

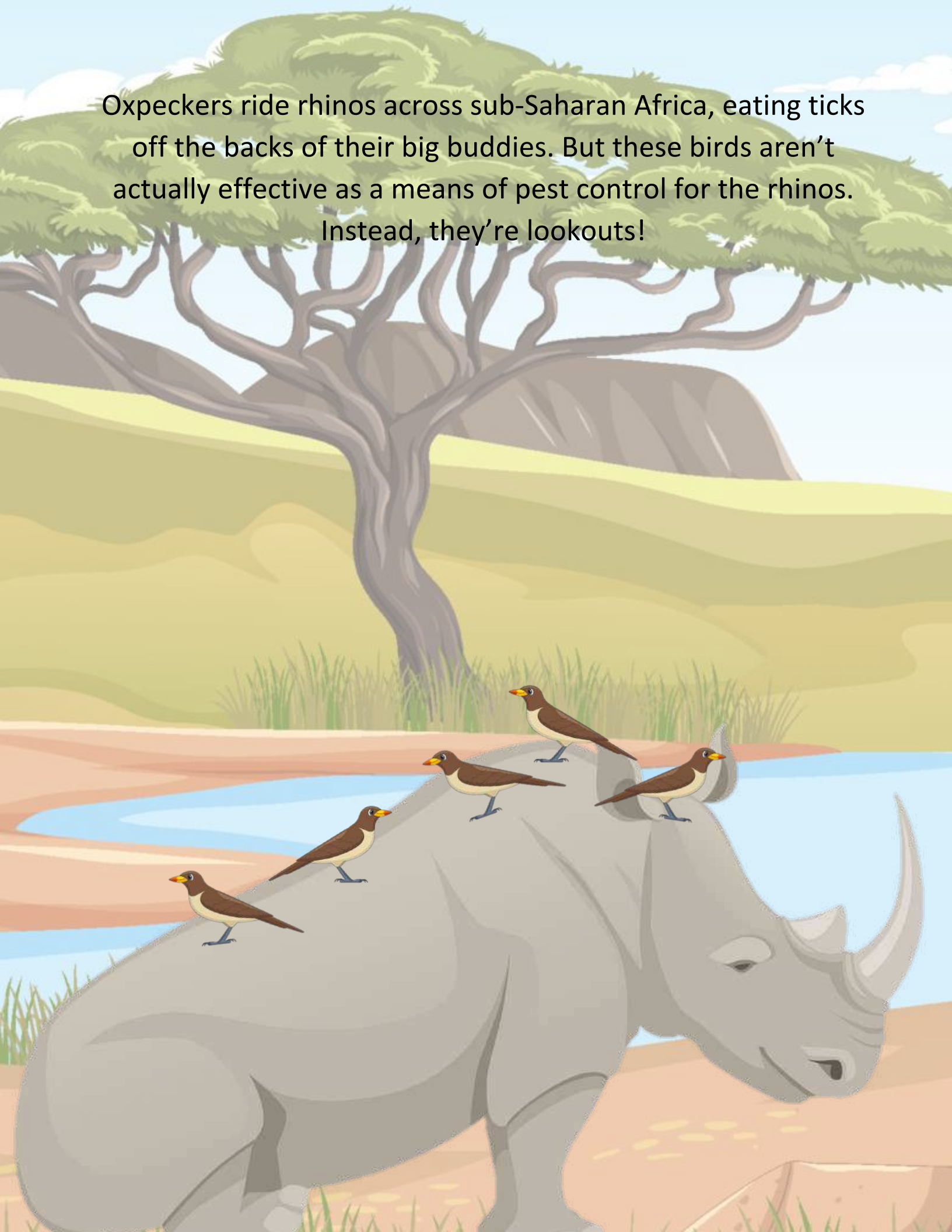


Animal Sidekicks

The Oxpeckers and the Rhinos

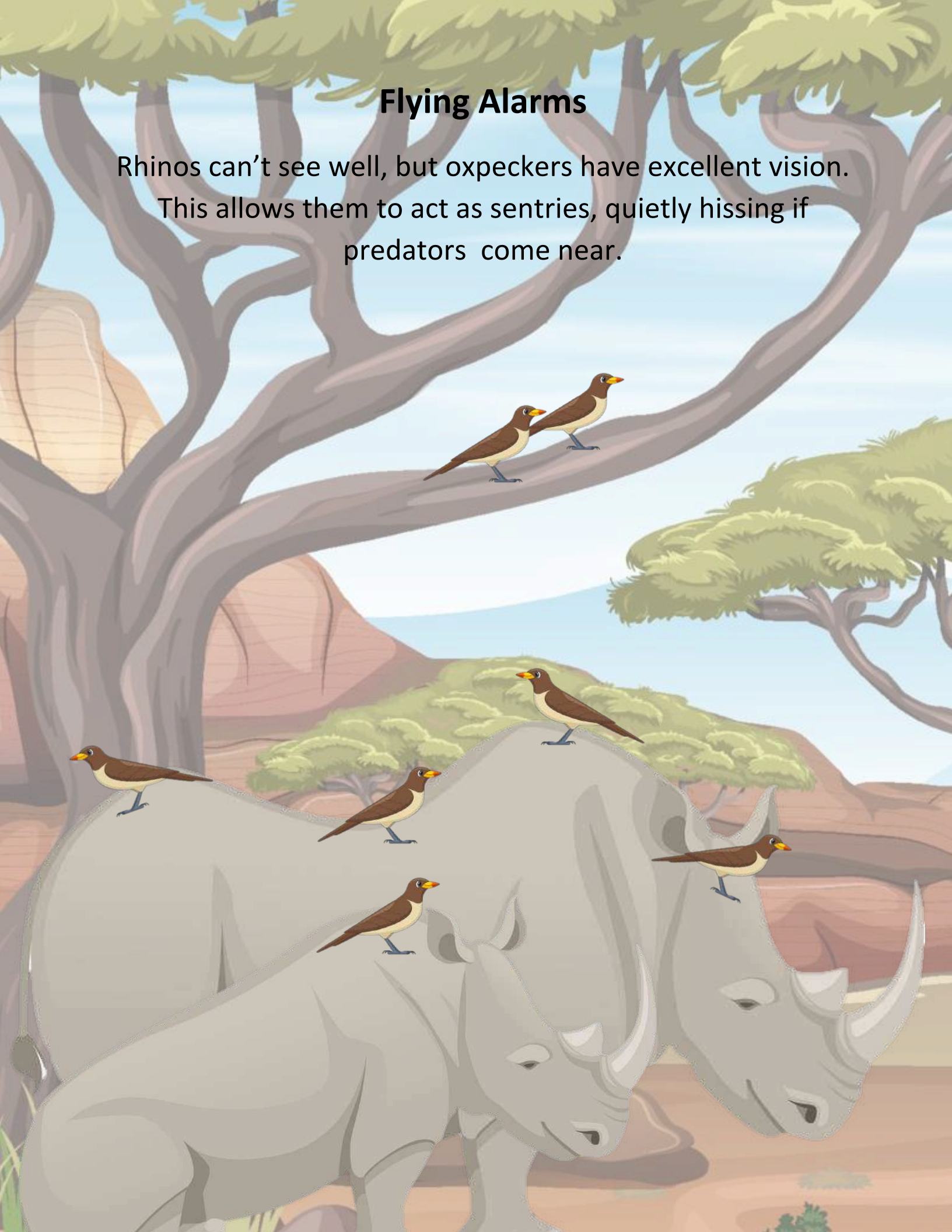


Oxpeckers ride rhinos across sub-Saharan Africa, eating ticks off the backs of their big buddies. But these birds aren't actually effective as a means of pest control for the rhinos. Instead, they're lookouts!



Flying Alarms

Rhinos can't see well, but oxpeckers have excellent vision. This allows them to act as sentries, quietly hissing if predators come near.



Selfish Helpers

Oxpeckers wait until the ticks have filled up with blood to make their meal as juicy as possible. That's like waiting to stop a bank robber until after they've emptied the vault, then taking the money for yourself!



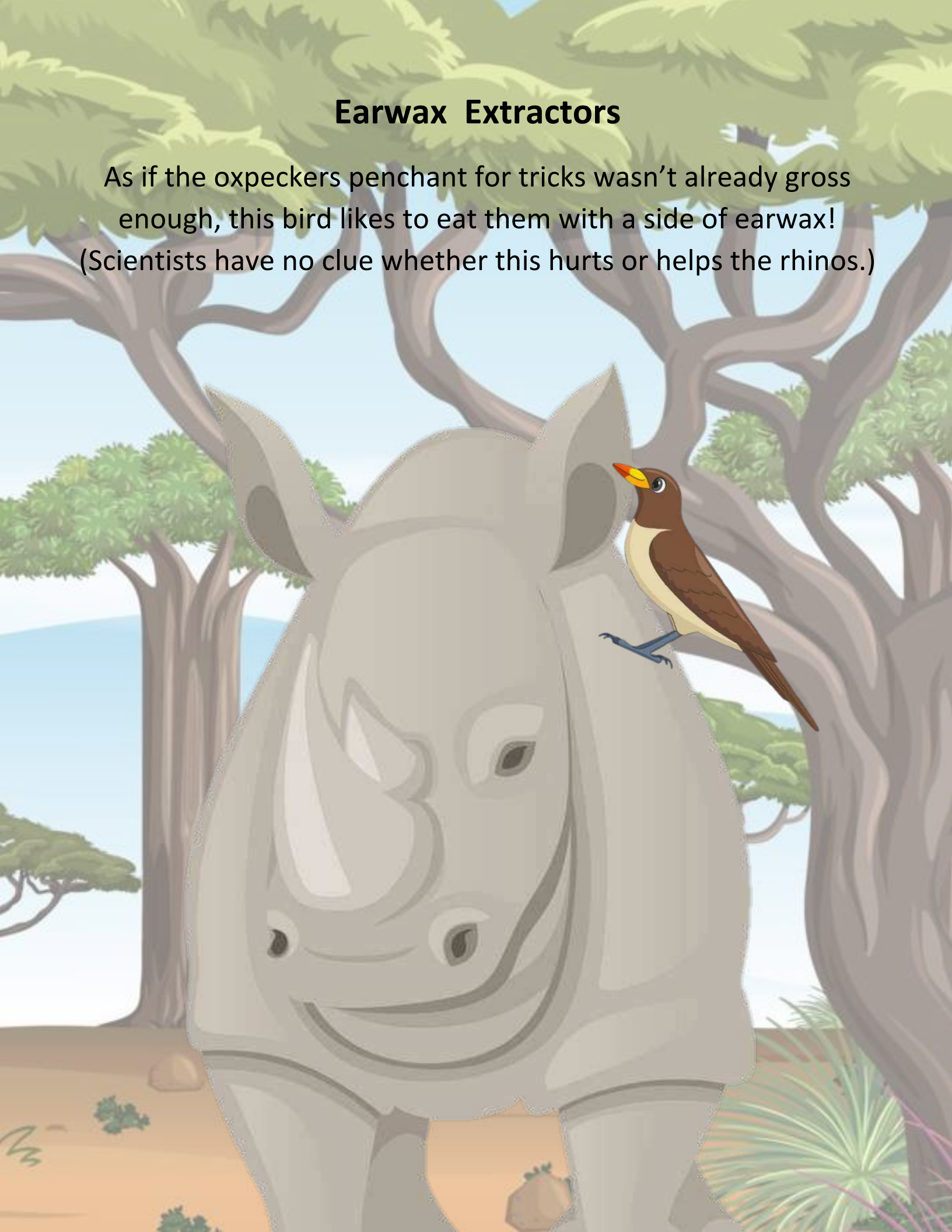


An oxpecker
can eat over
100 ticks a day!

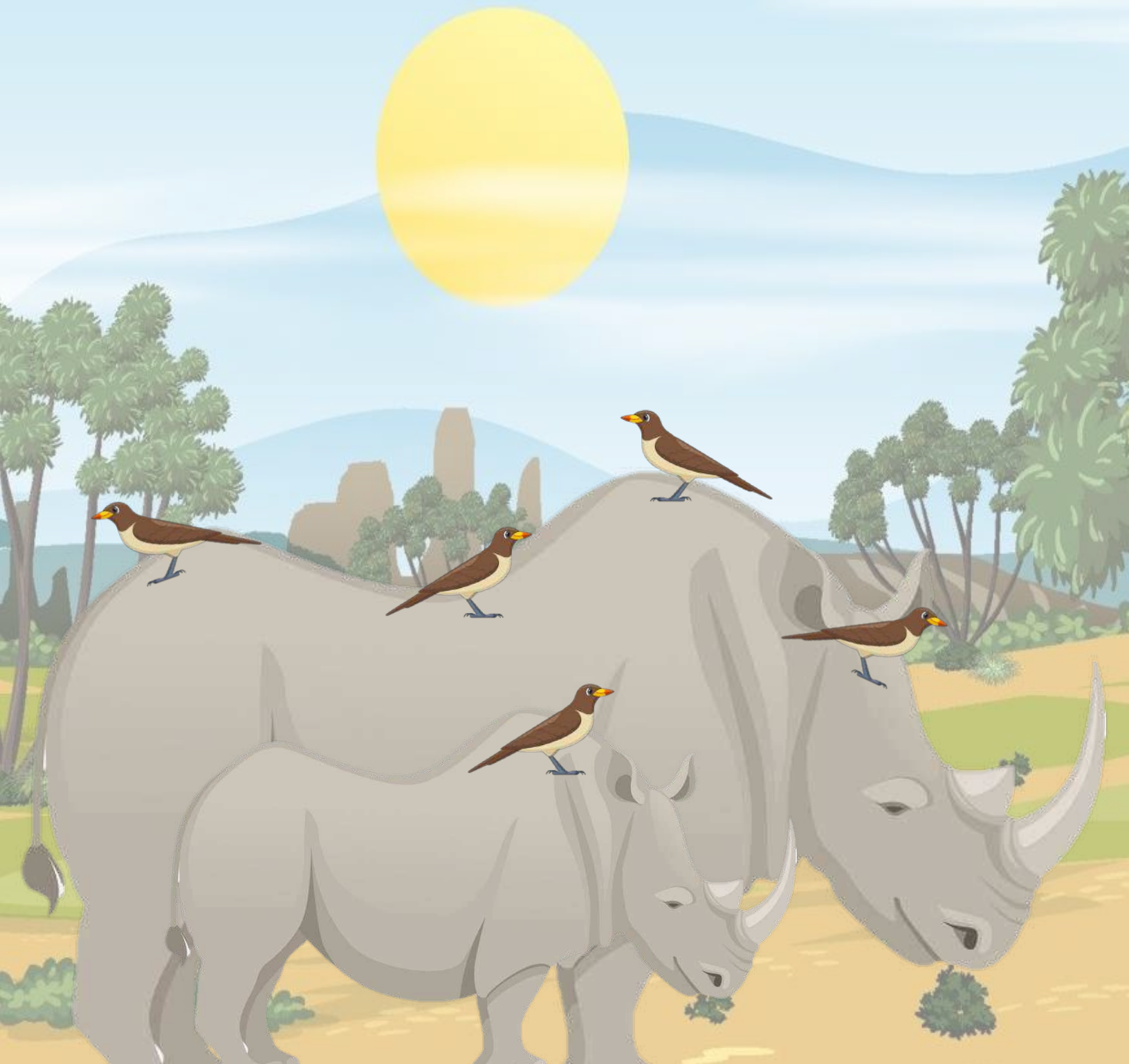


Earwax Extractors

As if the oxpeckers penchant for ticks wasn't already gross enough, this bird likes to eat them with a side of earwax!
(Scientists have no clue whether this hurts or helps the rhinos.)



The oxpecker pays for its meal by acting as the rhinos security detail. The bird must keep a vigilant eye out for any predators who could attack a young rhino.

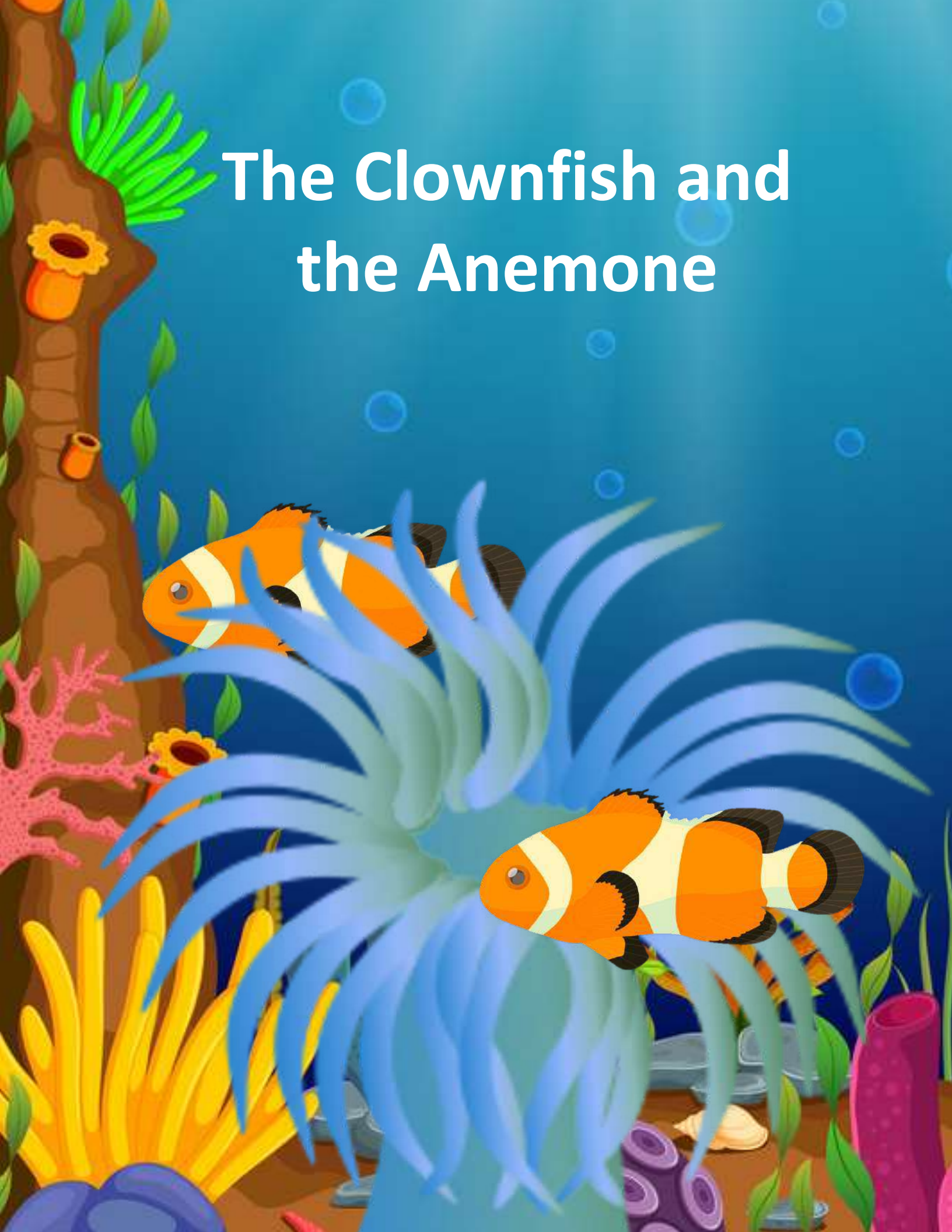




The oxpecker's
Swahili name,
“askari wa kifaru”
is quite fitting: it means
“rhino's guard”



The Clownfish and the Anemone

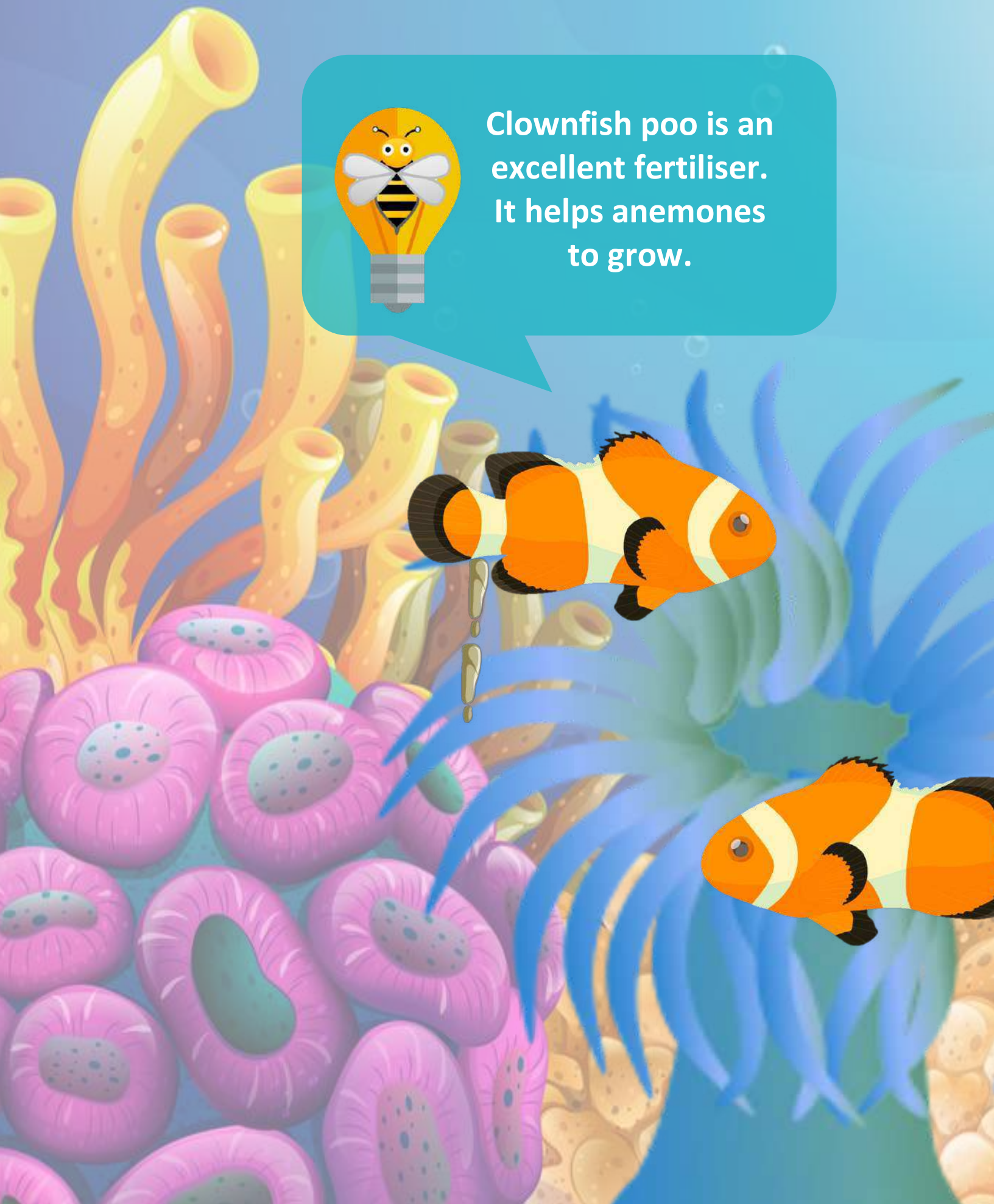


At the bottom of shallow tropical sea, anemones offer clownfish a cosy home with a built-in security system. Meanwhile, the clownfish pay rent by helping the anemones breathe, protecting them from butterflyfish, and by feeding them (somewhat strange) meals.





Clownfish poo is an excellent fertiliser. It helps anemones to grow.



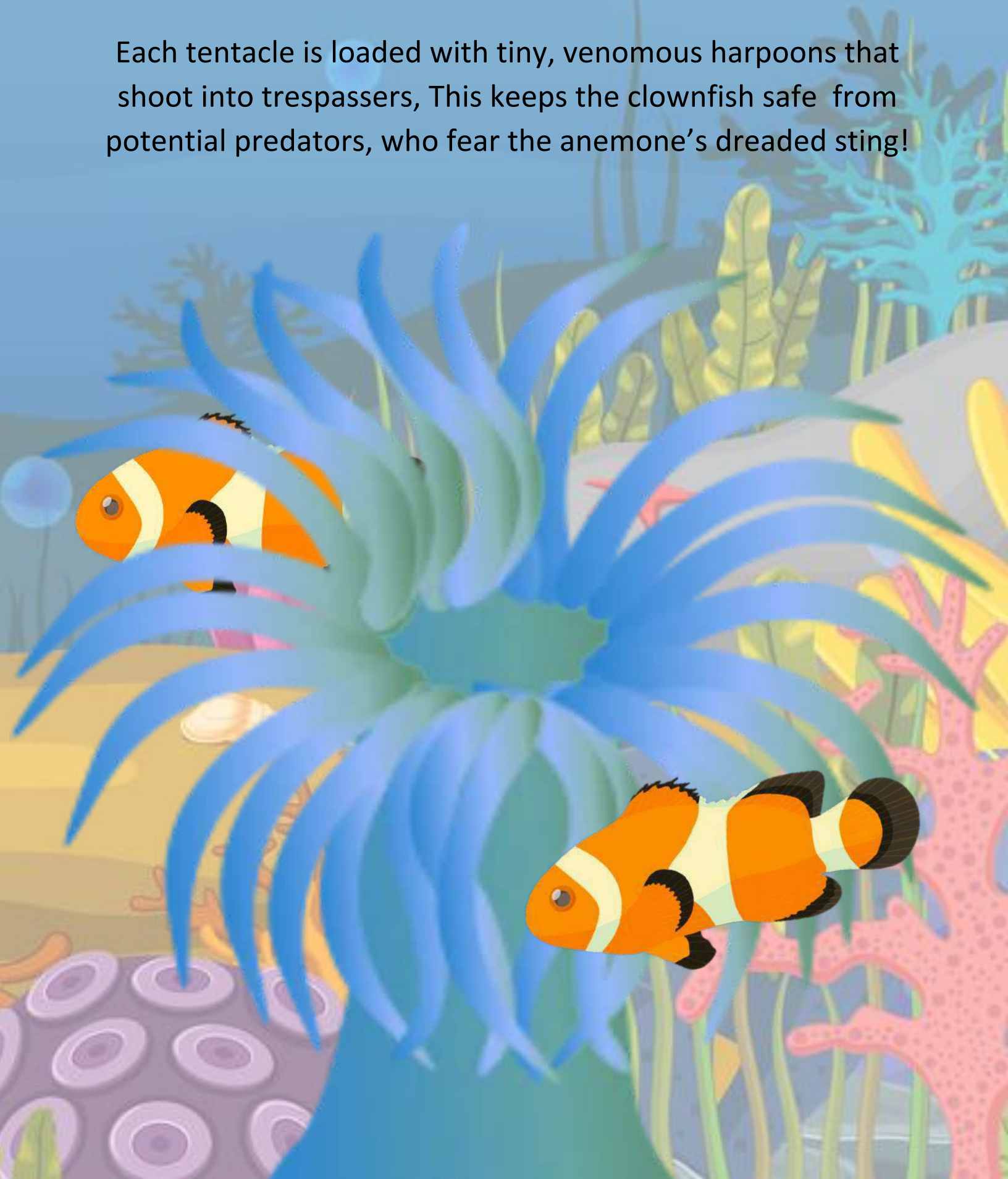


If a butterflyfish
tries to eat the
anemone, the
clownfish will
chase it off!



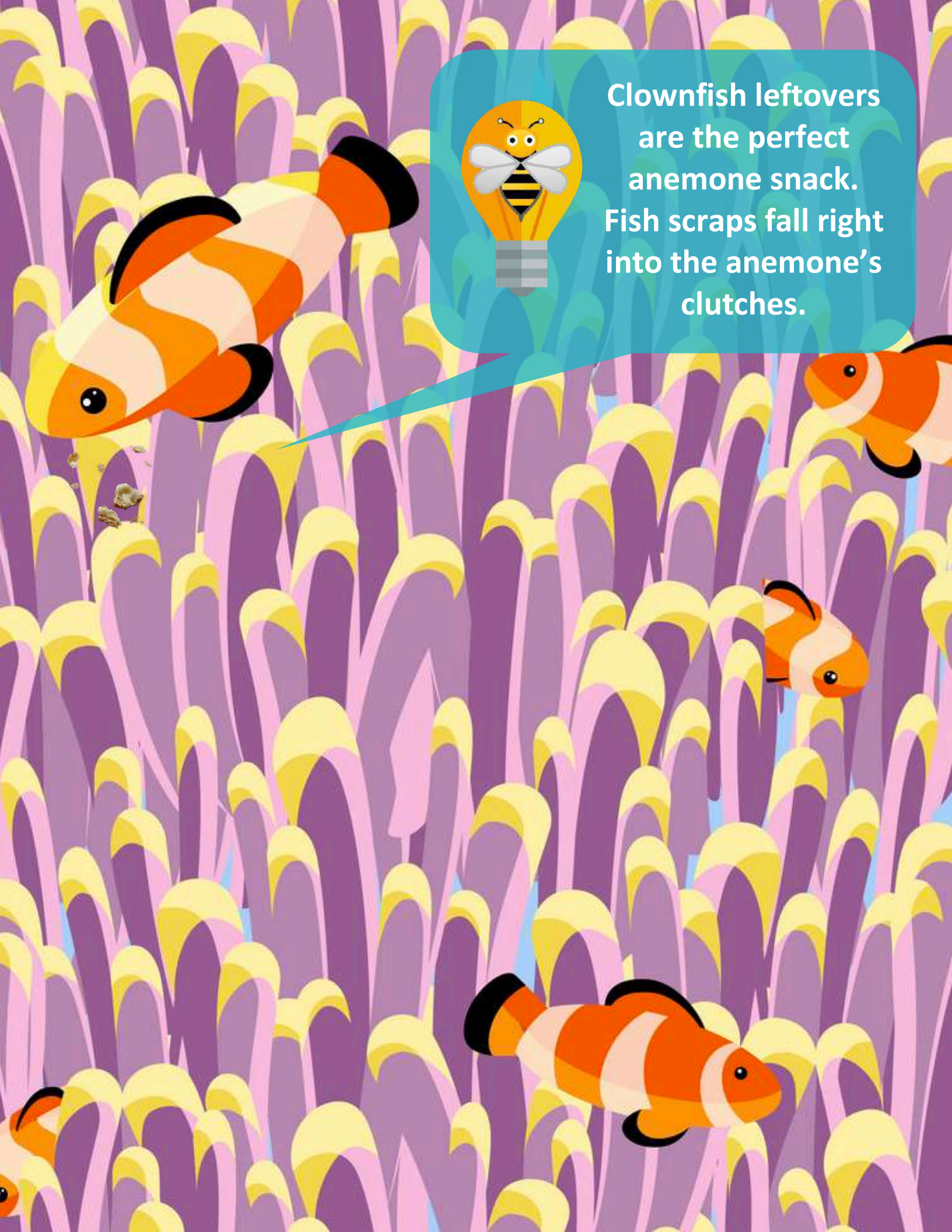
Venomous Fortress


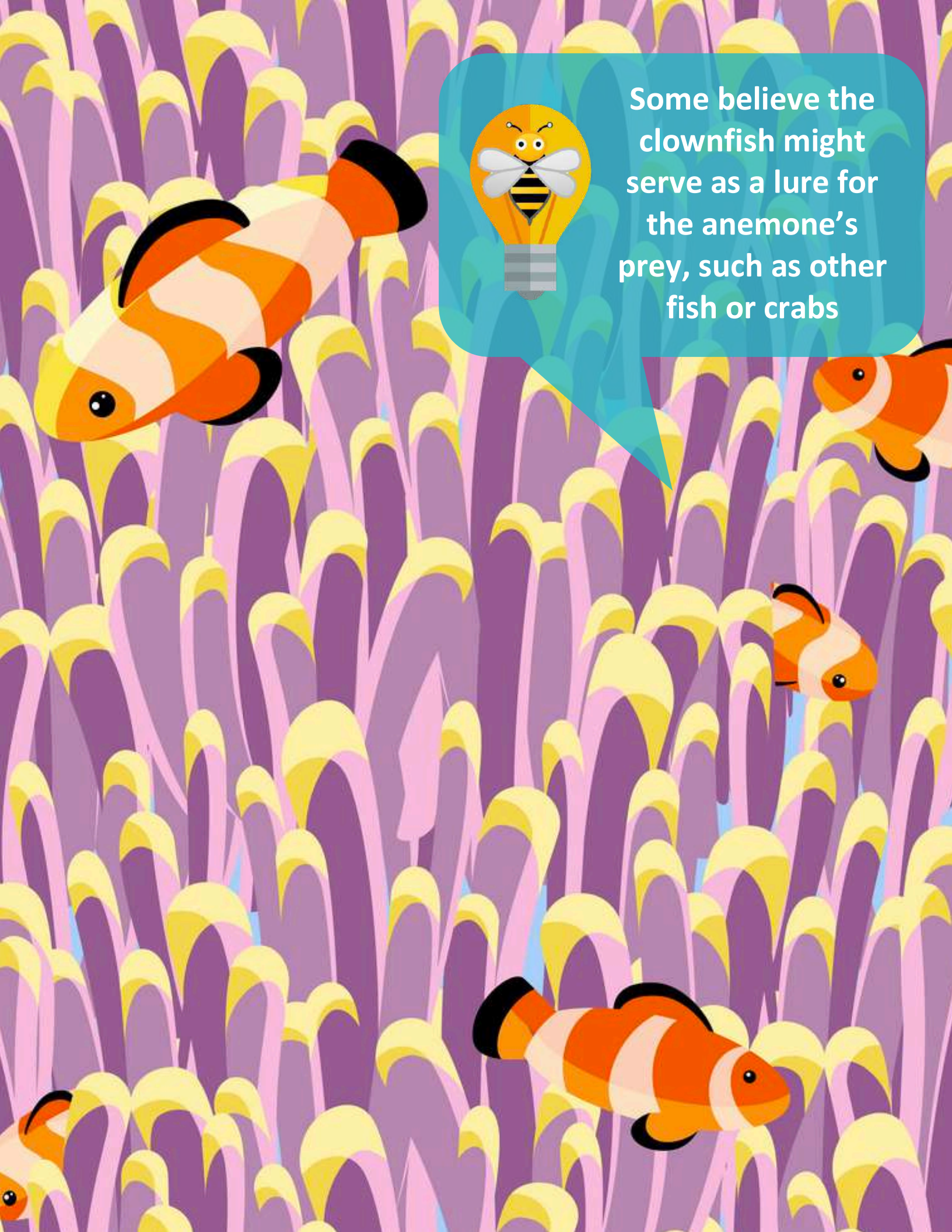
Each tentacle is loaded with tiny, venomous harpoons that shoot into trespassers, This keeps the clownfish safe from potential predators, who fear the anemone's dreaded sting!





Clownfish leftovers
are the perfect
anemone snack.
Fish scraps fall right
into the anemone's
clutches.

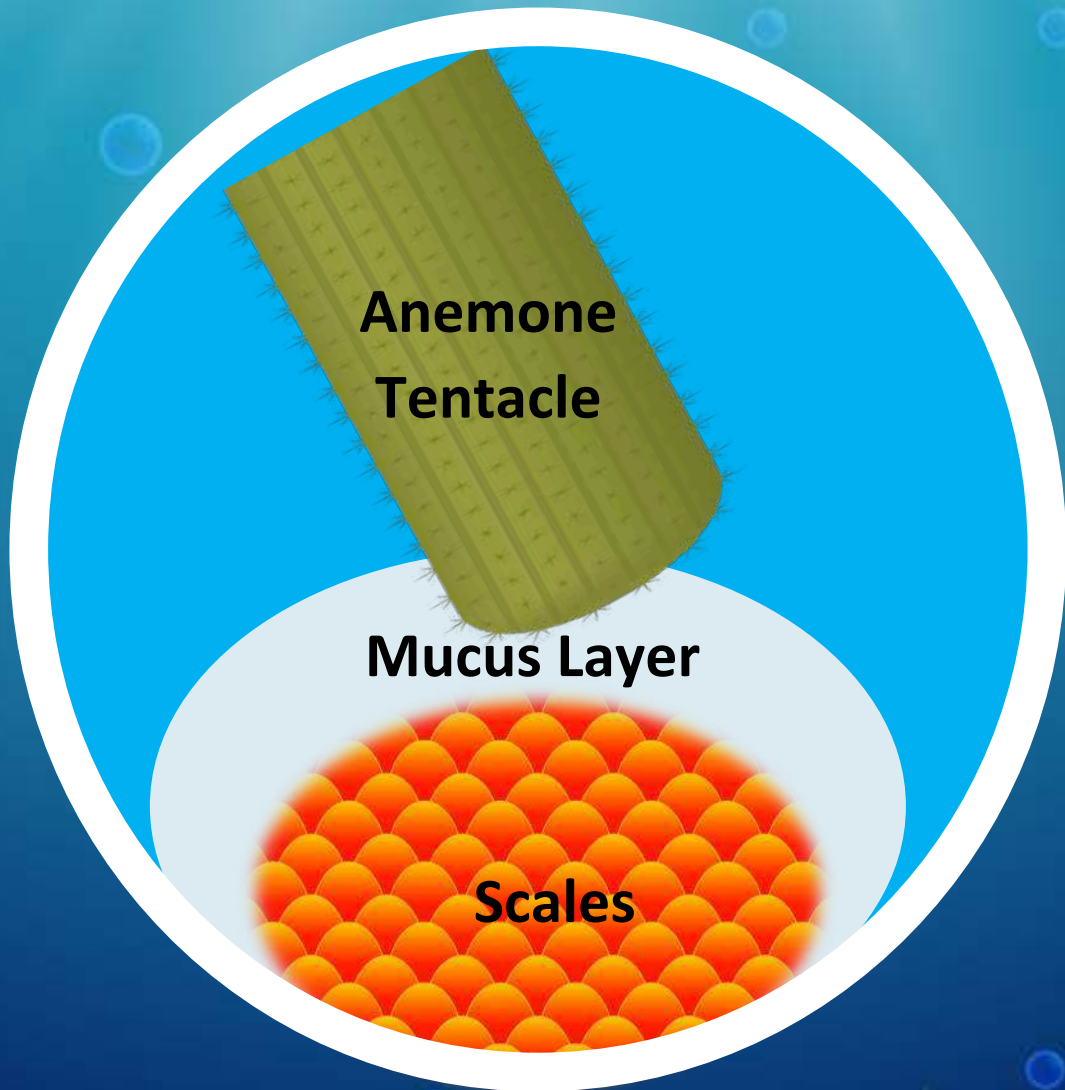




Some believe the clownfish might serve as a lure for the anemone's prey, such as other fish or crabs

Unusual Armour

The clownfish need not fear the anemone's venom. Each clownfish has a layer of mucus that protects it from the anemone's harpoons. Over time, the anemone learns to not even bother stinging its colourful tenants.



Partying all Night Long

As night falls, oxygen levels in the water reduce, and the anemone needs more water to breathe. Clownfish dance all night to stir up the water, ensuring their anemone gets enough oxygen.





THINK

DIGITAL ACADEMY

