




MERIT BADGE

WRITTEN & ILLUSTRATED BY
KATE ROWEKAMP

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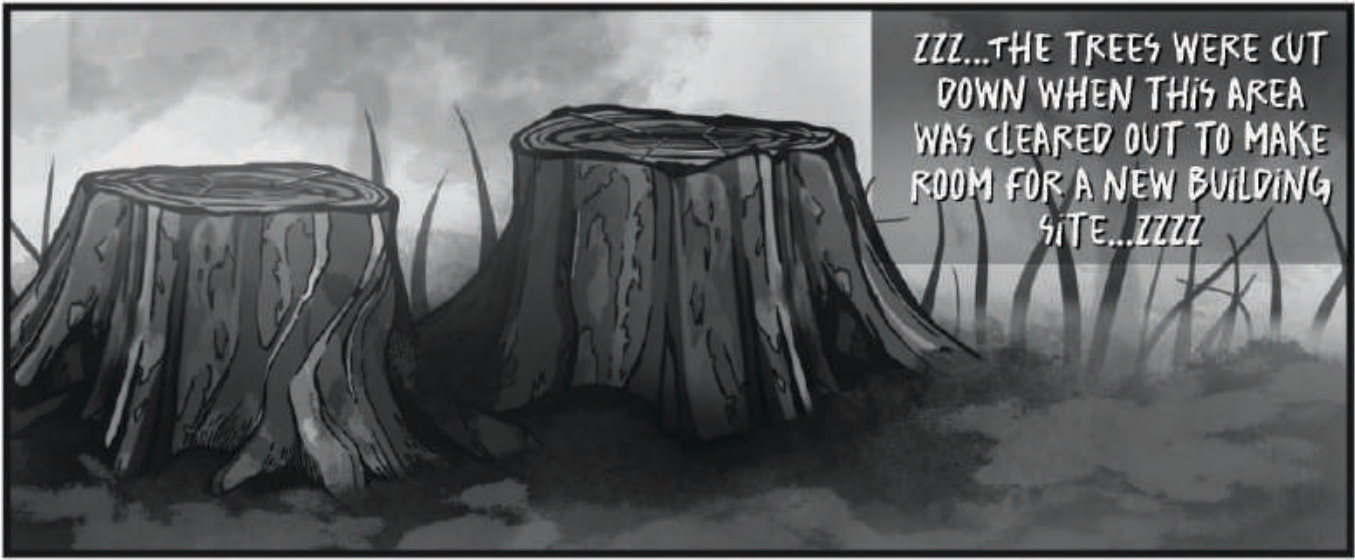
WE'VE GOT A LONG HIKE AHEAD OF US
LOOKOUT. ARE YOU READY?

MMMRAUW





THERE WAS A THICKET OF TREES
MARKED ON THE MAP HERE.
I WONDER WHERE THEY'VE GONE?





ZZZ...WHEN THEY CLEARED OUT ALL THE TREES THEY TOOK THE FLOWERS TOO. WE HARVEST POLLEN AND NECTAR FOR FOOD, SO MY COLONY HAD TO MOVE AWAY...ZZZ



GOODBYE, HAVE A SAFE FLIGHT BACK!



IT MUST HAVE BEEN REALLY HARD TO LEAVE HERE AND FIND A NEW PLACE TO LIVE. I HOPE THE COLONY IS HAPPY IN THEIR NEW HOME....

COME ON LOOKOUT, WE HAVE TO KEEP GOING.

MRRRP





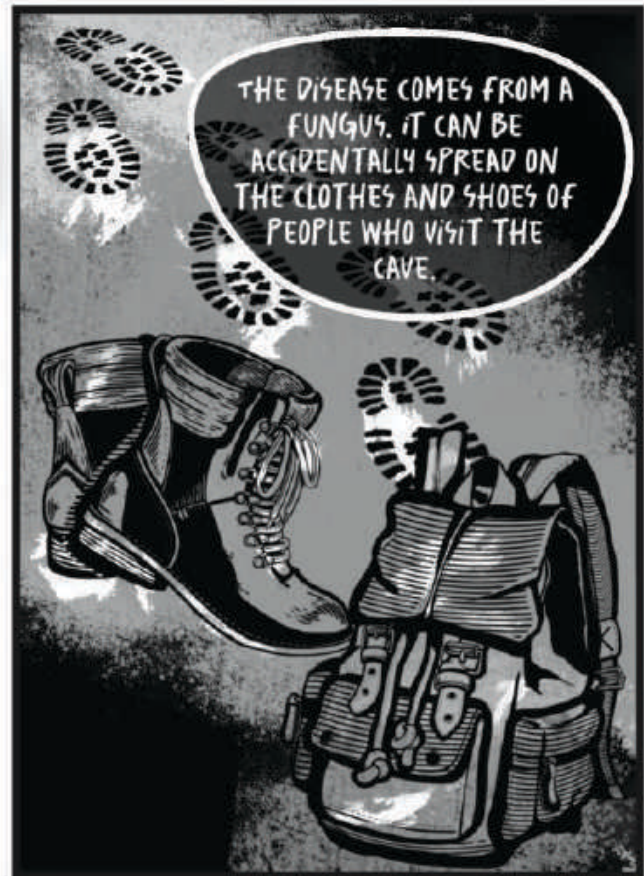




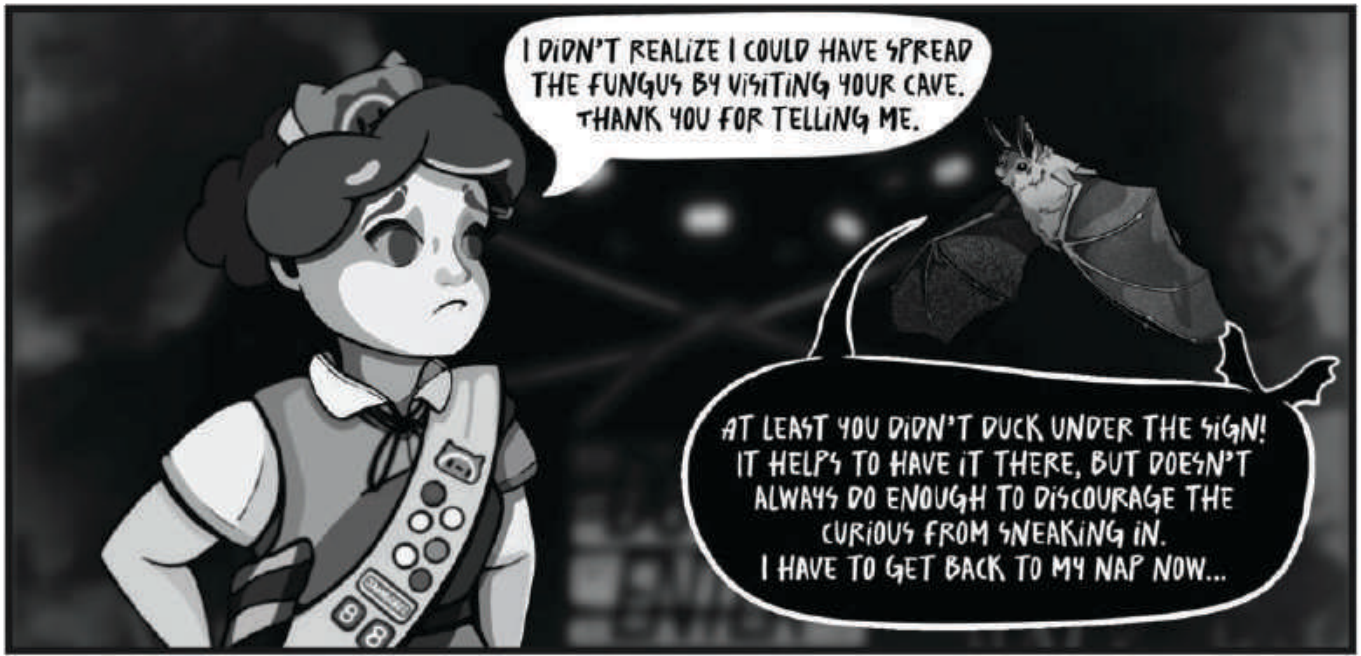
THE CAVE IS OFF-LIMITS TO KEEP OUR COLONY PROTECTED FROM WHITE-NOSE SYNDROME, A DISEASE THAT INTERFERES WITH OUR SLEEP AND MAKES US USE UP ALL THE ENERGY WE STORE FOR HIBERNATING.



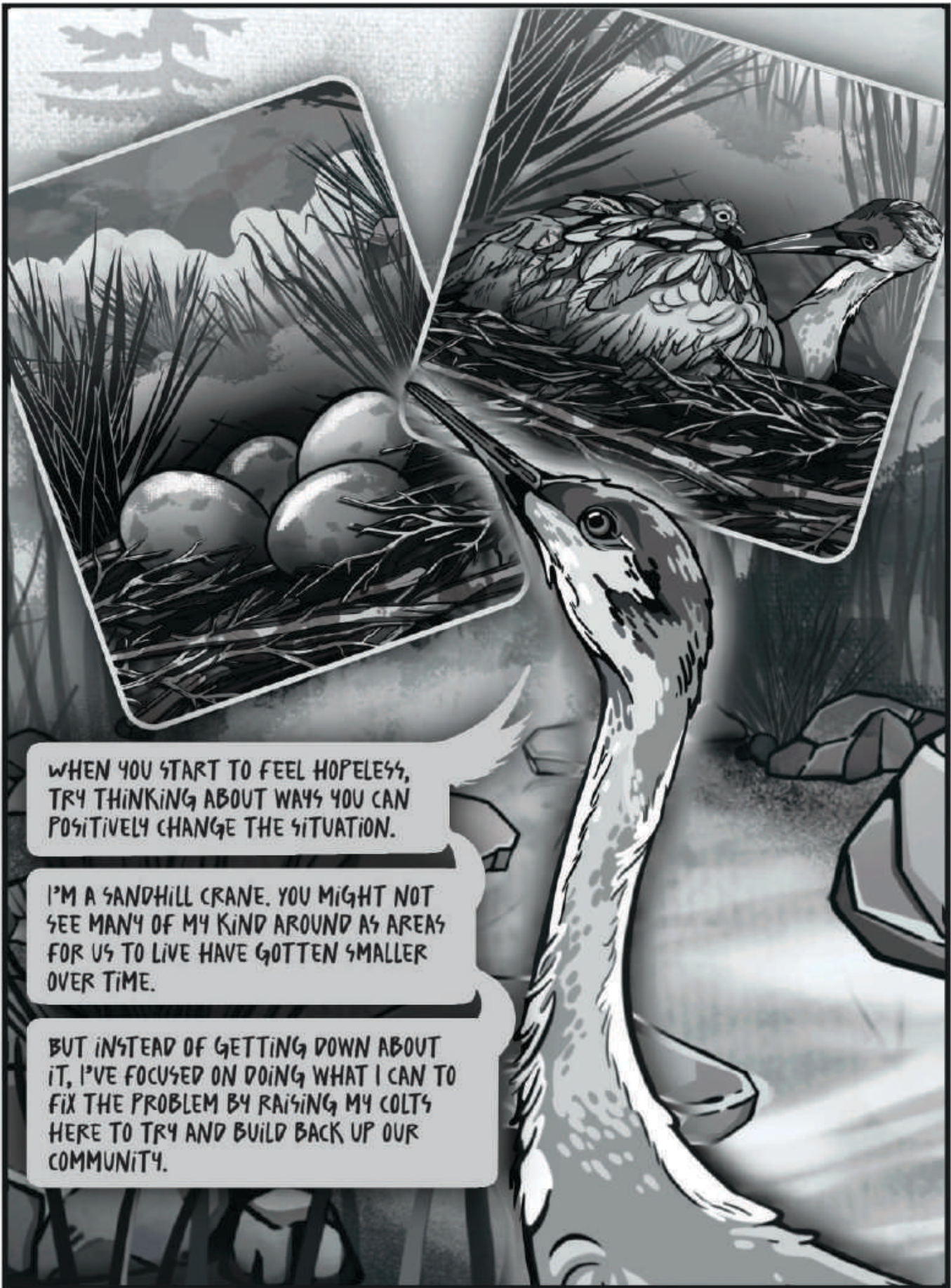
THAT SOUNDS TERRIBLE! HOW DOES CLOSING THE CAVE HELP KEEP ALL OF YOU SAFE?



THE DISEASE COMES FROM A FUNGUS. IT CAN BE ACCIDENTALLY SPREAD ON THE CLOTHES AND SHOES OF PEOPLE WHO VISIT THE CAVE.



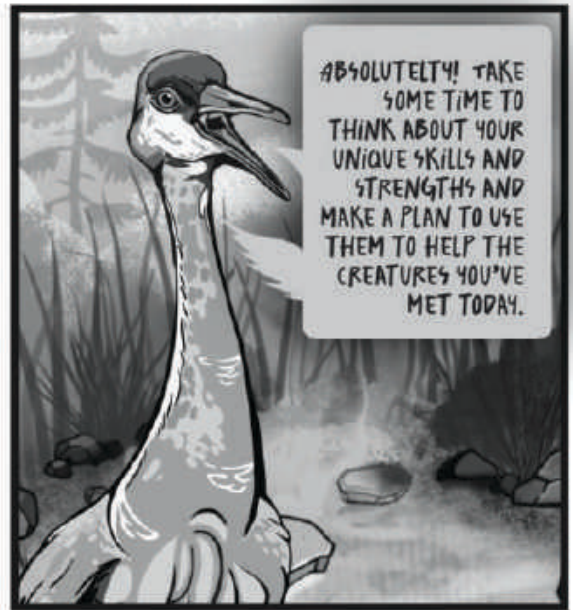




WHEN YOU START TO FEEL HOPELESS,
TRY THINKING ABOUT WAYS YOU CAN
POSITIVELY CHANGE THE SITUATION.

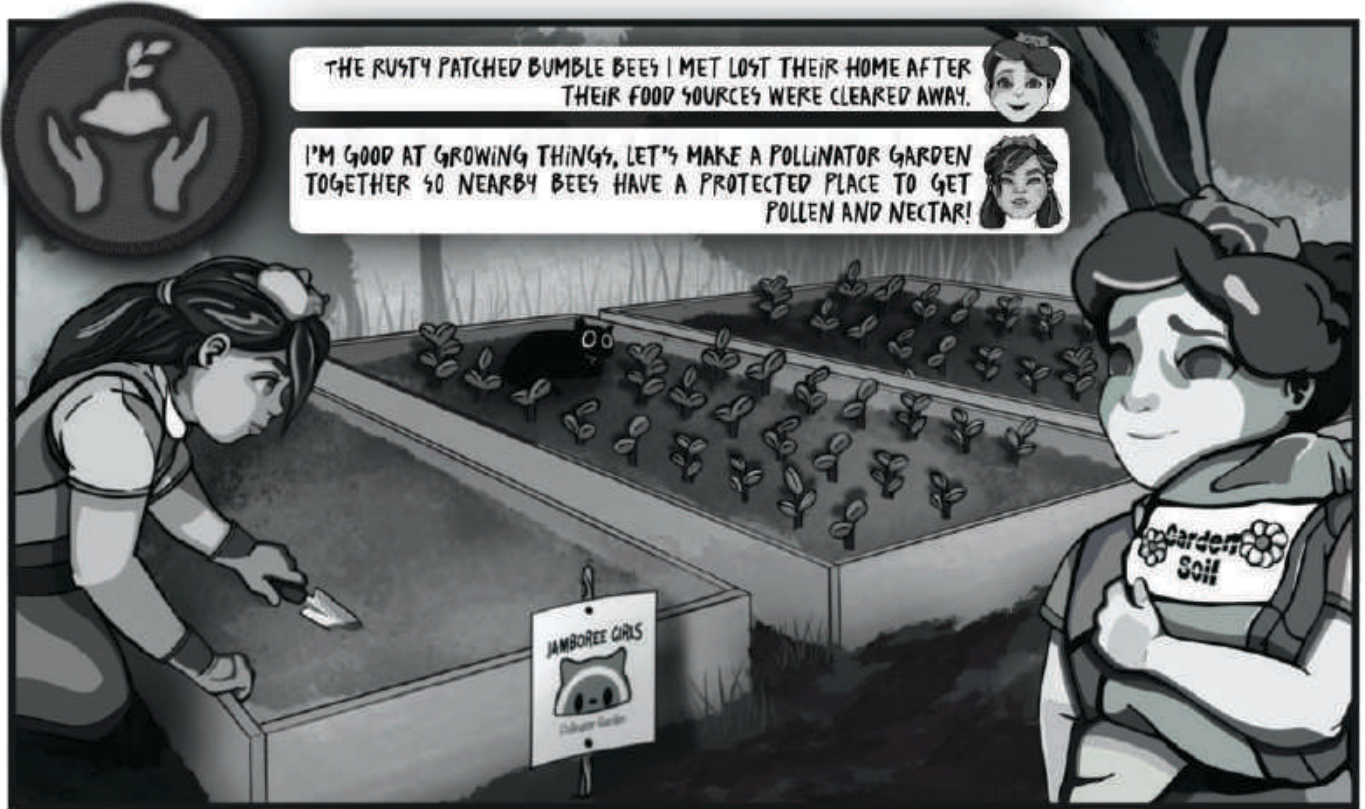
I'M A SANDHILL CRANE. YOU MIGHT NOT
SEE MANY OF MY KIND AROUND AS AREAS
FOR US TO LIVE HAVE GOTTEN SMALLER
OVER TIME.

BUT INSTEAD OF GETTING DOWN ABOUT
IT, I'VE FOCUSED ON DOING WHAT I CAN TO
FIX THE PROBLEM BY RAISING MY COLTS
HERE TO TRY AND BUILD BACK UP OUR
COMMUNITY.



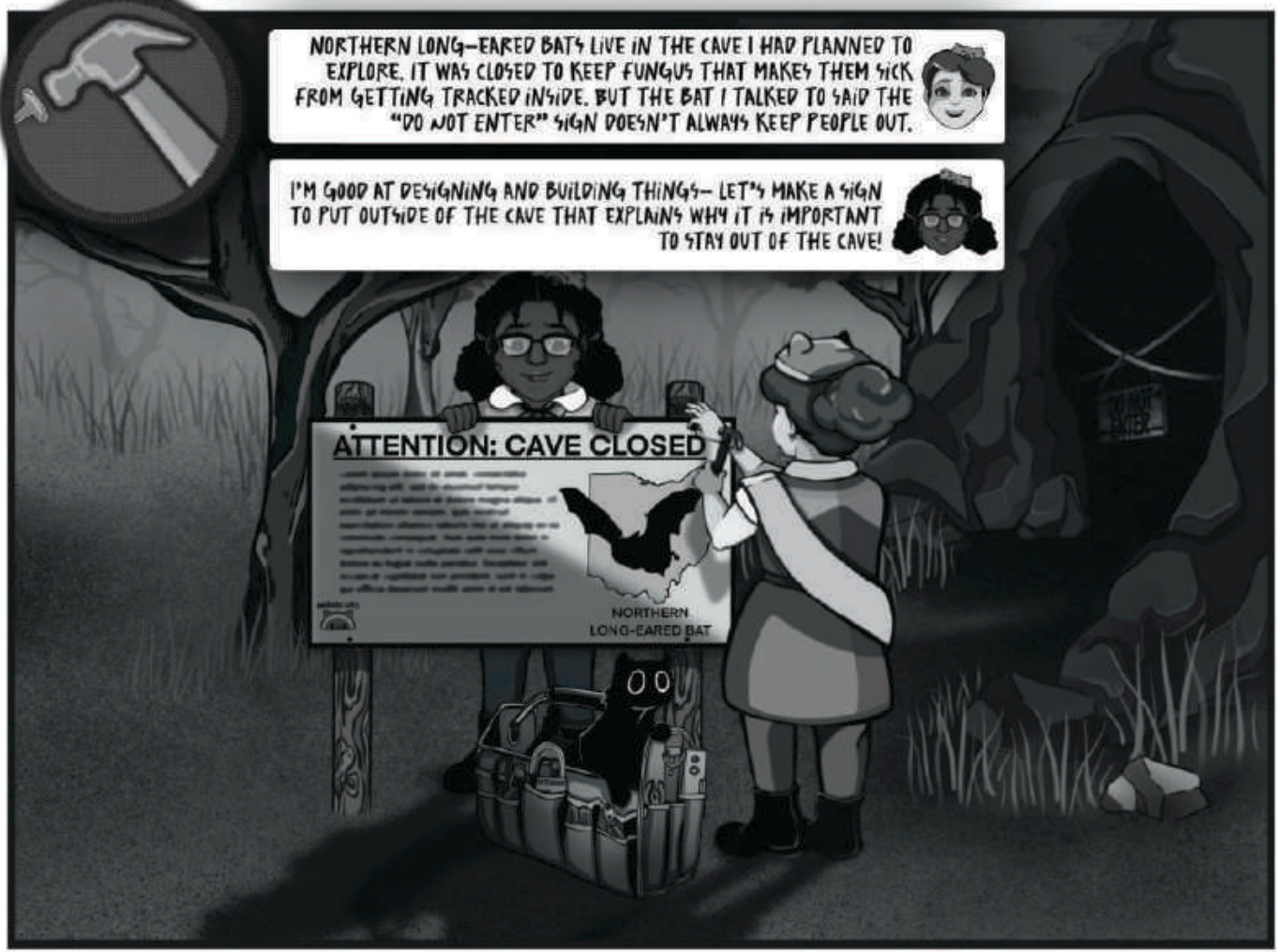
THE NEXT DAY...





THE RUSTY PATCHED BUMBLE BEES I MET LOST THEIR HOME AFTER THEIR FOOD SOURCES WERE CLEARED AWAY.

I'M GOOD AT GROWING THINGS, LET'S MAKE A POLLINATOR GARDEN TOGETHER SO NEARBY BEES HAVE A PROTECTED PLACE TO GET POLLEN AND NECTAR!

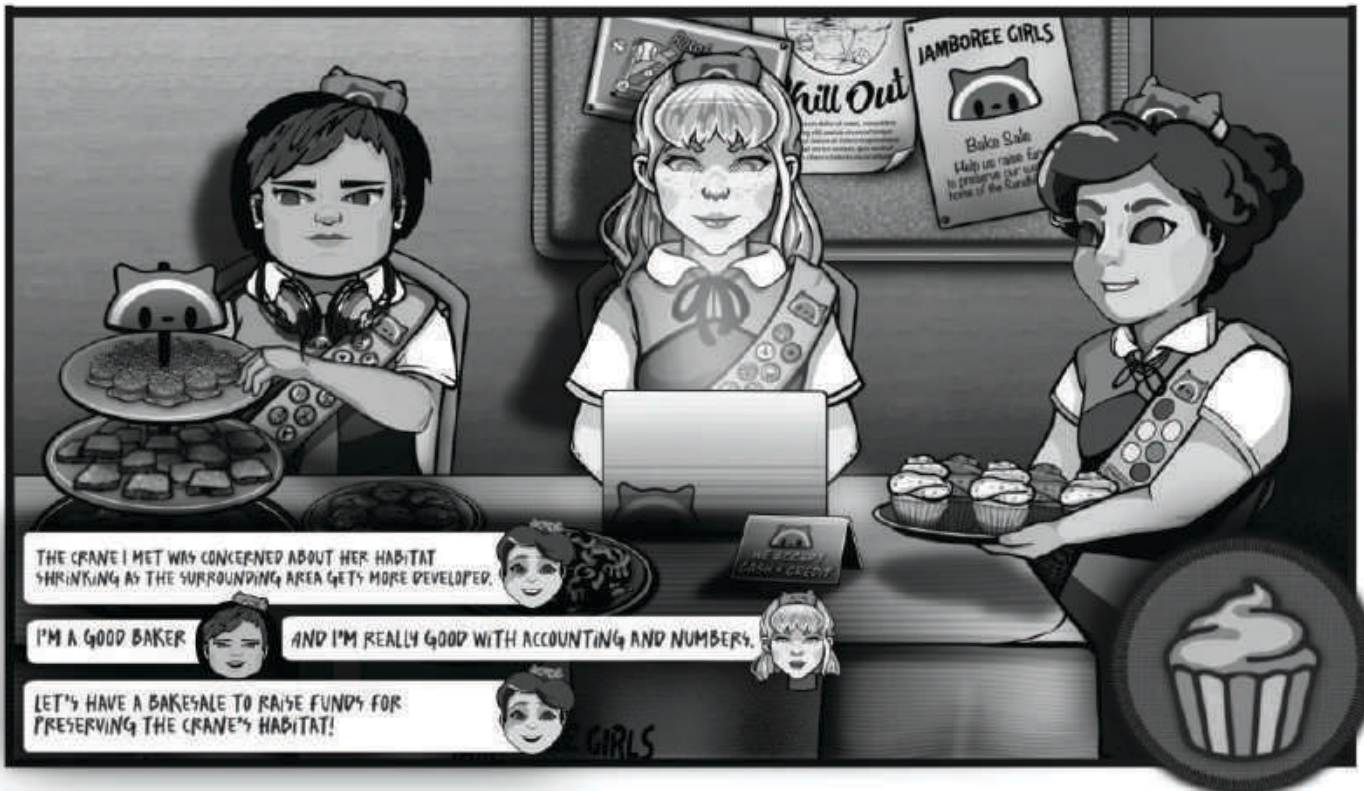


NORTHERN LONG-EARED BATS LIVE IN THE CAVE I HAD PLANNED TO EXPLORE. IT WAS CLOSED TO KEEP FUNGUS THAT MAKES THEM SICK FROM GETTING TRACKED INSIDE. BUT THE BAT I TALKED TO SAID THE "DO NOT ENTER" SIGN DOESN'T ALWAYS KEEP PEOPLE OUT.

I'M GOOD AT DESIGNING AND BUILDING THINGS— LET'S MAKE A SIGN TO PUT OUTSIDE OF THE CAVE THAT EXPLAINS WHY IT IS IMPORTANT TO STAY OUT OF THE CAVE!

ATTENTION: CAVE CLOSED

NORTHERN LONG-EARED BAT



THE END





KATE ROWEKAMP

is AN ANIMAL-LOVER, ARTIST, AND EDUCATOR LIVING IN CINCINNATI, OHIO. SHE HOLDS A MASTER OF FINE ARTS DEGREE FROM MIAMI UNIVERSITY IN OXFORD.

HER ARTWORK HAS BEEN EXHIBITED BOTH LOCALLY AND INTERNATIONALLY. SHE WORKS AT THE FITTON CENTER FOR CREATIVE ARTS AS THE DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION AND OUTREACH.

CHECK OUT KATEROWEKAMP.COM FOR MORE!

This story written and illustrated by Kate Rowekamp



This **Cartoon for Peace and Justice** book on the theme of **Endangered Animals** is part of a project of **SOS (Save Our Souls) ART**.

The intent of the project is to create and publish cartoon books on a given theme of peace and justice, written and illustrated by **Greater Cincinnati Artists**. The books, written **for Children and Adults of any age**, are given **free to schools** to be shared with their students and to prompt, in the classroom, a discussion and education on the addressed topic.

If you would like to take part in this project and/or support SOS ART please check sosartcincinnati.com and contact sosartcincinnati@gmail.com

SOS ART is a nonprofit 501c3 organization whose mission is to encourage, promote and provide opportunities and venues for the Arts as dynamic vehicles for Peace and Justice and for a Better World.

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This story written and illustrated by Jeff Casto

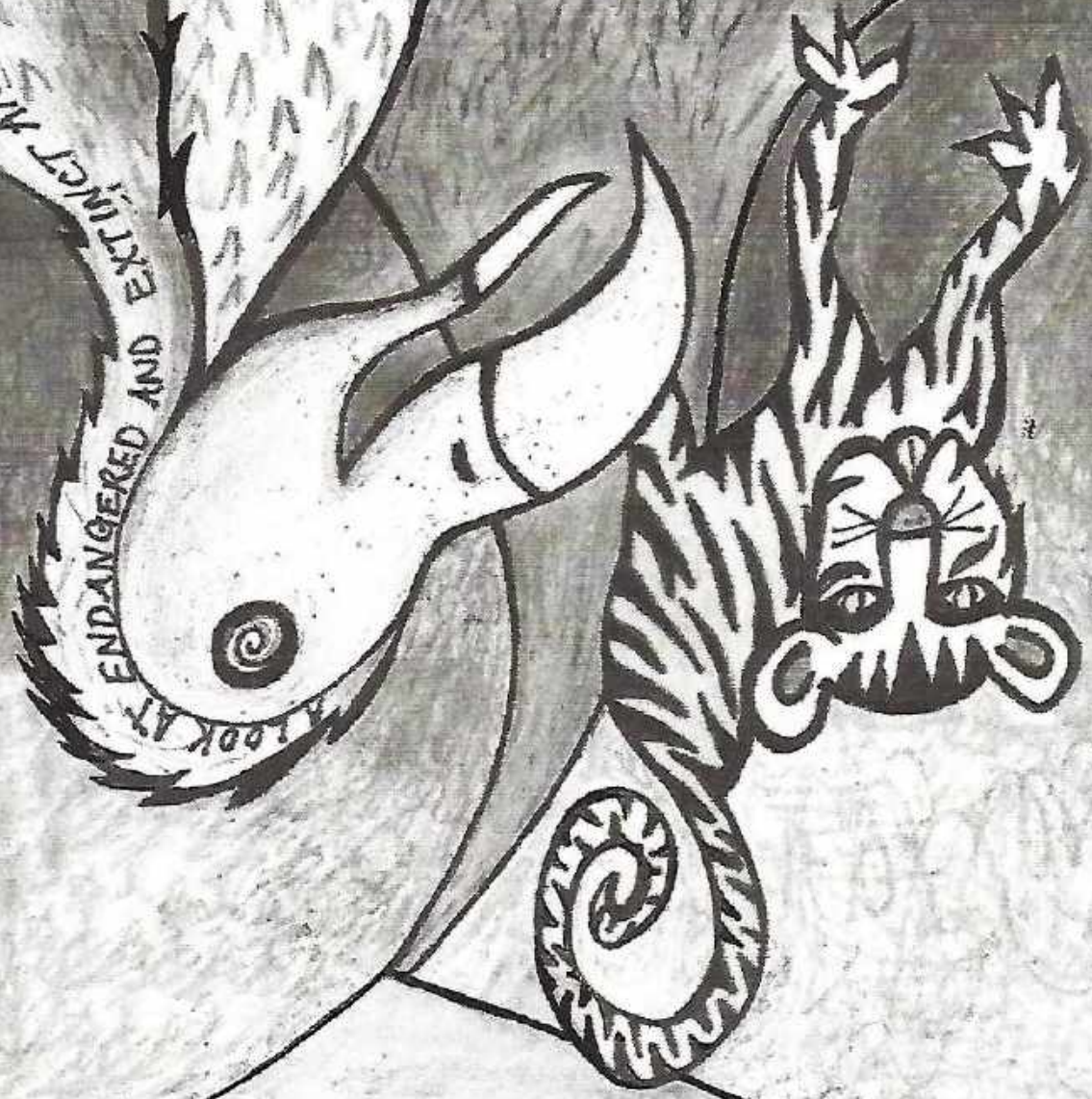
JEFF CASTO IS AN ARTIST AND A CONCERNED CITIZEN OF THE PLANET EARTH. HE USES HIS ART TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES. HIS ARTWORK HAS BEEN EXHIBITED LOCALLY AND IN NEW YORK. WWW.JEFFCASTO.ART

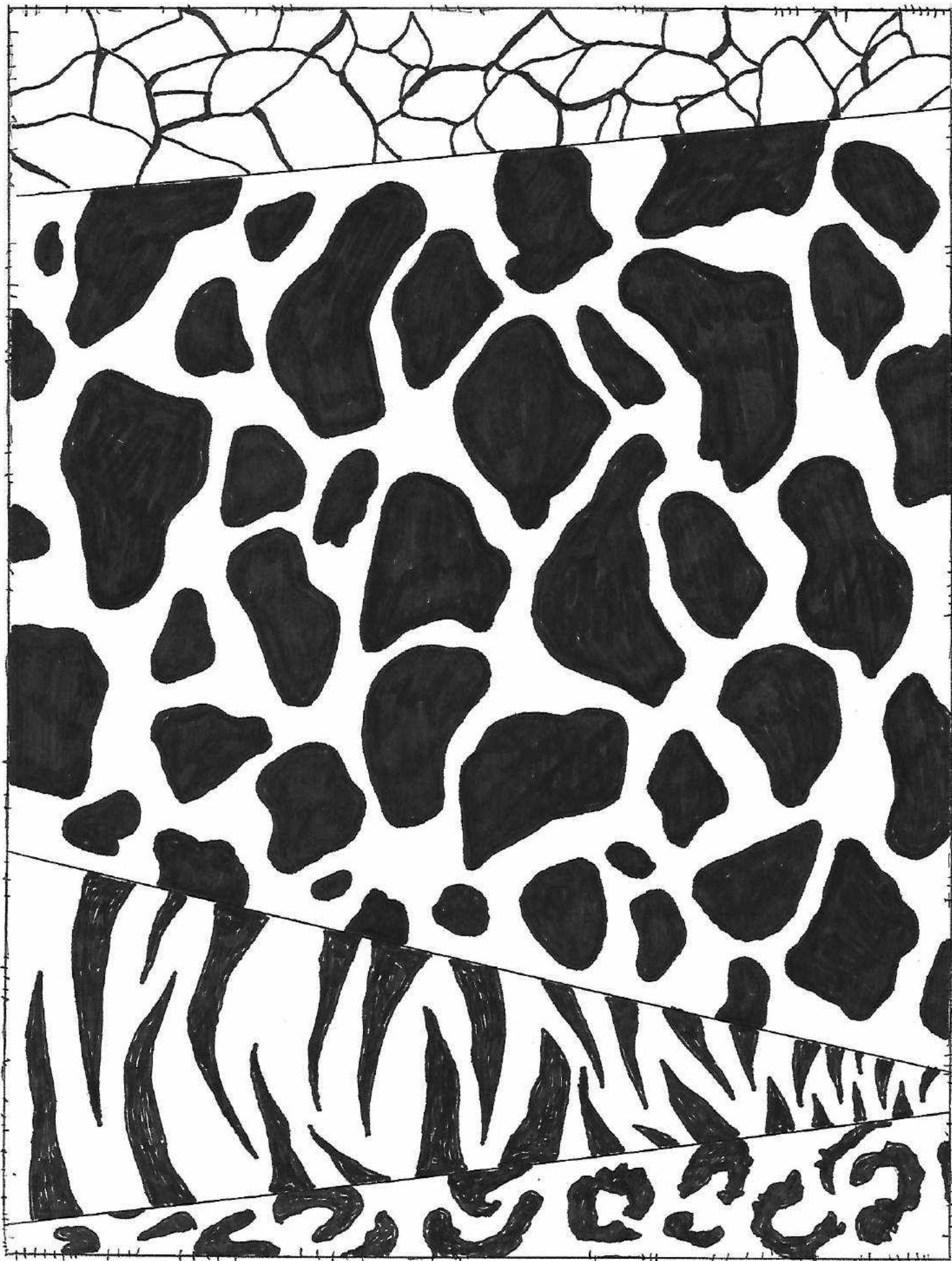


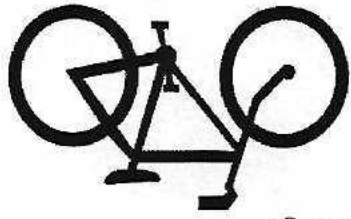
WRITTEN AND ILLUSTRATED BY JEFF CASTO

The End

LOOK AT
ENDANGERED AND
EXTINCT ANIMALS



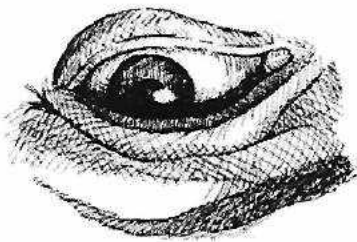




- Eat more fruits and vegetables.
- Walk when possible instead of going by car.
- Ride a bike.
- Reduce, Reuse, Recycle!

- Plant a tree, grow a garden.
- Use less water.

- Speak up! Let others know.
- Pick up trash in your community.



What can you do?

Do you want to live on a planet without giraffes, lions, polar bears and sea otters? Please remember, if we fail to help animals from being endangered, we too face extinction! It doesn't have to be this way. However.....

If we continue to do

nothing, our future on Earth will be like that

of the dinosaurs — gone forever!!



The Gray Wolf, Grizzly Bear, Manatee and Red Kangaroo are just a few animals that are considered vulnerable but not endangered.



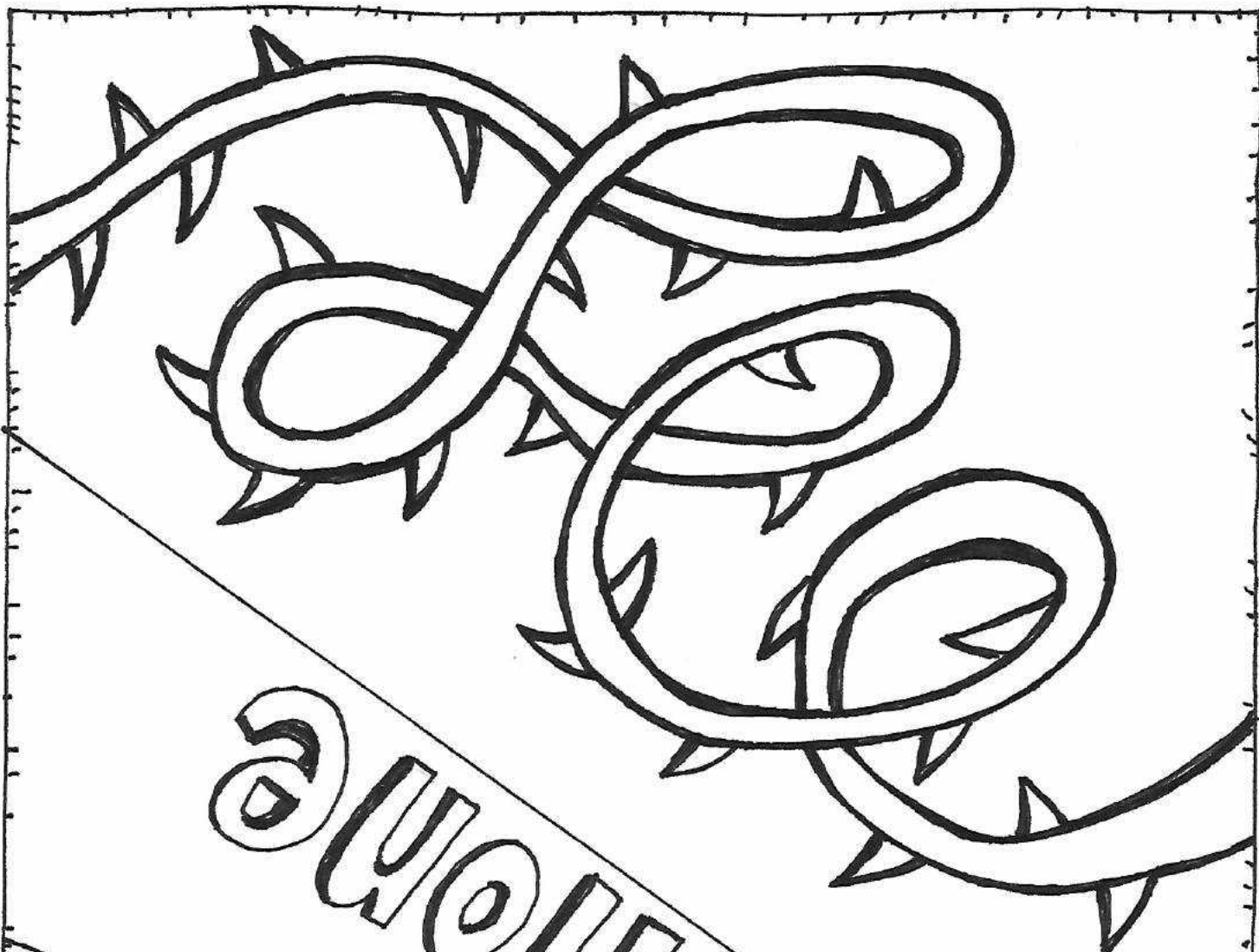
They are establishing nature preserves and wild life parks. This protects animals and their way of life.

Many people are working to help endangered species



The good news is that some endangered animals are beginning to come back from near-extinction. The American Bison, also known as Buffalo, have increased from a population of 600 in 1920 to well over 50,000 in 2023!





at home

not things
exists

in nature

Bees are

disappearing



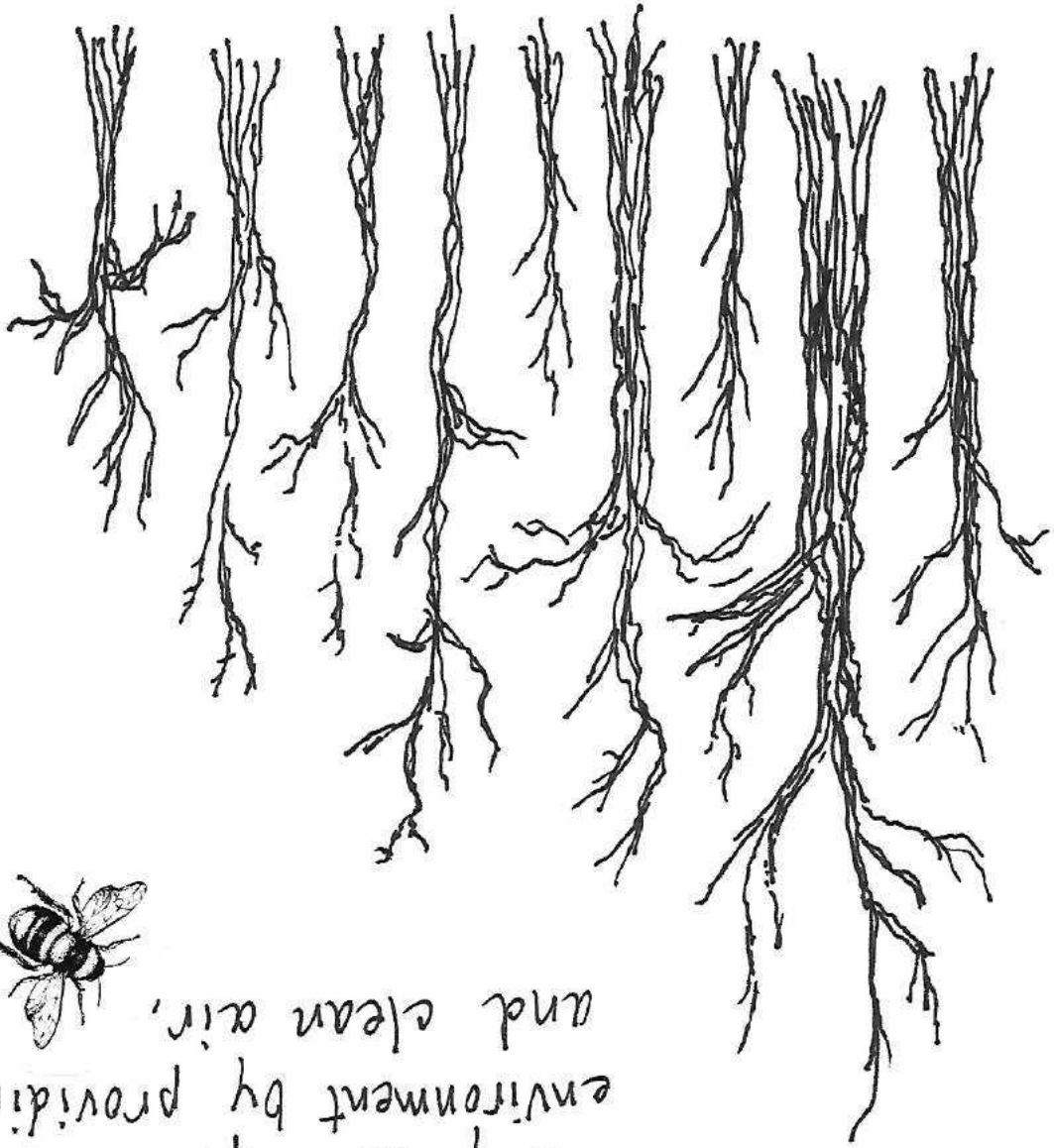
The biggest cause

of bee population decline is
habitat loss due to climate change.
Toxic pesticides are also killing

the bees.



Bees are an important part of the survival of our planet. They collect nectar and pollen from flowers. This helps to pollinate crops, fruits, vegetables and trees. The work they do helps our environment by providing food and clean air.



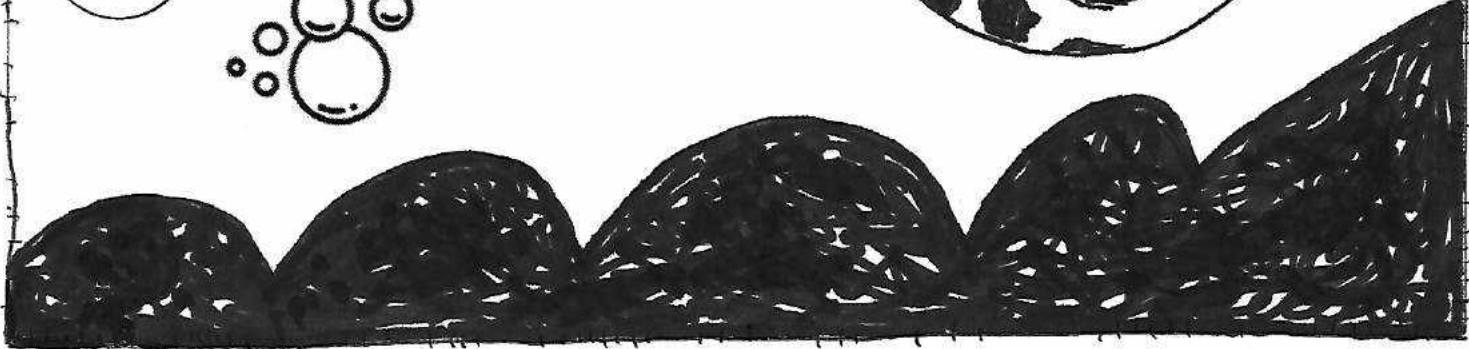
Reasons why this is happening.
Over-Hunting are the main

Loss of Habitat and
Global Warming,

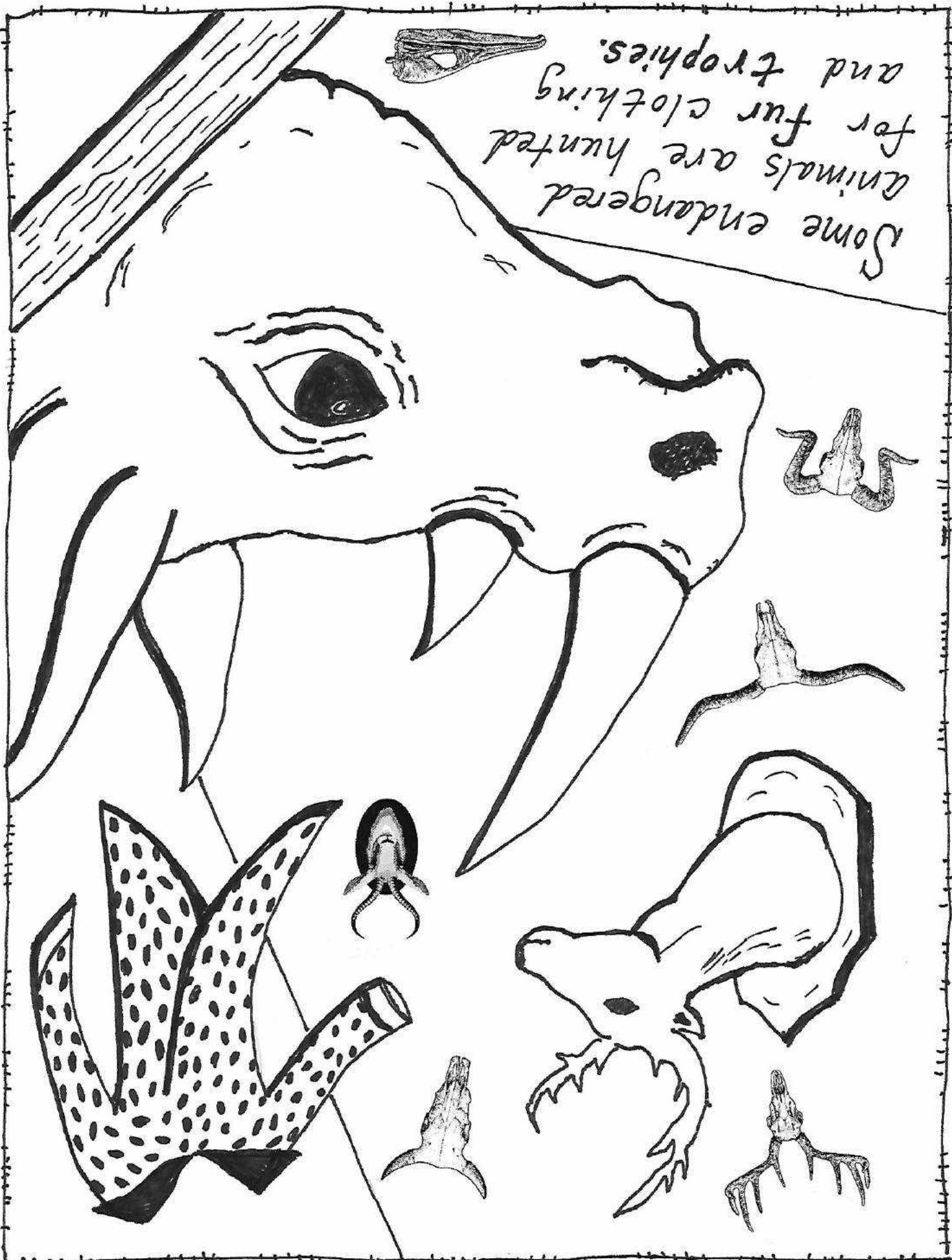
Deforestation,
of extinction.

are in danger
26,500 species

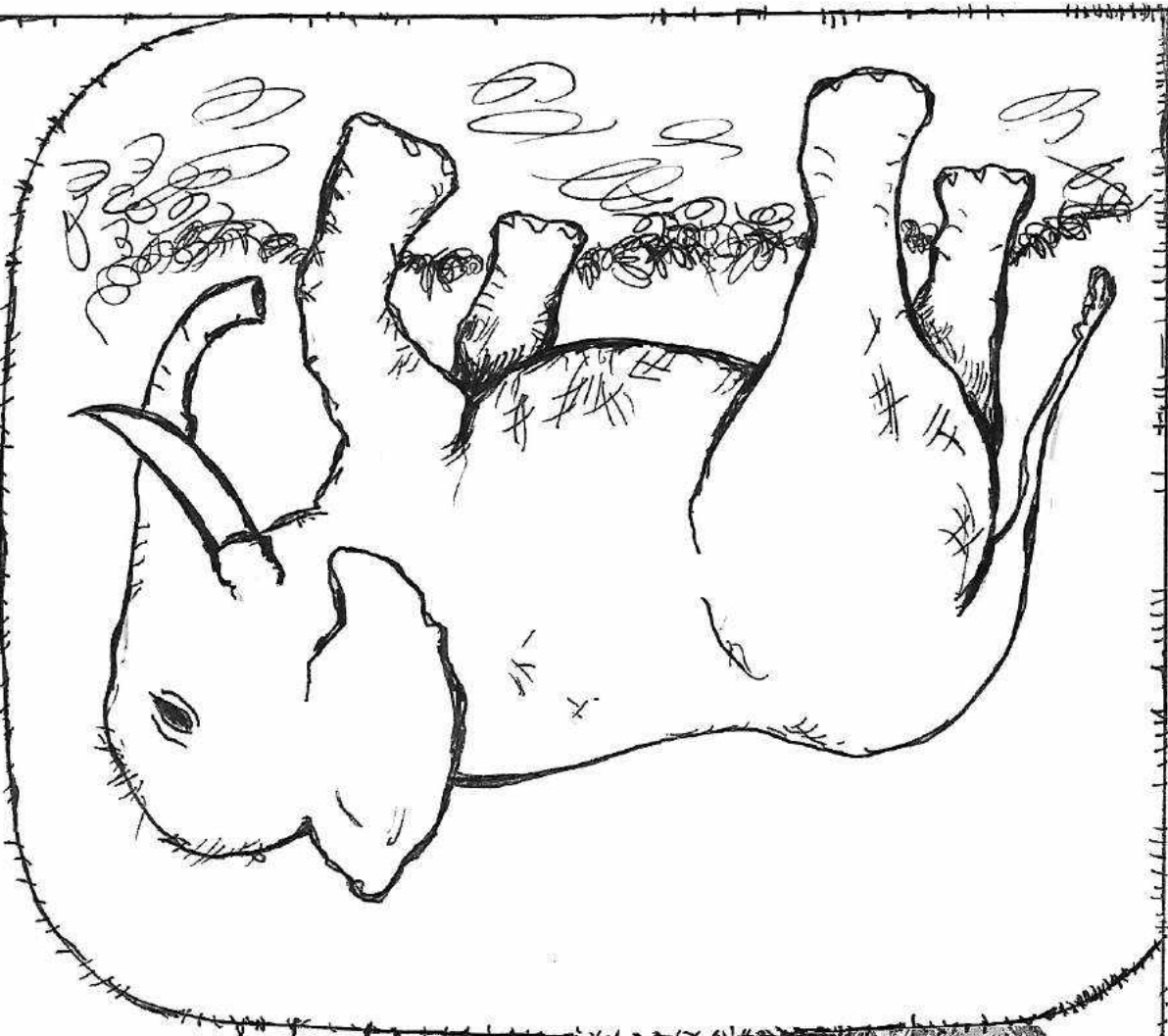
More than



Some endangered
animals are hunted
for fur clothing
and trophies.

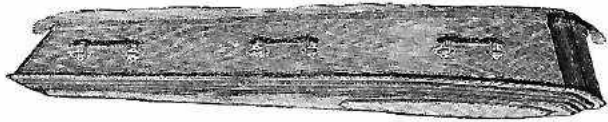


Animals
such as
Elephants,
Orangutans,
Pandas,
Sloths,
Tigers,
Toads
and
Whales.

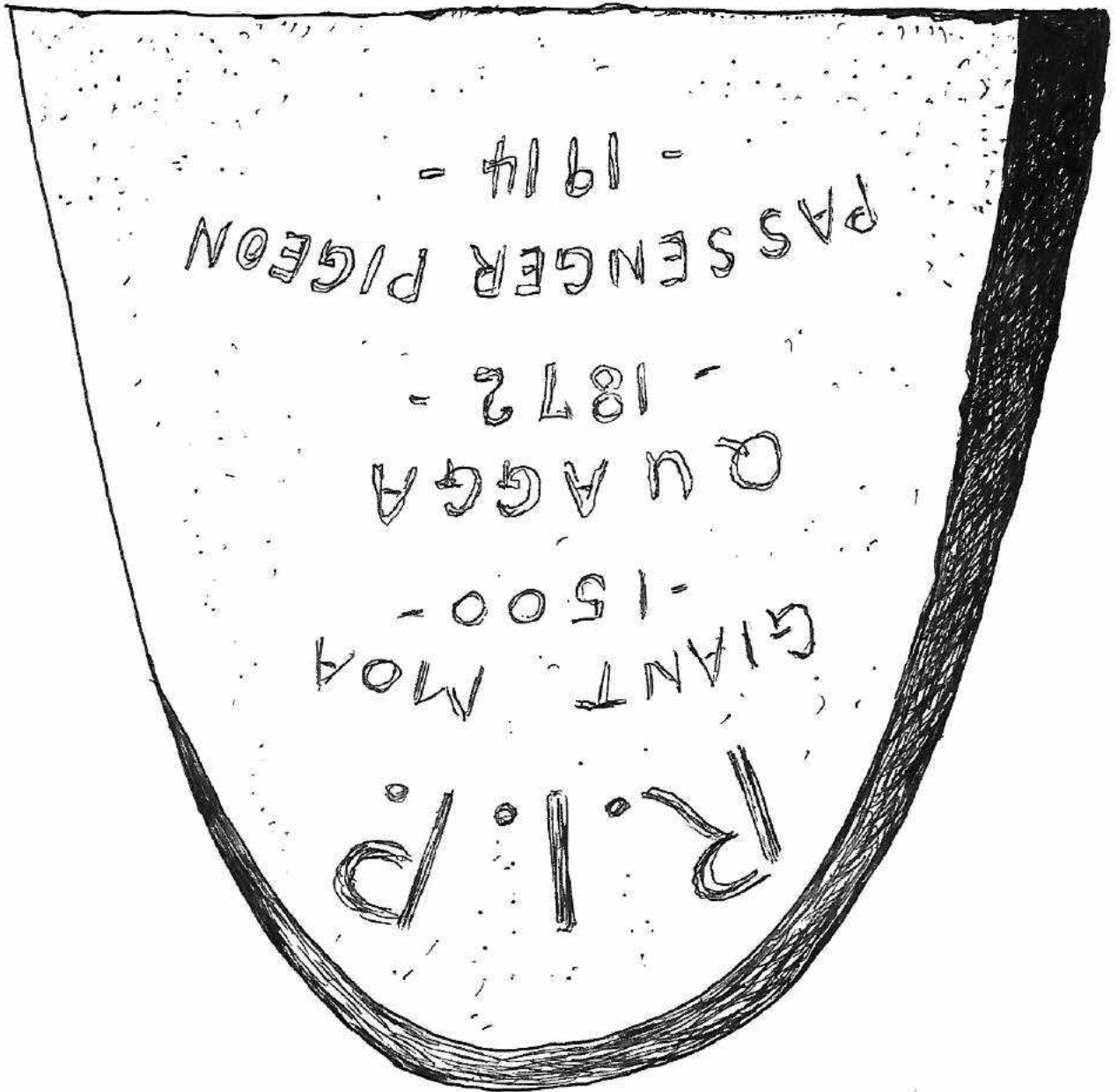


However, some
animals living
today are
close to
being extinct.

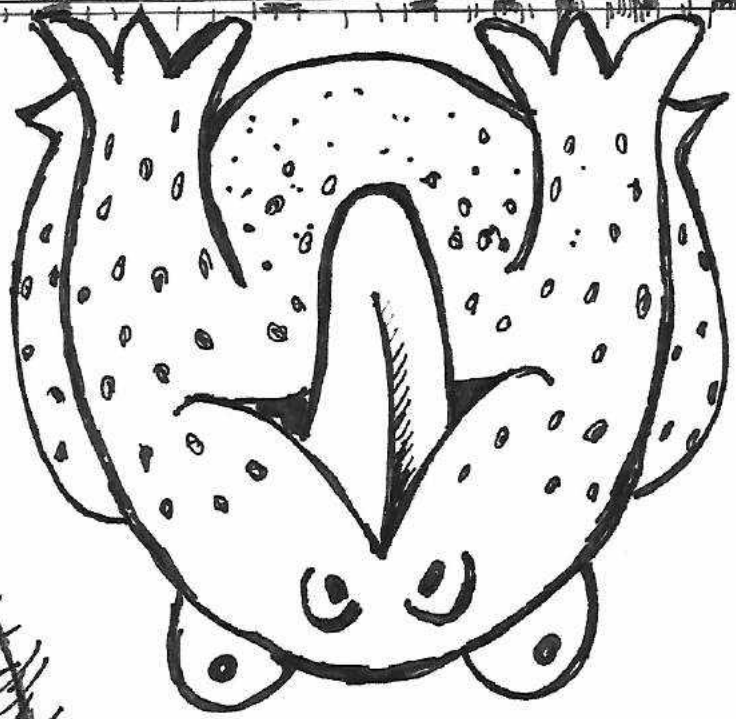




Many animals have went extinct in
the past 500 years; we only know
about them from writings,
drawings and photographs.



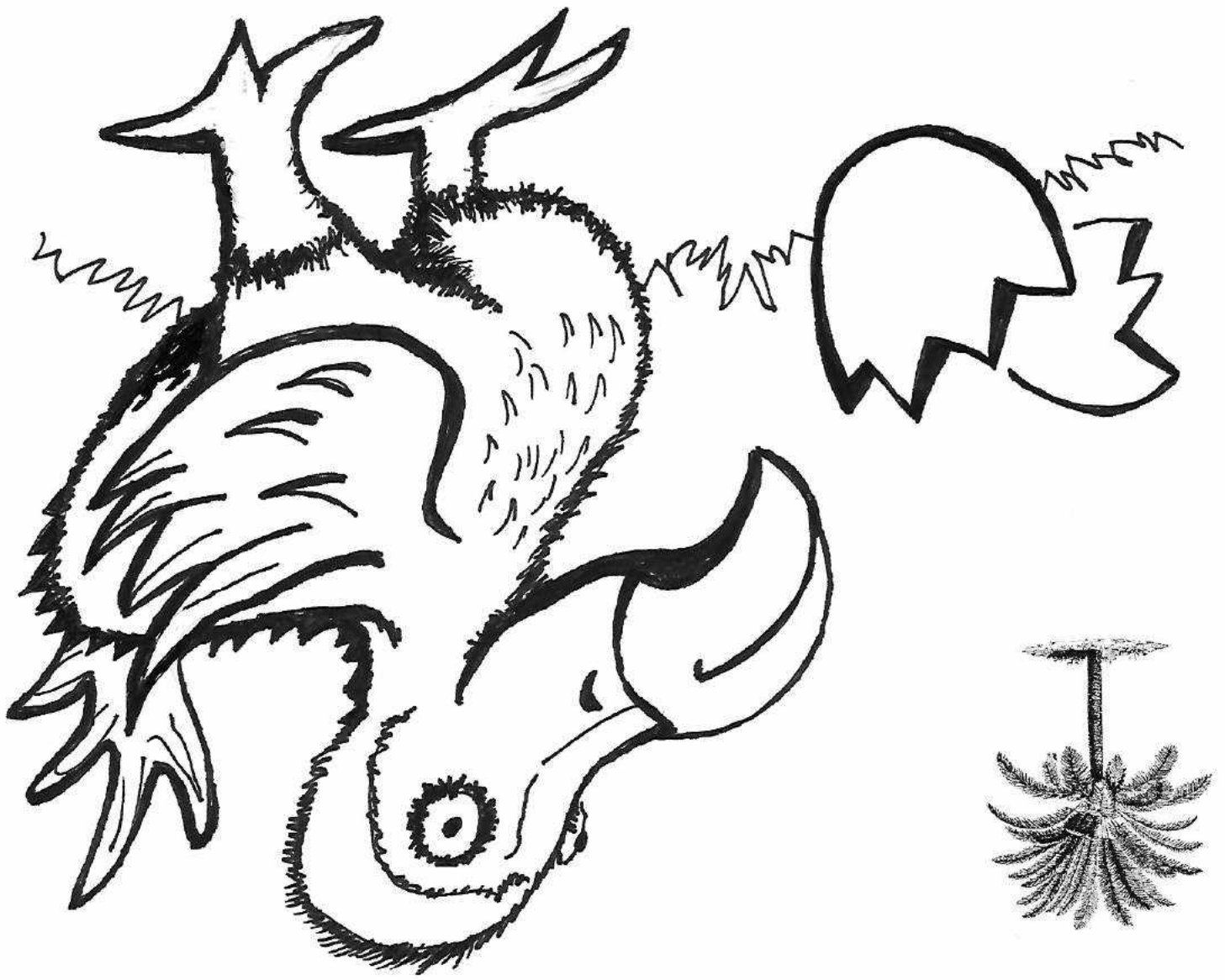
And the Golden
Toad was last
seen in the nineties.



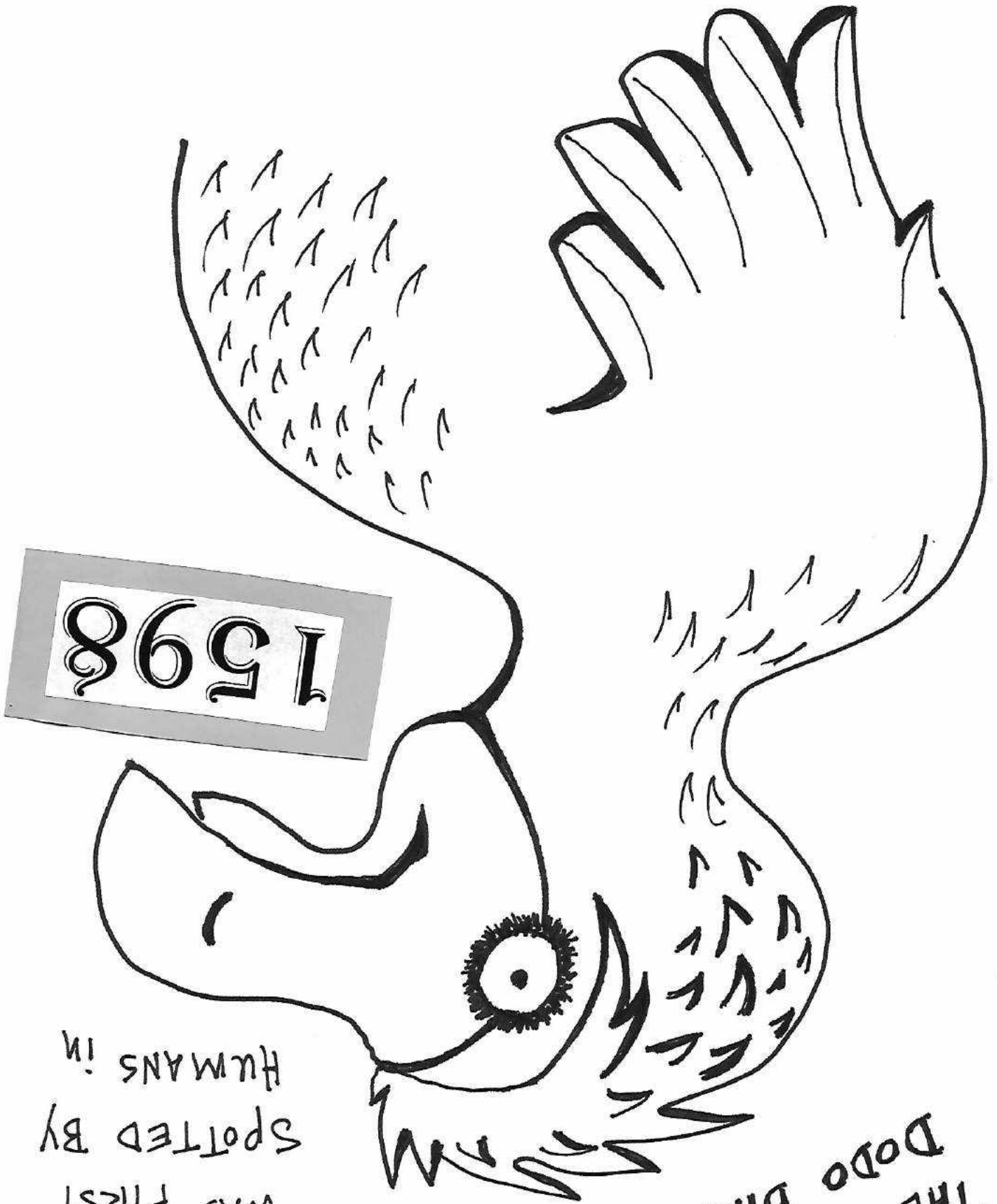
Also known
as a
Thylacine -
died away
in 1936.



THE
TASMANIAN
TIGER



Sixty-four years later, the Dodo Bird became extinct in 1662! It lived on the island of Mauritius and was hunted to death by people. Also, new animals (an invasive species) such as rats, cats and dogs were brought to the island and ate all of the Dodo's eggs.



WAS FIRST
SPOTTED BY
HUMANS IN

THE
DODO BIRD

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Dodo Birds?

LOOK AT
ENDANGERED AND EXTINGUISHED ANIMALS



Have you ever seen

Have you

