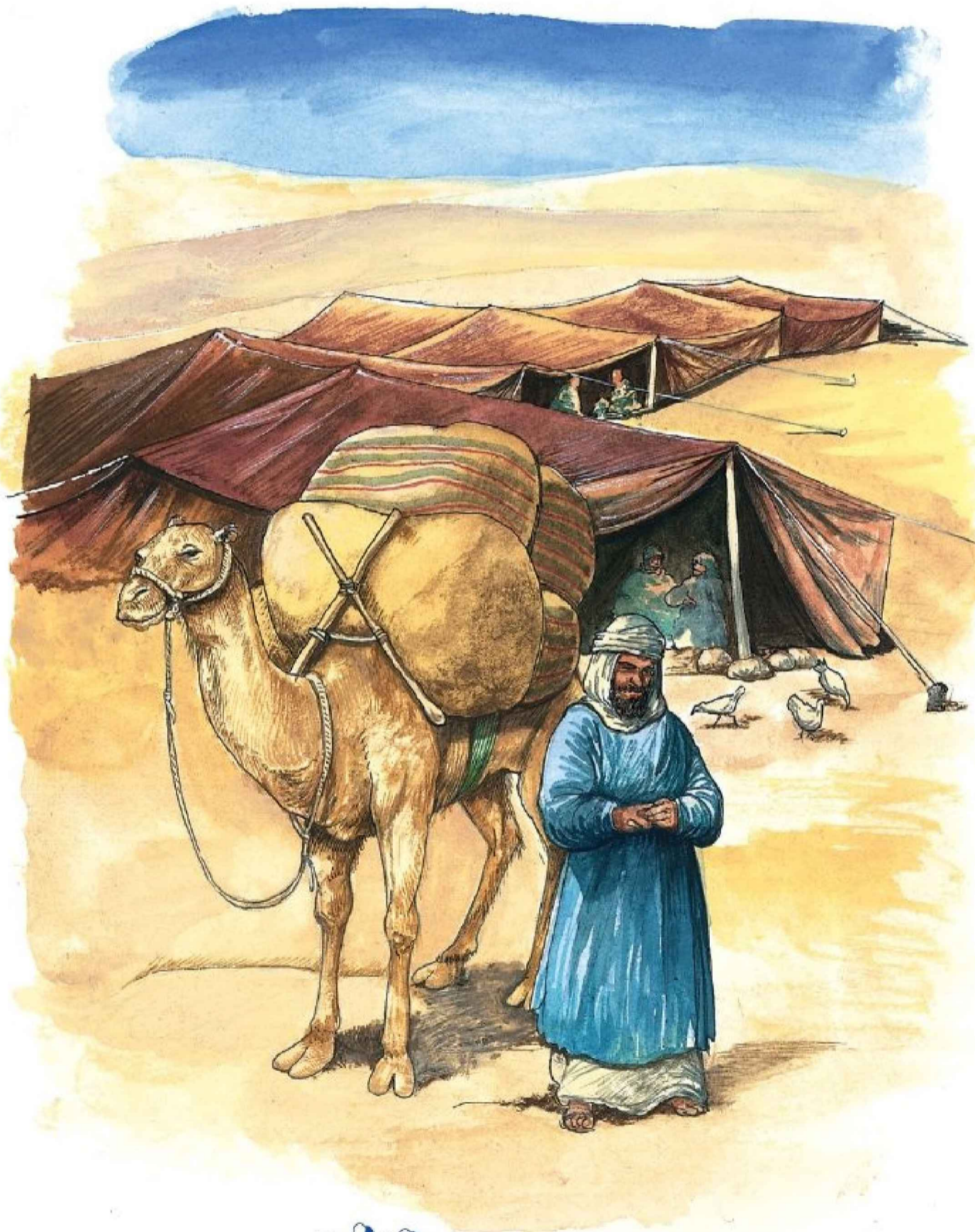




Nonfiction

Deserts

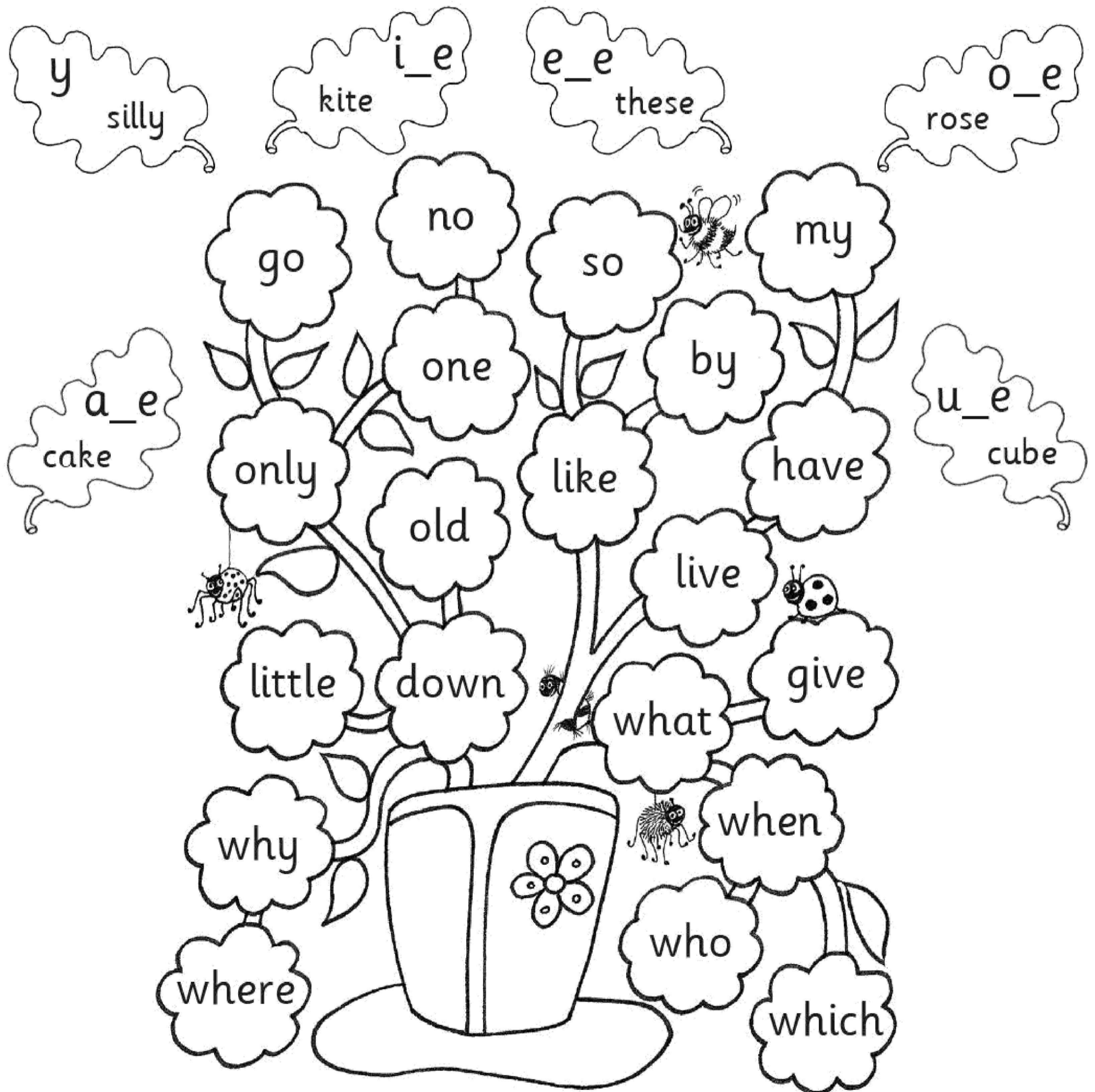


Jolly
Phonics

Teachers and parents

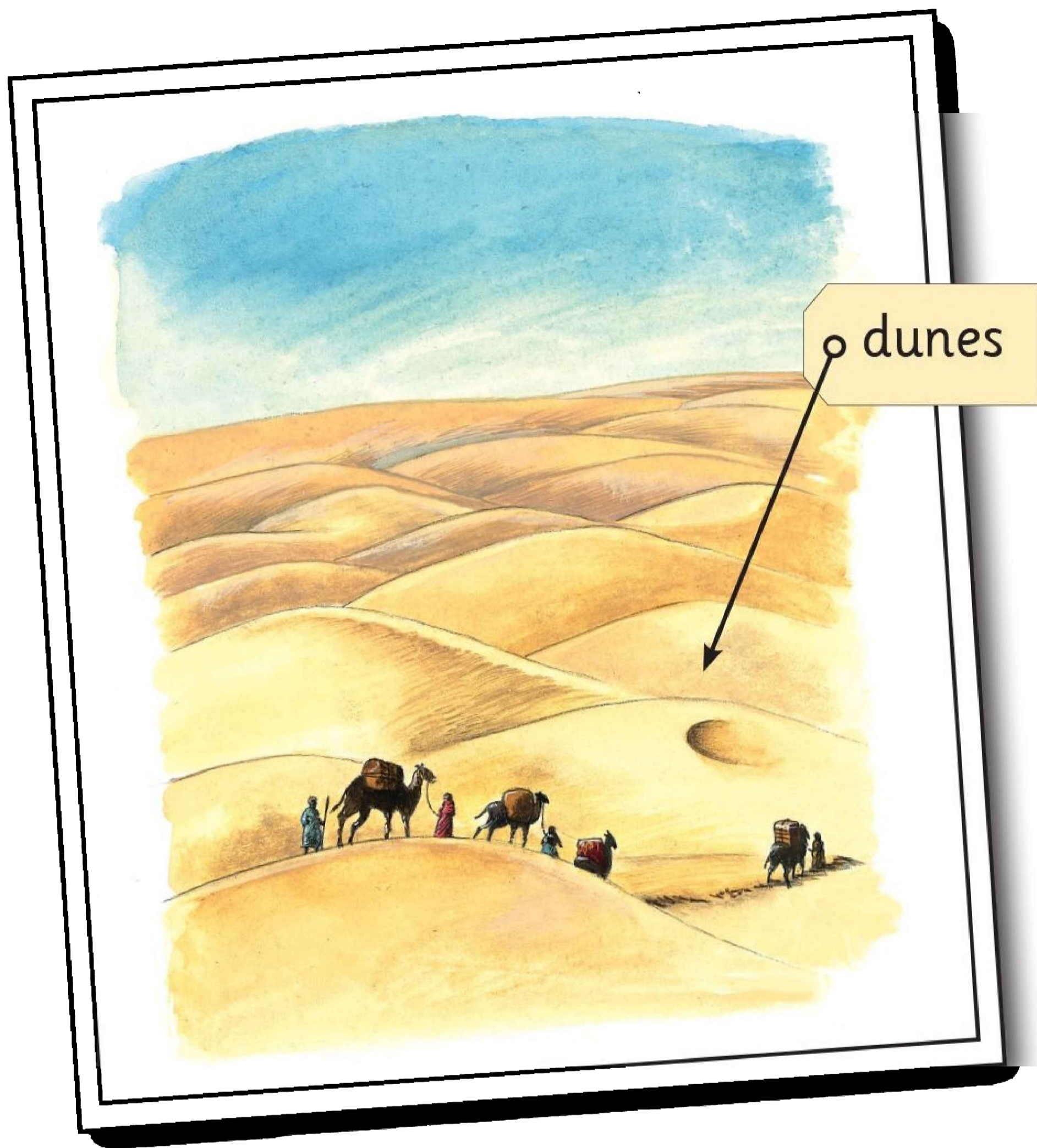
Before tackling these Green Level Readers, a child will need to be able to:

- Recognise the basic 42 letter sounds;
- Recognise the alternative letter-sound spellings in the leaves below, including the 'hop-over <e>' digraphs in words like *take*, *these*, *bike*, *code*, *mule*;
- Read (blend) regular words containing these letter sounds;
- Recognise the twenty tricky words shown in the flowers below;
- Recognise the names of the three main characters, as well as Phonic.



A desert is a big stretch of land which gets very little rain. Deserts can be made up of sand or of stones or rock. The Sahara Desert in North Africa is the biggest desert of all.





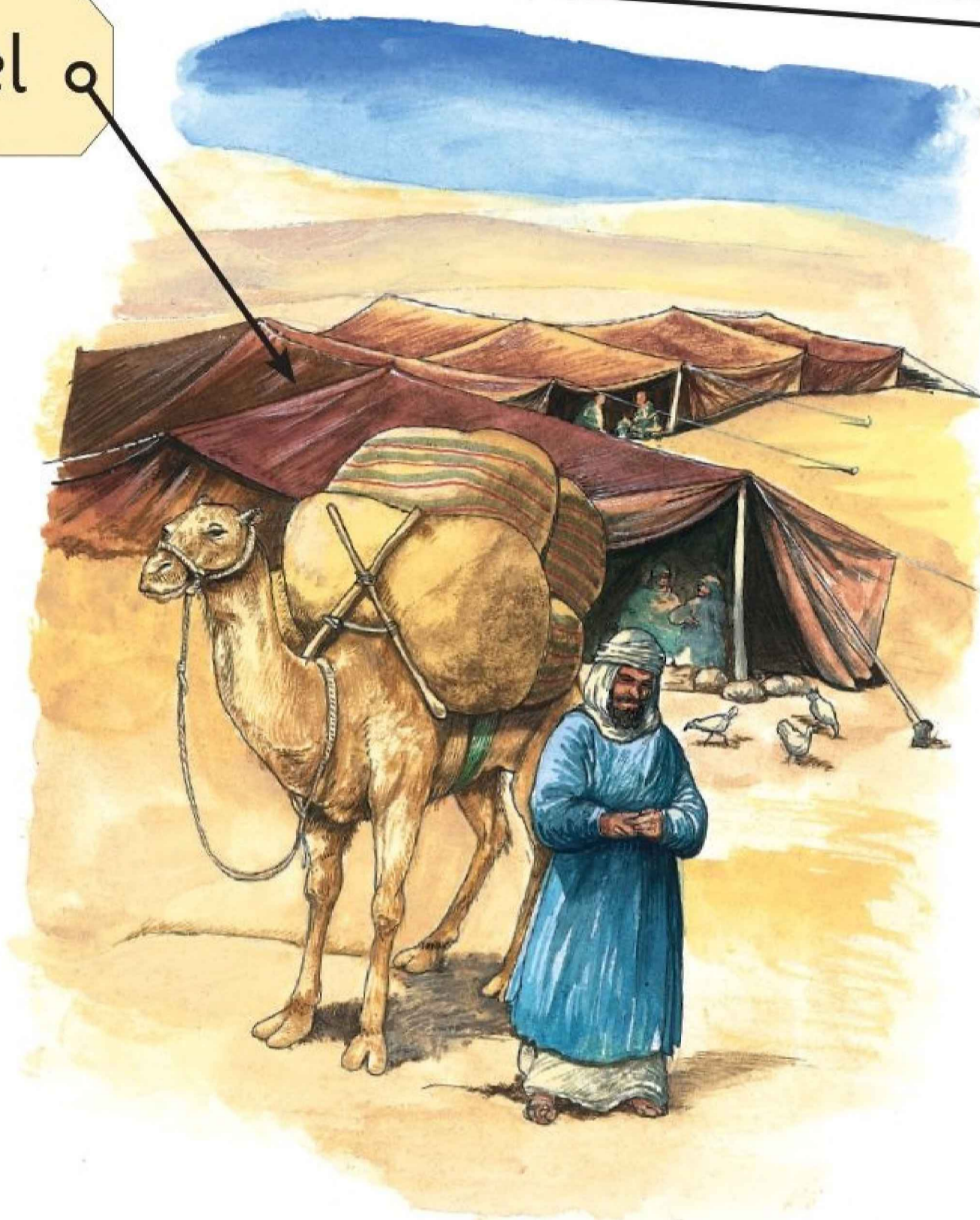
In some deserts, the sand gets piled up into mounds by the wind. These mounds, which look like waves, are called dunes.

Sometimes, strong winds whip the sand and dust up into sandstorms. When this happens, clouds of sand drift across the desert.



sandstorm

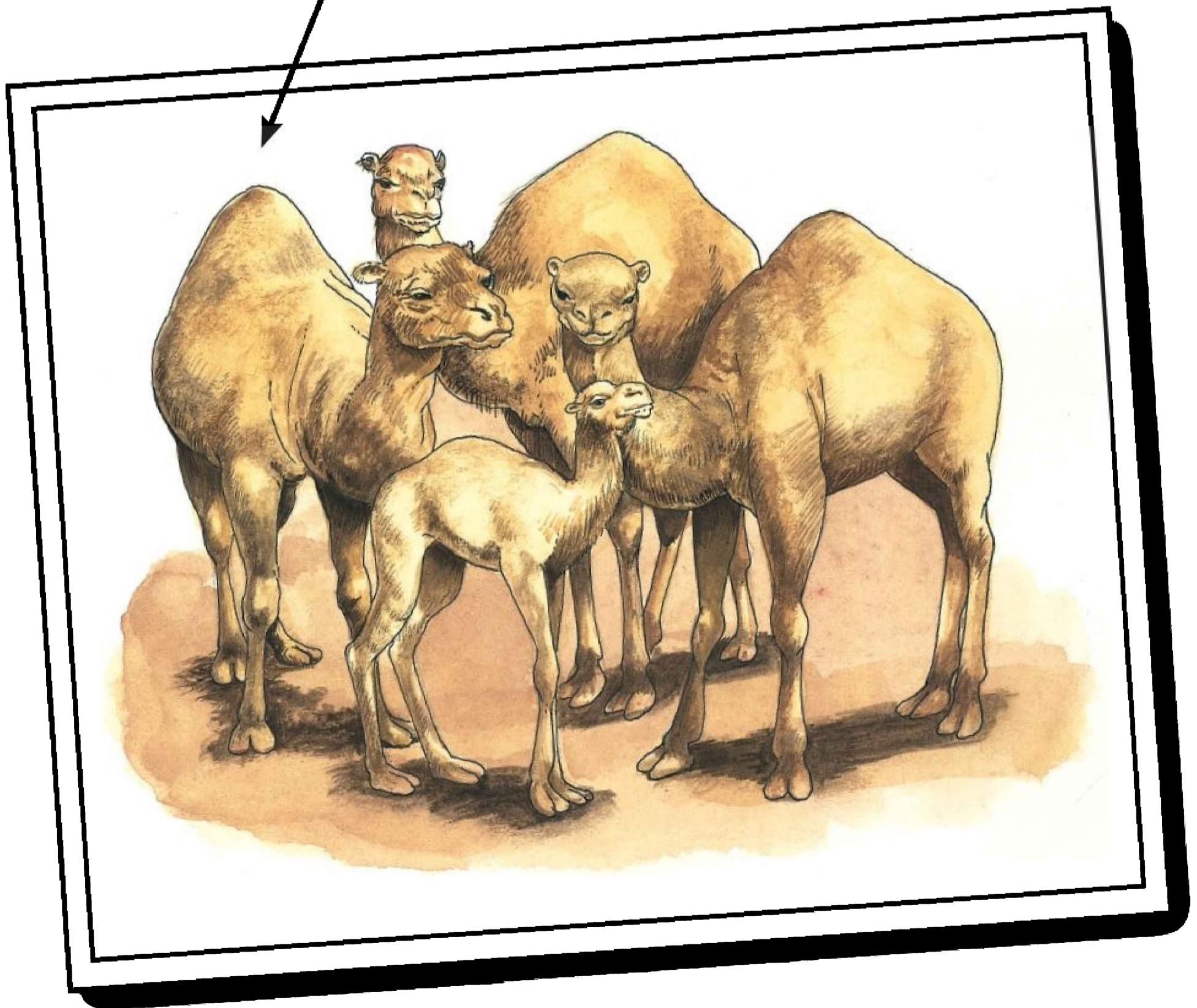
camel



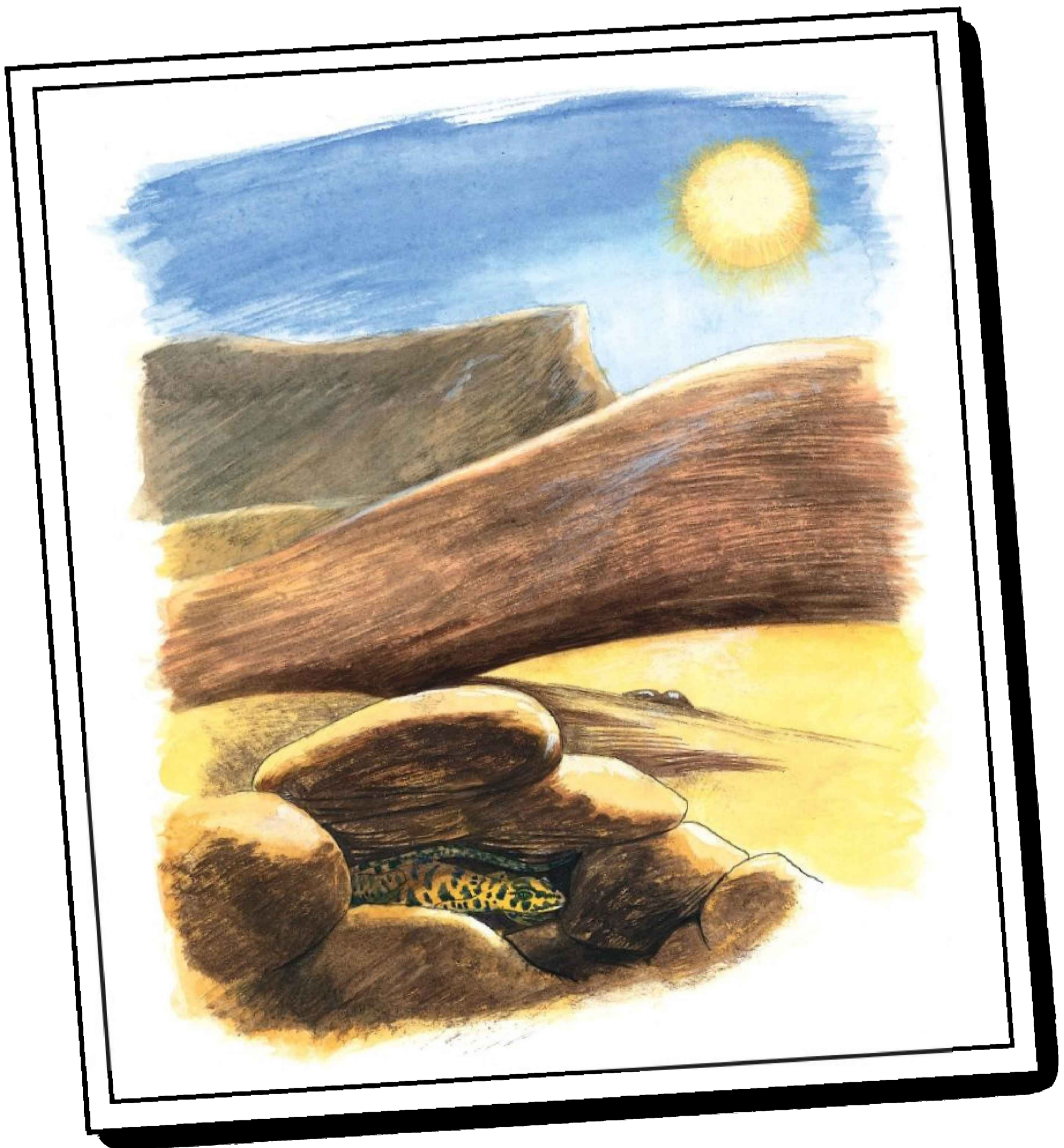
There are tribes who live in the desert. They use camels to ride on and to help them carry things. That is why camels are sometimes called the ships of the desert.

A camel stores fat in its hump. It can go without food or drink for a long time, while it uses up the store of fat. A camel can close its nostrils, which stops sand from getting up its nose in sandstorms.

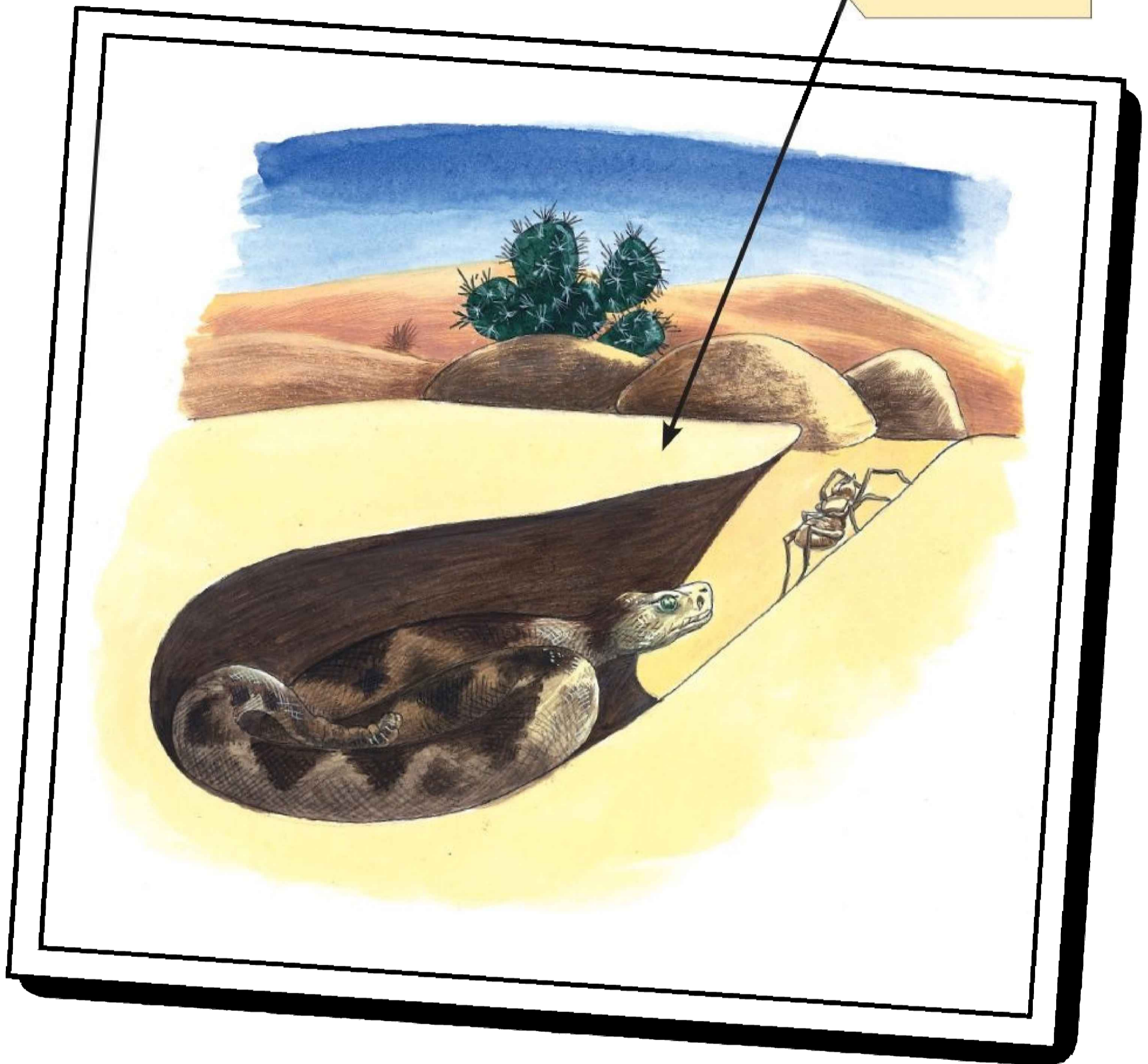
o hump



Deserts often look empty, but lots of animals do live there. There is not much shade or shelter from the sun, so animals hide and do not come out until it is cooler.



o shelter

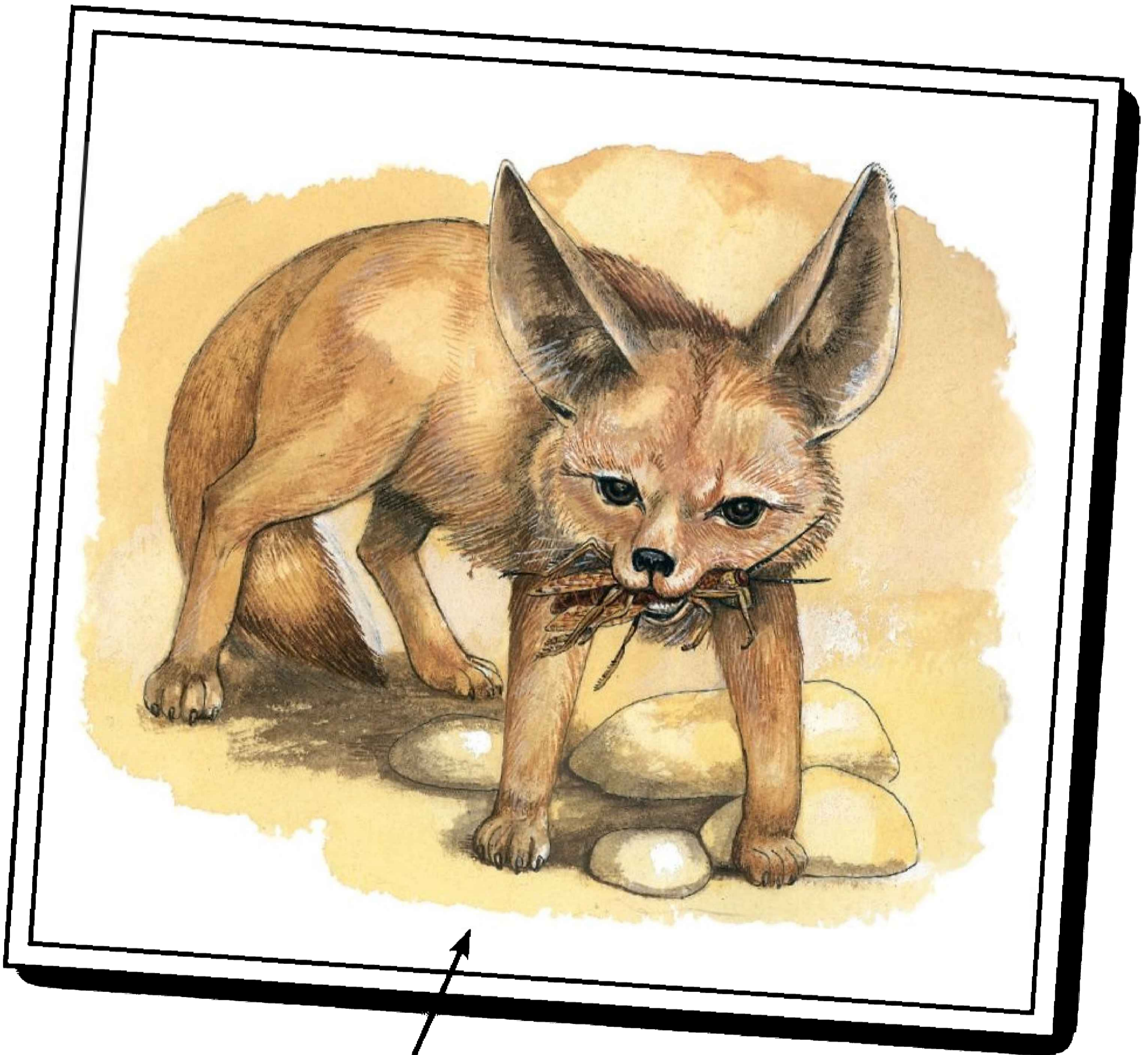


Small animals, reptiles and insects shelter underground from the sun. Desert insects tend to have long legs which help them avoid touching the hot ground.

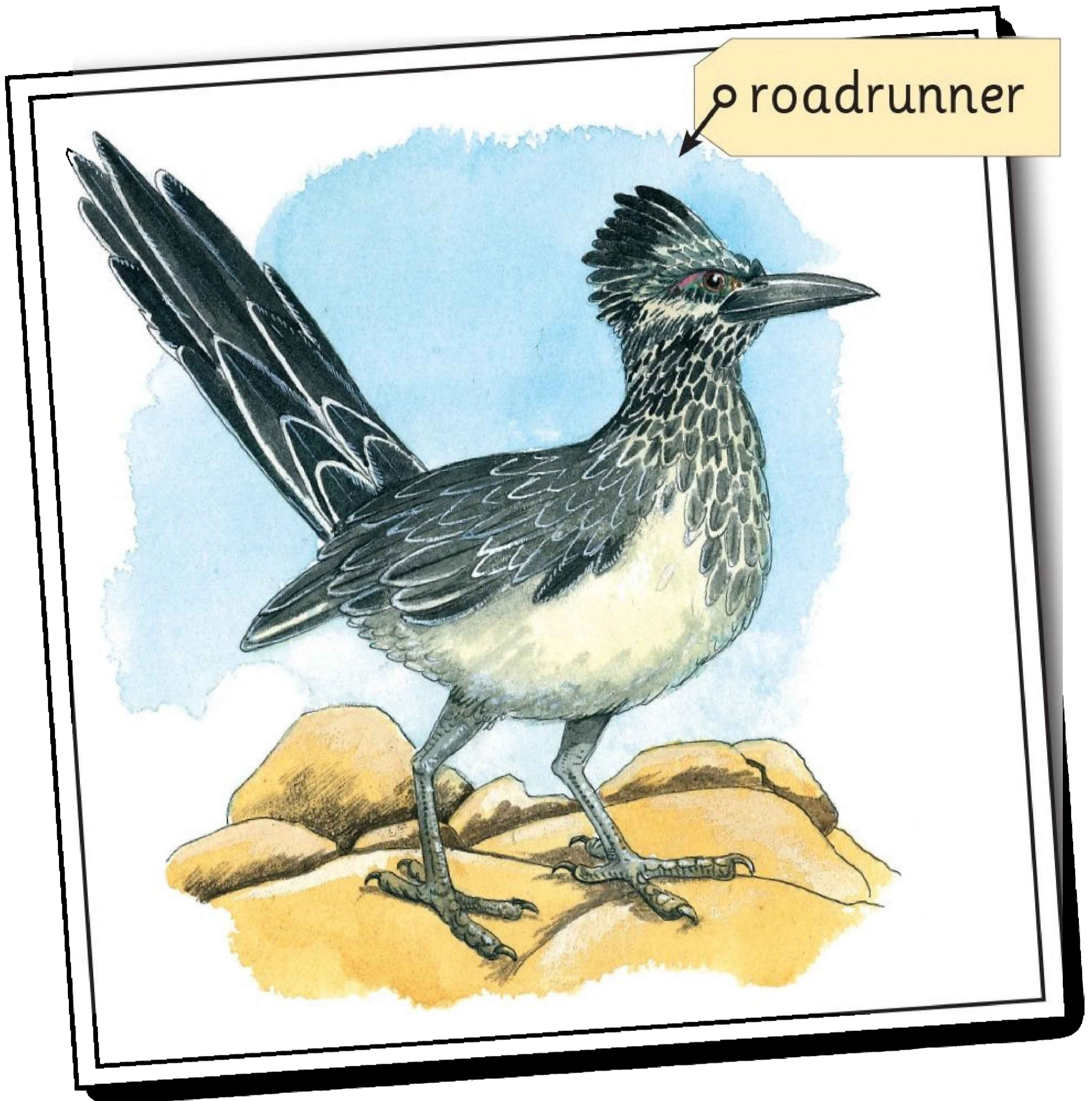


This insect is from the Namib Desert in South Africa. It drinks while standing on its head by kneeling down and letting droplets from the morning fog drip down its body and into its mouth.

This is a desert fox, called a fennec fox. It lives in the Sahara desert and hunts small animals and insects.



fennec fox ◦



Roadrunners like this one live in deserts in America. They mainly get about by running along the ground, and they feed on insects, lizards and small snakes.

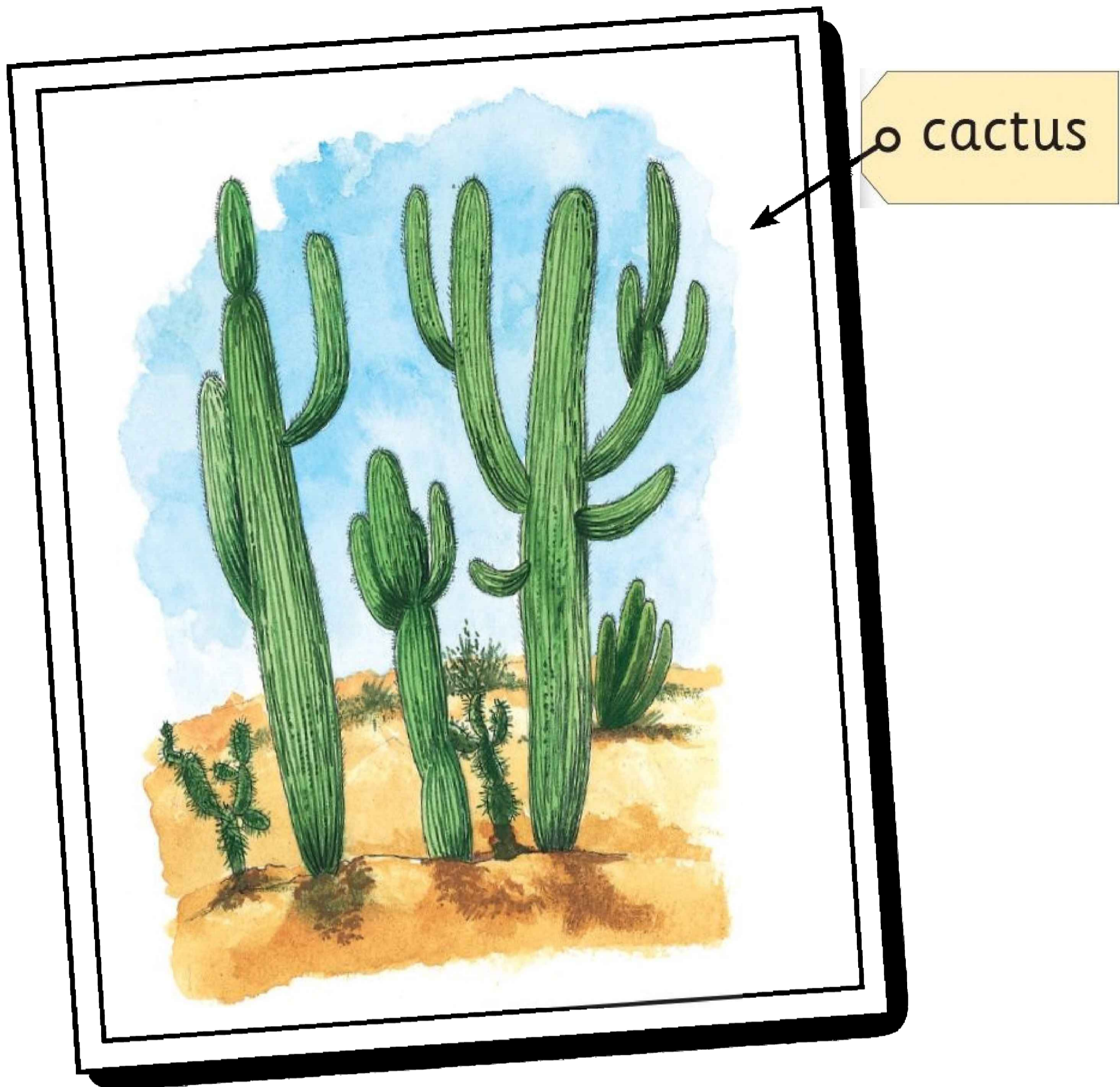
Deserts often go without rain for a very long time, but sometimes there are sudden rainstorms. When rain falls, the empty riverbeds fill up, and animals can come and drink.



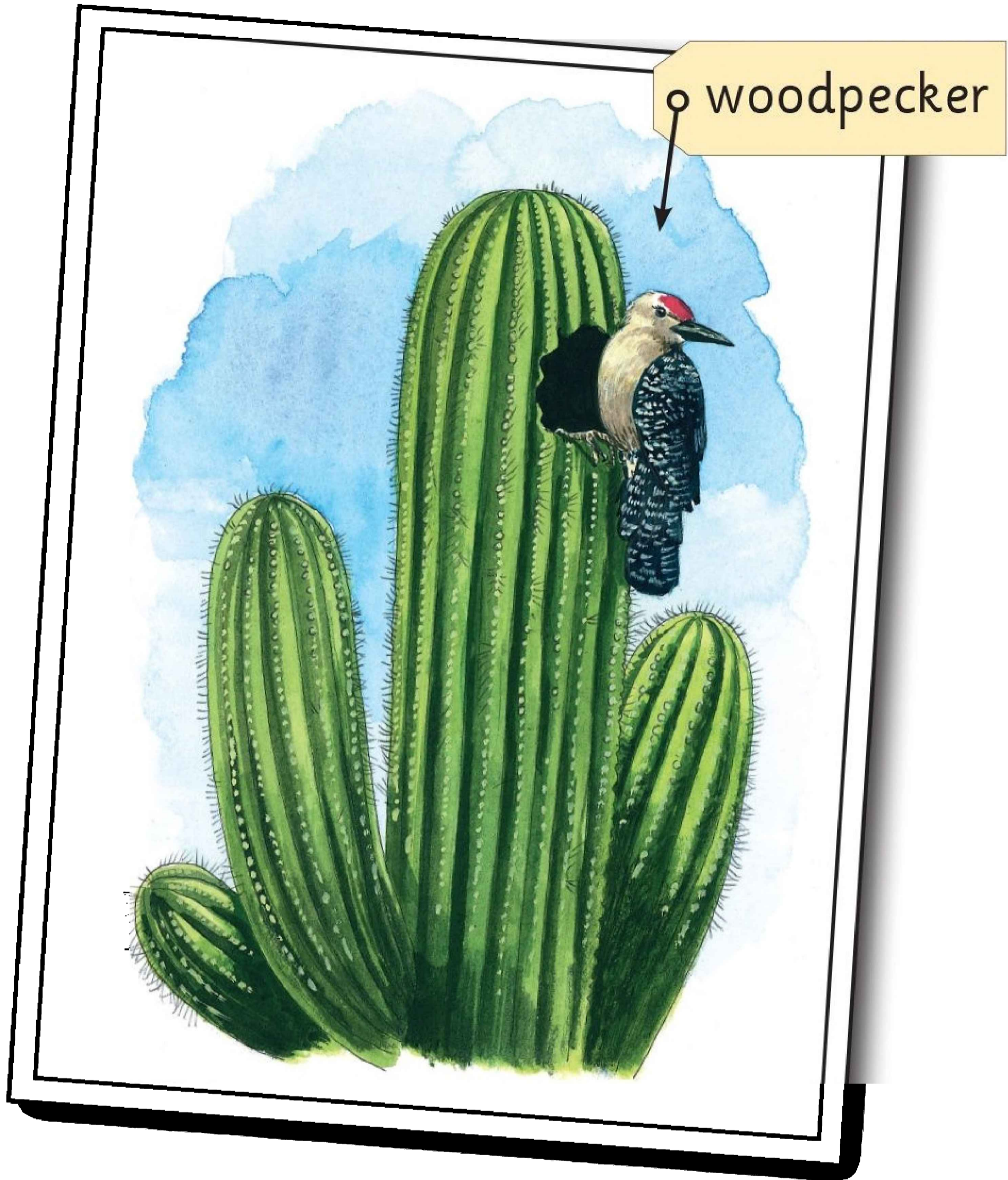
When it has rained, the desert blooms, but only for a short time. Then the seeds lie waiting on the desert sands until the next rainstorm, when they can bloom again.



oblooms



The cactus has adapted well to life in the desert. When rain falls and the soil is wet, the roots of the cactus take in as much rain as they can. The cactus swells up as it stores the liquid and then shrinks again, little by little, as it uses it up.

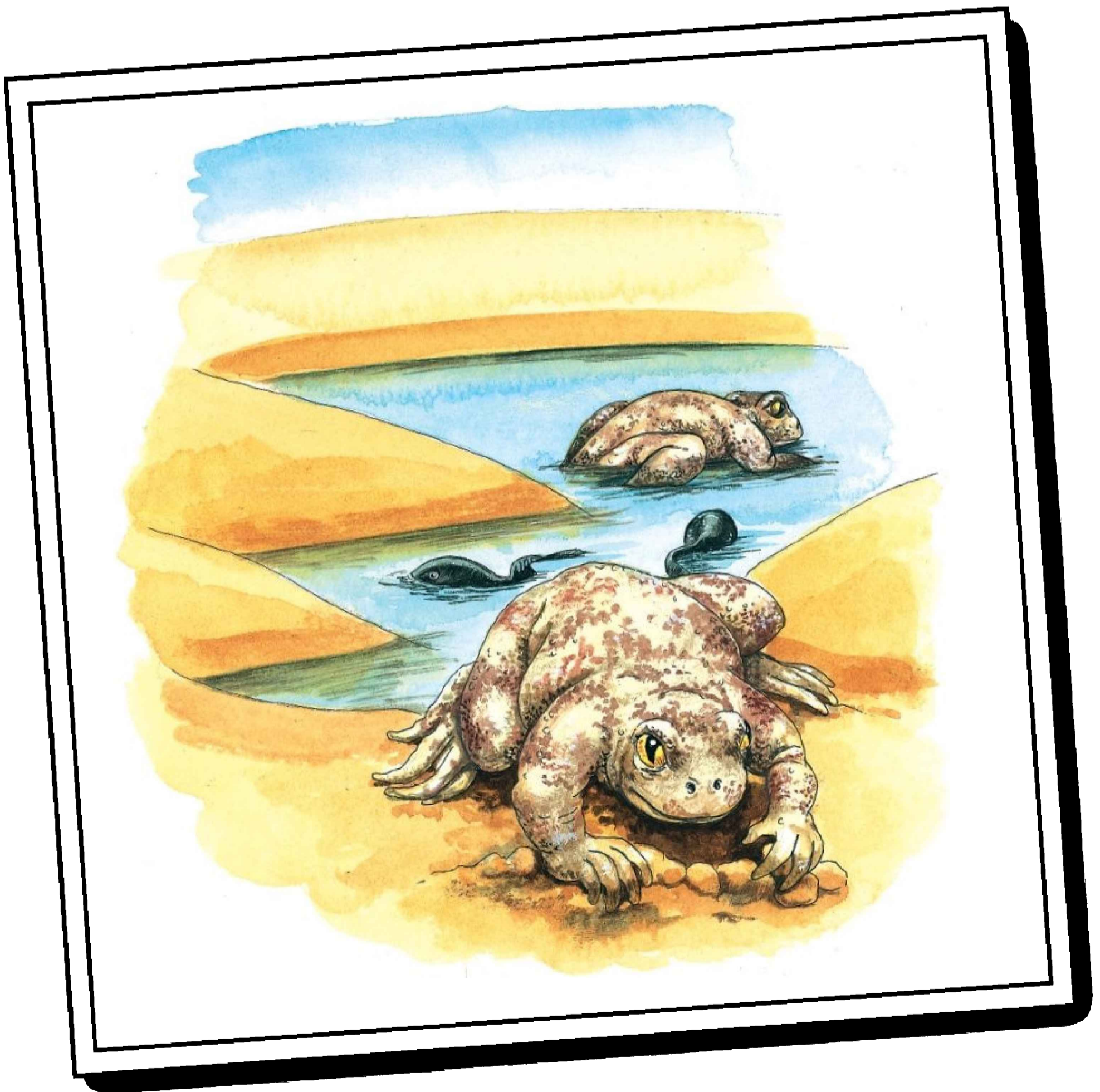


Lots of small animals and insects live on the cactus. Desert woodpeckers make holes for nests at the top.

Spadefoot toads live in deserts in America. They can spend a long time underground, waiting for rain. Then they come out into the pools of rain.



The tadpoles of the spadefoot toad only take three weeks to develop into adult toads. By this time, the pools have all dried up, so the toads go back underground to wait for it to rain again.



Reading Comprehension

Teachers and parents

An important part of becoming a confident, fluent reader is a child's ability to understand what they are reading. Below are some suggestions on how to develop a child's reading comprehension.

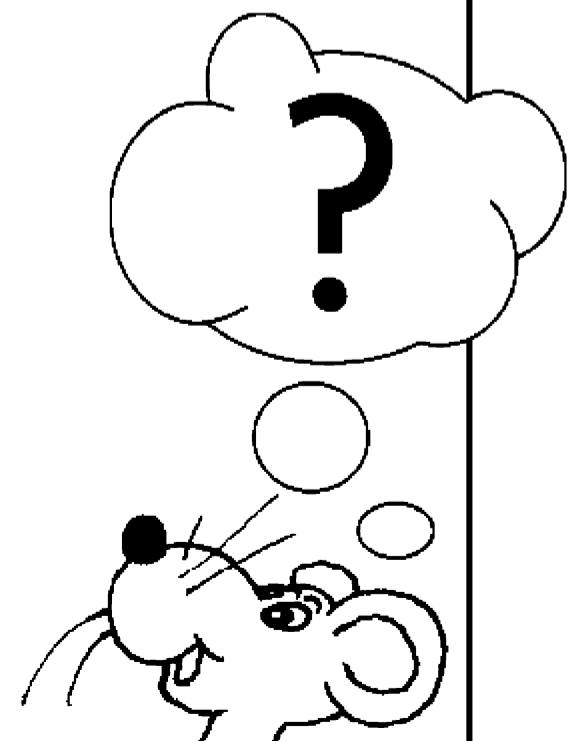
- Make reading this book a shared experience between you and the child. Try to avoid leaving it until the whole book is read before talking about it. Occasionally stop at various intervals throughout the book.
- Ask questions about the characters, the setting, the action and the meaning.
- Encourage the child to think about what might happen next. It does not matter if the answer is right or wrong, so long as the suggestion makes sense and demonstrates understanding.
- Ask the child to describe what is happening in the illustrations.
- Relate what is happening in the book to any real-life experiences the child may have.
- Pick out any vocabulary that may be new to the child and ask what they think it means. If they don't know, explain it and relate it to what is happening in the book.
- Encourage the child to summarise, in their own words, what they have read.

What's in the book?

- What is the biggest desert?
- What are dunes?
- Where do some animals shelter from the sun?

What do you think?

- Why are camels called ships of the desert?
- Is the desert a difficult place to live?



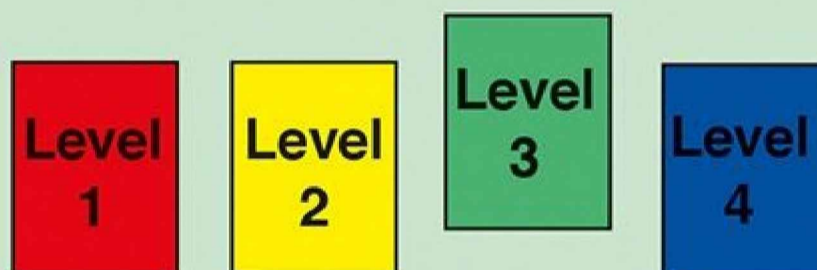


Jolly Phonics Readers are fully decodable books for new readers.

These Readers have been written with a **carefully controlled vocabulary**, and are specifically designed for children who are learning to read and write with *Jolly Phonics*.

- The text in these Green Level Books (third level) uses only **decodable regular words** (words that use the letter-sound knowledge taught so far: the 42 main letter sounds, the alternative sound of <y> at the end of words like *happy* and *sunny* and the 'hop-over <e>' spellings of the long vowel sounds) and a small number of **'tricky' words** (frequently used words that are not fully decodable at this stage).
- All the tricky words and alternative letter-sound spellings used are shown on the front inside cover; these can be used as a quick practice activity before starting the book.
- **Faint type** is used for any silent letters, like the in 'lamb'.
- **Comprehension questions** and discussion topics are included at the end of the book. These ensure that children are not only able to read the text, but also get meaning from the stories.

Green Level Readers



Inky Mouse & Friends	General Fiction	Nonfiction
The Tree That Blinked	The Three Billy Goats Gruff	Snakes
What's in the Box?	The Fox and the Stork	Deserts
The Old Red Tractor	The Outing	Captain Scott
The Model Boat	The Little Merman	Underground
Wait and See!	The Cricket and the Ants	Mushrooms
The Bad-Tempered Goat	Little Monsters	Teeth



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