

What Do You Do With a Tail Like This?



Steve Jenkins & Robin Page

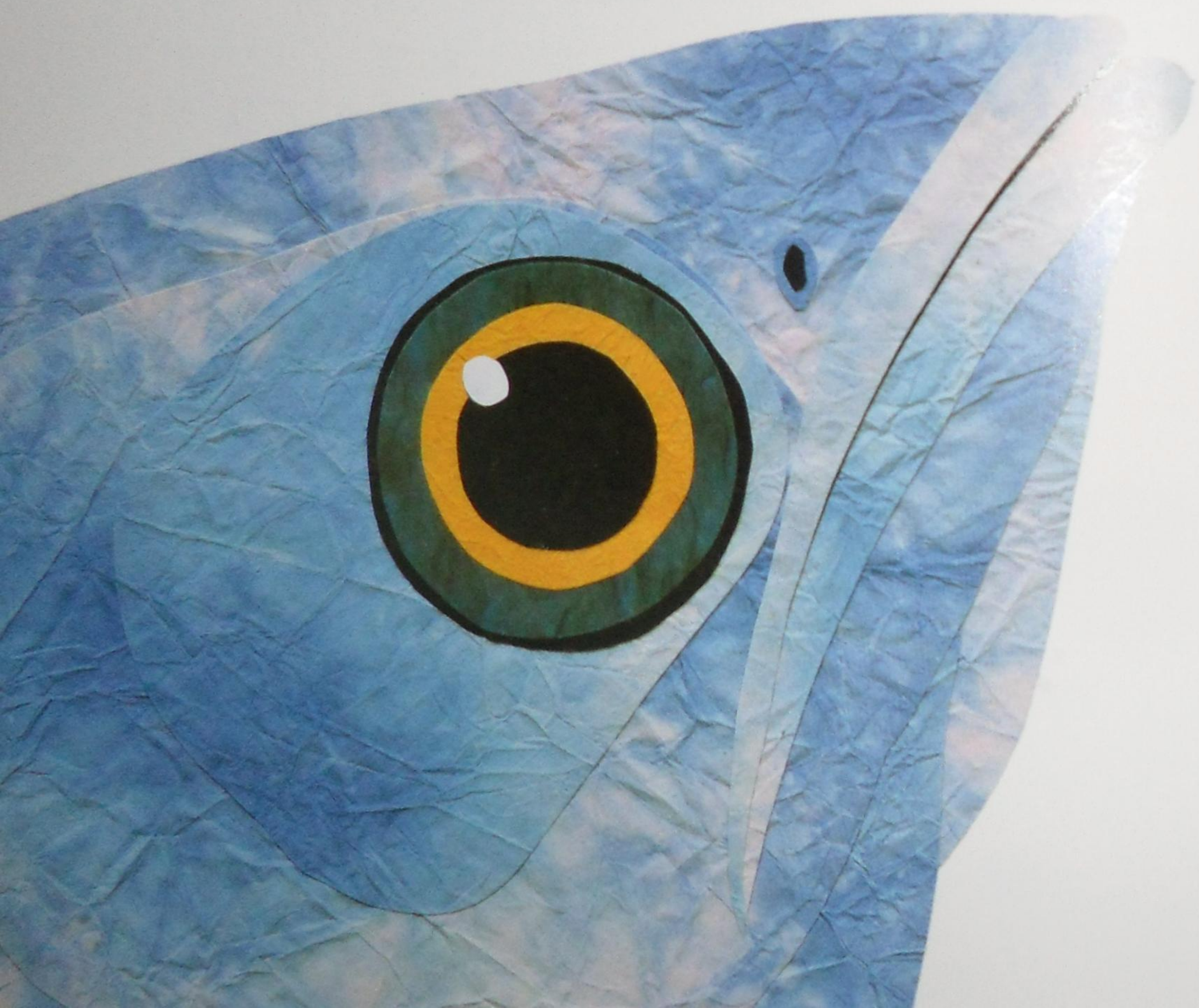
"Ingenious." —*The Bulletin*

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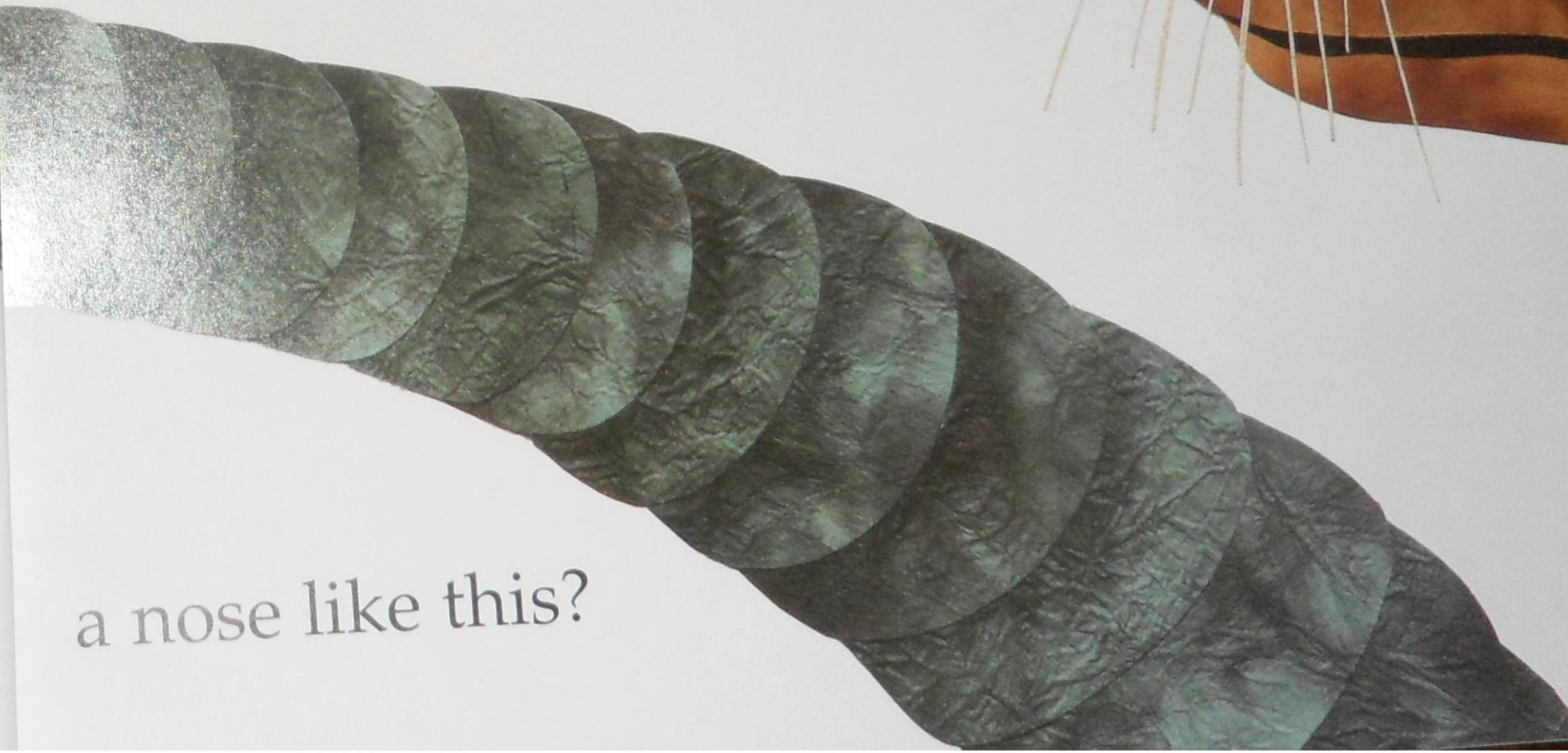
Houghton Mifflin Company Boston



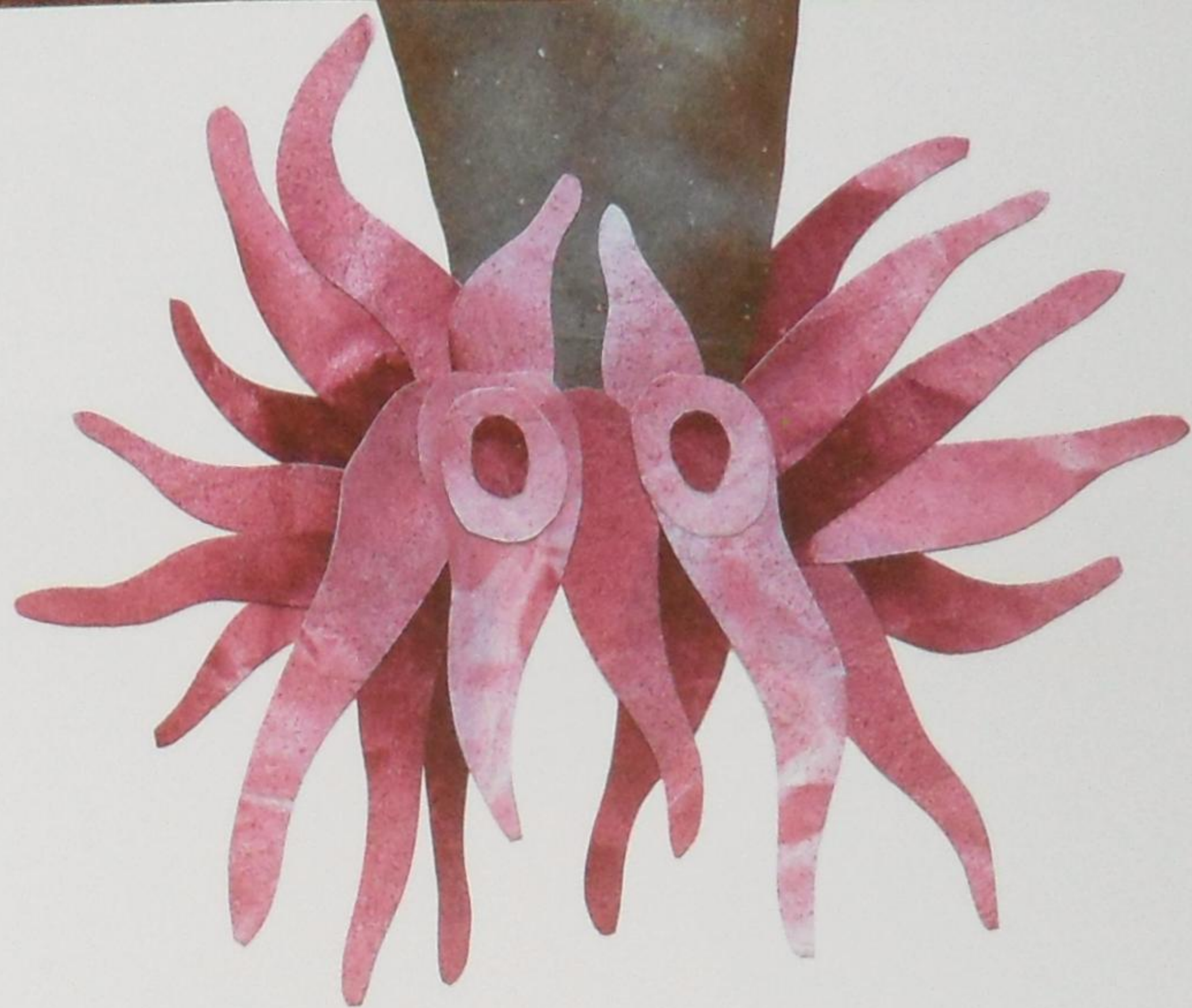
Animals use their noses, ears, tails, eyes, mouths, and feet in very different ways. See if you can guess which animal each part belongs to and how it is used. At the back of the book you can find out more about these animals.



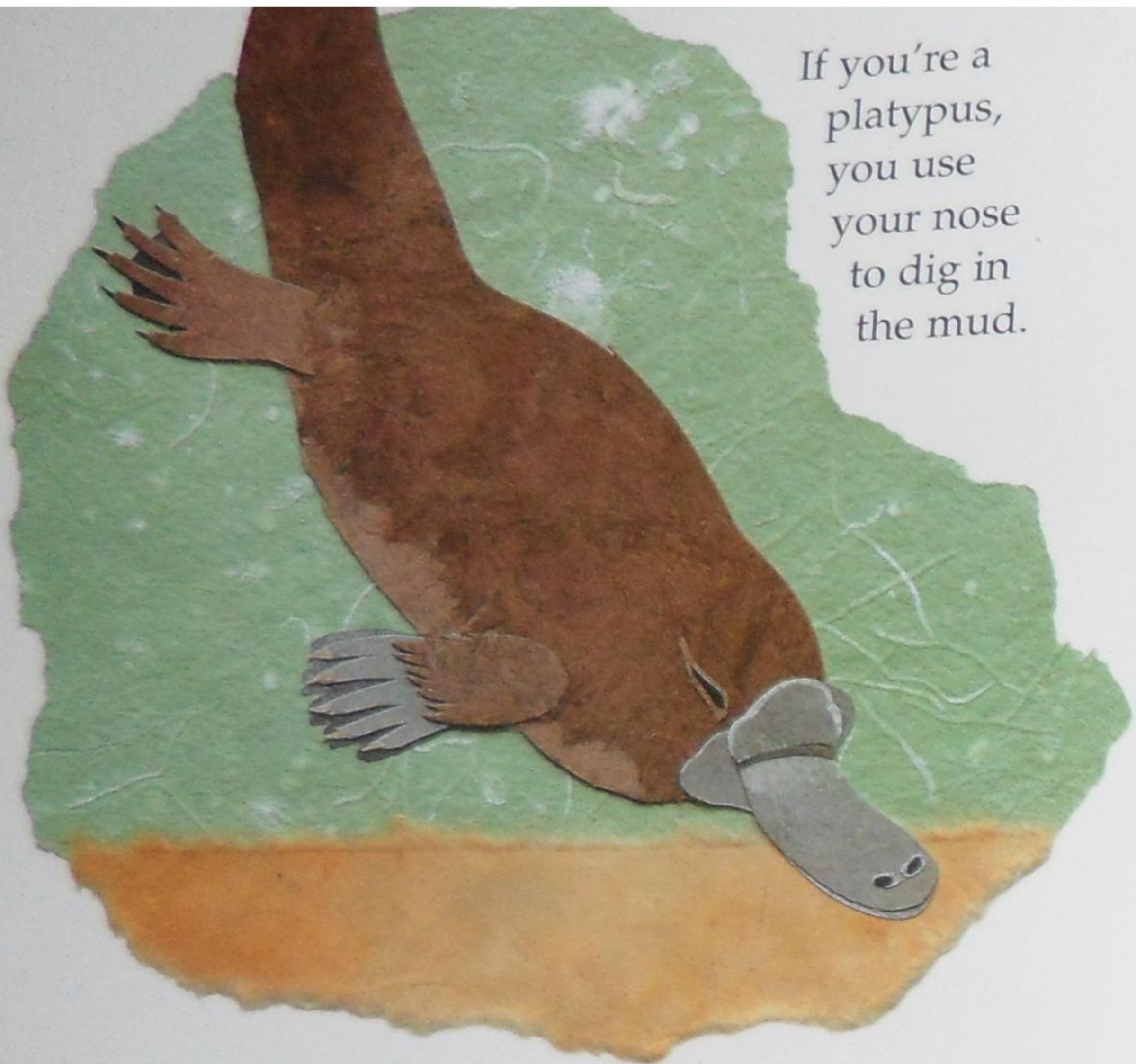
What do you do with



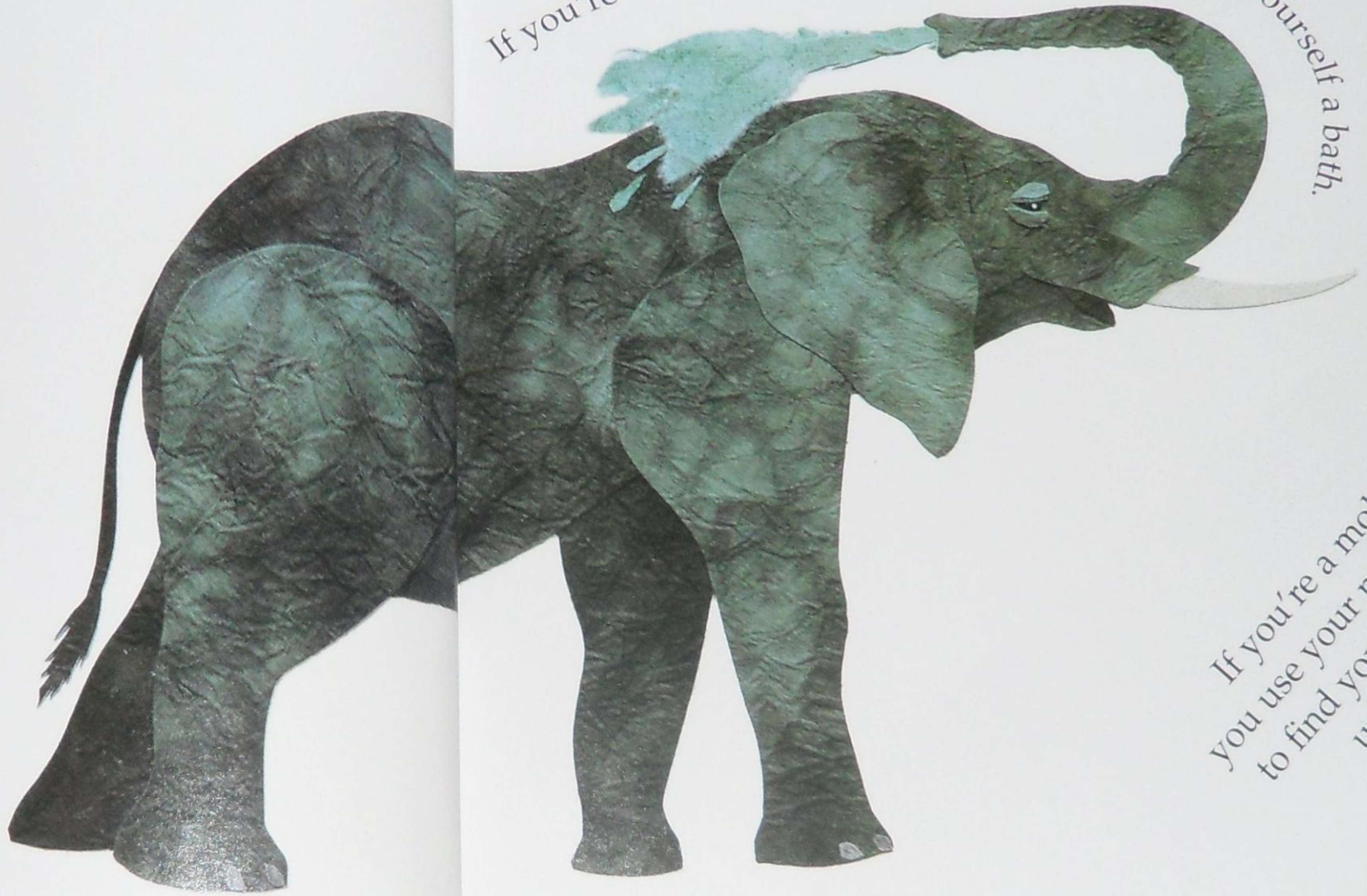
a nose like this?



If you're a platypus, you use your nose to dig in the mud.



If you're an elephant, you use your nose to give yourself a bath.



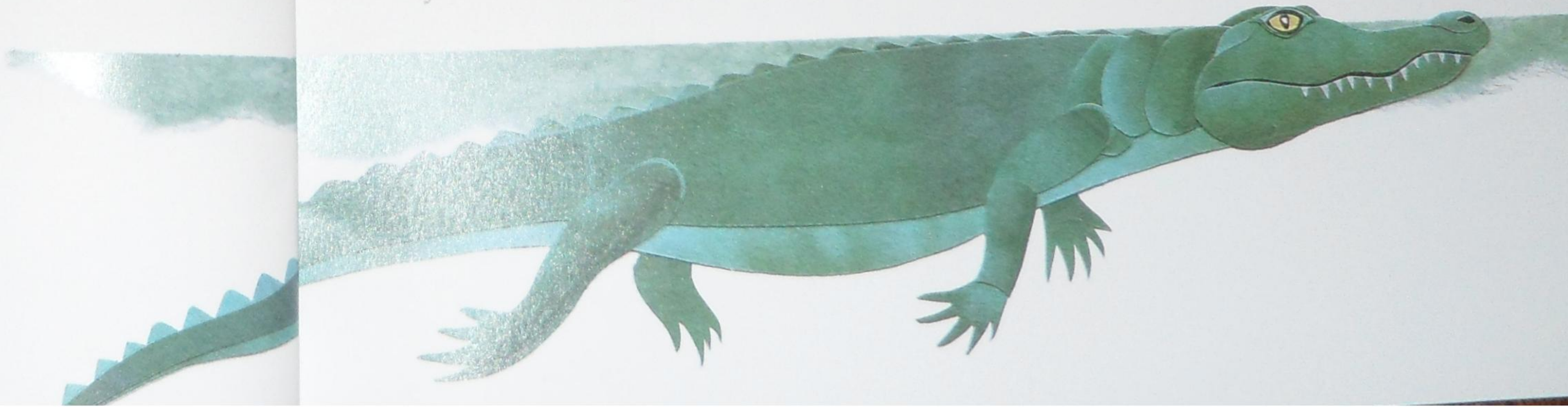
If you're a mole, you use your nose to find your way underground.



If you're a hyena, you find your next meal with your nose.



If you're an alligator, you breathe through your nose while hiding in the water.





What do you do with ears like these?



If you're a jackrabbit, you use your ears to keep cool.



If you're a bat, you "see" with your ears.

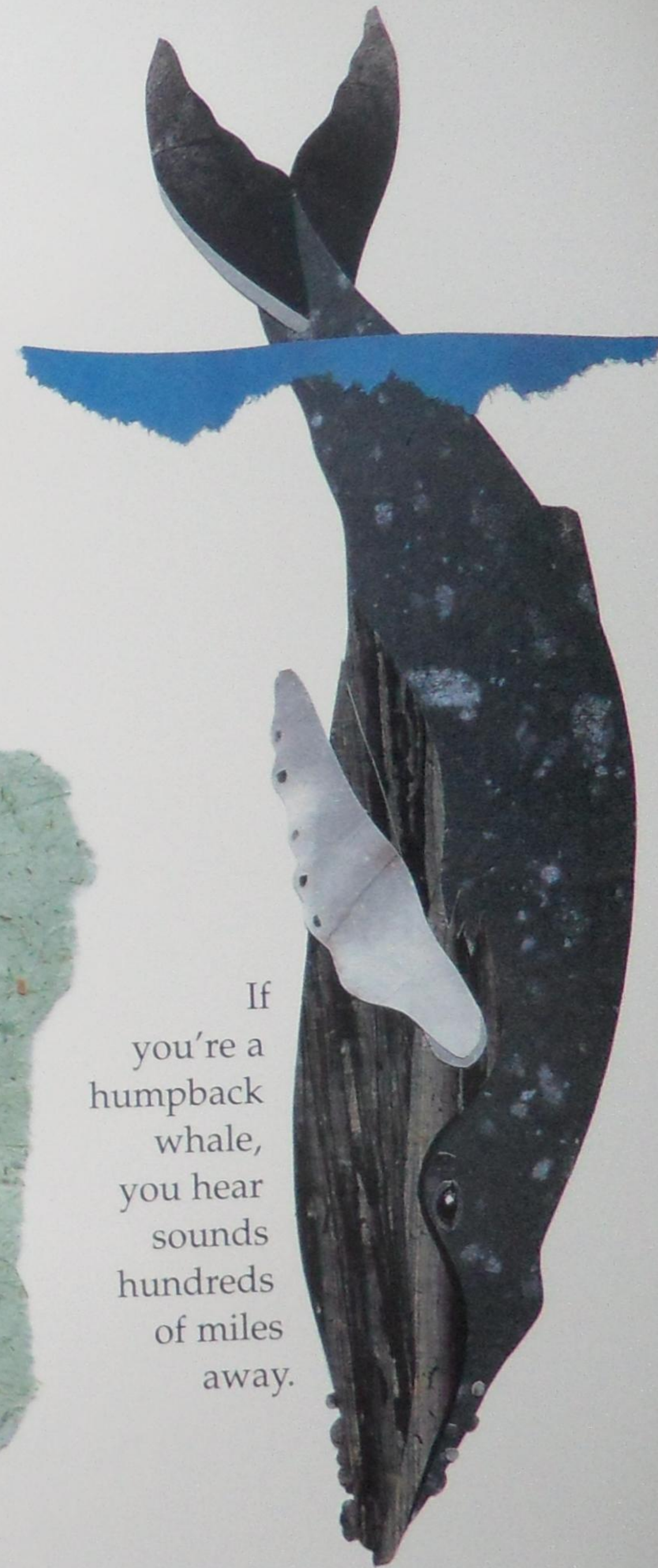
If you're a cricket, you hear with ears that are on your knees.



If you're a hippopotamus, you hear with your ears when you're under water.



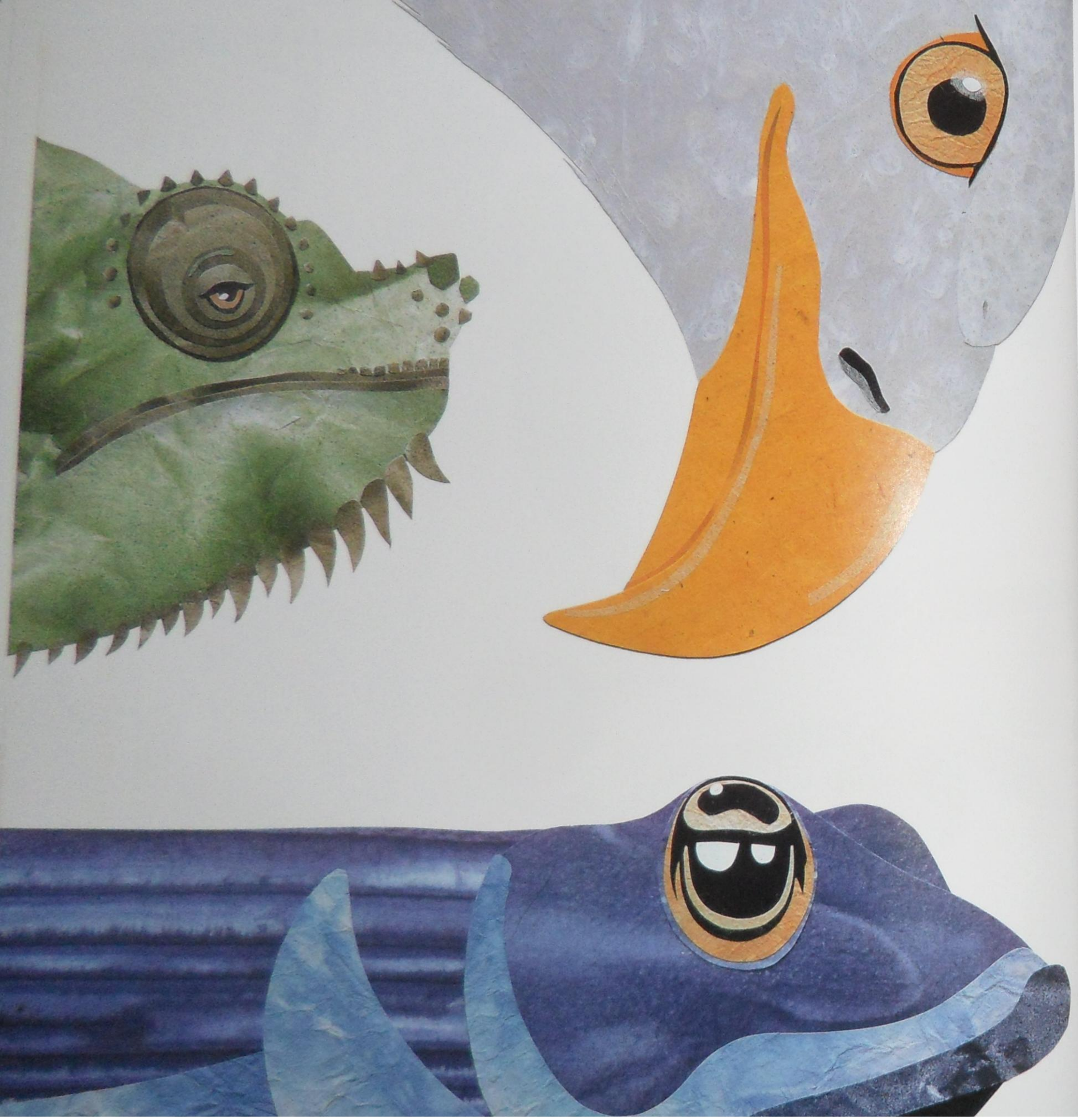
If you're a humpback whale, you hear sounds hundreds of miles away.





What do you do with a tail like this?





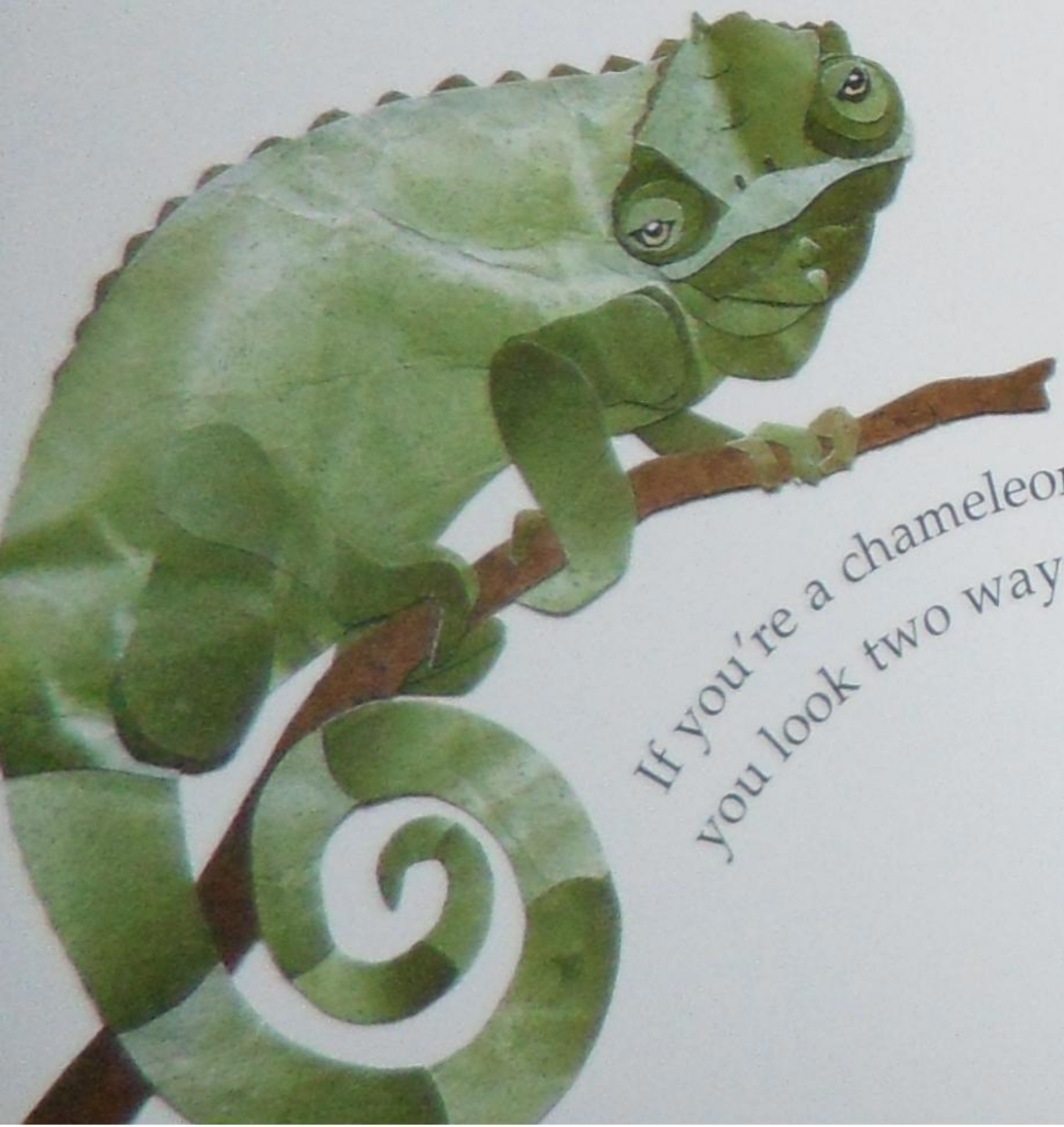
What do you
do with eyes
like these?



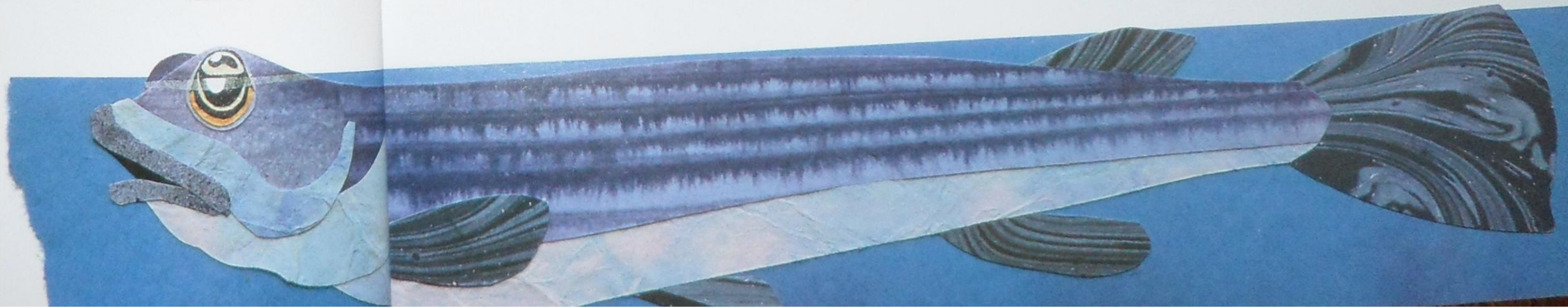
If you're an eagle,
you spot tiny animals
from high in the air.



If you're a chameleon,
you look two ways at once.



If you're
a four-eyed
fish, you
look above
and below
the water
at the same
time.



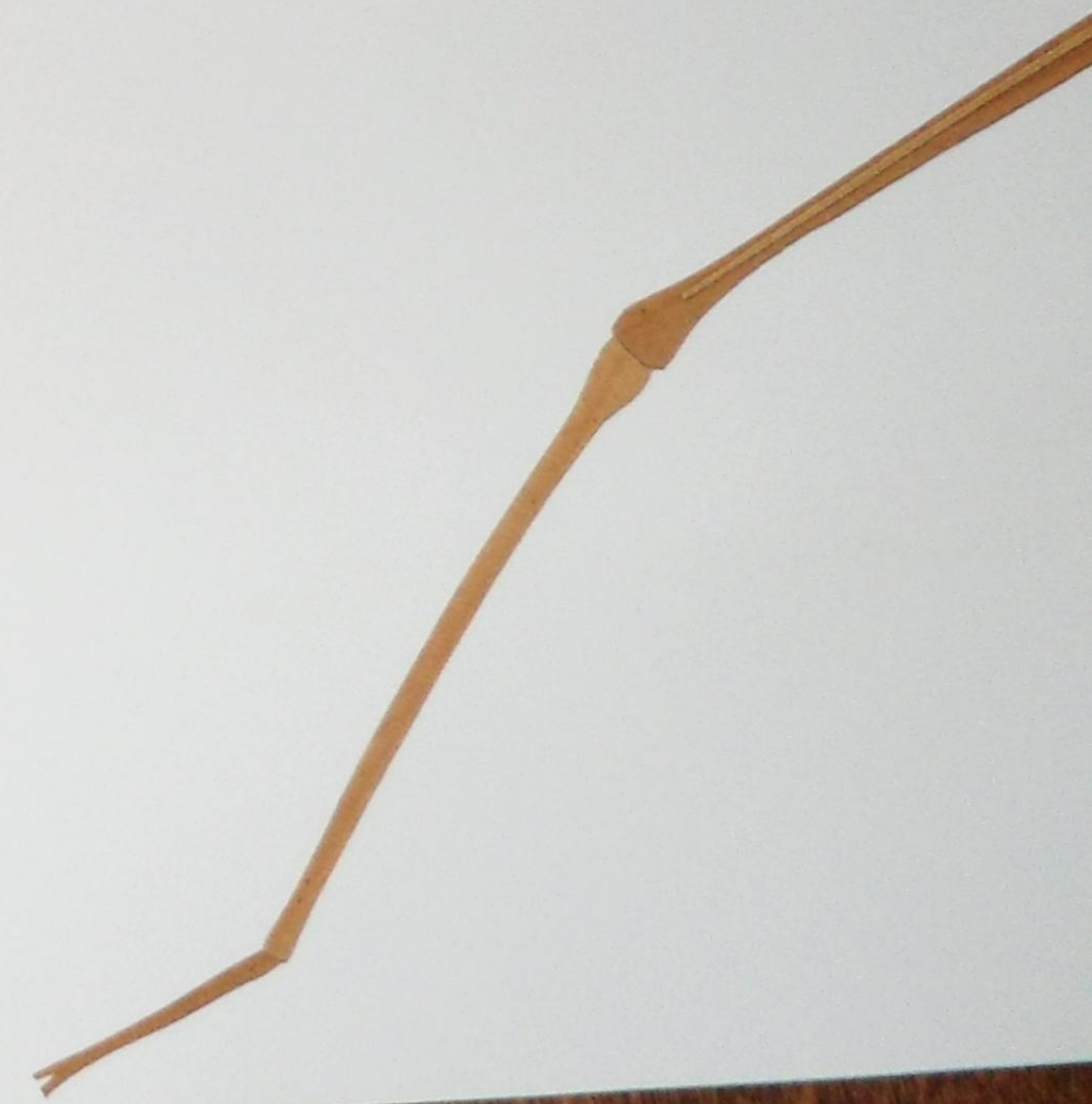
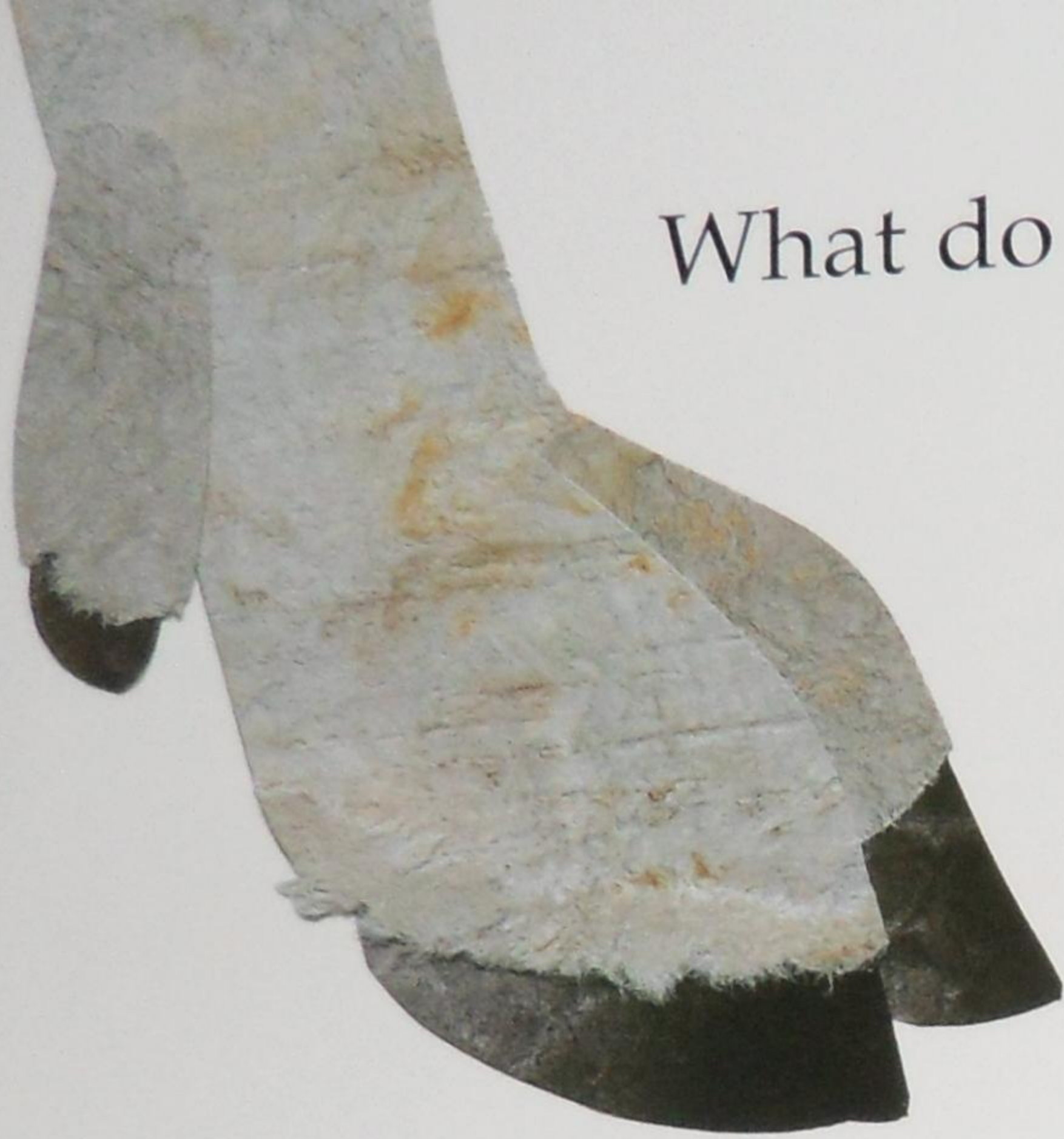
If you're
a bush
baby,
you use
your
large eyes
to see
clearly
at night.



If you're a horned lizard, you squirt blood out of your eyes.



What do you do with feet like these?





If you're a chimpanzee, you feed yourself with your feet.



If you're a blue-footed booby, you do a dance.

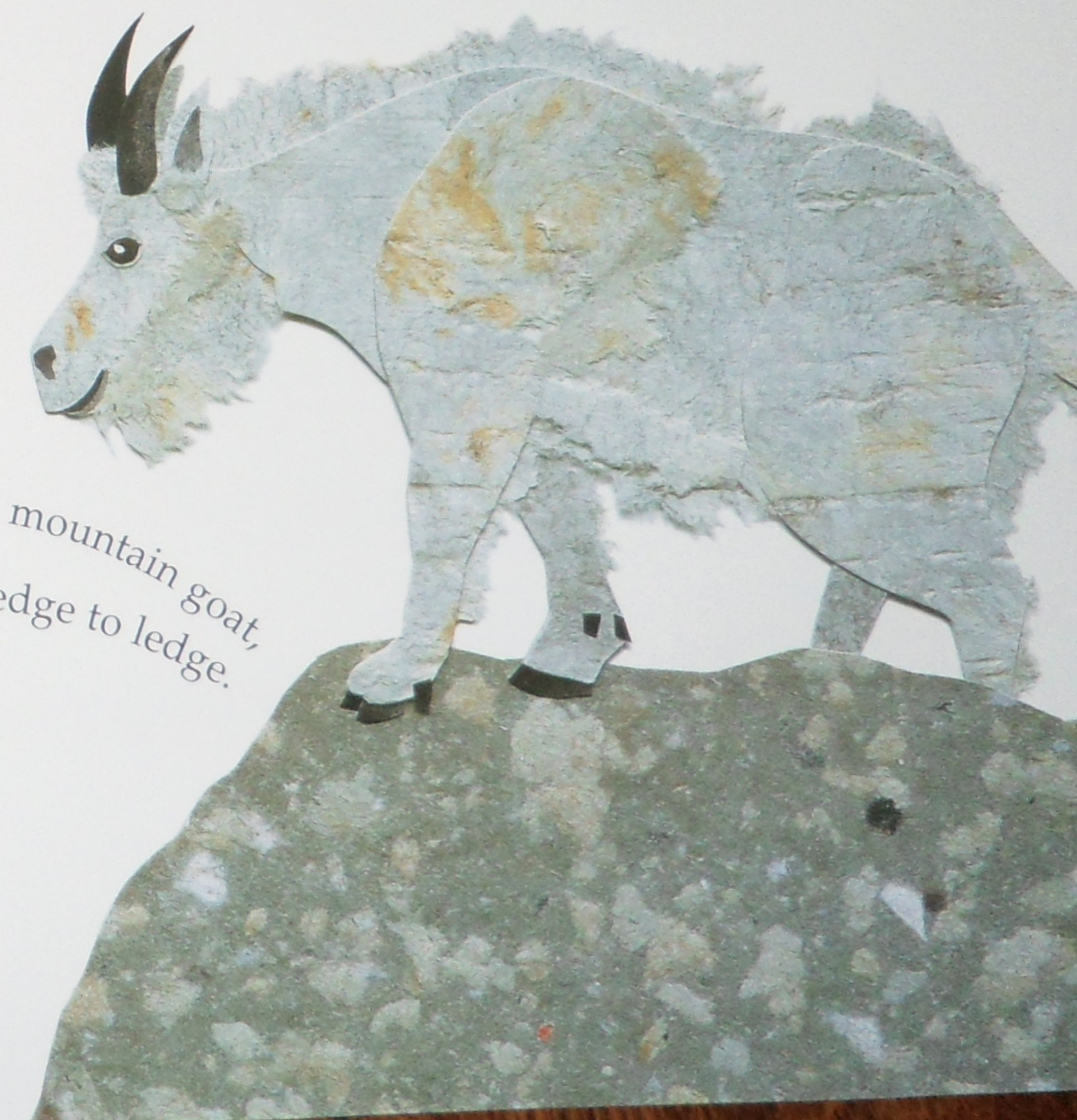


If you're a water strider, you walk on water.

If you're a gecko, you use your sticky feet to walk on the ceiling.



If you're a mountain goat, you leap from ledge to ledge.







What do you do with a mouth like this?




NOSES




The **platypus**, a very unusual animal, lives in streams, ponds, and rivers in Australia. It's a mammal, but it lays eggs. Its feet are webbed, and the males have poisonous spurs on their back legs. Platypus poison probably wouldn't kill a person, but getting spurred is very painful and can be deadly for small animals. The platypus closes its eyes under water and uses its sensitive bill to detect the faint electric pulses emitted by its prey. Then with its bill it sifts through the mud for these small fishes, frogs, and insects. Platypuses are usually about 20 inches long and weigh about 5 pounds.



The **hyena**, found in Africa and parts of Asia, is usually thought of as a scavenger. Though hyenas are scavengers at times, they are also accomplished hunters, working in packs to pull down grazing animals that are much larger than themselves. Weighing up to 150 pounds, the hyena has an exceptionally keen nose and is able to detect prey at great distances.




The world's largest land animal, the **African elephant** can stand 13 feet tall and weigh more than 14,000 pounds. One of the elephant's most unusual features is its long nose, or trunk. With its trunk an elephant can breathe, pick things up, suck up and spray water, communicate with other elephants, bathe, and defend itself. The trunk alone may weigh 400 pounds and be more than 6 feet long. It has two thumblike projections on the end that allow the animal to grasp the leaves, grass, and fruit it likes to eat. The entire human body has more than 600 muscles, but there are as many as 100,000 muscles in an elephant's trunk.




The **American alligator** is found in swamps and rivers in the southeastern United States. Alligators grow to be 14 feet long and weigh as much as 1,000 pounds. They eat fish, turtles, birds, and

other small animals. Alligators use their noses and tails to dig "gator holes," some as big as swimming pools, in the swamps. These holes don't dry up in times of drought, providing other animals with a source of water. Alligators hunt by lying quietly in the water, with only their eyes and noses sticking out. If an unlucky animal gets close enough, the alligator uses its powerful tail to lunge forward and grab it.




The **star-nosed mole** has twenty-two fleshy "fingers" on the end of its nose. This mole spends its whole life underground, where eyes are useless, so it uses its nose to find its way through a maze of tunnels. The mole eats worms, snails, and insects that it locates with the help of its sensitive nose, using both smell and touch. The star-nosed mole grows to 7 inches in length.

EARS



The **yellow-winged bat**, like all bats, makes a constant series of clicks or chirps as it flies. Most of these sounds are pitched too high for humans to hear. These sounds bounce, or echo, off nearby objects. By listening to the echoes, a bat can maneuver in the dark, avoid obstacles, and even find and catch the flying insects it eats. The yellow-winged bat lives in central Africa and has a wingspan of about 14 inches.



The **field cricket's** ears are on its two front legs. Openings in the cricket's hard outer covering lead to chambers inside each leg. By pointing its body (and its ears) in different directions, the cricket can tell where a sound is coming from. Field crickets, which are about ¾ inch long and live throughout North America, make their familiar chirping sound by rubbing the edges of their wings together. The warmer the temperature, the faster they chirp. Counting the number of chirps in 15 seconds and adding 40 gives a fairly accurate temperature reading (in degrees Fahrenheit).



The **antelope jackrabbit** is actually a hare, a close relative of rabbits. It has very long ears, up to a third its body length, and lives in the hot desert climate of the American Southwest. Its large ears help it stay cool by radiating excess body heat. The antelope jackrabbit eats grass and shrubs and can grow to 2 feet in length.



The **hippopotamus** is easily sunburned and spends much of its time under water. These large animals — 9 feet long and easily weighing 3,000 pounds — live in Africa and graze at night on grass and other plants around the lakes and rivers where they spend most of their time. Hippos close their ears and noses when they go under water, where they can stay as long as thirty minutes at a time.



The ears of the **humpback whale** are visible only as small openings in the whale's head. Whales need streamlined bodies that can move easily through the water, and external ears would slow them down. The humpback's hearing, however, is very sensitive. These whales communicate with one another by singing songs, and though we don't know exactly what the songs mean, we do know that whales can hear one another when they're hundreds of miles apart. These large mammals can be 30 feet long and weigh a ton per foot. They are filter feeders, eating millions of tiny plankton every day. Humpback whales are found in all of the world's oceans.

TAILS



The **striped skunk** is found throughout much of North America. Like other skunks it has the ability to spray attackers with a foul-smelling, eye-stinging liquid. Skunks are omnivores — they eat just about anything, including insects, fish, small mammals, bird eggs, fruit, and seeds. They can be longer than 2 feet and weigh as much as 14 pounds, though most are smaller. The striped skunk first warns an enemy to back off by raising its tail. If that doesn't

work, it stands on its front legs, arches its back, and shoots its spray over its head, so it never has to turn its back on an attacker. Skunk spray is effective up to ten feet away.



The world's tallest animal is the **giraffe**. It lives on the savannahs of Africa and can grow up to 19 feet in height. The giraffe feeds on leaves at the tops of the trees that dot these grasslands — leaves that other grazing animals can't reach. It protects itself against its primary enemy, the lion, with kicks from its powerful back legs and uses its long tail to brush flies and other insects from its back.



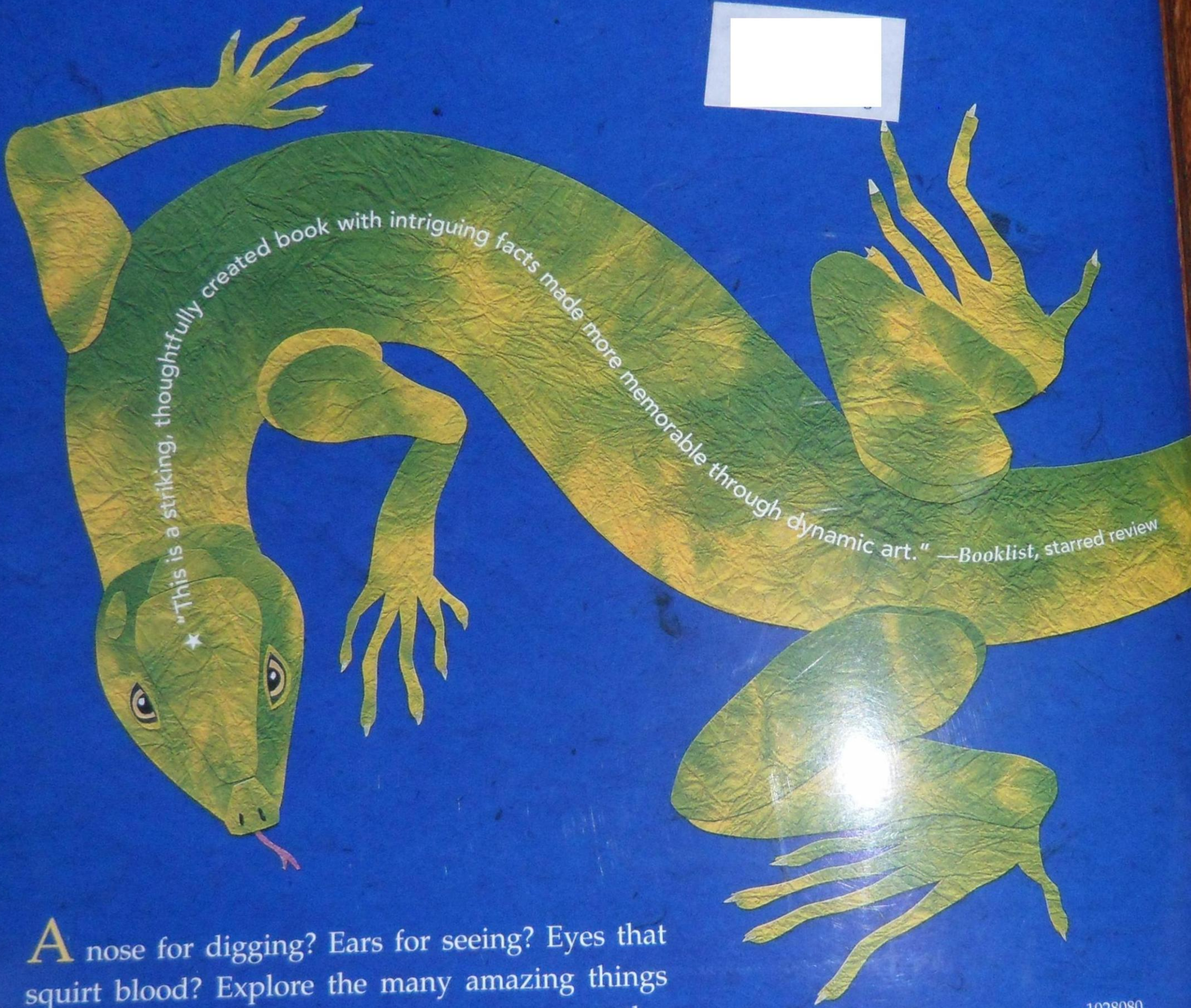
The **five-lined skink** has a long tail that can break off if it is attacked. The wriggling tail can distract predators, allowing the lizard to get away. This skink, which is 5 to 8 inches long, lives in the eastern part of the United States and eats insects and worms. Losing its tail doesn't really hurt the lizard — it soon grows a new one.



The **scorpion** is an ancient relative of the spider. Scorpion fossils older than 400 million years have been found, some of them 3 feet long. Today, scorpions grow to a maximum length of 8 ½ inches. They live in warm climates throughout the world and eat spiders, lizards, and small mammals. Hunting at night, scorpions locate their prey by touch and use the poison stinger at the end of their tail to paralyze an animal before it can get away.



The **spider monkey** can use its tail like a fifth "hand." The end of its tail has a patch of bare skin with a special groove that helps it grasp things. The spider monkey, along with the other monkeys living in Central and South America, is a New World monkey. New World monkeys are the only primates with a grasping, or prehensile, tail. The spider monkey's tail is longer than its body, which can be as tall as 2 feet. The spider monkey often hangs by its tail while eating fruit, leaves, and flowers.



★ This is a striking, thoughtfully created book with intriguing facts made more memorable through dynamic art." —Booklist, starred review

A nose for digging? Ears for seeing? Eyes that squirt blood? Explore the many amazing things animals can do with their ears, eyes, mouths, noses, feet, and tails in this beautifully illustrated interactive book by Steve Jenkins and Robin Page.

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