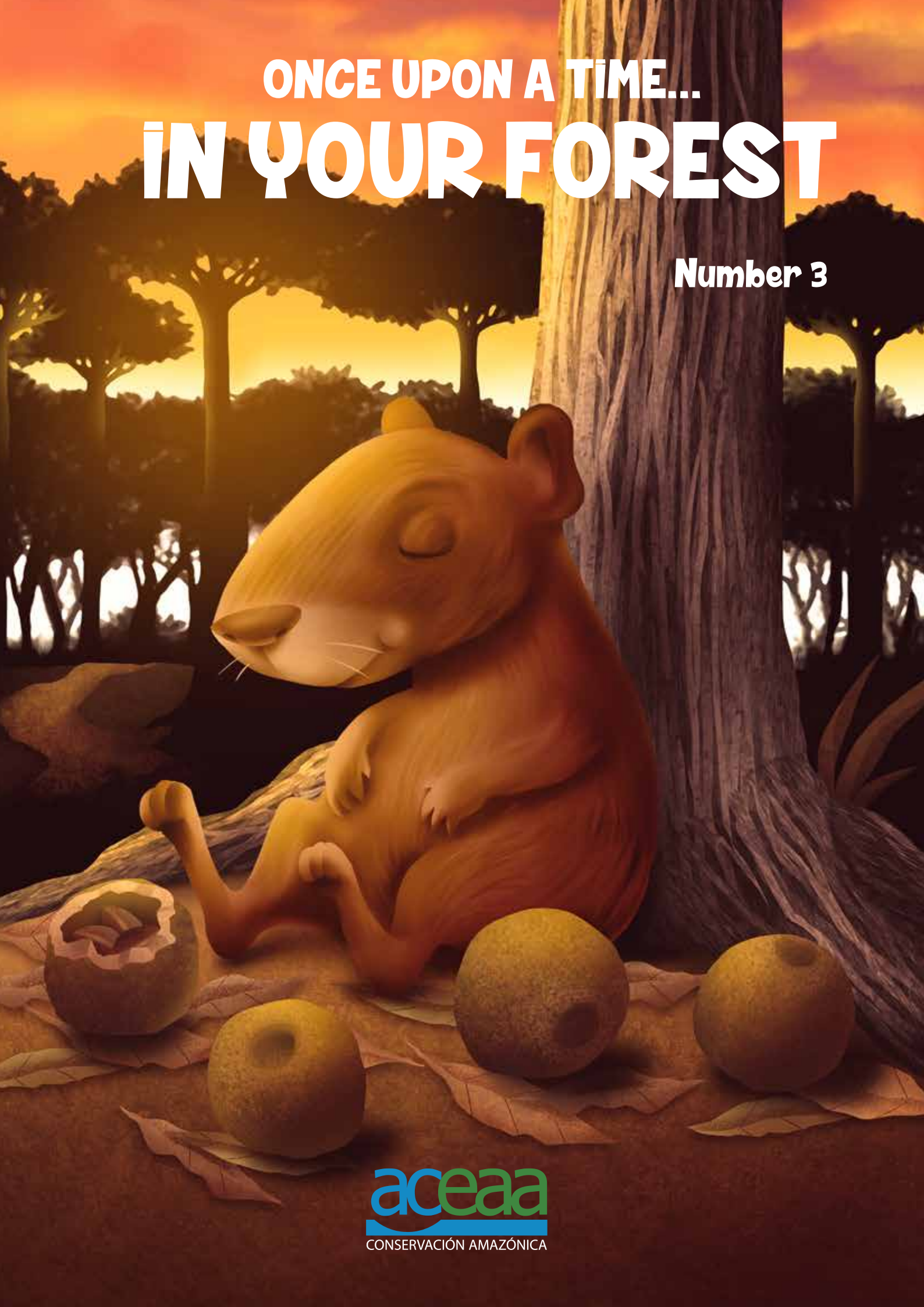


# ONCE UPON A TIME... IN YOUR FOREST

Number 3



# The Agouti and the Brazil Nut

This comic was created by the Science and Technology Program at ACEAA-Conservación Amazónica under the research, dissemination and awareness-raising activities that are being carried out in the Northern Bolivian Amazon.

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LEGAL DEPOSIT:

4-2-4255-2022

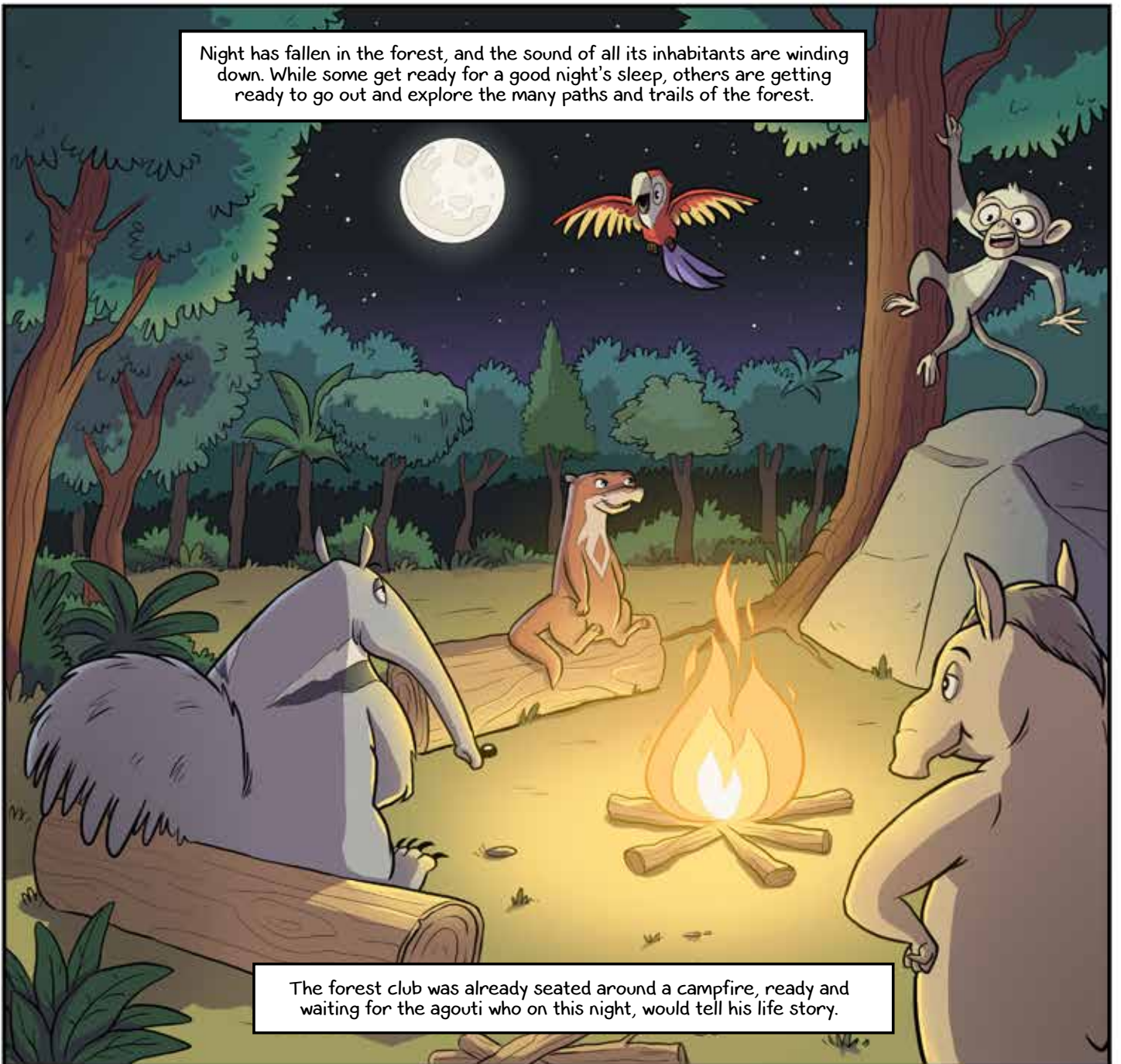
ISBN:

978-9917-626-00-8

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Bolivia

Night has fallen in the forest, and the sound of all its inhabitants are winding down. While some get ready for a good night's sleep, others are getting ready to go out and explore the many paths and trails of the forest.



The forest club was already seated around a campfire, ready and waiting for the agouti who on this night, would tell his life story.

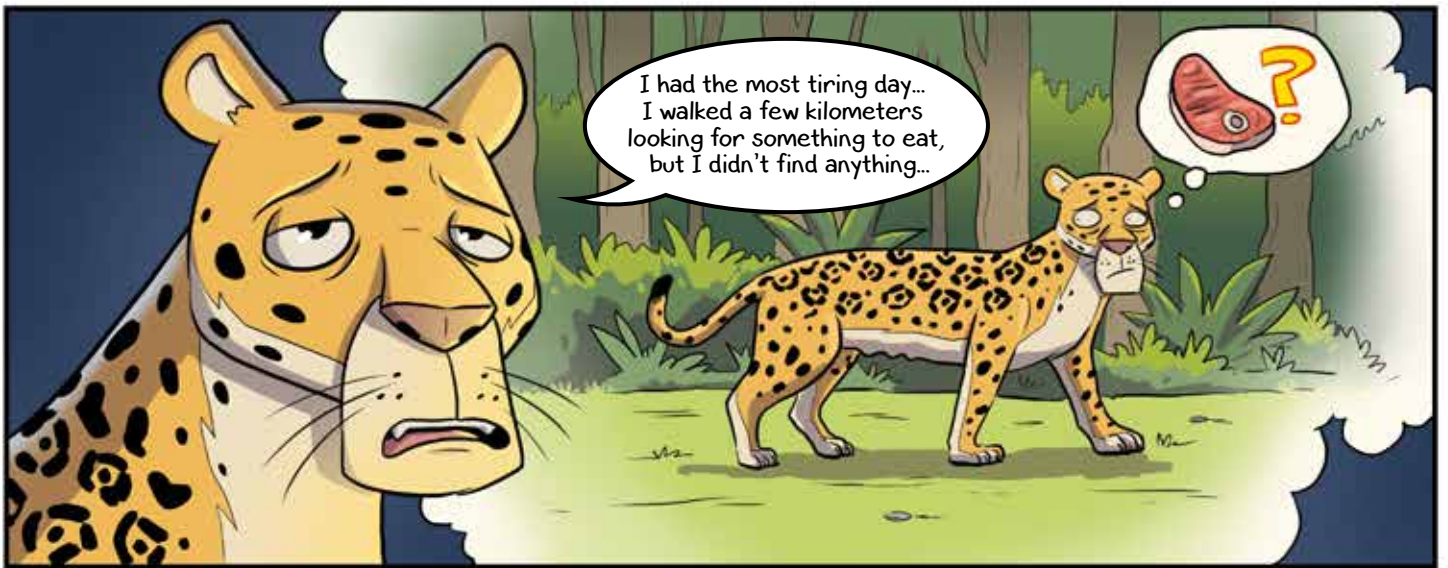


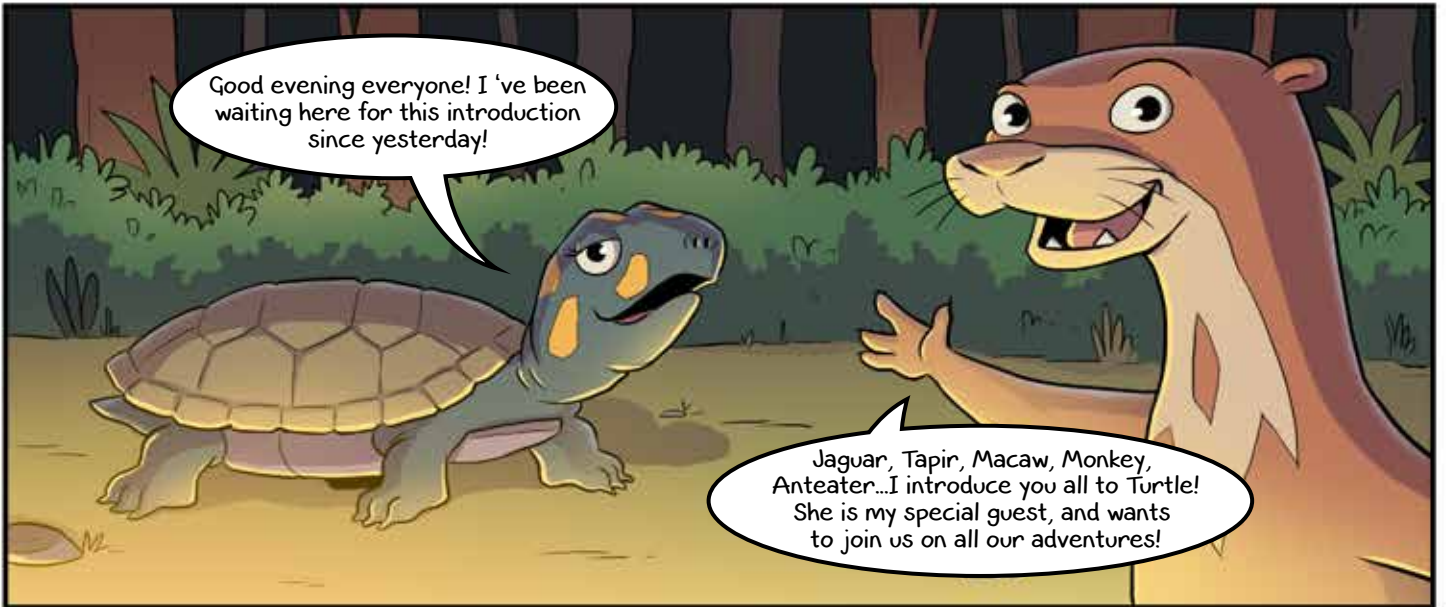
Anteater, you've got a big trunk! Use it to pass me that small trunk for our fire.



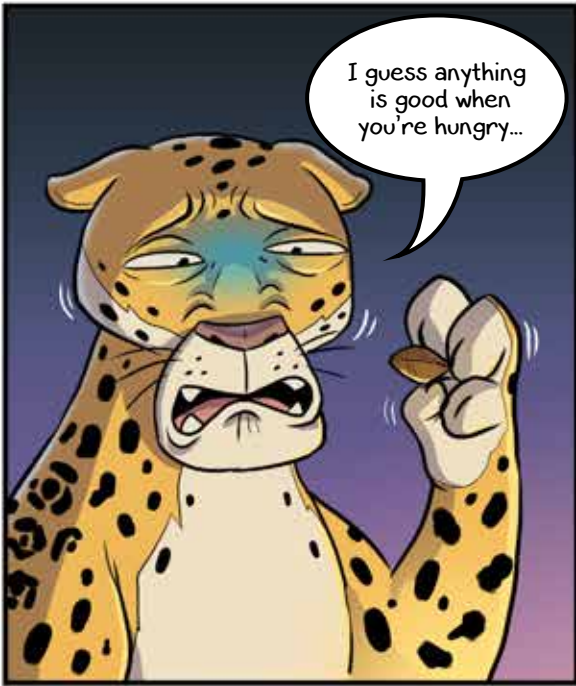
Of course!

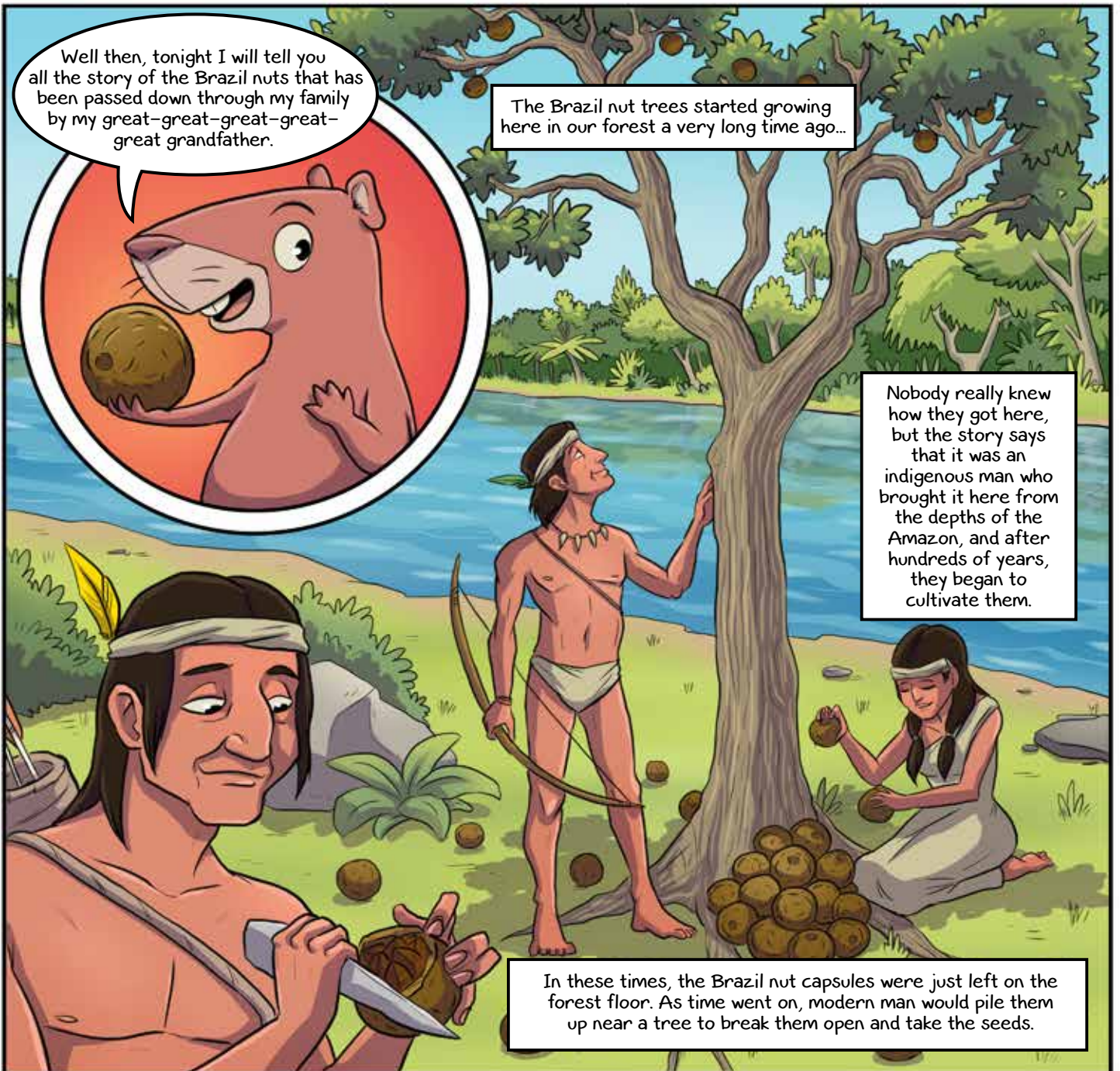
Now let's see what story our rodent friend comes with...











Well then, tonight I will tell you all the story of the Brazil nuts that has been passed down through my family by my great-great-great-great-great grandfather.

The Brazil nut trees started growing here in our forest a very long time ago...

Nobody really knew how they got here, but the story says that it was an indigenous man who brought it here from the depths of the Amazon, and after hundreds of years, they began to cultivate them.

In these times, the Brazil nut capsules were just left on the forest floor. As time went on, modern man would pile them up near a tree to break them open and take the seeds.



Humans actually help us since they already have them piled up, so we can just take them!

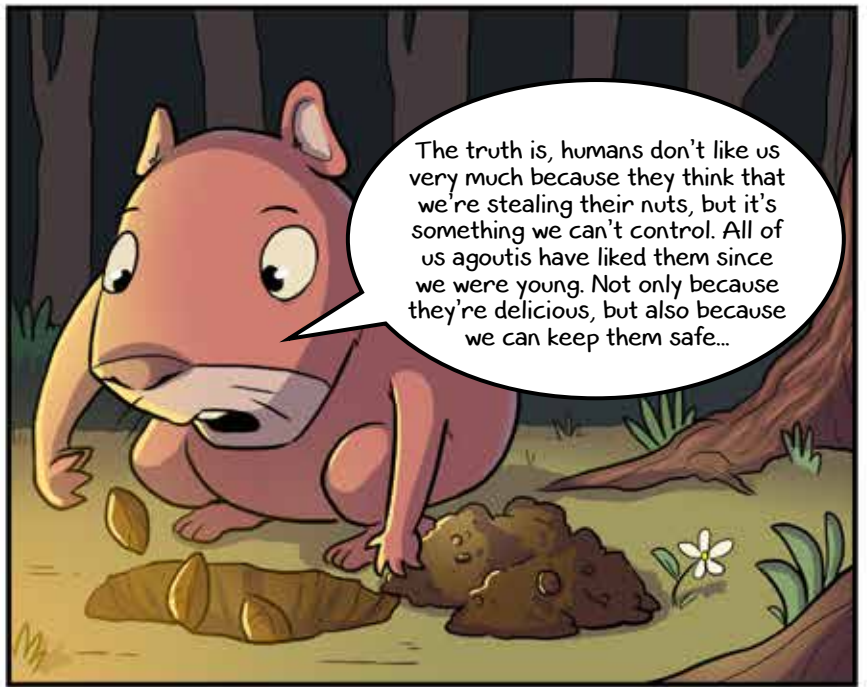
I swear I left more of the Brazil nuts here!

Thank you!





Hahaha... They gotta be useful somehow, I'd say!



The truth is, humans don't like us very much because they think that we're stealing their nuts, but it's something we can't control. All of us agoutis have liked them since we were young. Not only because they're delicious, but also because we can keep them safe...



We bury a bunch of them so that when there isn't much food, we have something to eat.

Look! There are some from two weeks ago!

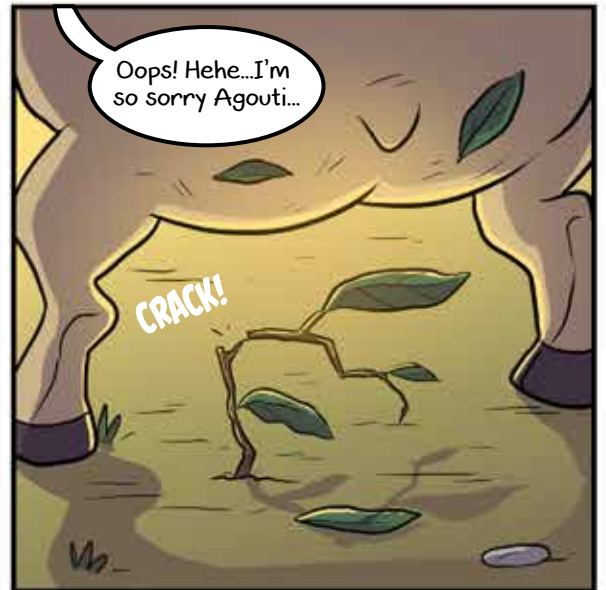
Of course there are many times that we forget where we bury the nuts, so they often end up becoming a new Brazil nut sapling. Because of this, we are like gardeners who take care of the Brazil nuts...



That tree right there was a nut that my great-great-great-great-grandfather forgot about...



They take more than thirty years to get this big...



END

## JAGUAR

*(Panthera onca)*

Of all the animals in this story, I have the most powerful pounce. Some experts say that my name comes from the indigenous

Tupi-Guarani word "Yaguaretê," which means "true fear beast." But don't be afraid, I do not attack humans.



## CAPUCHIN MONKEY

*(Cebus albifrons)*

Of all the animals in this story, I am the one who lives in the largest groups: up to 35 individuals! We all help care for our young and protect them from danger.



## ANTEATER

*(Myrmecophaga tridactyla)*

Of all the mammals in this story, I'm the only one that doesn't have any teeth (neither does the Macaw, but she is a bird). I use my tongue to scoop up termites (and other invertebrates) that I love to devour.



## SCARLET MACAW

*(Ara macao)*

Of all the animals in this story, I am the most colorful. You can see the brilliance of our colors when we fly in pairs or groups. We can also live the longest, up to 50-60 years.



## AGOUTI

*(Dasyprocta variegata)*

Of all the animals in this story, I am the only one who manages to open Brazil nuts. We love to sow its seeds throughout the forest.

This is the only way new Brazil nut trees grow.



## GIANT OTTER

*(Pteronura brasiliensis)*

Of all the animals in this story, I am the most endangered. There aren't many of us left, as we only live in some rivers and lakes in the Amazon. Our bodies are completely adapted to swim and catch fish.



## TAPIR

*(Tapirus terrestris)*

Of all the animals in this story, I am the largest. Us tapirs can weigh more than 300 kg. Imagine the amount of vegetation we have to eat to maintain this voluminous body!



## TURTLE

*(Podocnemis unifilis)*

Of all the animals in this story, I am the shortest. They call me the river turtle because I live in rivers and lakes in the Amazon. I'm considered endangered due to the exploitation of my eggs. We are easily recognized by the spots on our heads.



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