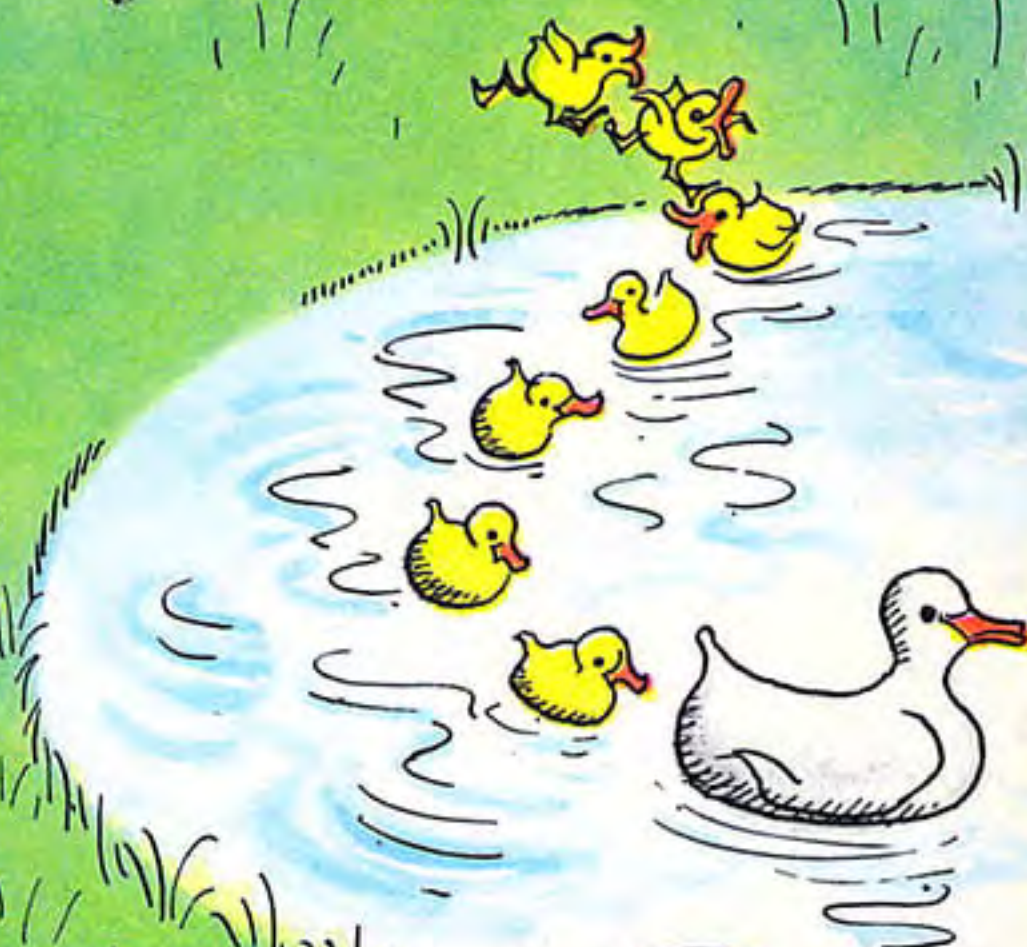
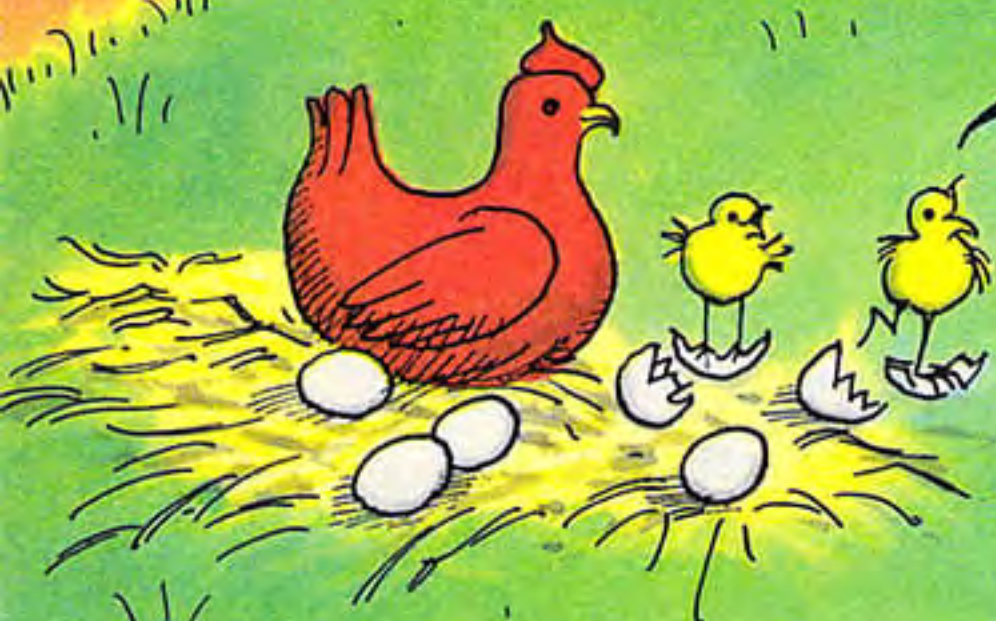


A good thing, too!
If they didn't,
there wouldn't be
a me or you.



They reproduce
in different ways.

We hatch from eggs
our mother lays!



Sister Bear
and her brother
grew from eggs
inside their mother.



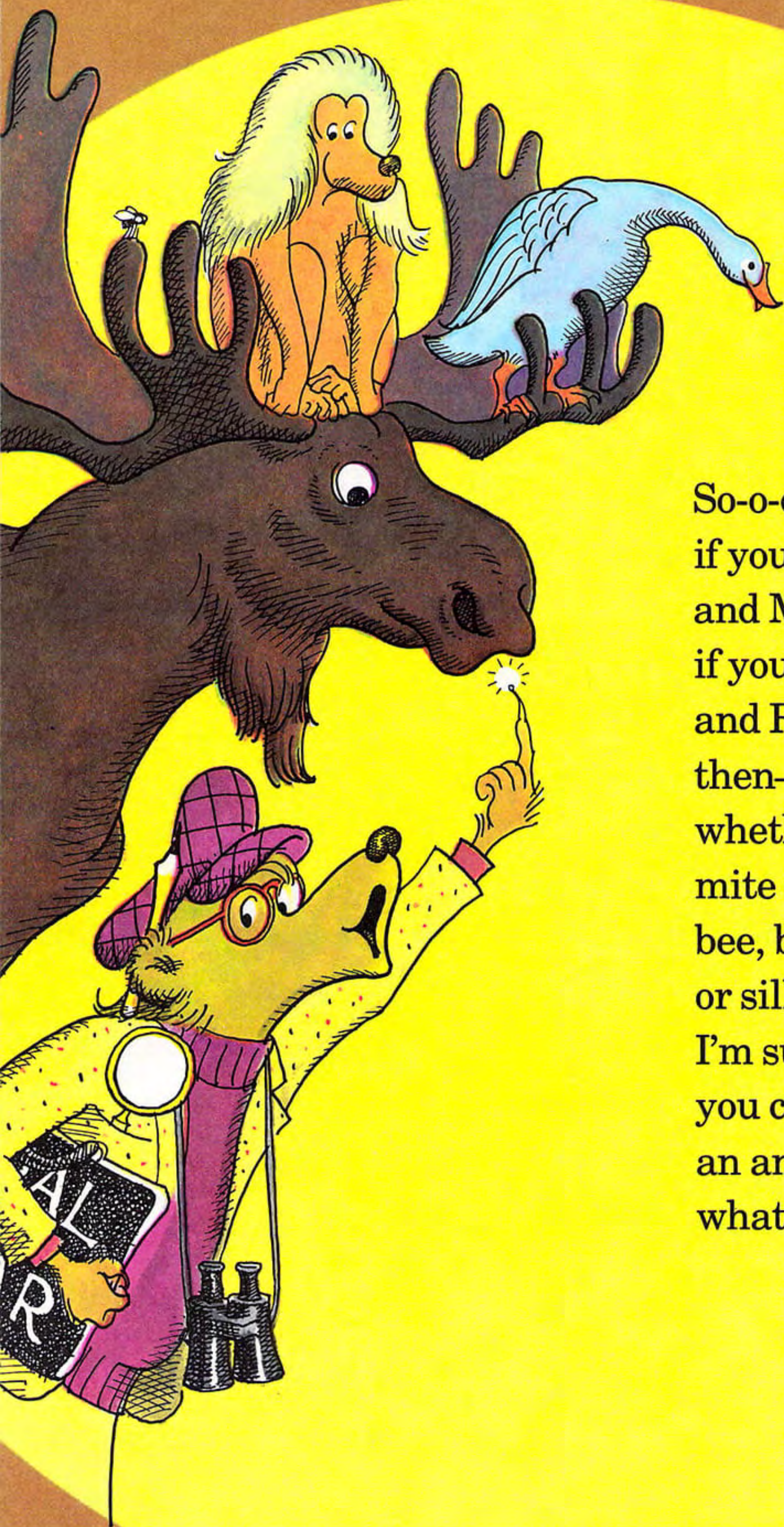
Some animals are
so very small
they do not come
from eggs at all.

What do these tiny creatures do?

They grow until . . .

they split in two.

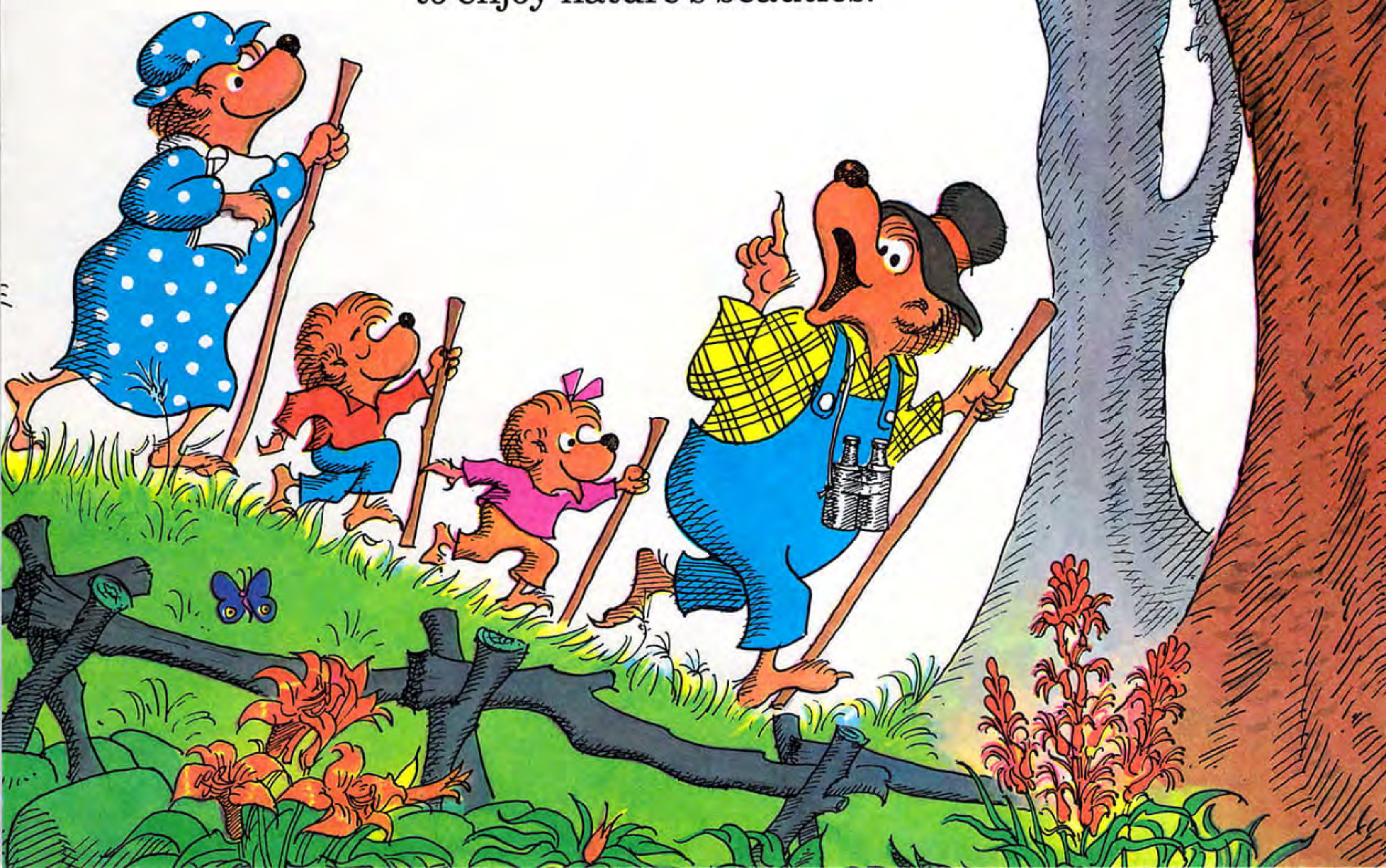




So-o-o-o,
if you're **ALIVE**
and **MOVE AROUND**,
if you **NEED FOOD**
and **REPRODUCE**,
then—
whether you are
mite or moose,
bee, baboon,
or silly goose—
I'm sure that
you can plainly see
an animal **IS**
what you must be!

THE BEAUTIES OF NATURE ARE ALL AROUND...

As your nature walk guide
I have many duties.
Now let's take a moment
to enjoy nature's beauties.





Feel the hush
of a woodland glade,

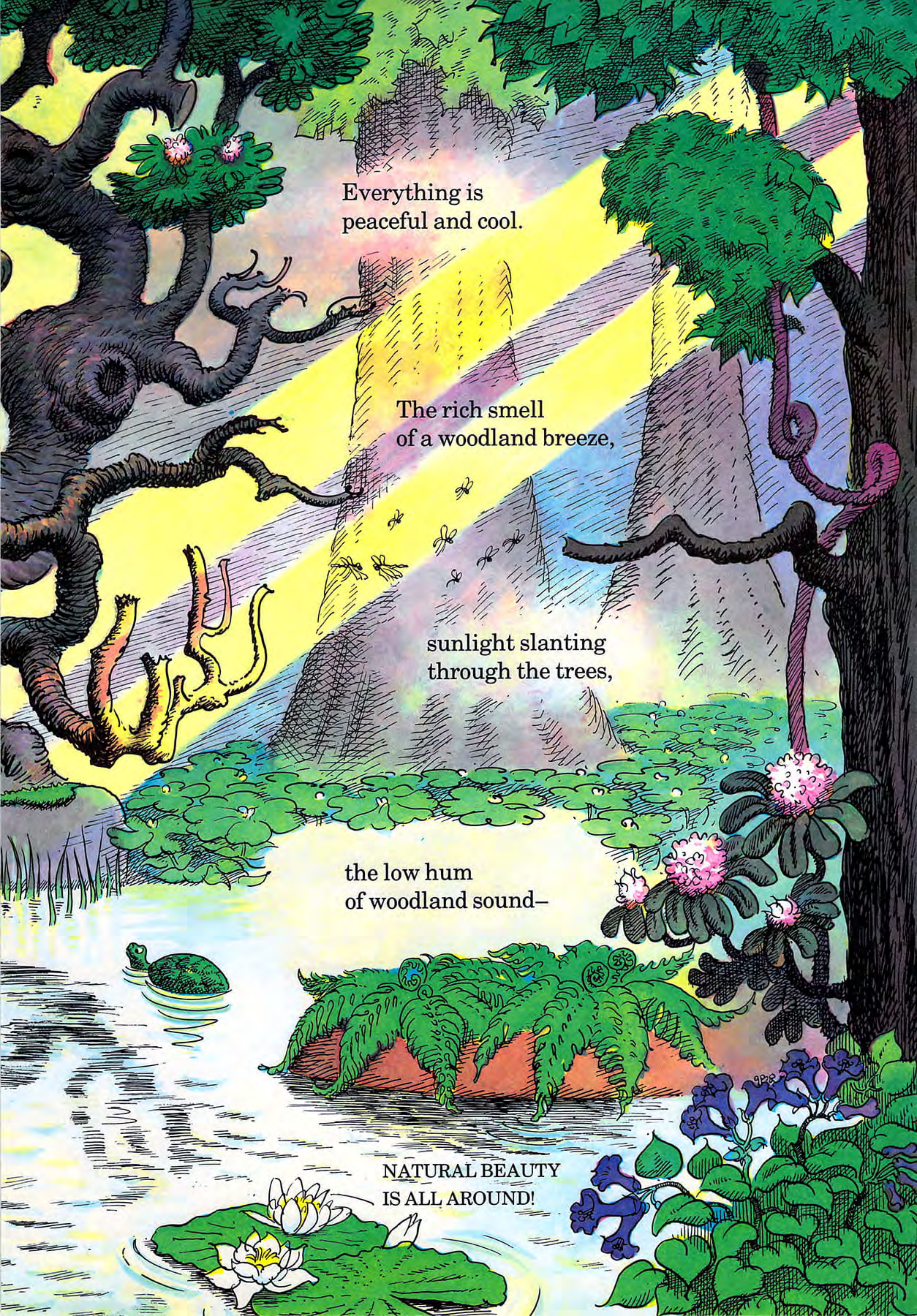
the sudden cool
of woodland shade.

After the sunlight
it's hard to see

the moss . . . the vines . . .

the twisty old tree

all reflected
in a woodland pool.



Everything is
peaceful and cool.

The rich smell
of a woodland breeze,

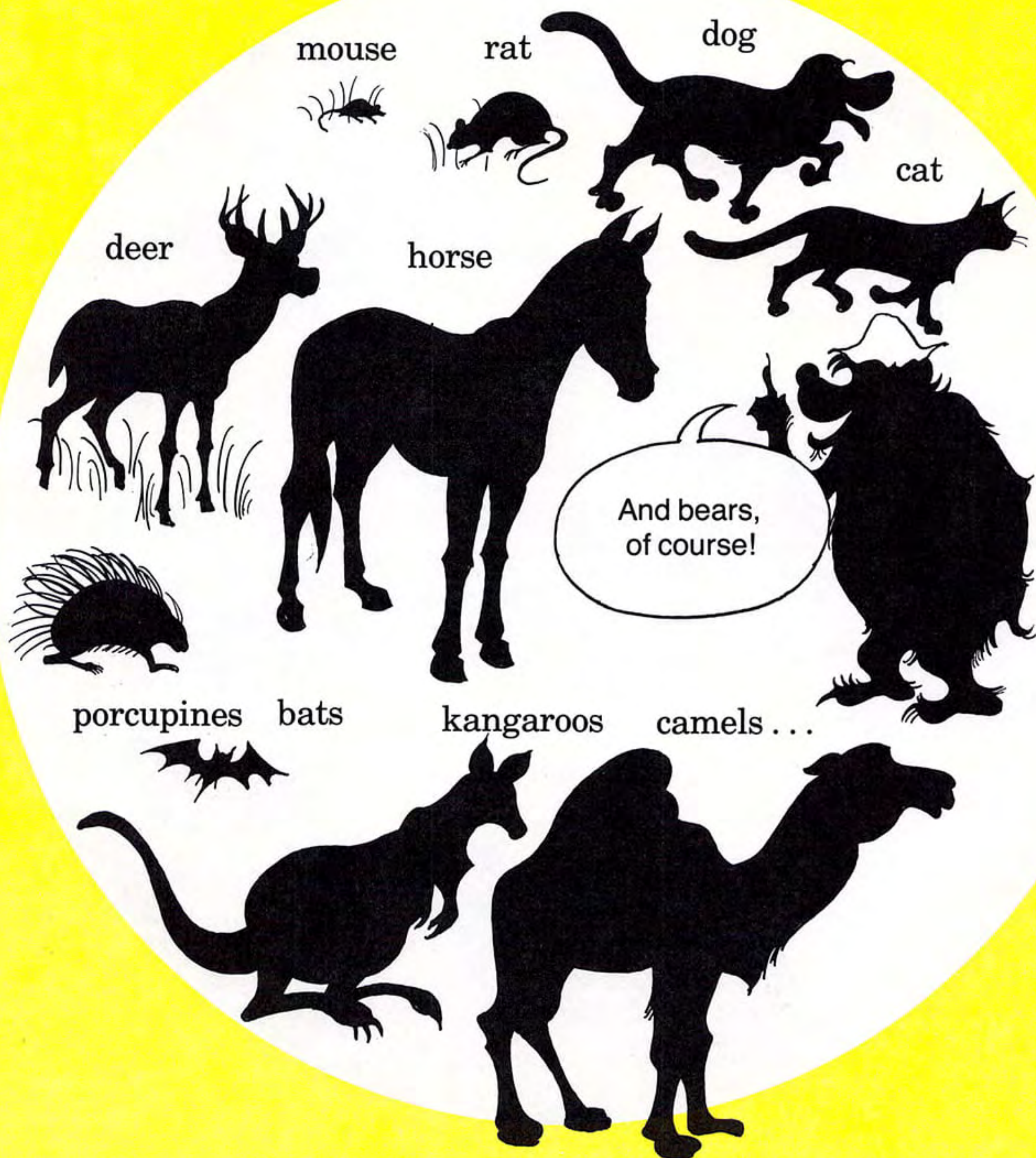
sunlight slanting
through the trees,

the low hum
of woodland sound—

NATURAL BEAUTY
IS ALL AROUND!

ACTUAL FACTS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF ANIMALS

MAMMALS



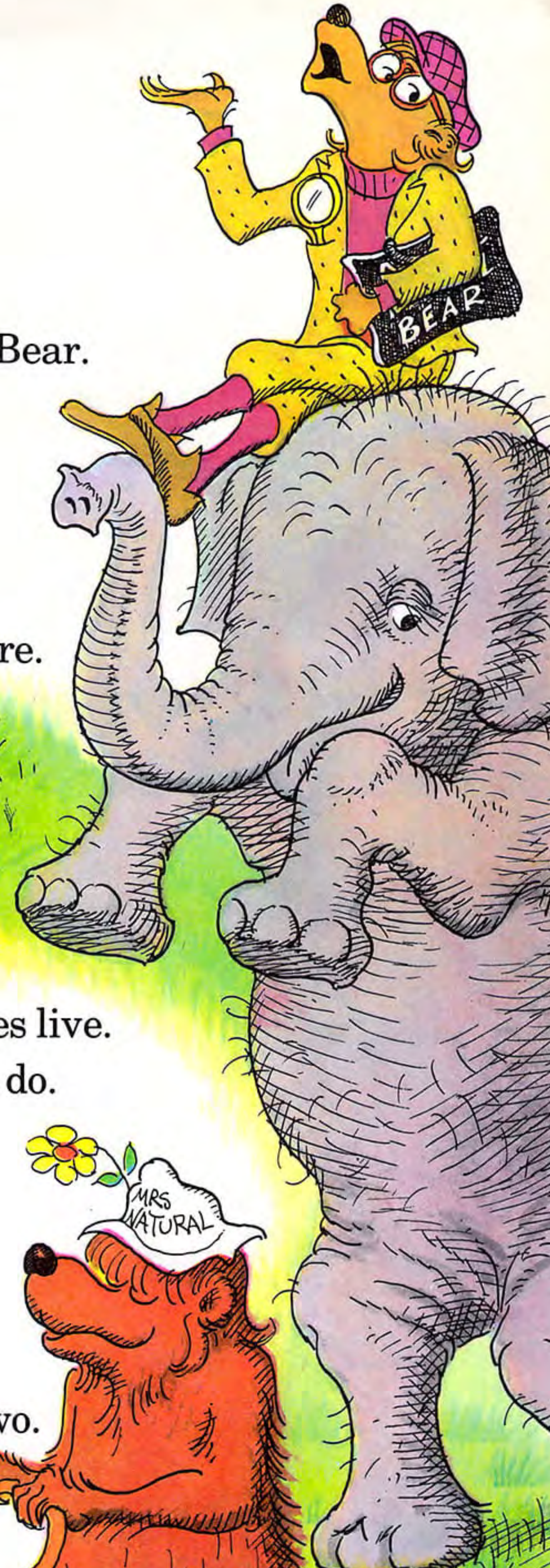
These are all animals
that we call MAMMALS.



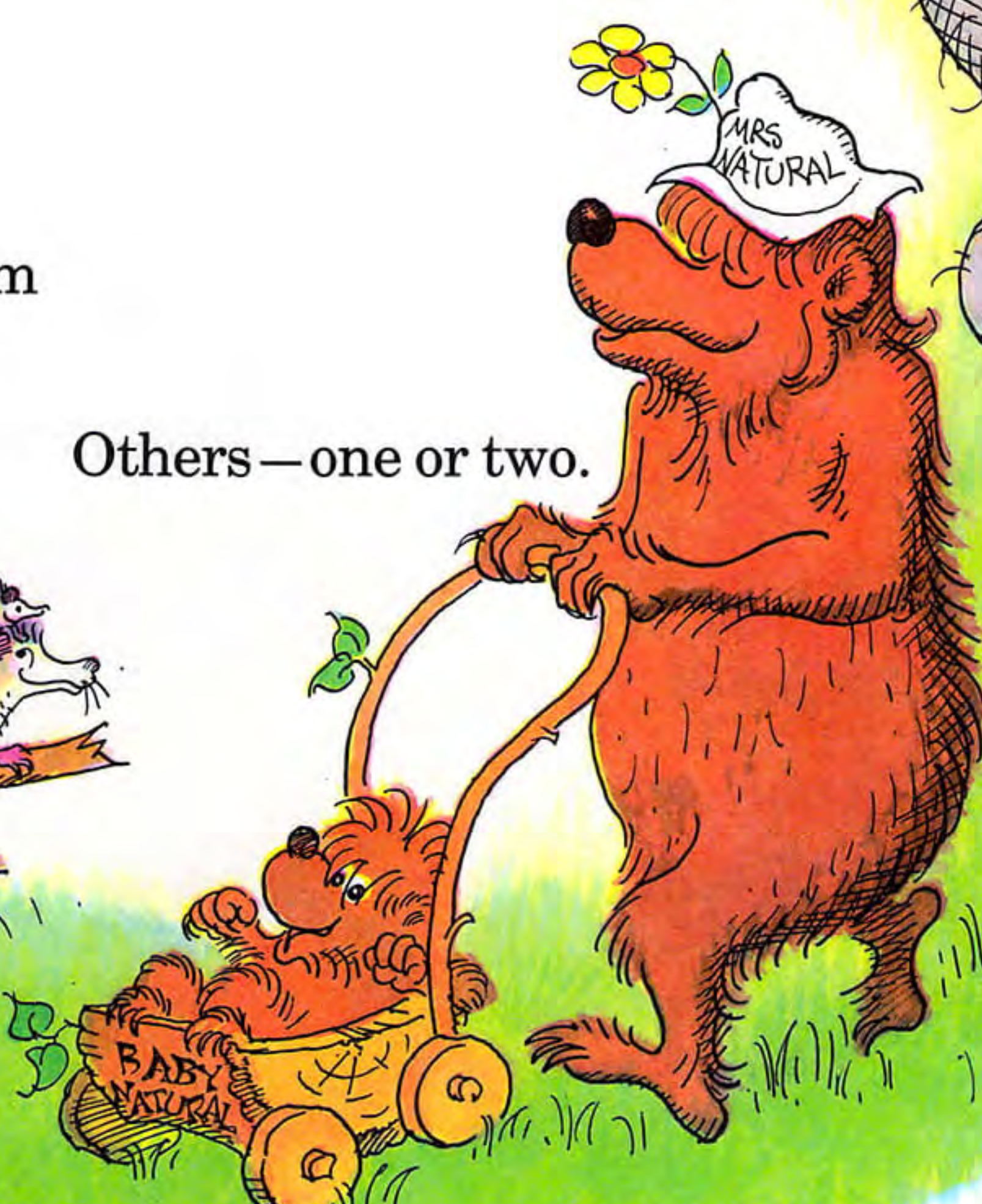
Mammals grow
fur or hair.

Some have a lot,
like Great Natural Bear.

Others—just a little,
scattered here and there.



Mammals have their babies live.
That is, MOTHER mammals do.



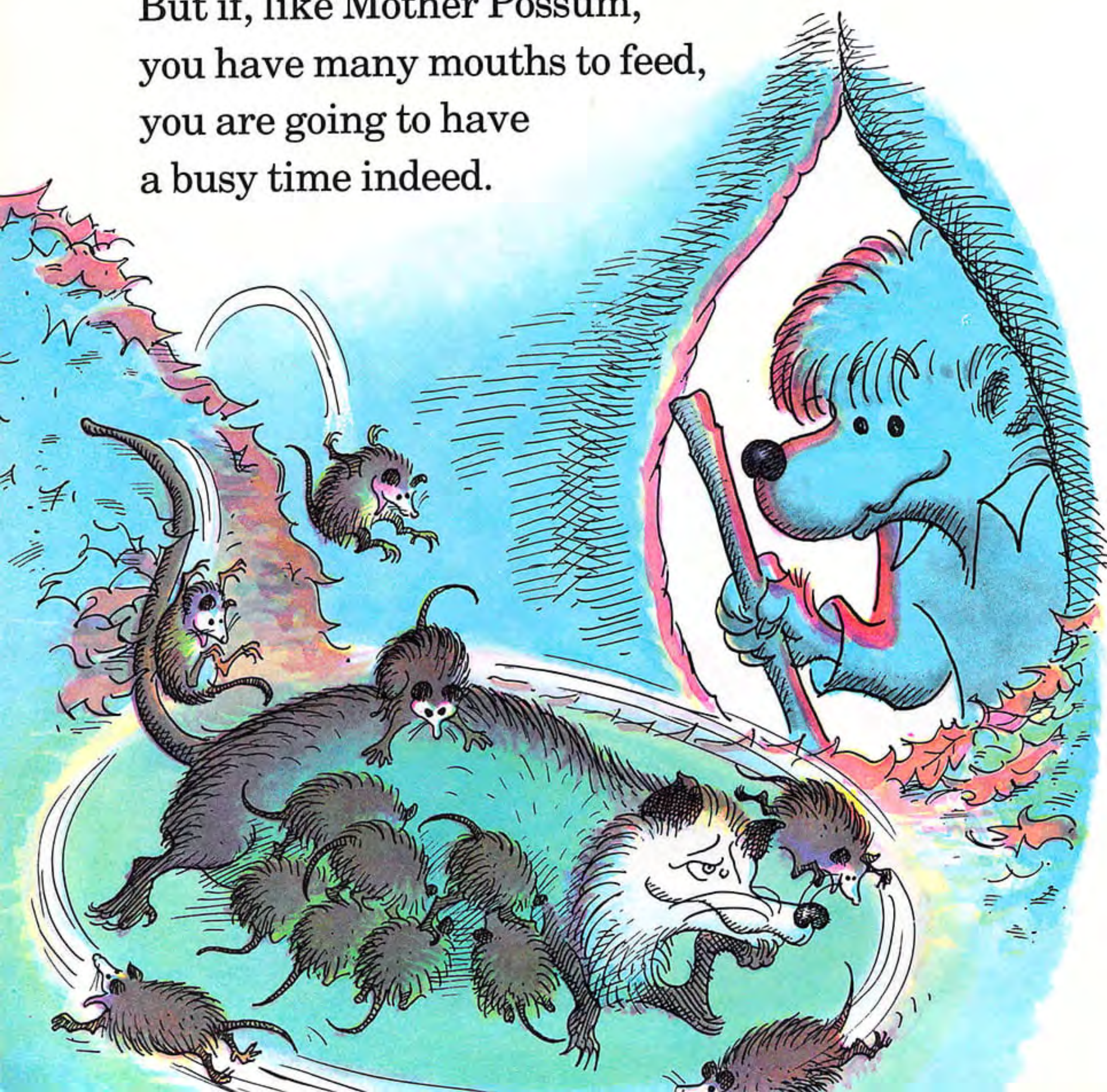
Some of them
have a lot.

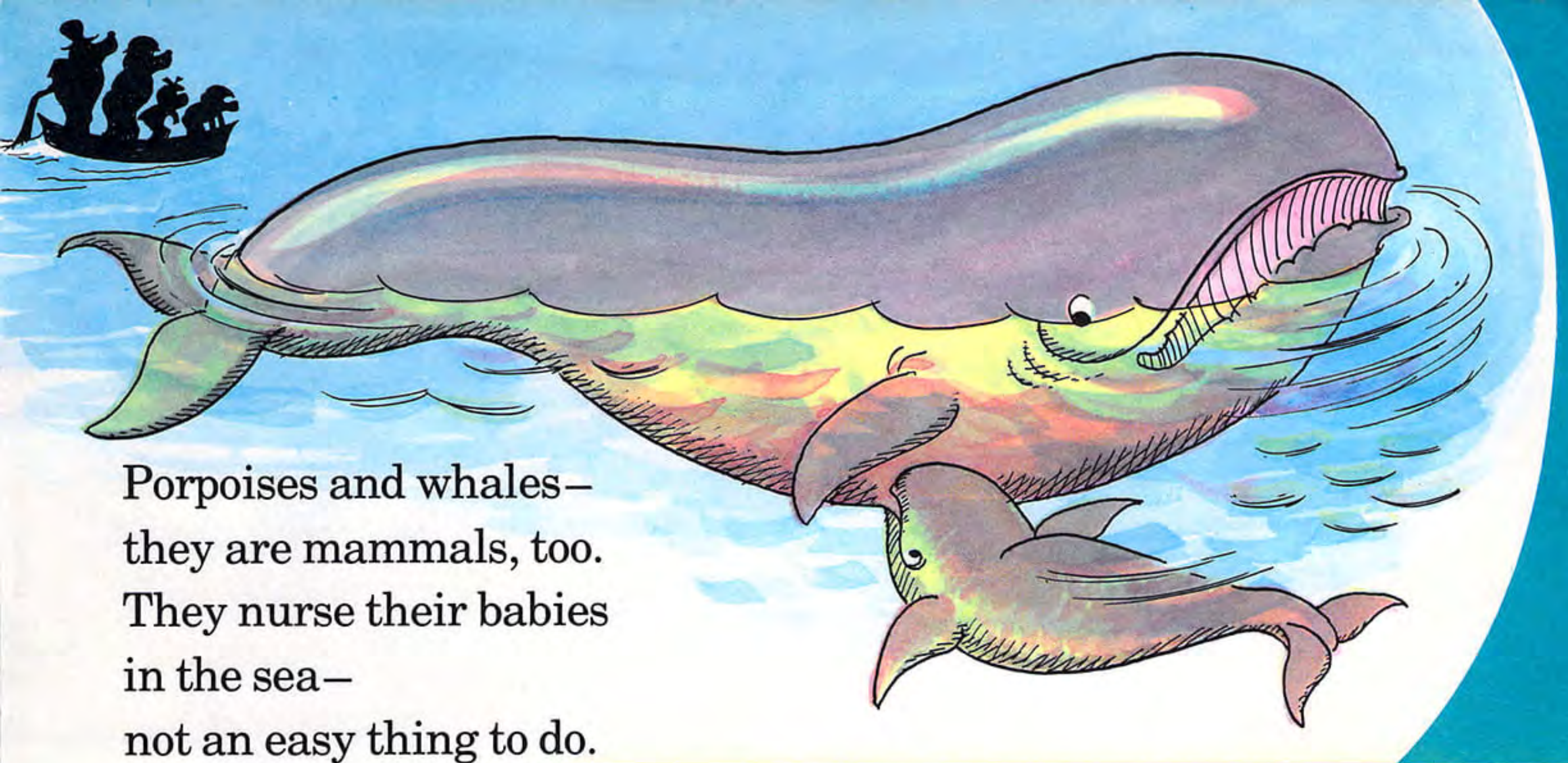
Others—one or two.

Mammals nurse their young.
That is, MOTHER mammals do.

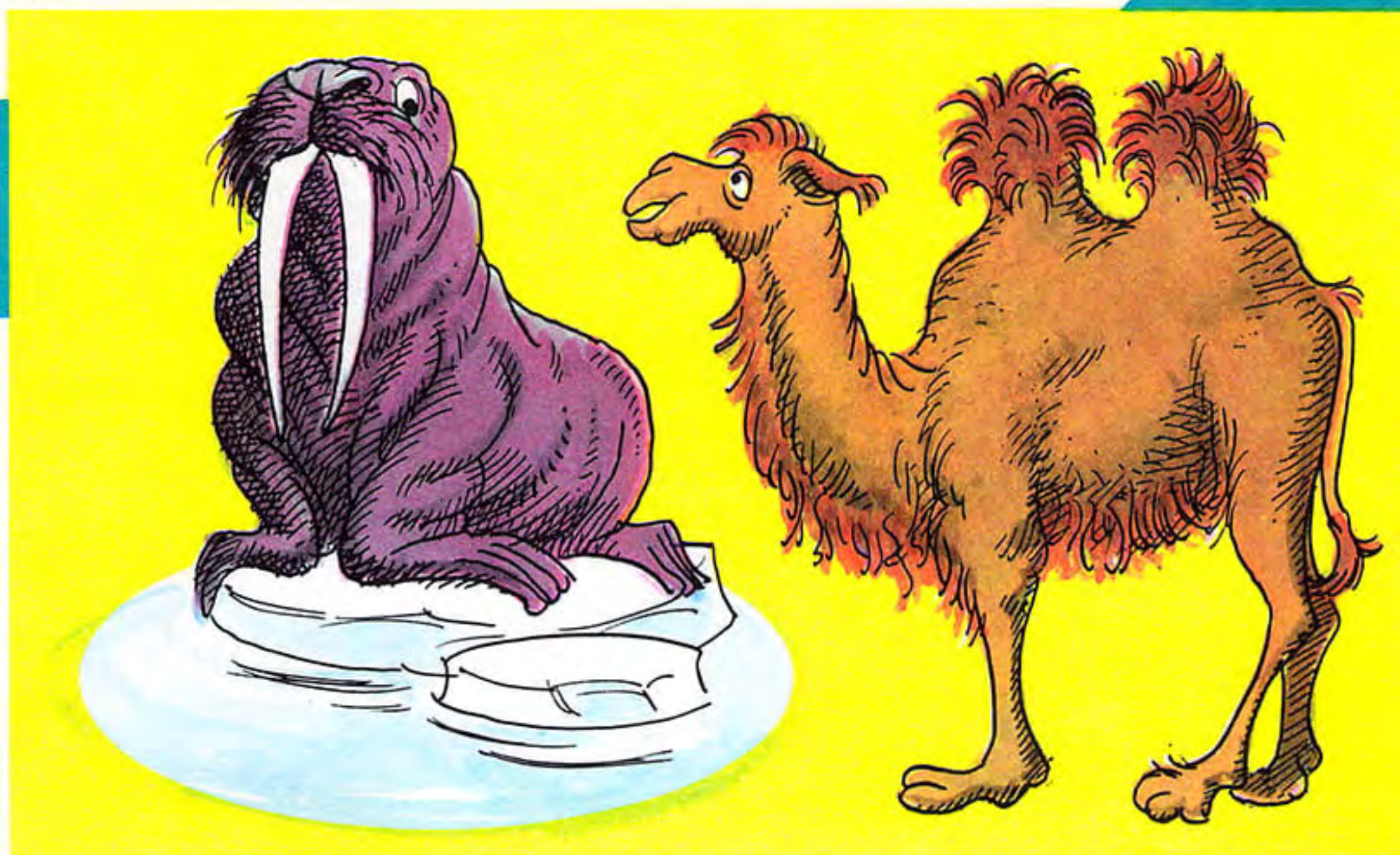


But if, like Mother Possum,
you have many mouths to feed,
you are going to have
a busy time indeed.





Porpoises and whales—
they are mammals, too.
They nurse their babies
in the sea—
not an easy thing to do.



There are
many strange
and odd-shaped
mammals,
like walruses
and two-humped camels.

But what is really
strange to us
is the funny duckbill
platypus.
It has a furry body
and furry little legs,
but its feet and bill are duck-like.
And, duck-like, it lays eggs.



THE BEARS' OFFICIAL BIRD WATCHING STATION

THE BIRDS' OFFICIAL
BEAR WATCHING
STATION

Birds come
in many colors
and have many
different habits.

Robin Redbreast
catches worms.

Owls catch mice
and rabbits.

Papa Cardinal
is very red.

Mama's mostly brown.

The white-breasted nuthatch
has dinner upside-down.





The vulture sees
for miles around.



Canada goose
makes a honking sound.



Hermit thrush is very shy.



Hawk is fierce and bold.



Stormy petrel likes the rain.



Junco likes the cold.



Some birds are
very proud.
They say their names
right out loud.



Towhee says, "Towhee! Towhee!"



Chickadee says, "Chickadee-dee-dee!"



Guess who says "Bob White! Bob White!"

If you guessed bobwhite,
you're right!



Oriole's nest
is one of the best.
It's big and strong
and round.



Killdeer builds
no nest at all.
It lays its eggs
on the ground!

Cowbirds are not
very good mothers.
They lay their eggs
in the nests of others.

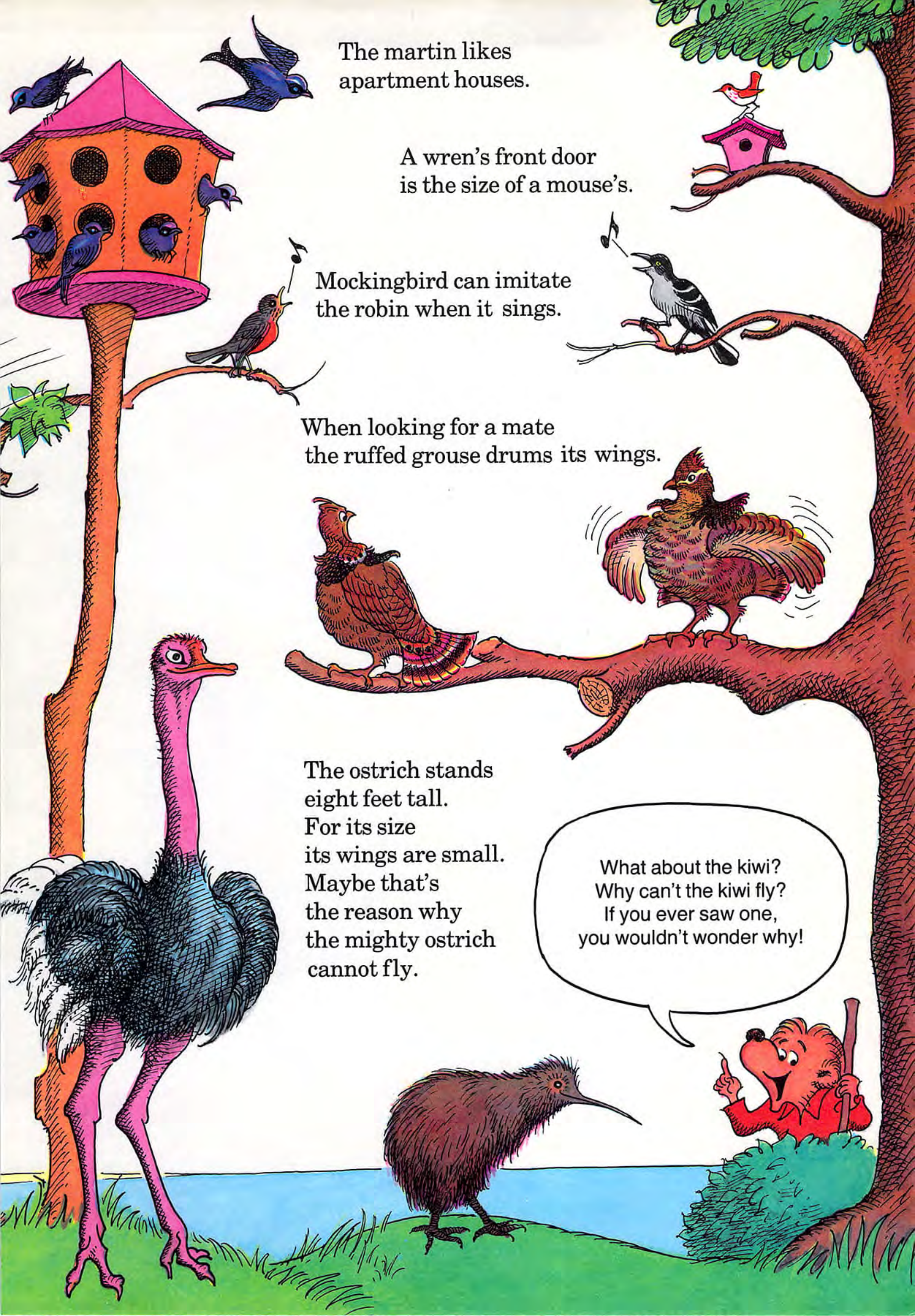
See the great
brown pelican.
Its bill holds more
than its belly can.

Ducks and geese
are waterfowl.

Seagulls like
to swoop and soar.

Sandpipers run
along the shore.

**ADVICE TO
MICE:
Beware of
owl!**



The martin likes
apartment houses.

A wren's front door
is the size of a mouse's.

Mockingbird can imitate
the robin when it sings.

When looking for a mate
the ruffed grouse drums its wings.

The ostrich stands
eight feet tall.
For its size
its wings are small.
Maybe that's
the reason why
the mighty ostrich
cannot fly.

What about the kiwi?
Why can't the kiwi fly?
If you ever saw one,
you wouldn't wonder why!

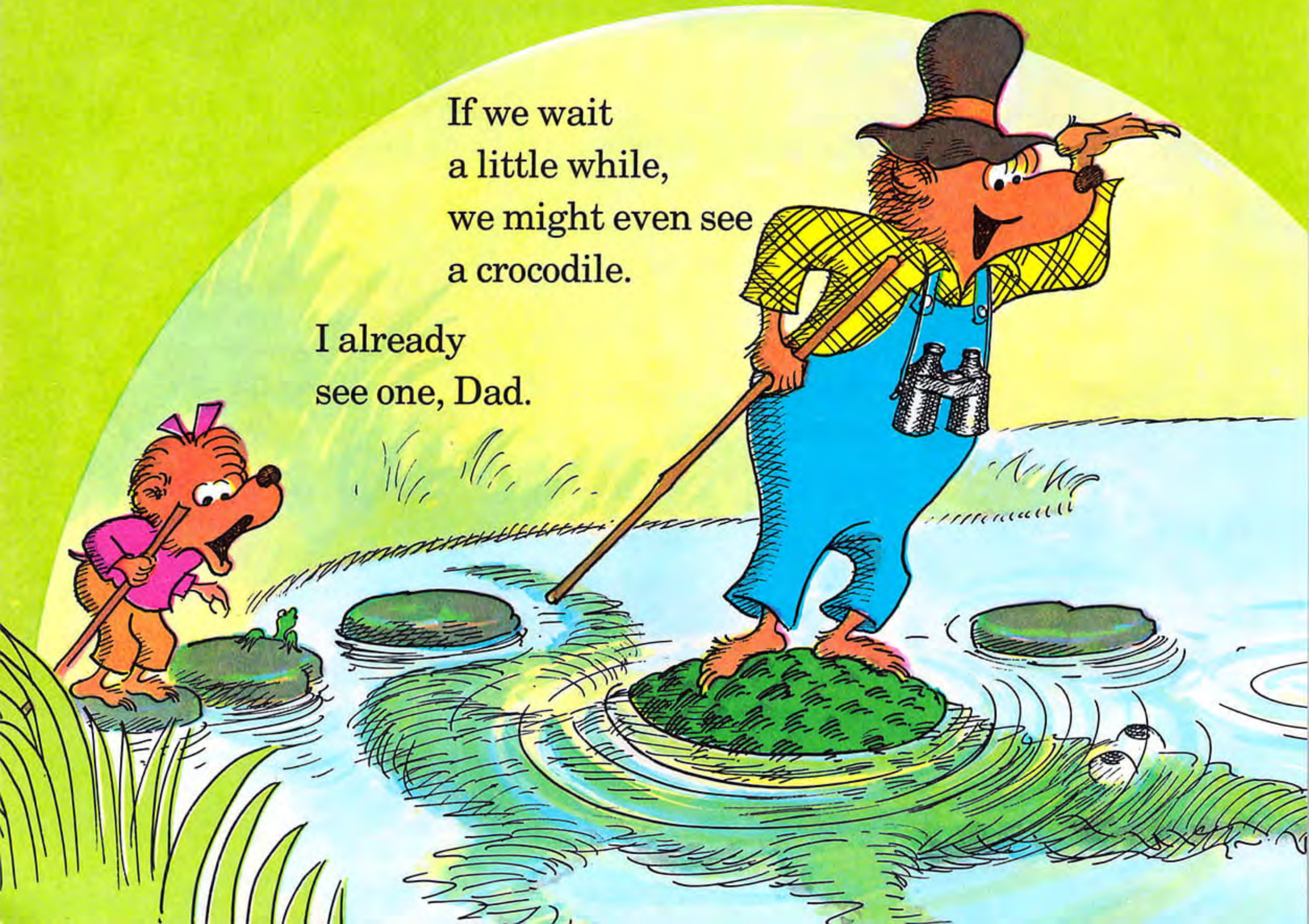


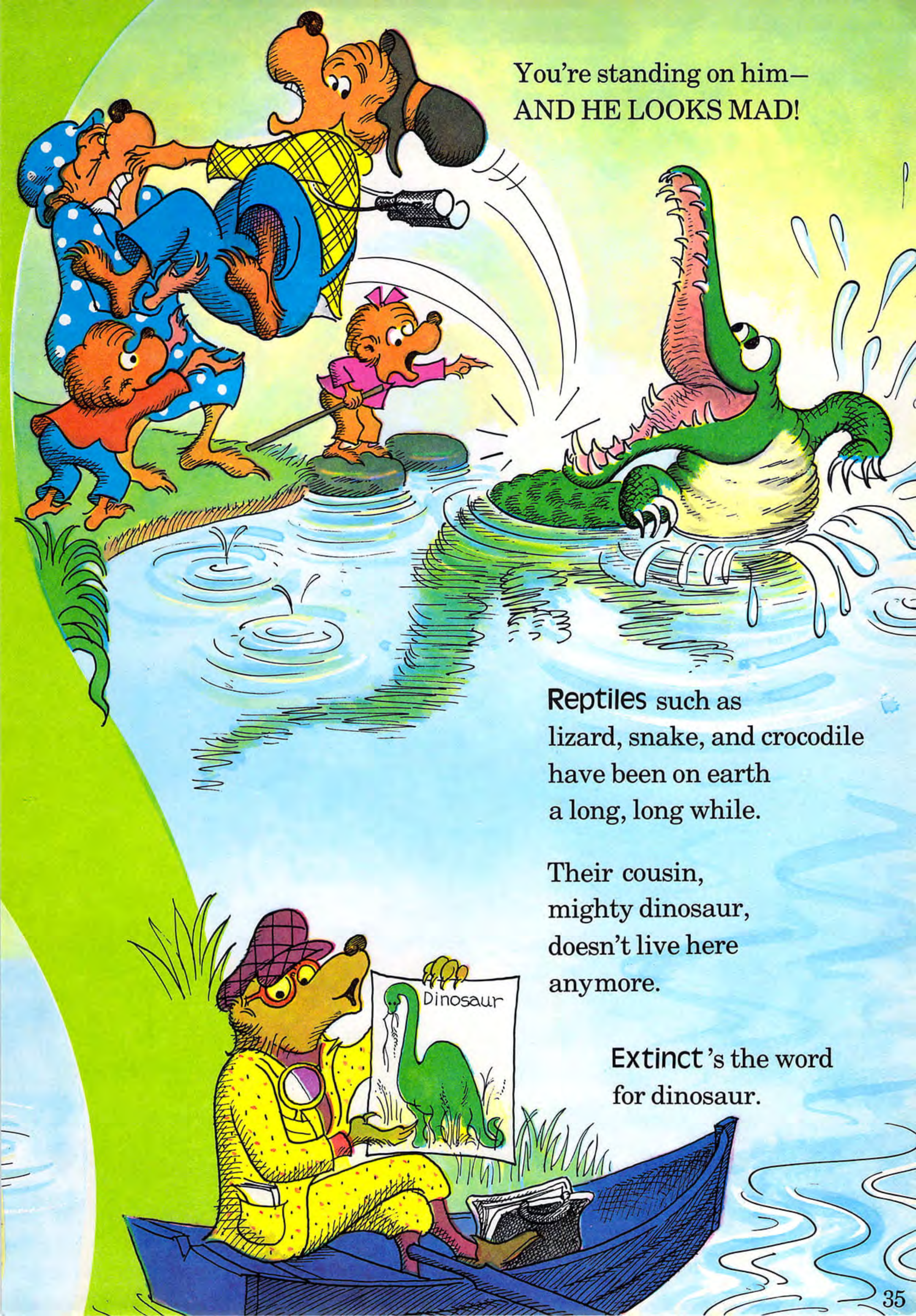
On any nature
walk I take,
I always go past
Great Swamp Lake.

Turtles! Lizards!
A water snake!
REPTILES live in
Great Swamp Lake!

If we wait
a little while,
we might even see
a crocodile.

I already
see one, Dad.





You're standing on him—
AND HE LOOKS MAD!

Reptiles such as
lizard, snake, and crocodile
have been on earth
a long, long while.

Their cousin,
mighty dinosaur,
doesn't live here
anymore.

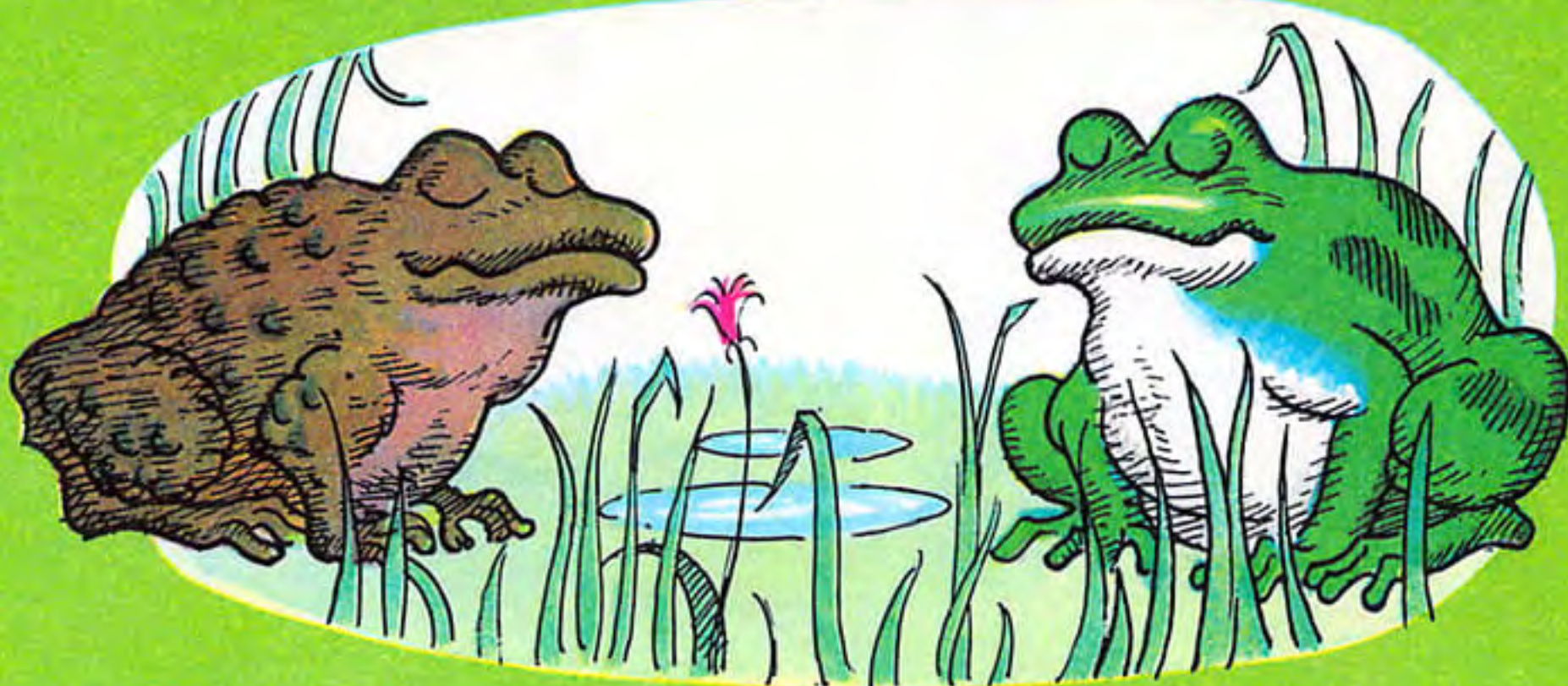
Extinct's the word
for dinosaur.



Here's the story
of a toad and a frog,
two AMPHIBIANS
from Swampuddle Bog:



One afternoon
a toad and a frog
were napping together
in Swampuddle Bog.



A fine, fat fly
came a-buzzin'
right between
the toad and his cousin.

The toad and the frog
each opened an eye
and thought to themselves,
"A fine, fat fly!"



ACTUAL FACTS ABOUT TOADS & FROGS



First, the mother
lays her eggs.



Tads hatch out.



The tads grow legs.



“I’ll shoot out my tongue
with a zip and a zap,
have a quick swallow,
and go on with my nap.”

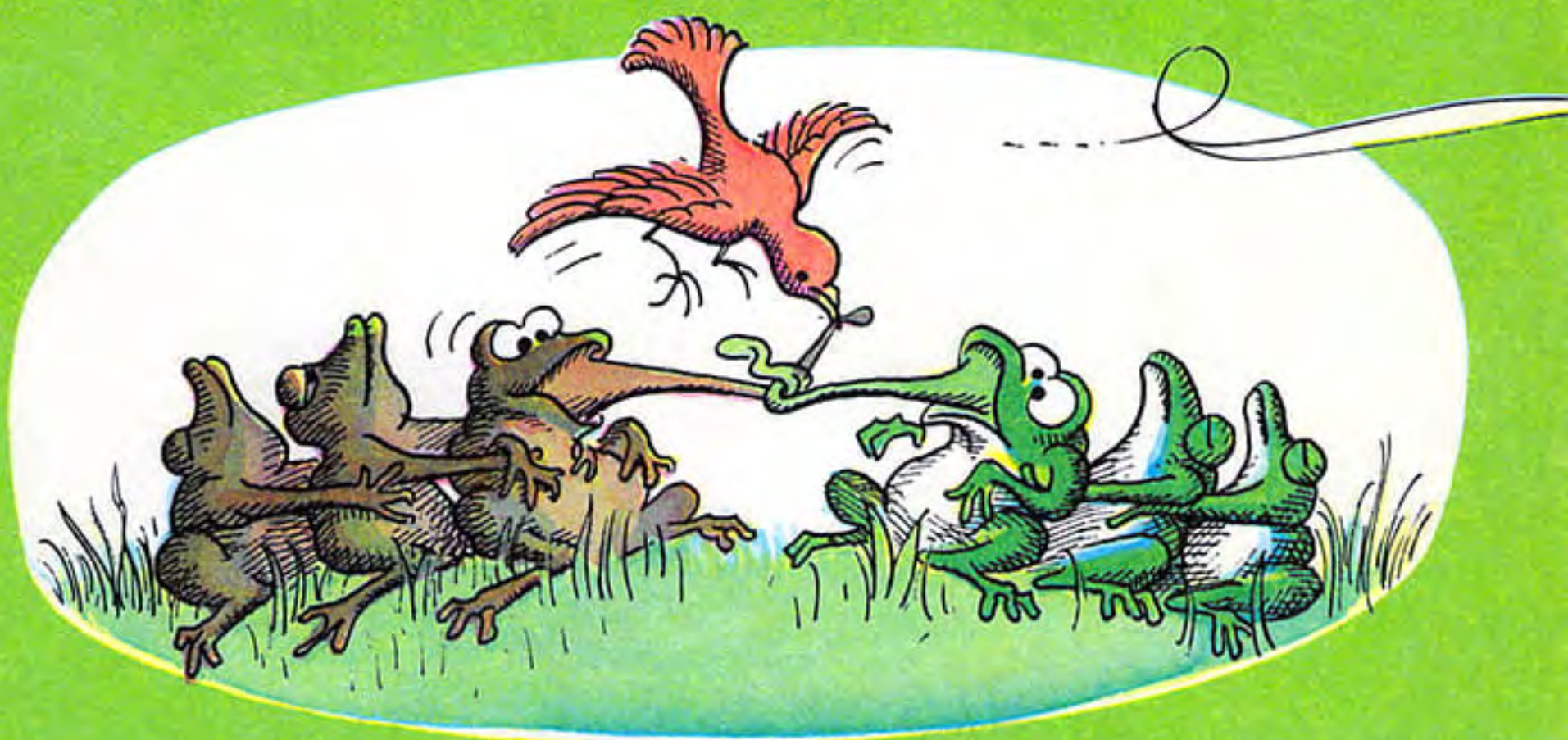


Out came the tongues
as quick as a shot
and tied themselves up
in a big sticky knot.

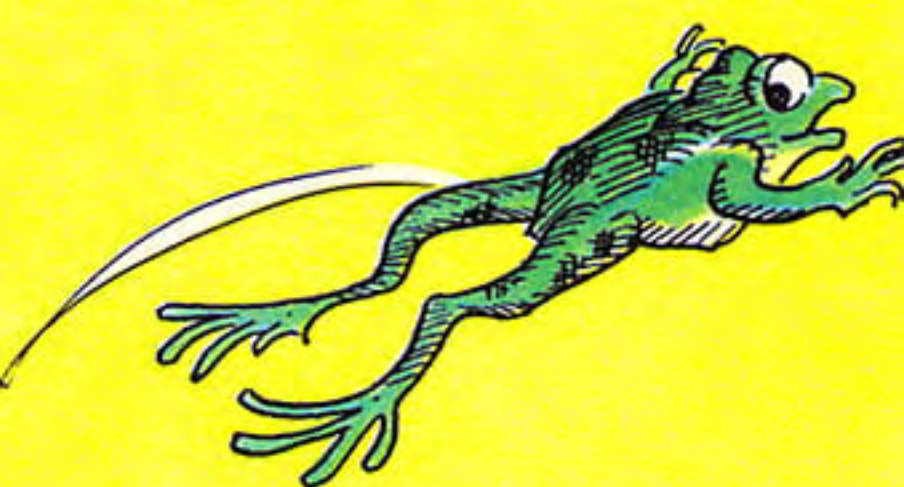
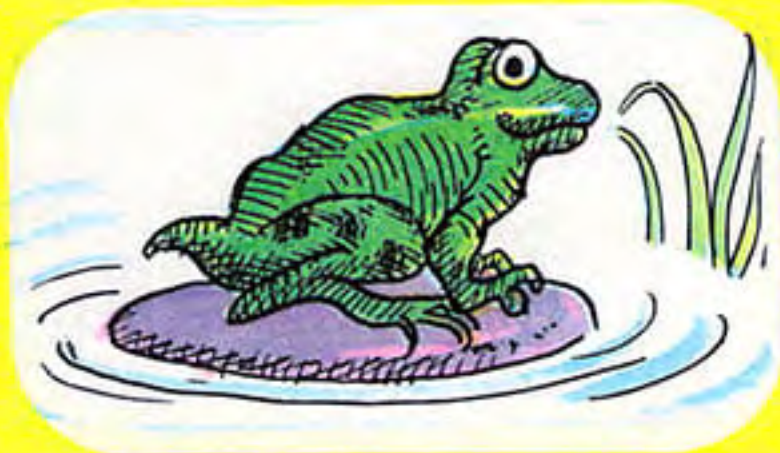


Where was the fly?
The fly was still there,
but the two sticky tongues
were stuck in midair!

To untangle them took
the rest of the day
and as for the fly
... he got away.



And what do we learn
from that fly that came buzzin’?
Never stick out
your tongue at your cousin!



They grow until

one fine day

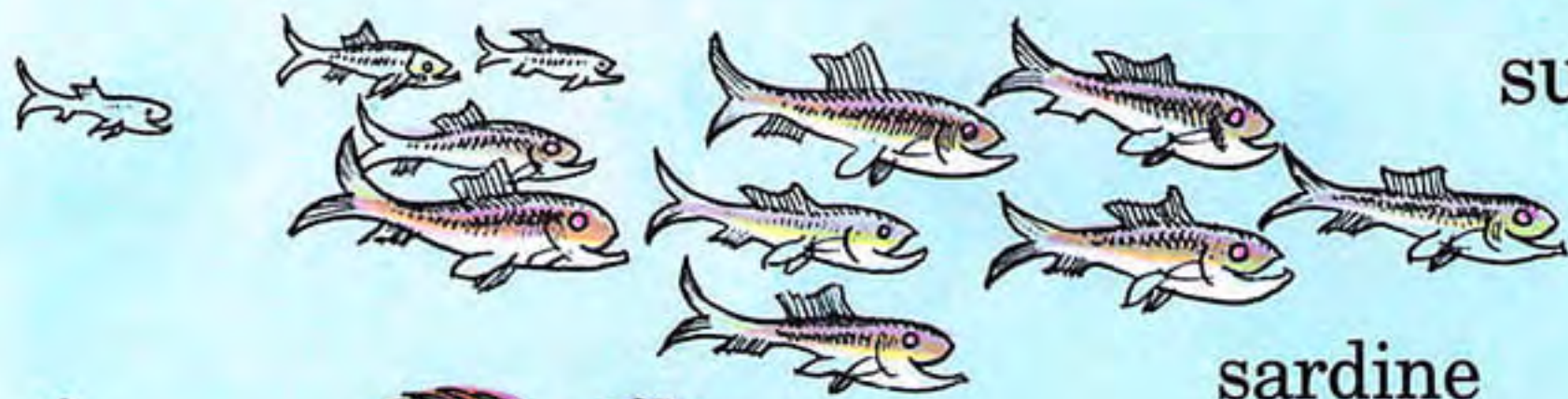
they lose their tails

and hop away!

FISH

AND OTHER ANIMALS OF THE SEA

Another kind of animal
can easily be seen
from Actual Factual's
submarine!



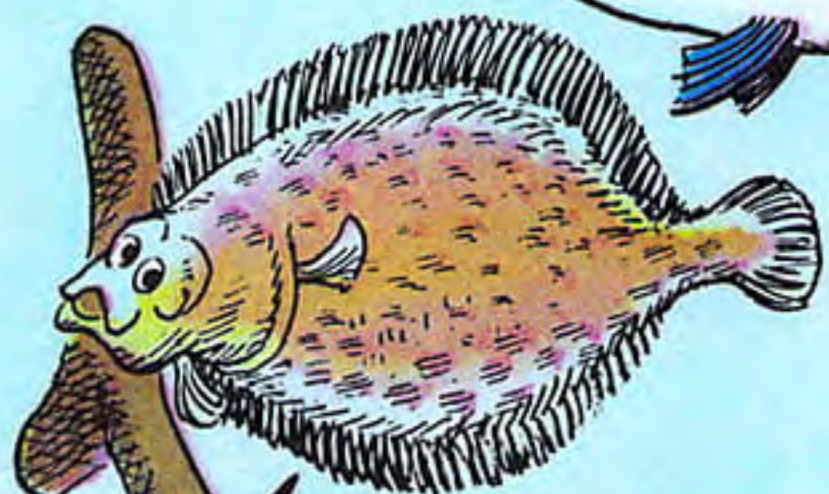
sardine



bass

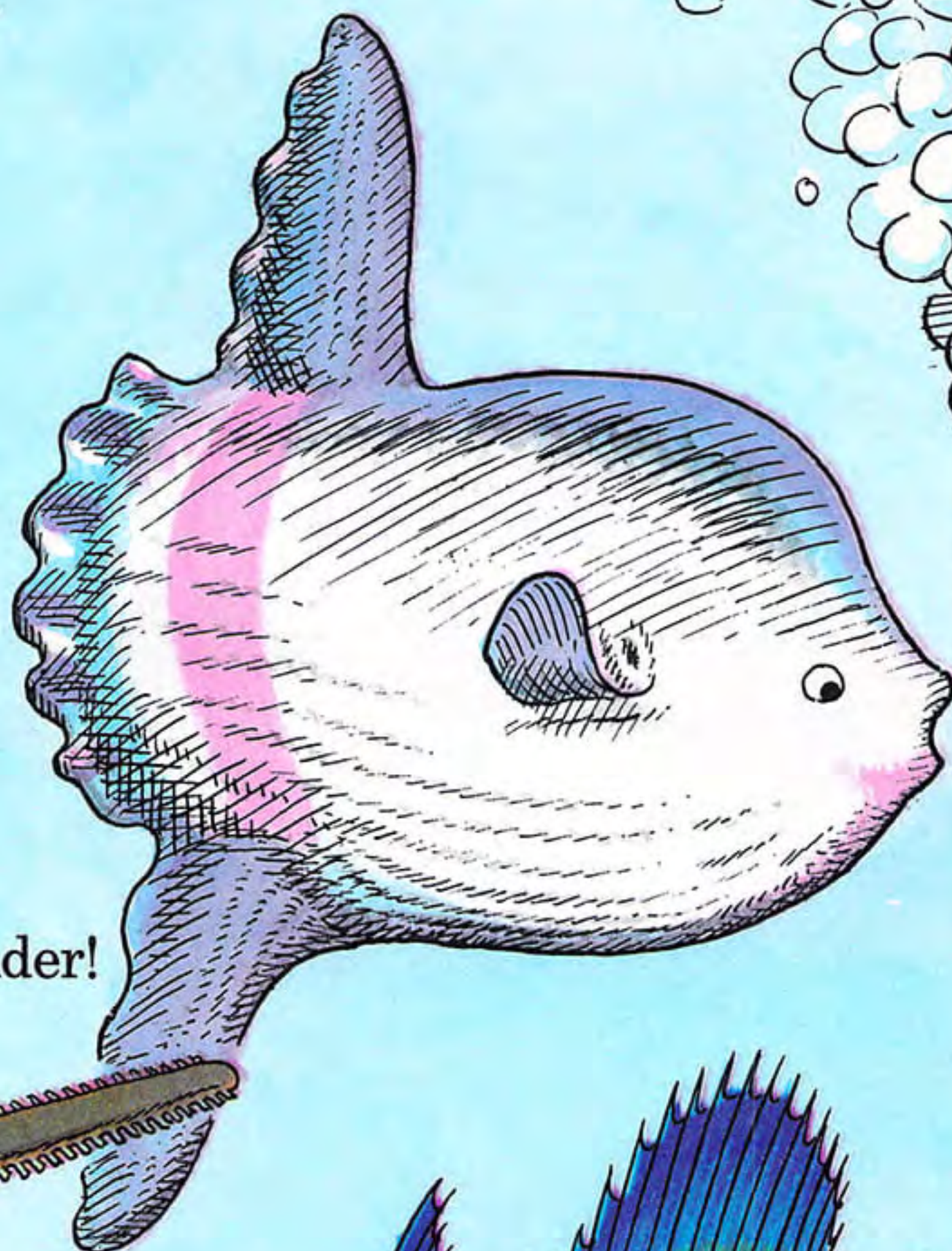


tuna

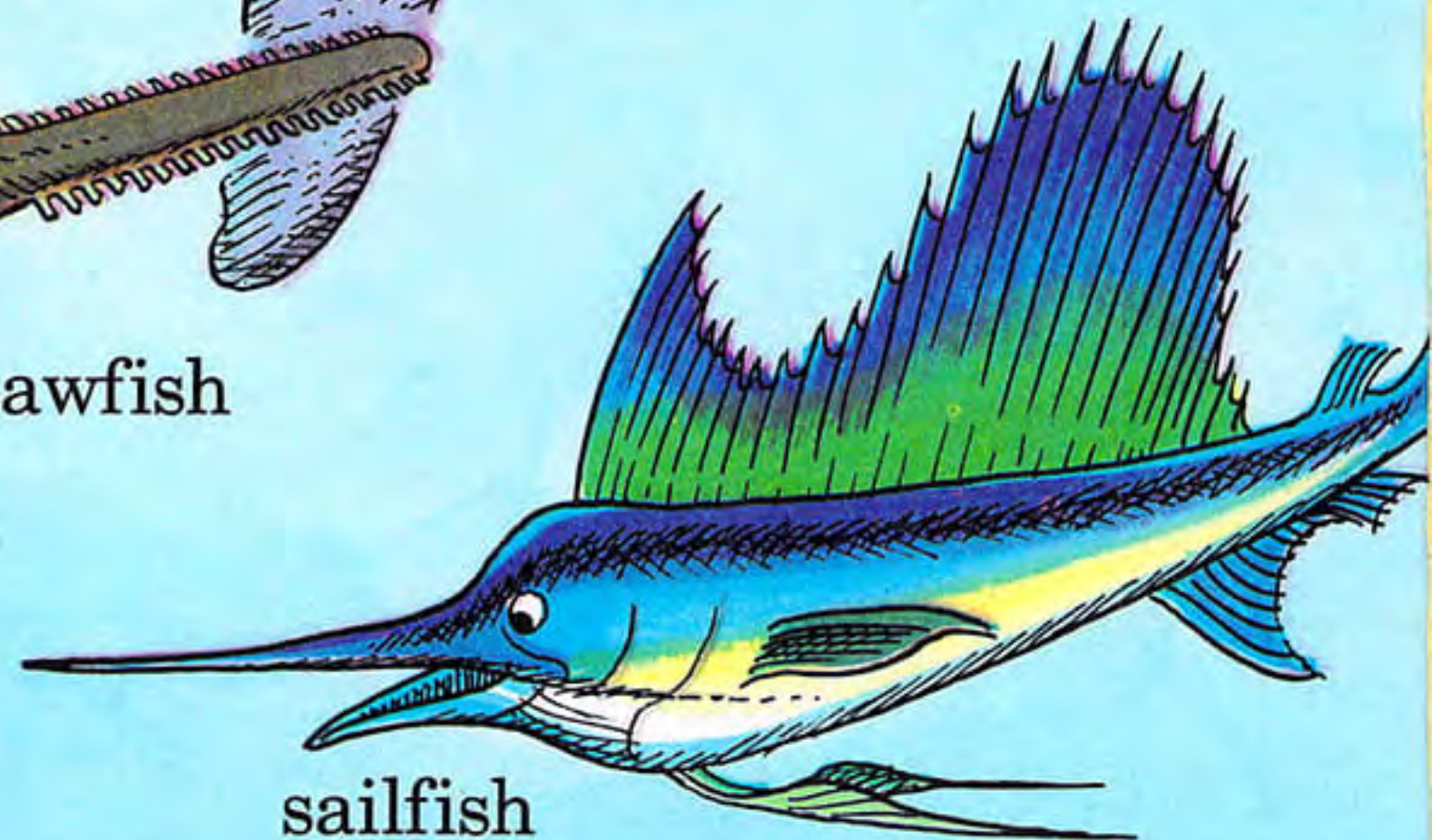


flounder

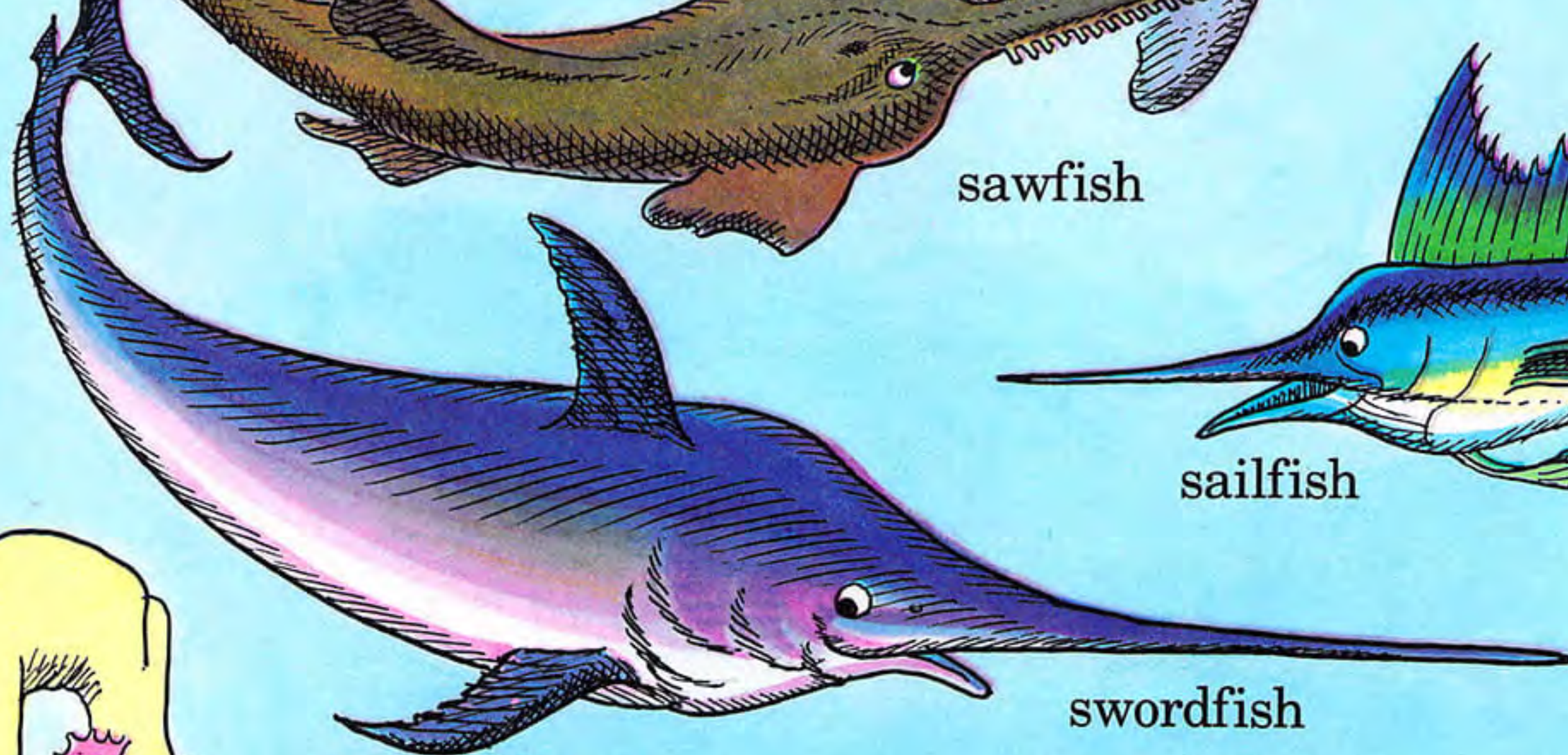
That sunfish is
a thousand-pounder!



sawfish



sailfish



swordfish



Sea horse is
the ocean's odd fish!

codfish



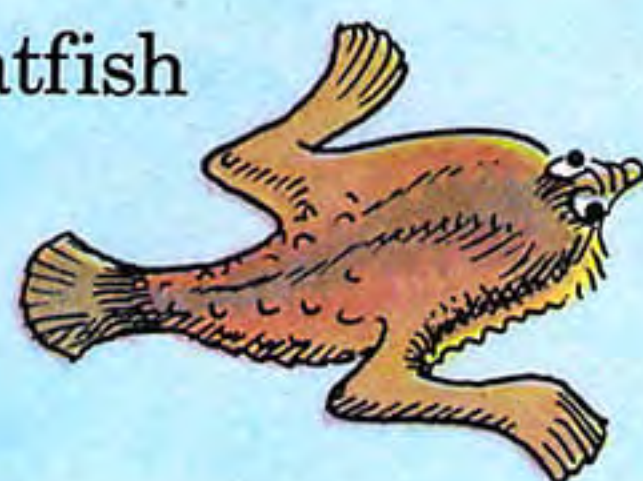
catfish



hogfish



batfish



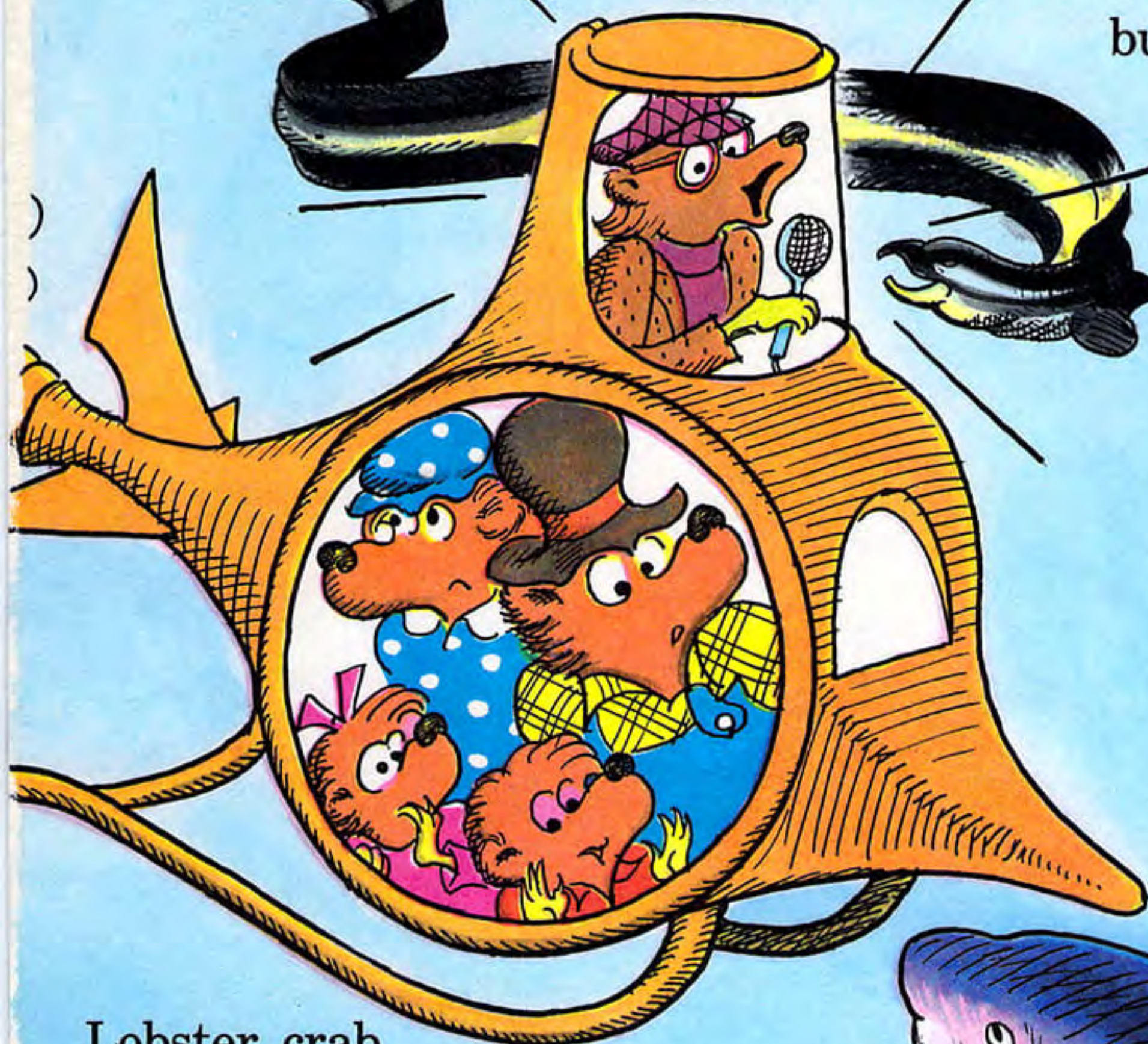
dogfish



Dogfish bite
but they can't bark.



The same with
conger eel and shark.

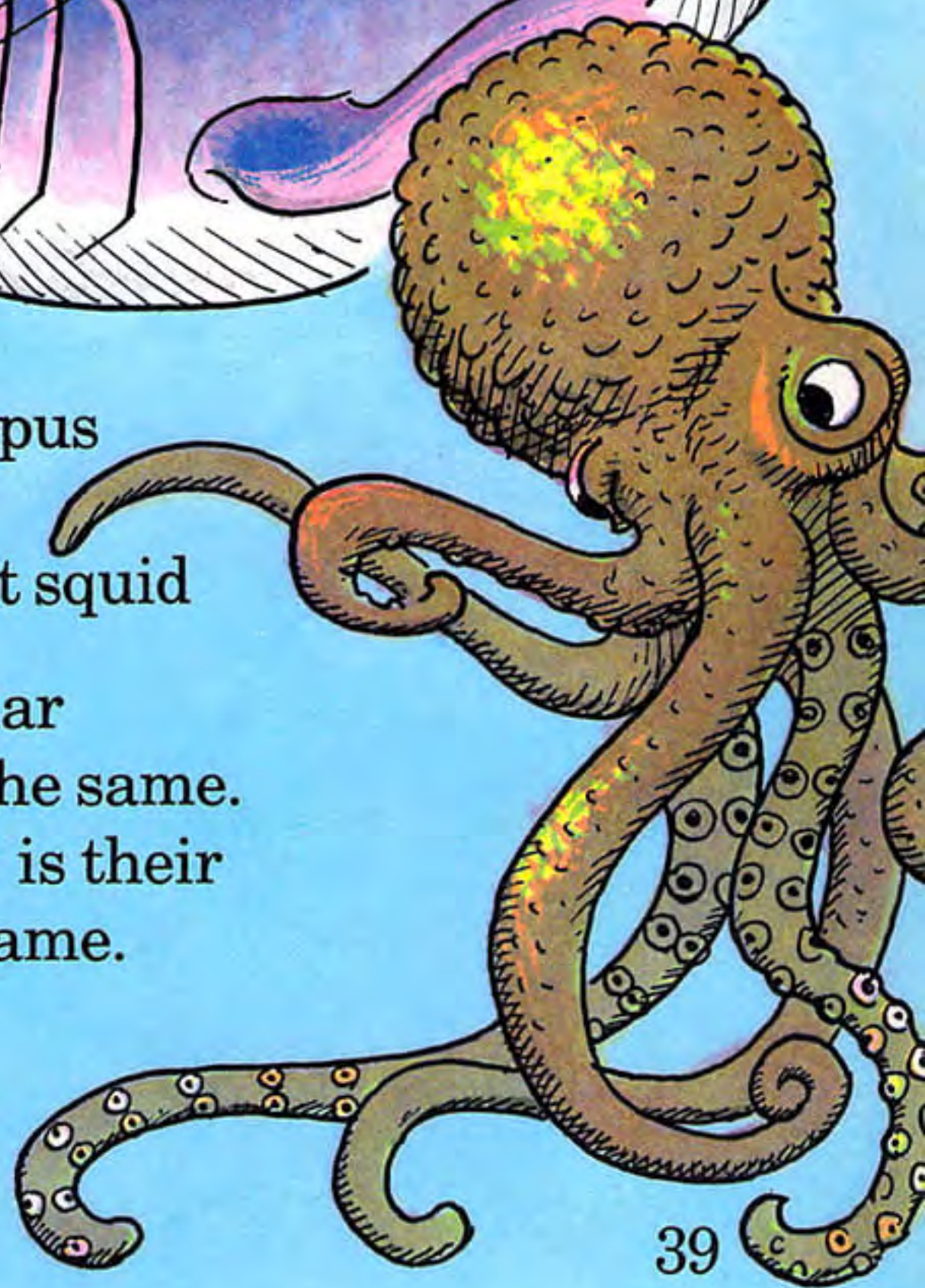
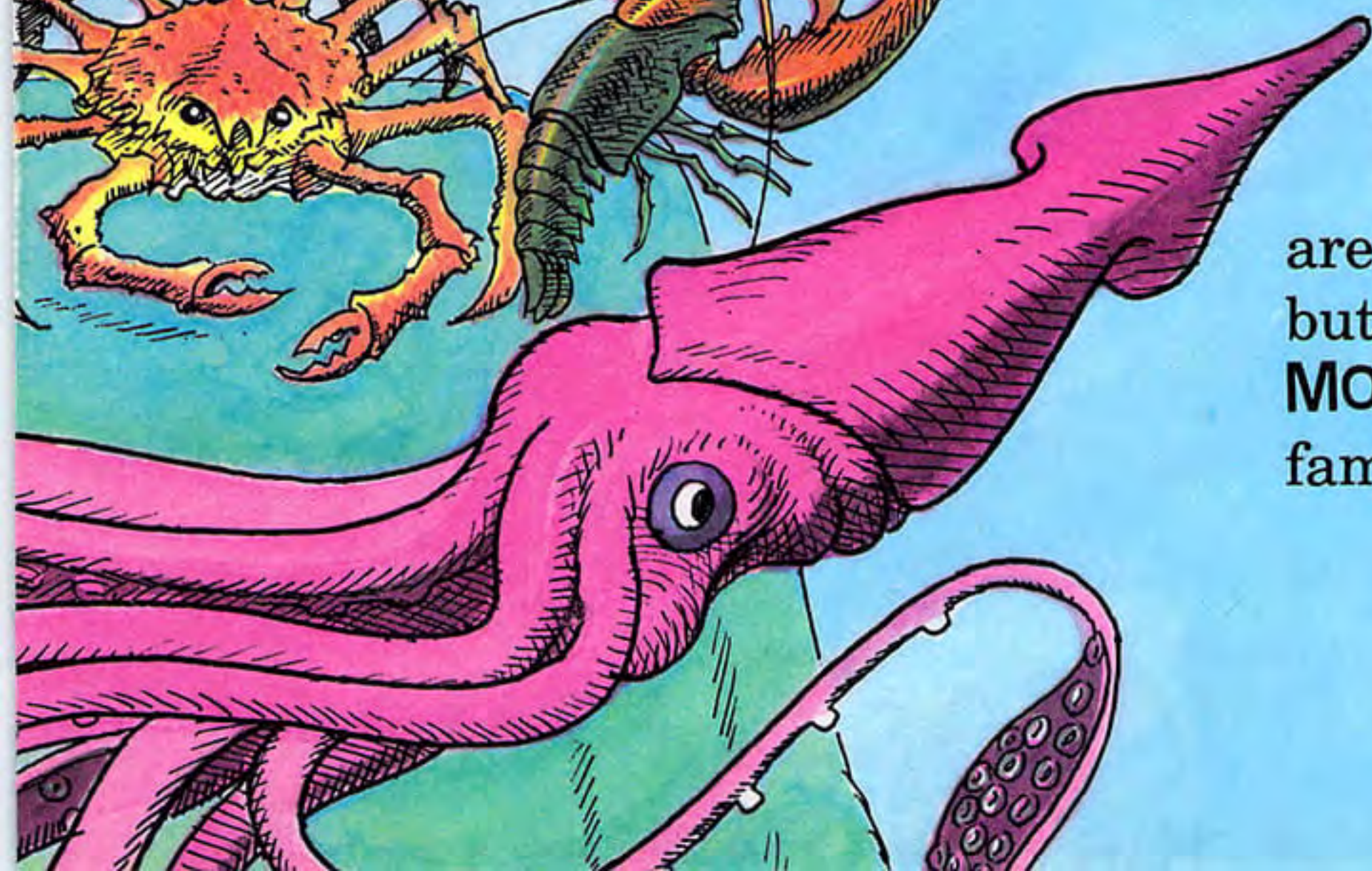


Lobster, crab,
and their relations
form a family
called **crustaceans**.



Octopus
and
giant squid

are similar
but not the same.
Mollusk is their
family name.



Wherever you go
you will find
members of
the **INSECT KIND.**

If you look closely
you will see . . .

we have
three-part bodies—
one, two, three.

Most of us have
two pairs of wings.

Our antennae are
these feeler things!

Most of us have
three pairs of legs,
and most of us
lay LOTS of eggs!



Hey! What's the hurry,
Big and Furry?
Insects are
an important kind!
There are more of us
than all the rest
of you combined!

Got no time
to talk to ants!
We must go on
to the world of plants!



ACTUAL FACTS ABOUT THE WORLD OF PLANTS

WHAT A PLANT CAN DO AND WHAT IT CAN'T



You can visit your friends
and watch TV.



A plant can't.



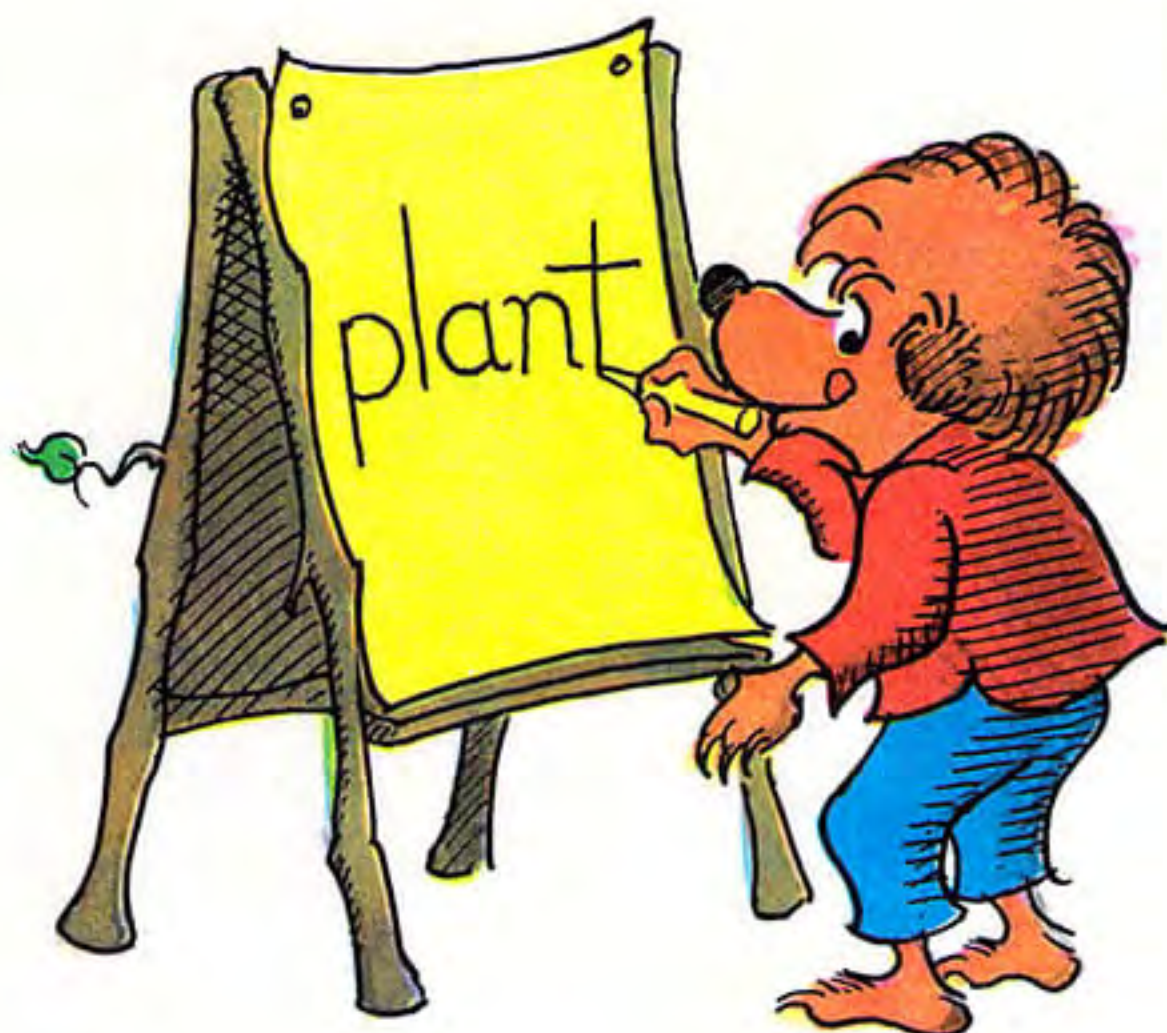
You can jump a puddle
and climb a tree.

A plant can't.





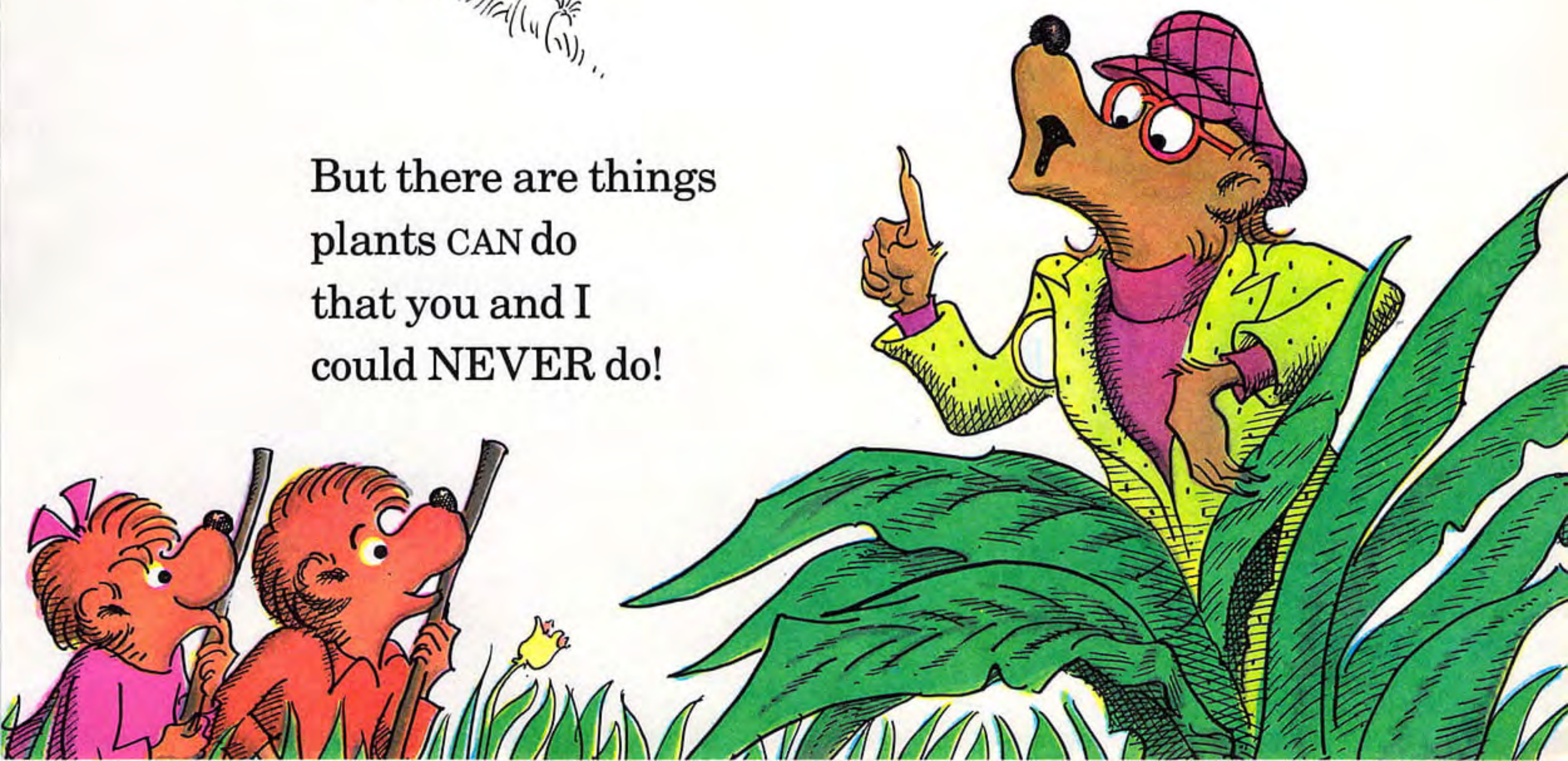
You can also
read and write.

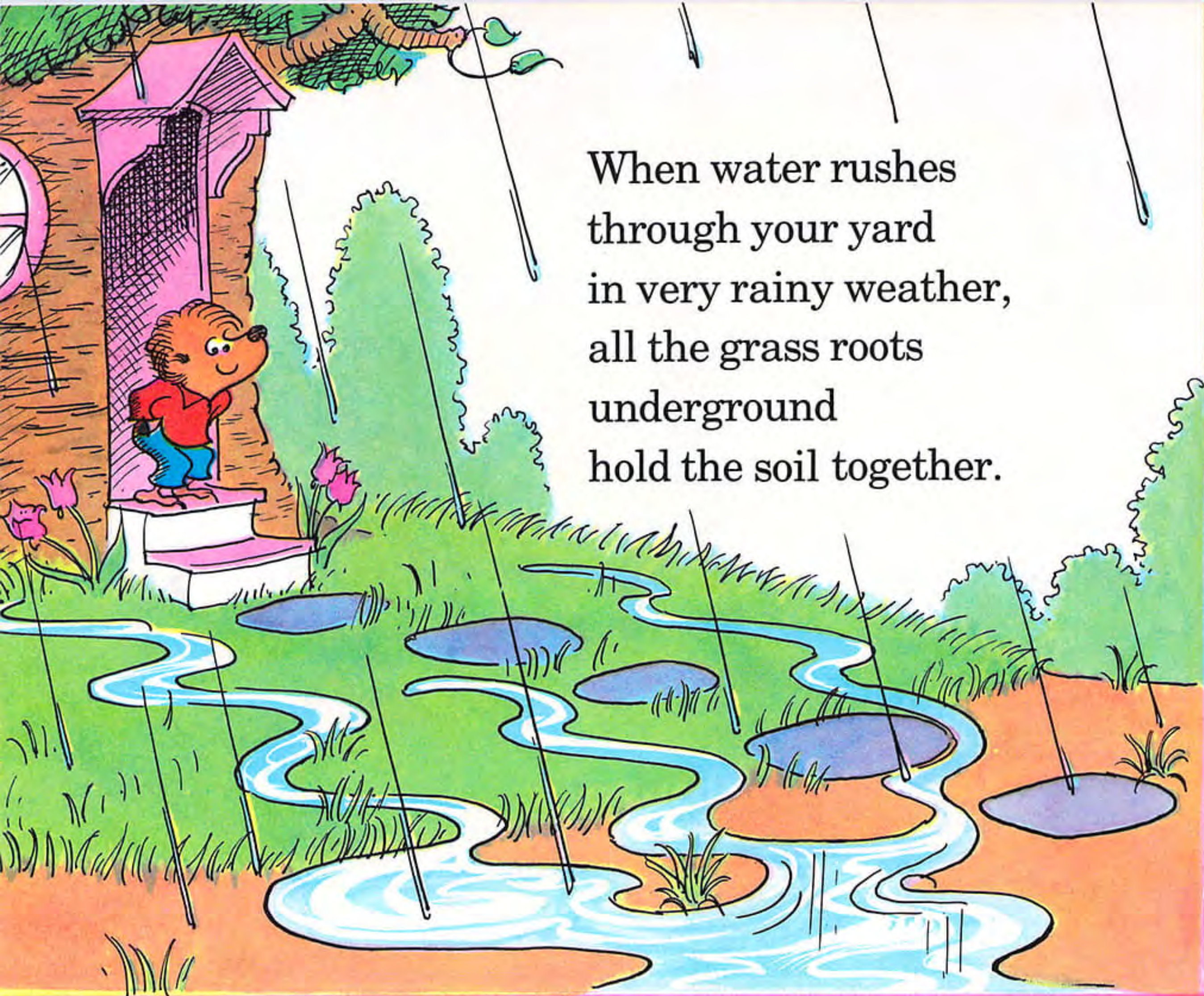


A plant can't even
fly a kite.

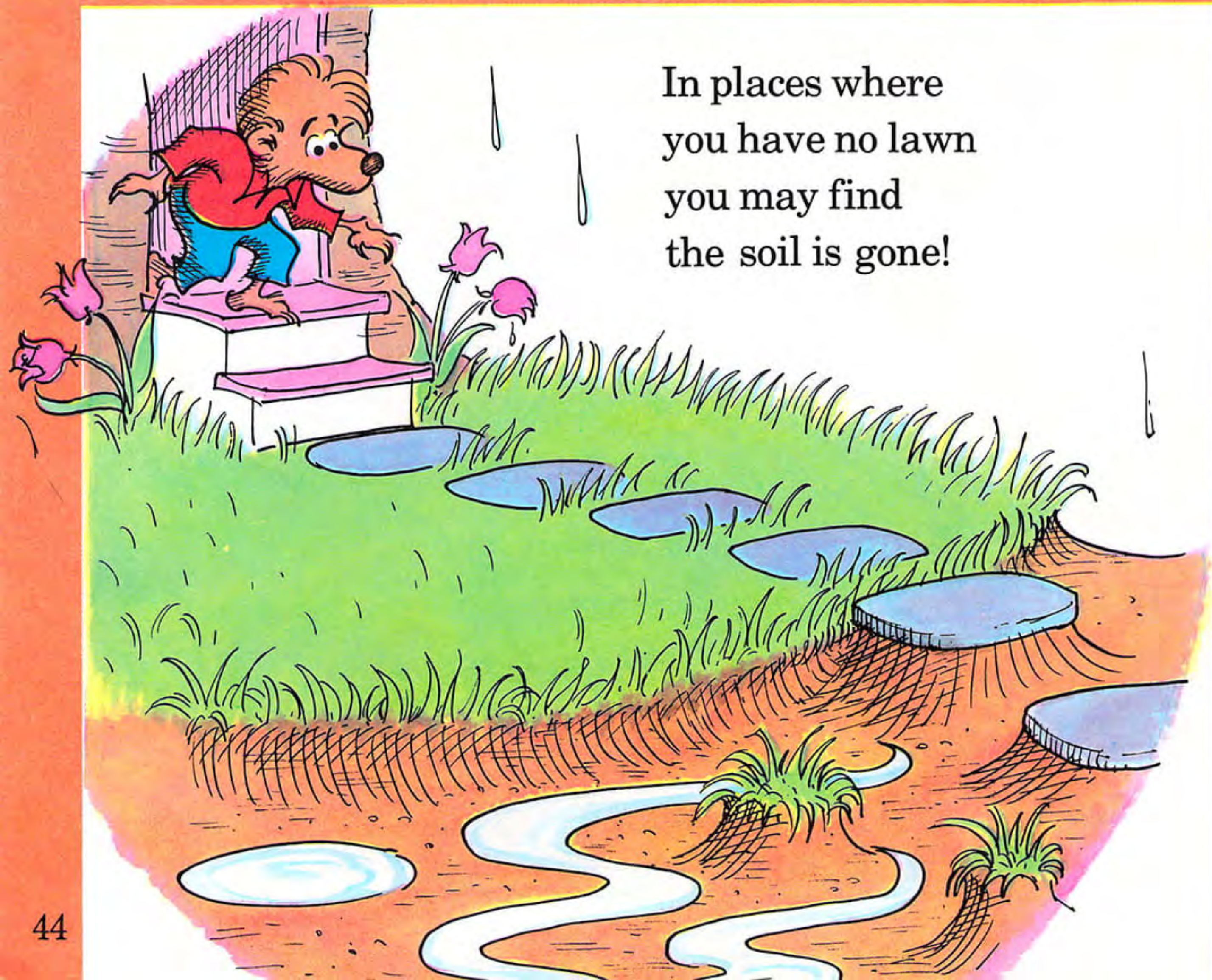


But there are things
plants CAN do
that you and I
could NEVER do!





When water rushes
through your yard
in very rainy weather,
all the grass roots
underground
hold the soil together.



In places where
you have no lawn
you may find
the soil is gone!

Plants are
food for us to eat—

every cabbage,
bean, and beet,
all the rice
and corn
and wheat.

And, in a way,
plants help make meat.

Look at chickens—

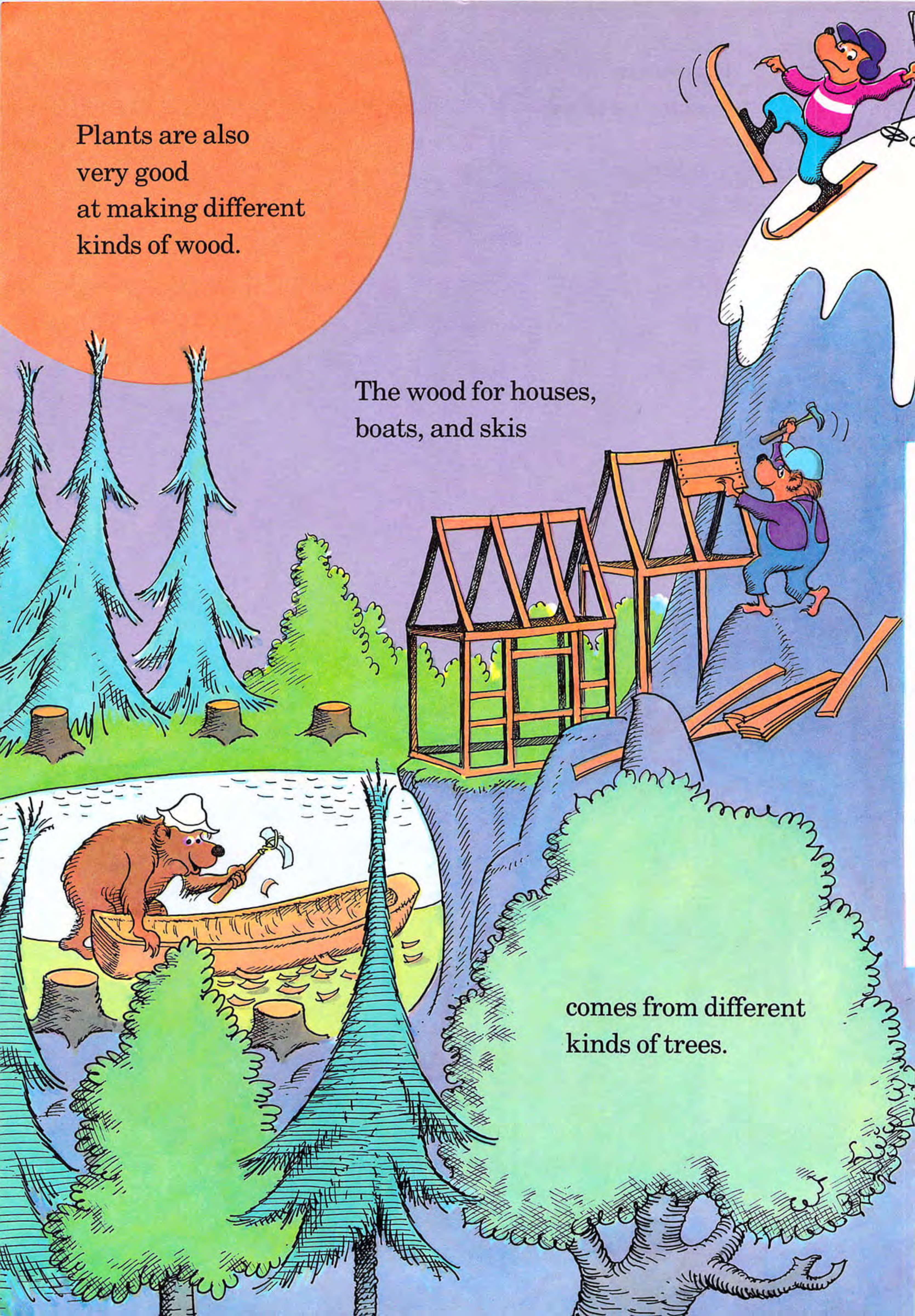
THEY feed
on grain and seed.



Plants are also
very good
at making different
kinds of wood.

The wood for houses,
boats, and skis

comes from different
kinds of trees.



Even clothes
can come from plants,
like jeans
and cotton underpants.



Plants help make the air we breathe.
They make a gas called **oxygen**,
the gas we use
when breathing IN.

Plants need a gas
called CO_2 ,
which they get
from me and you.
WE breathe OUT CO_2 .

That's something
we can think about
as we are breathing
in and out.

So, next time
you meet a plant,
remember . . .
what a plant CAN do
is more important
than what it can't.



ACTUAL FACTS ABOUT THE DIFFERENT KINDS OF PLANTS

The biggest, strongest
plant we see
is the kind of plant
we call a tree.

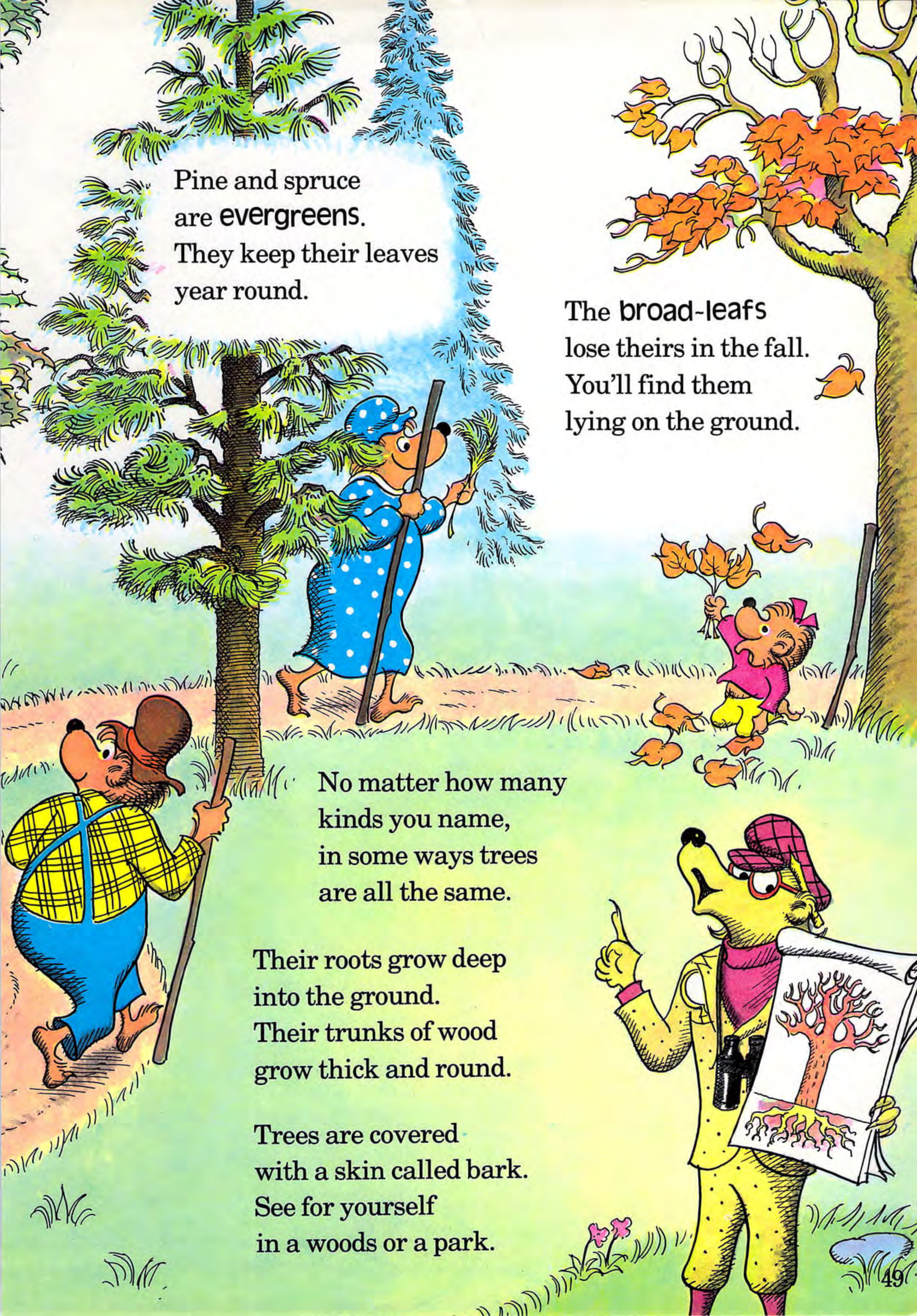
Elm is smooth.

Hickory's rough.

Willow bends.

Oak is tough!





Pine and spruce
are **evergreens**.
They keep their leaves
year round.

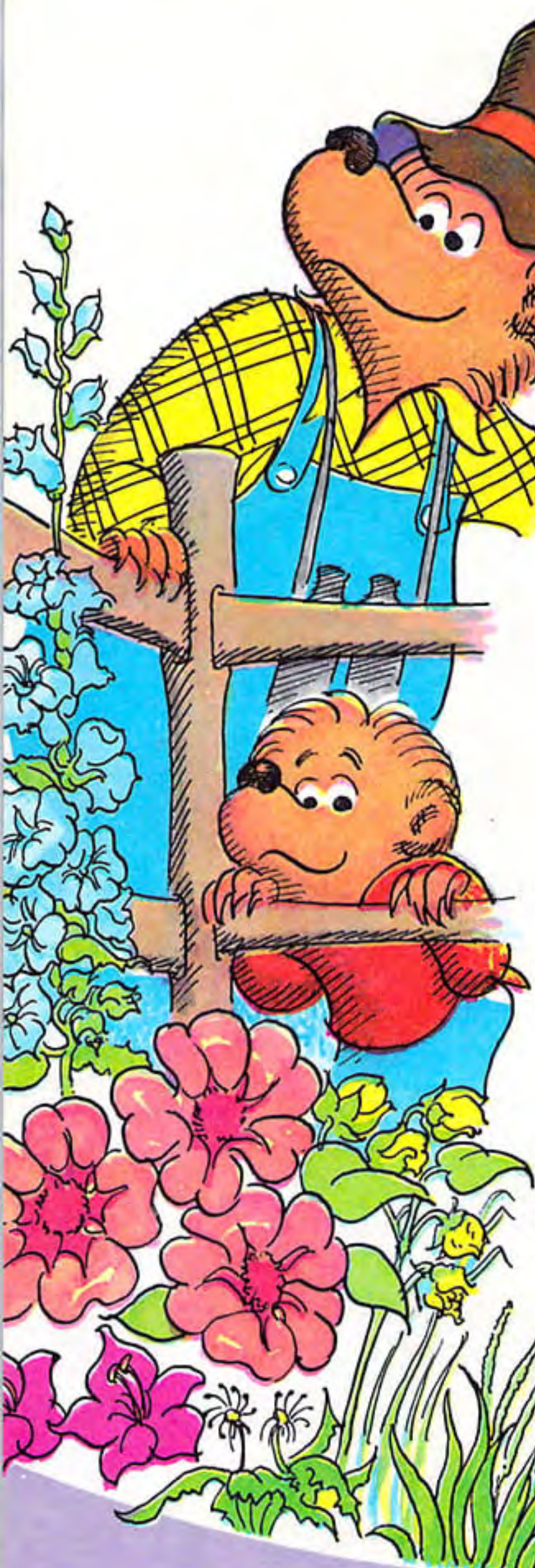
The **broad-leafs**
lose theirs in the fall.
You'll find them
lying on the ground.

No matter how many
kinds you name,
in some ways trees
are all the same.

Their roots grow deep
into the ground.
Their trunks of wood
grow thick and round.

Trees are covered
with a skin called bark.
See for yourself
in a woods or a park.



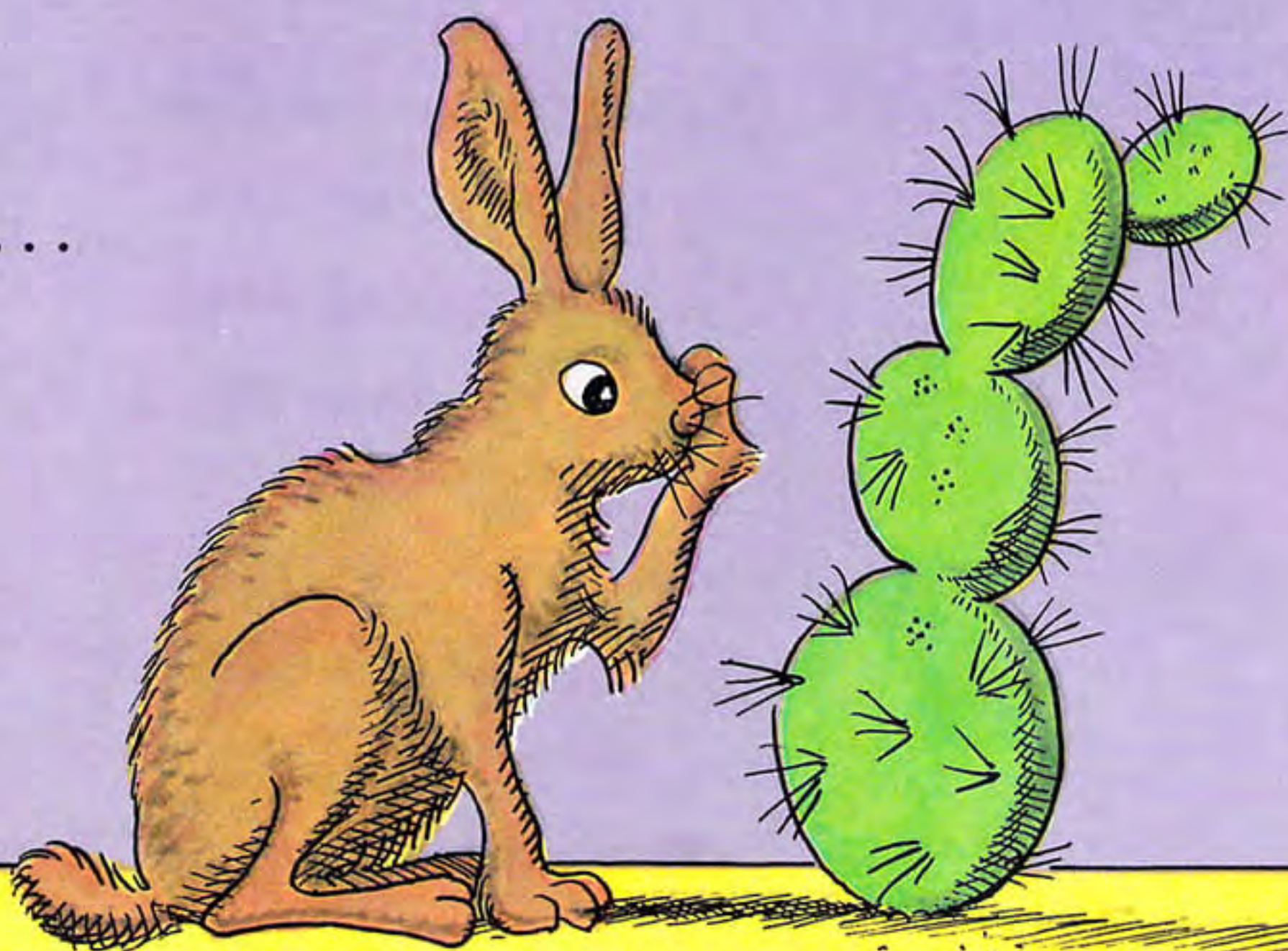


Flowering plants
are pretty.
Many smell good, too.
But flowers
aren't just pretty—
they have a job to do.
In all such plants,
even WEEDS,
the flower's job
is making seeds.



ESPECIALLY weeds!

Most kinds of plants need water
almost every day.
But not the kind called **cactus**—
it's built a different way.
Cactus stores up water
in its special stem.
When animals try to get it . . .
OUCH! Too bad for them!





Algae forms
thick green scum.



Great Natural tried
to walk on some.



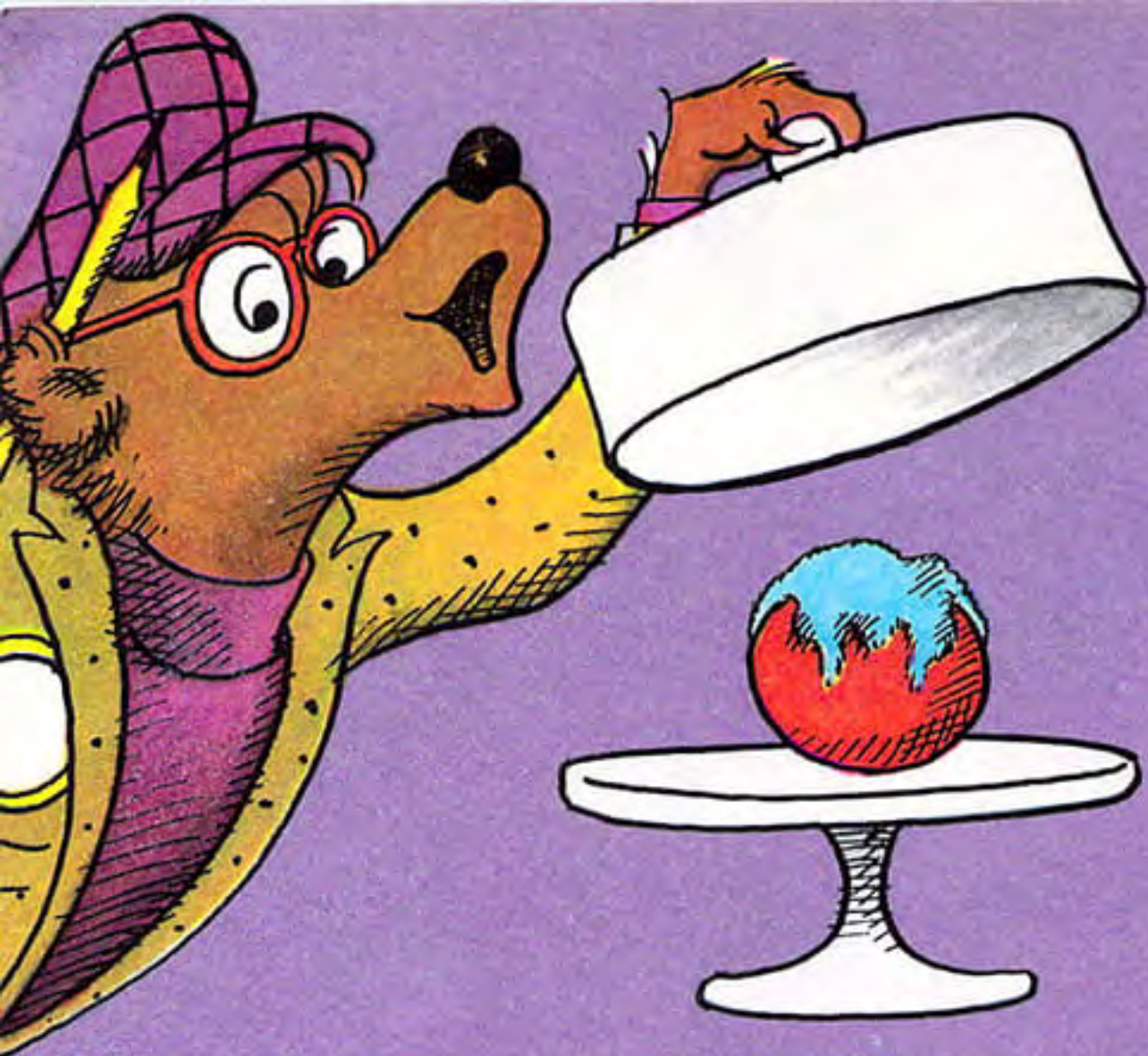
The green
one often sees
on the shady side of trees
is moss.

If you study ferns you will find

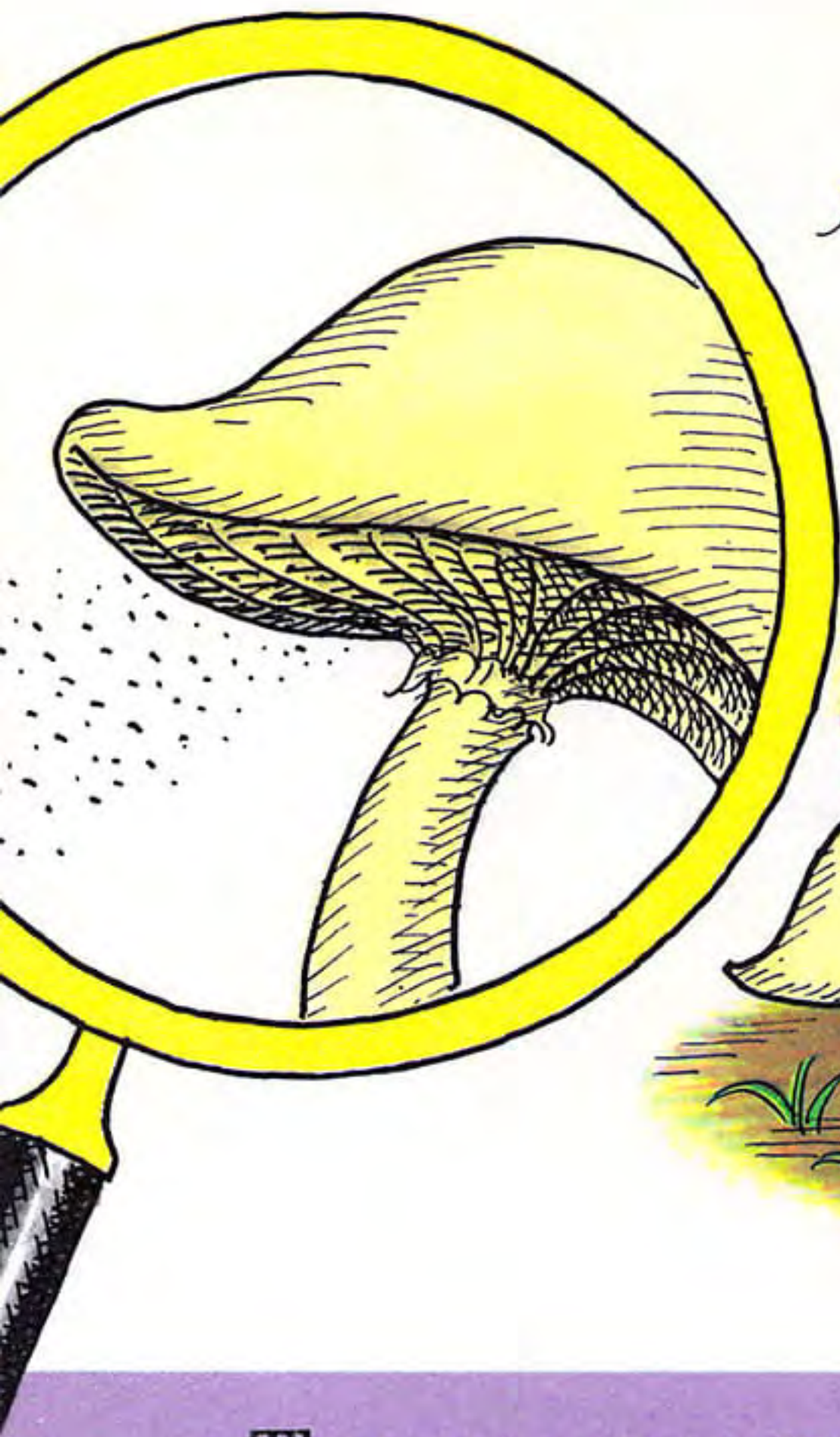
they don't just grow,

they UNWIND!

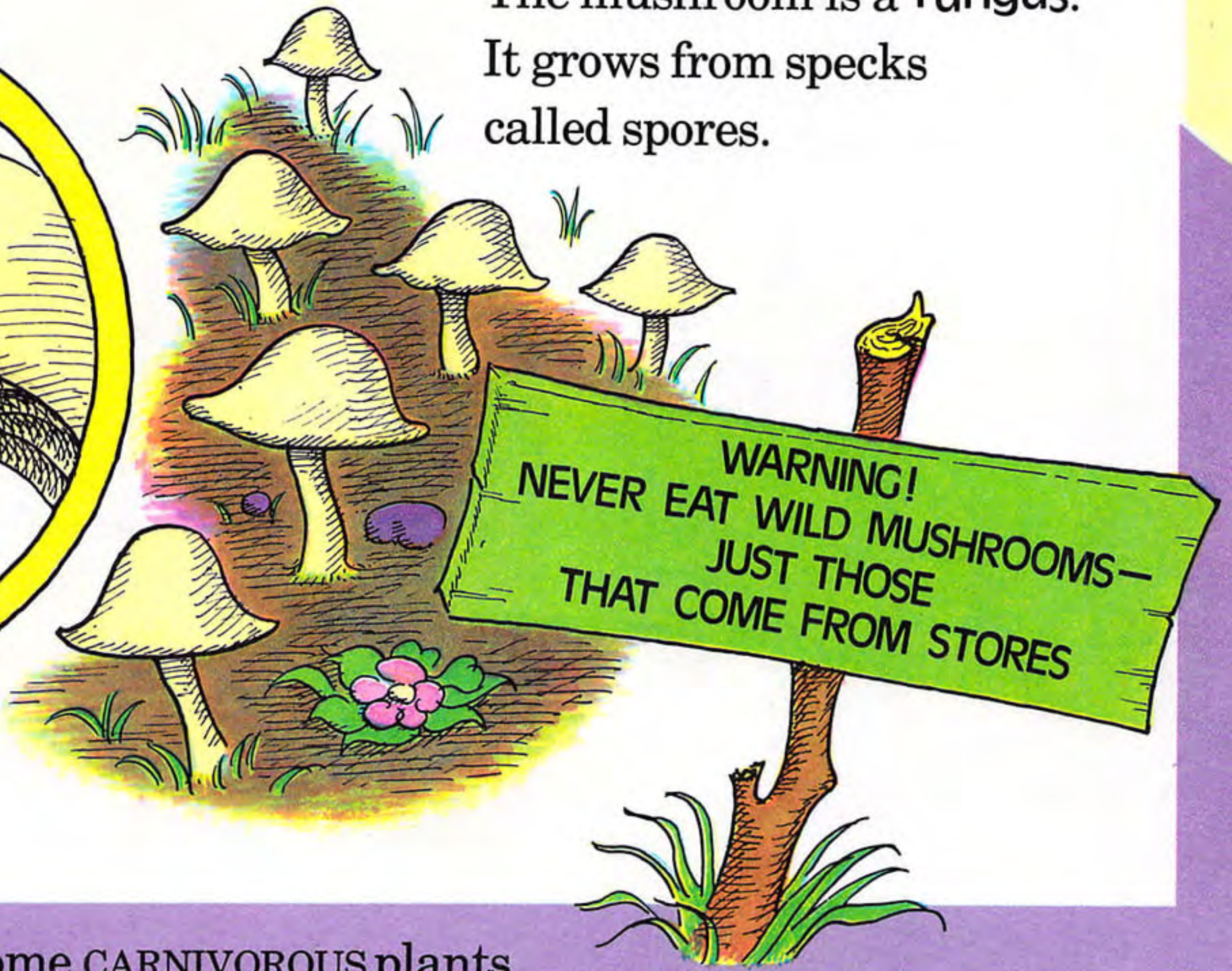




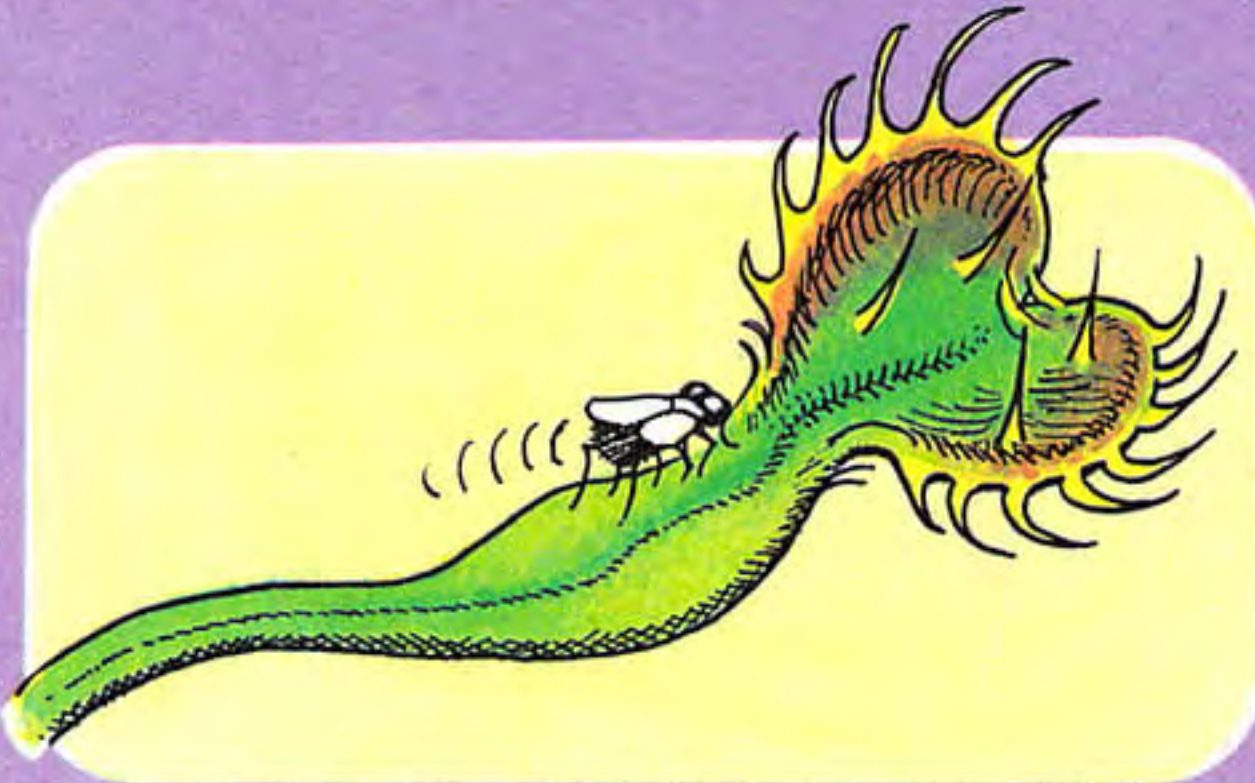
When an orange gets all yucky because it's very old, a plant is growing on it. That yucky plant is **mold**.



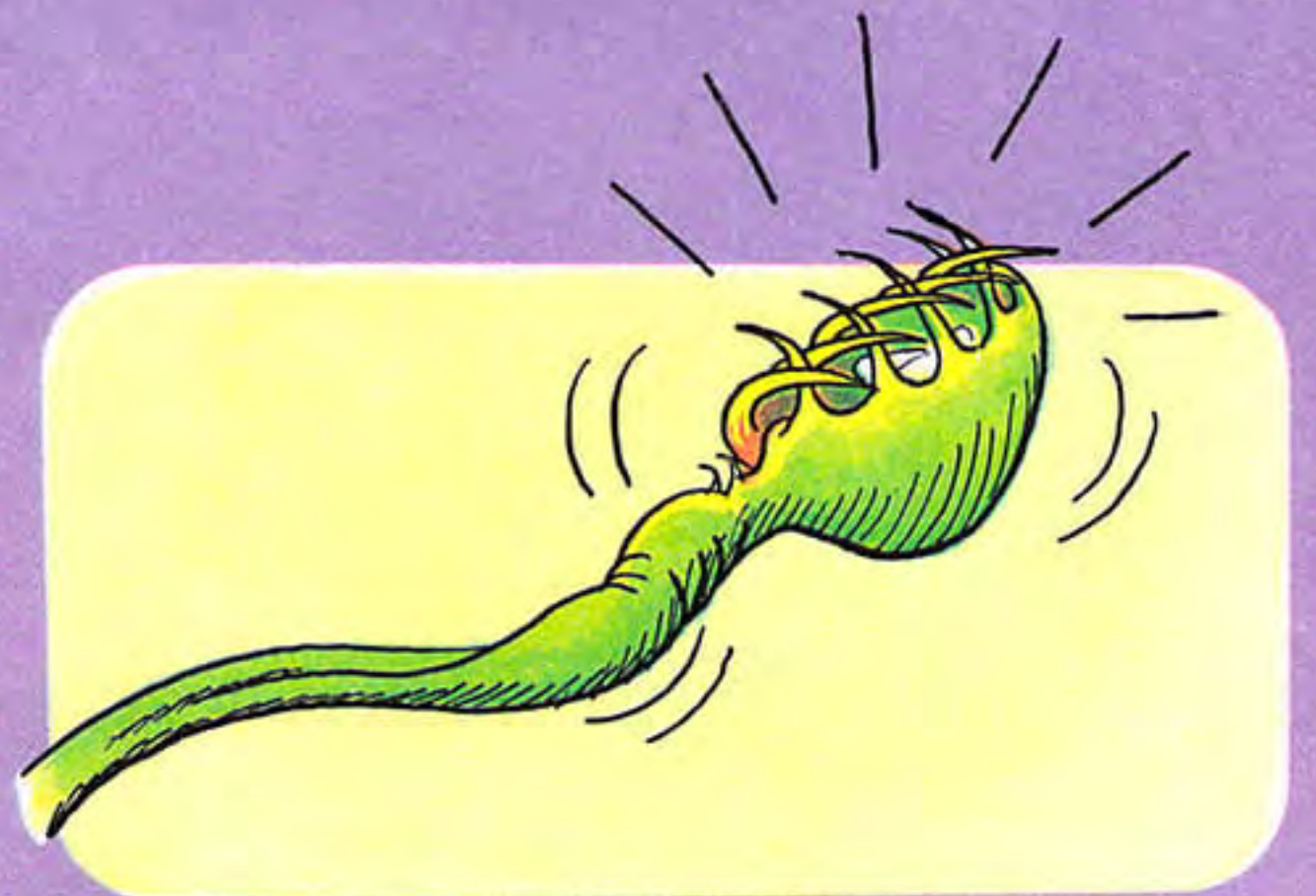
The mushroom is a **fungus**. It grows from specks called **spores**.



There are some **CARNIVOROUS** plants that like to dine on flies and ants.

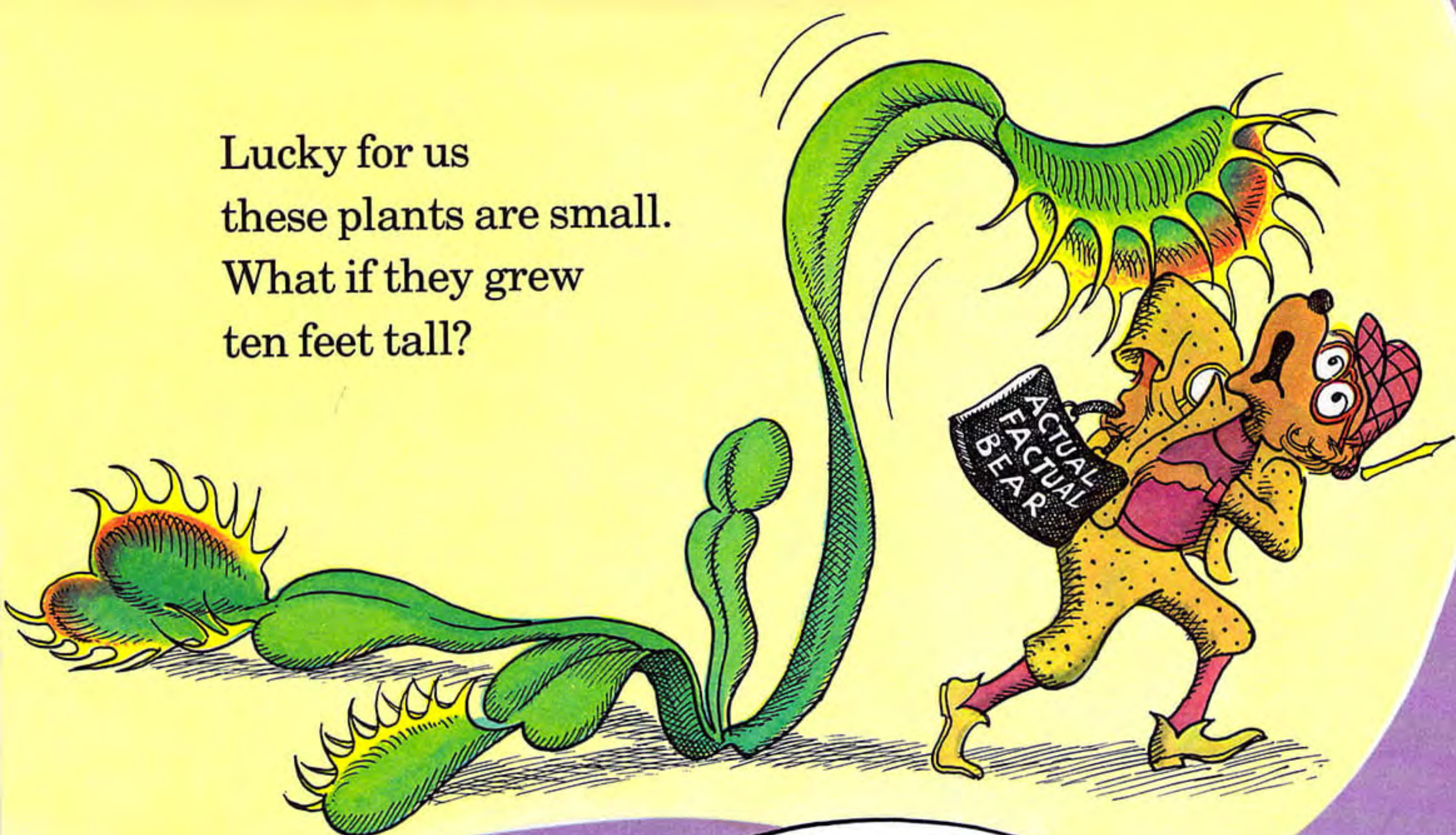


Like the Venus's-flytrap . . .



CRUNCH!
It just had a fly for lunch.

Lucky for us
these plants are small.
What if they grew
ten feet tall?



Look at this
climbing vine
with three-part leaves
that really shine!

Poison ivy!
Don't touch it, Sister!
The slightest touch
can cause a blister.

Come. For our Nature Walk
to be complete,
we must study the earth
beneath our feet.



ACTUAL FACTS ABOUT THE EARTH ITSELF

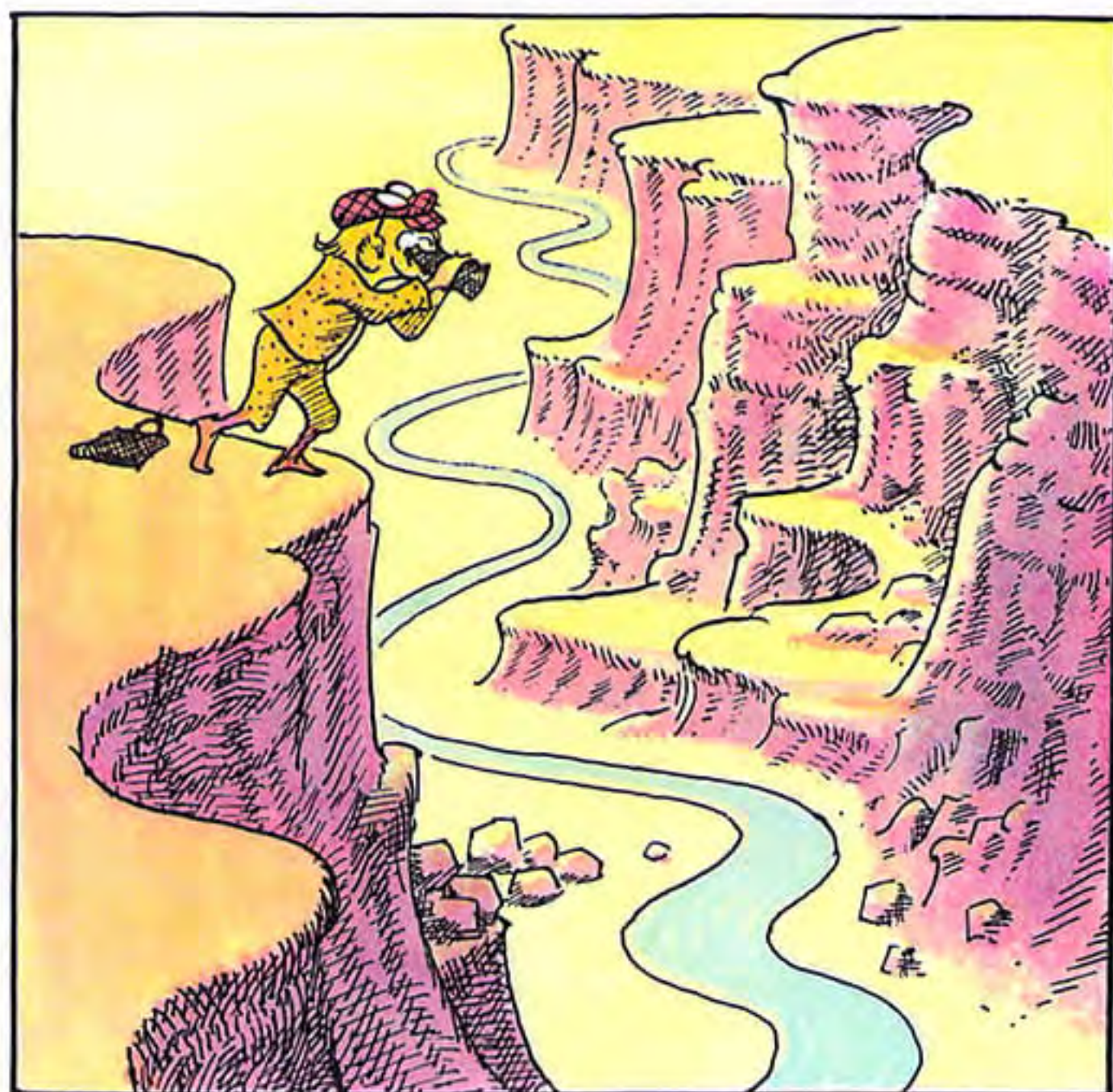
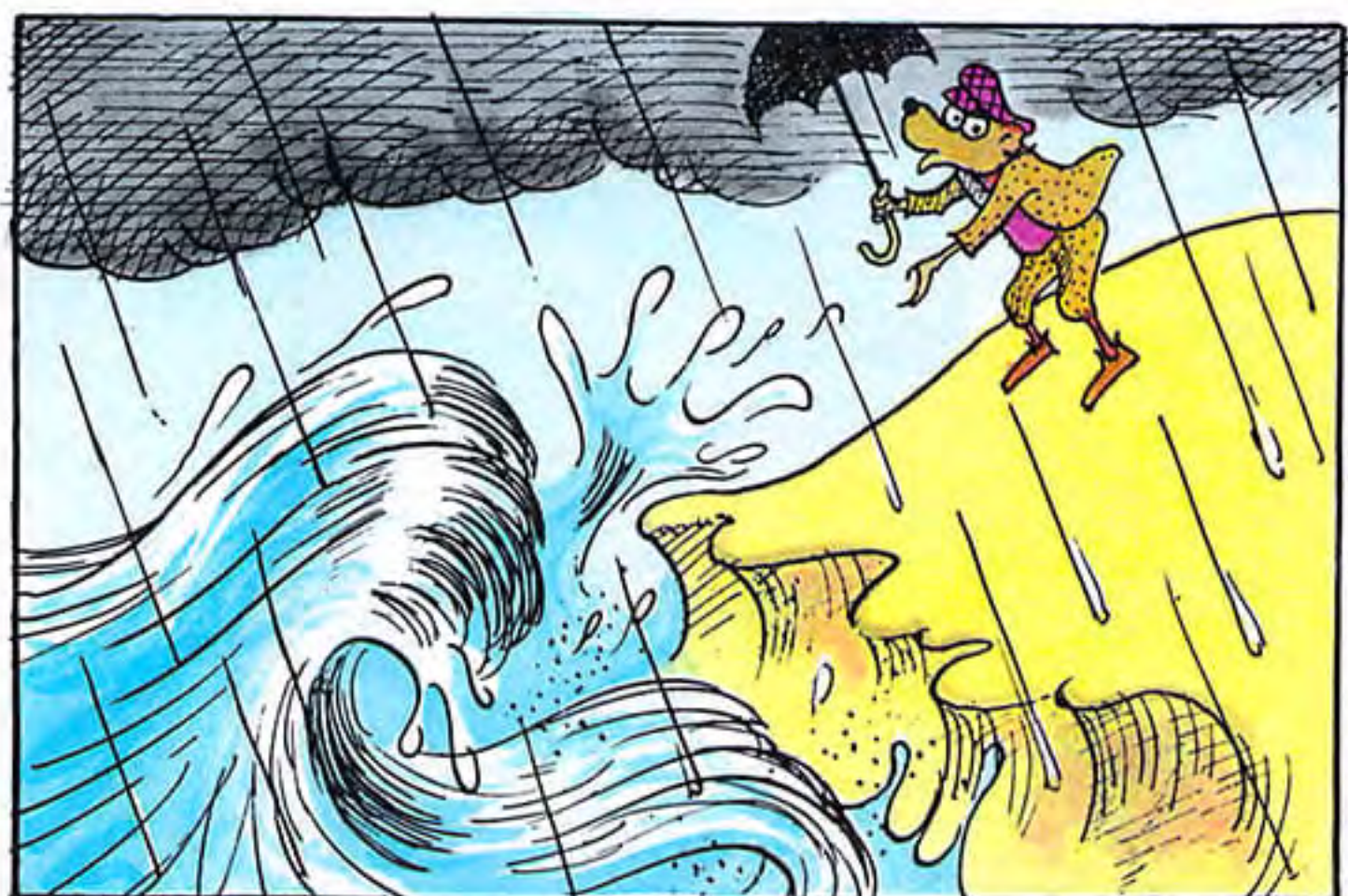
Water helps
to shape the land.

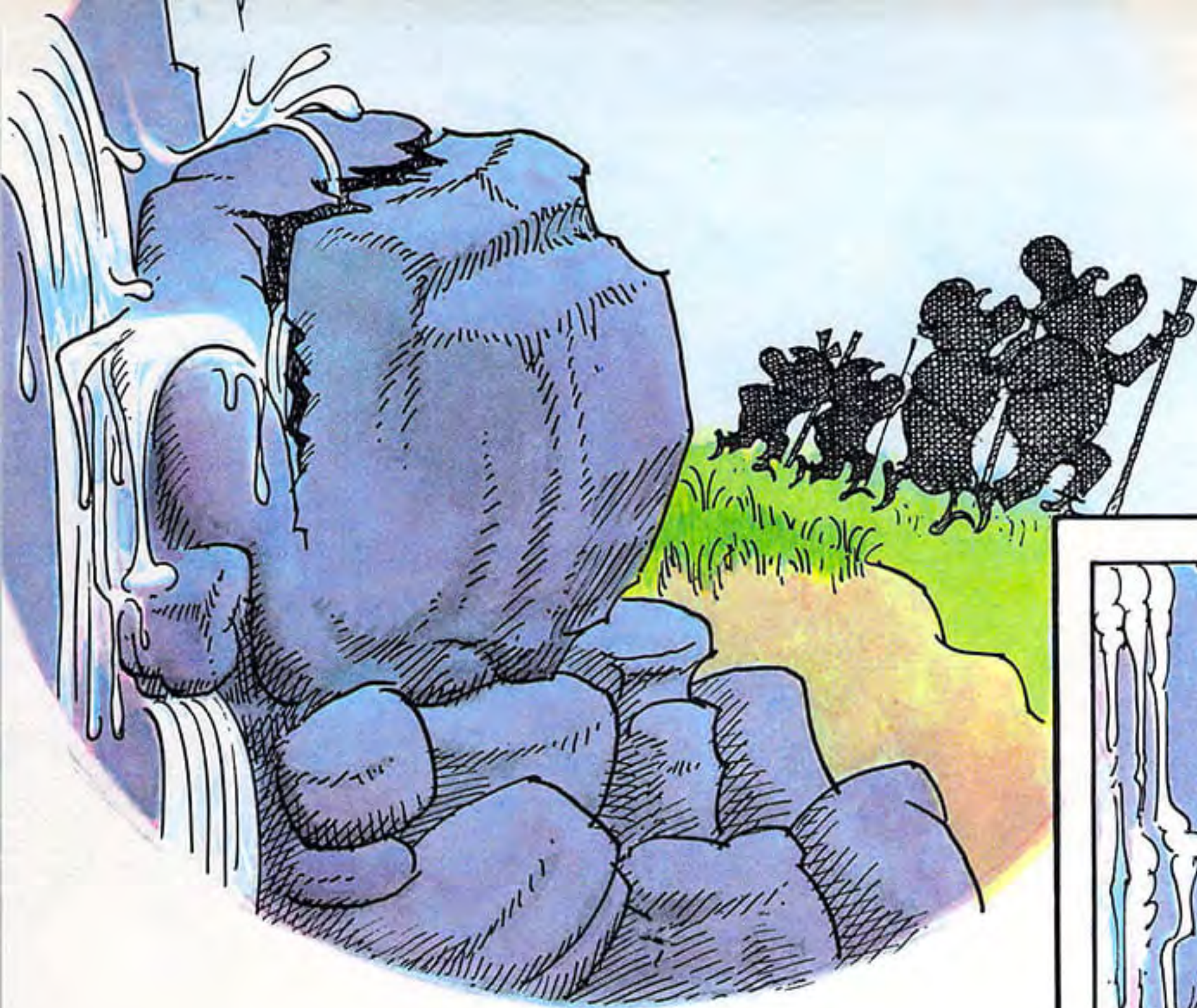
The ocean brings
the shore its sand.

But during storms,
the ocean may
wash some sandy
beach away.

Rivers help
to shape the land.

A river made
Grand Canyon grand!





Freezing water
does its part, too.

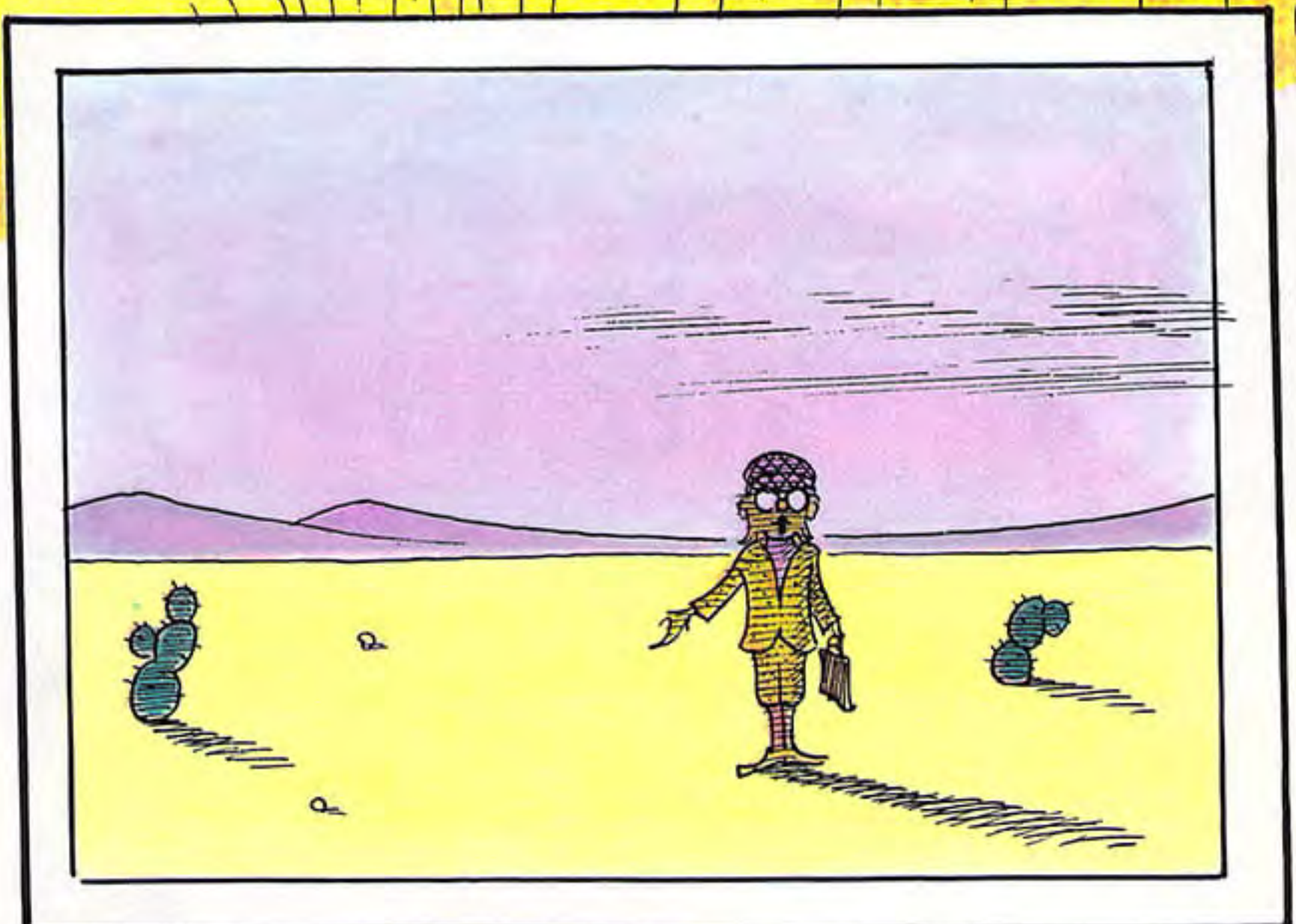
Ice can crack
a rock in two.



With the right
amount of rain,
this flat land
we call a **plain**
is a perfect place
for growing grain.



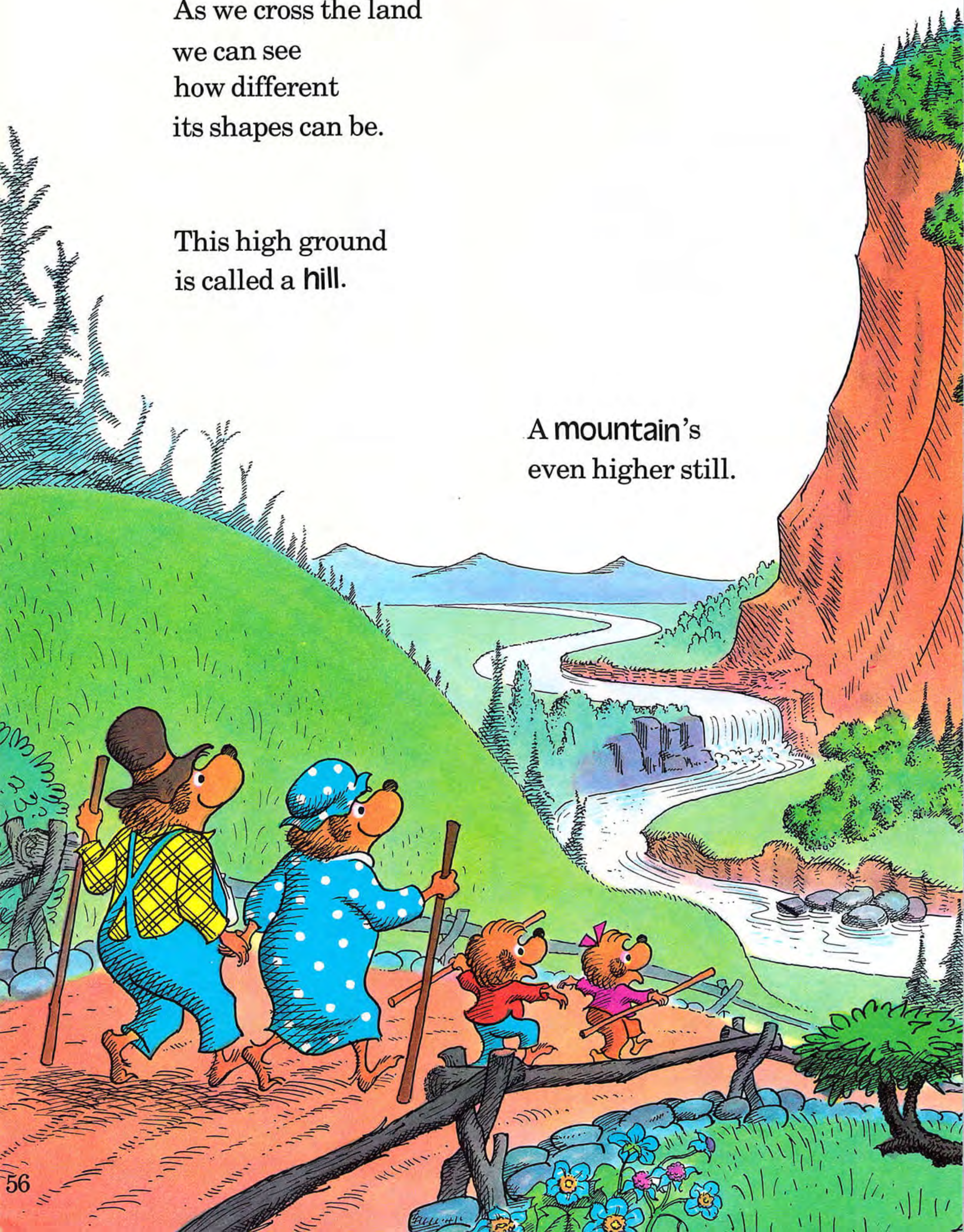
If you take away
the rain supply,
you get a **desert**
brown and dry.



As we cross the land
we can see
how different
its shapes can be.

This high ground
is called a hill.

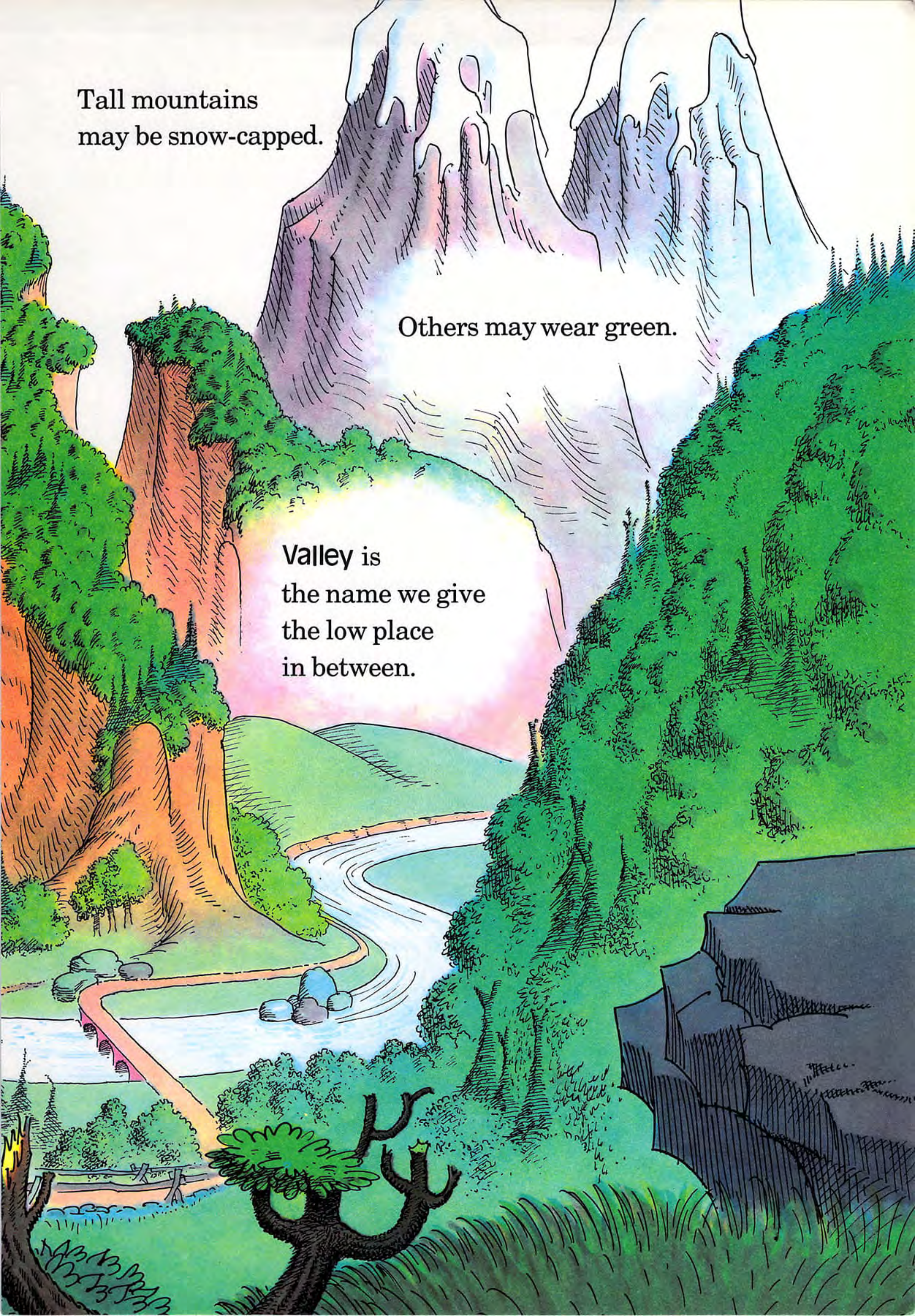
A mountain's
even higher still.

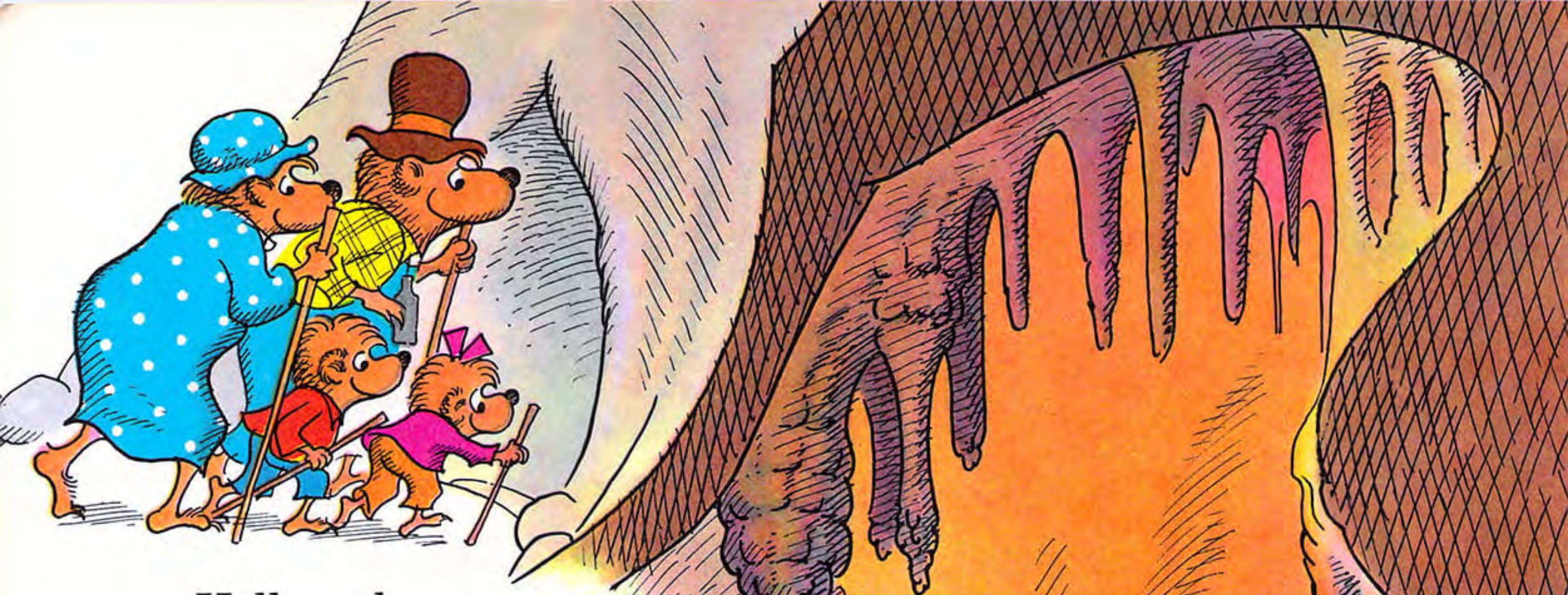


Tall mountains
may be snow-capped.

Others may wear green.

Valley is
the name we give
the low place
in between.





Hollow places
are called **caves**.

In the ones
deep underground

Stalactites
and
Stalagmites

are very
often found.

Water dripping
in the caves
is the reason
they have grown,
because, you see,
each water drop
carries bits of stone.

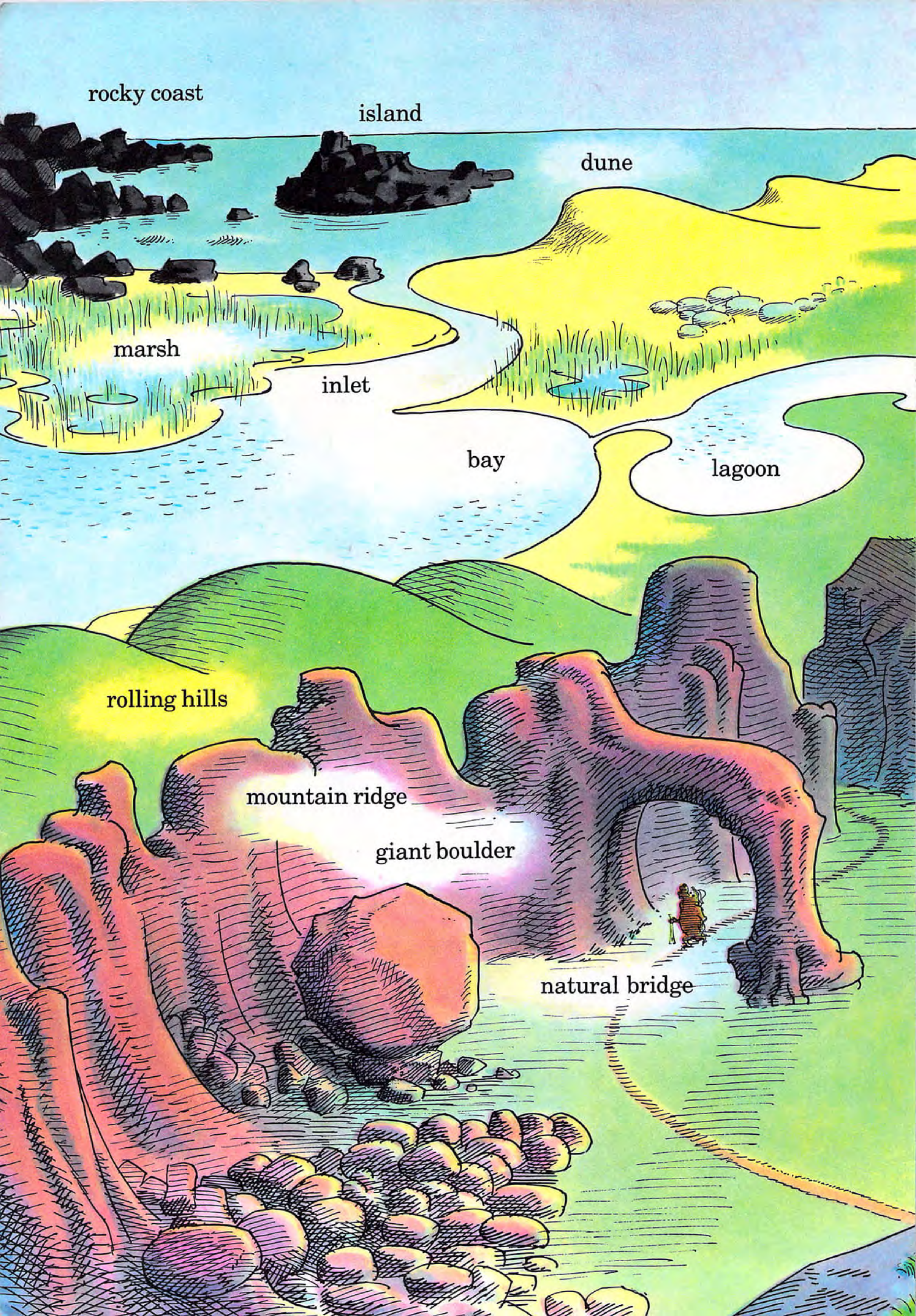


And even though
inside some caves
it's always drippy weather,

it takes
about
a million
years
for them
to grow
together.



A Reminder:
Stalactite and stalagmite—
only caves have got 'em.
Tite is always on the top
and mite is on the bottom.



rocky coast

island

dune

marsh

inlet

bay

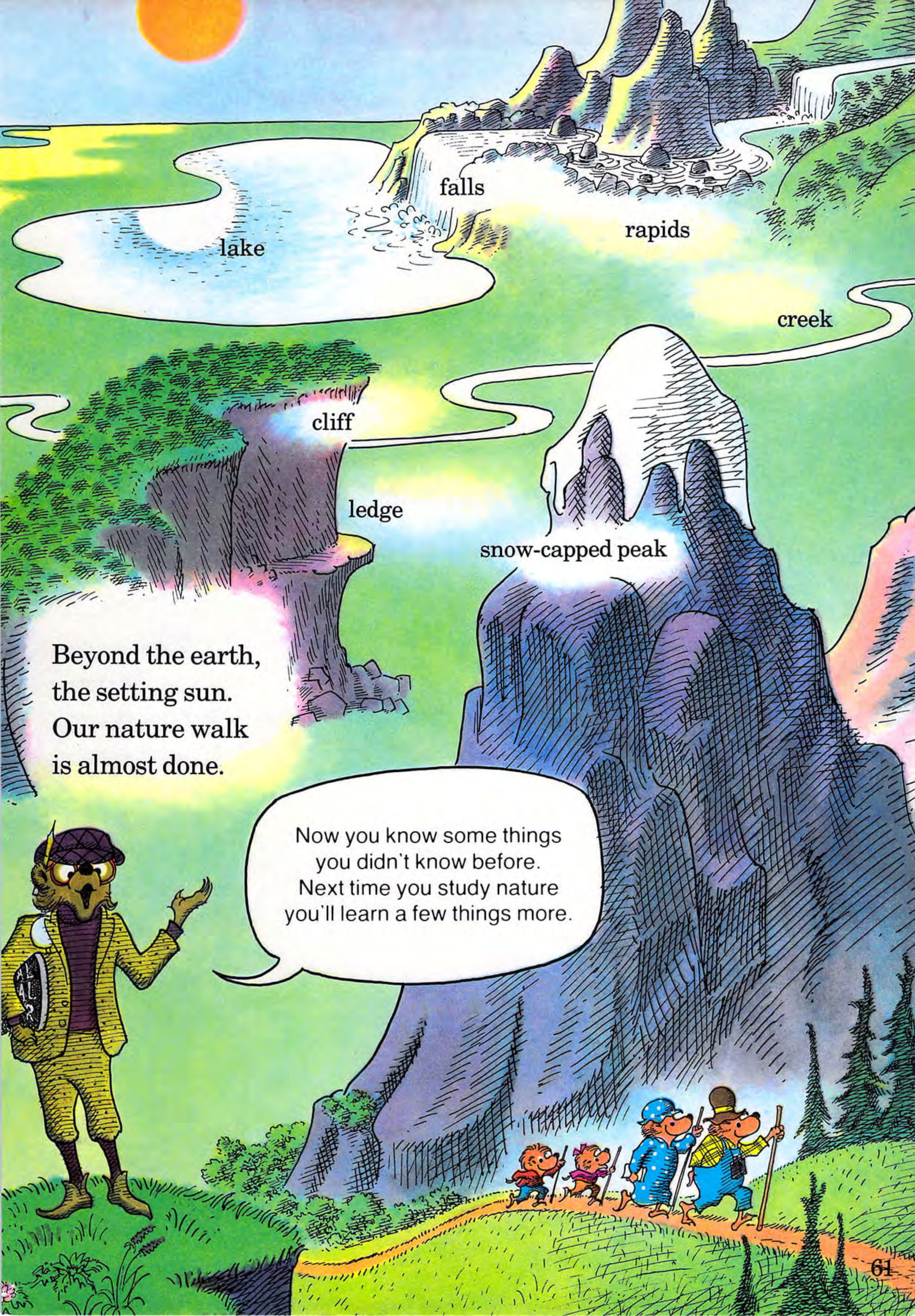
lagoon

rolling hills

mountain ridge

giant boulder

natural bridge



falls

rapids

lake

creek

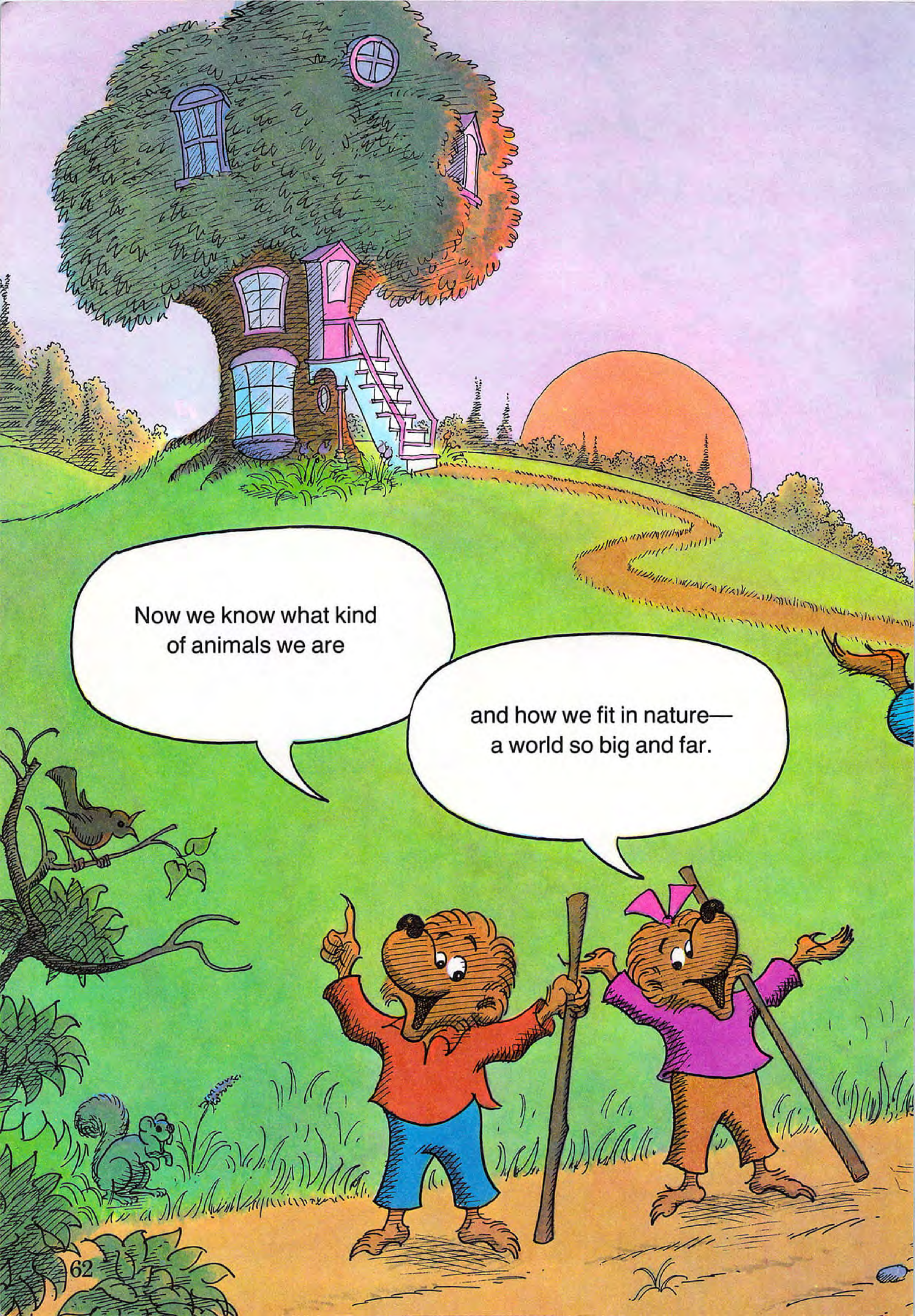
cliff

ledge

snow-capped peak

Beyond the earth,
the setting sun.
Our nature walk
is almost done.

Now you know some things
you didn't know before.
Next time you study nature
you'll learn a few things more.



Now we know what kind
of animals we are

and how we fit in nature—
a world so big and far.



It reaches from
our own front steps

to beyond the
farthest star!



The wonders of nature
will never cease!
It's a wonder to me
they got back in one piece!