

**Essential Question**

How do animals' bodies help them?

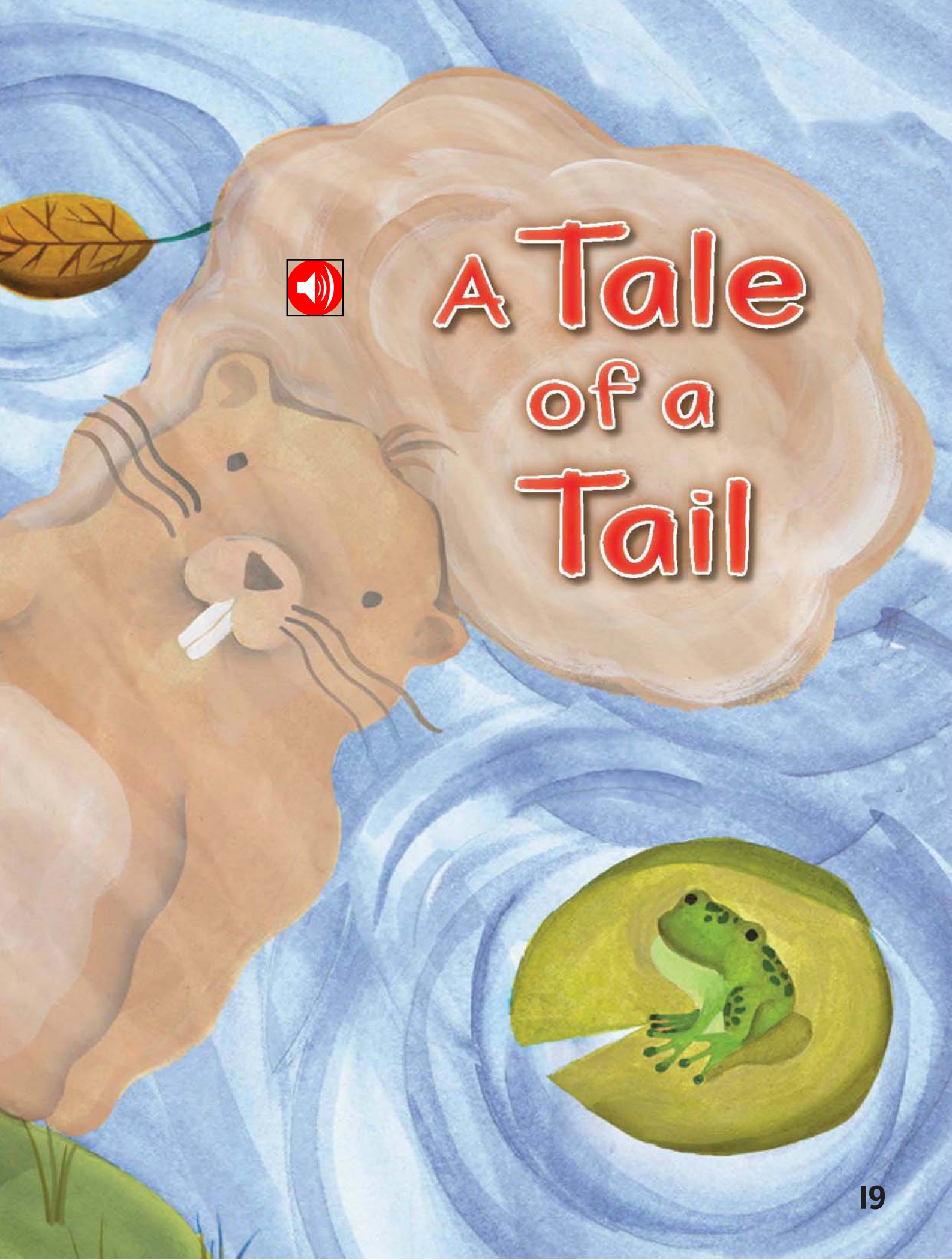
Read about how a beaver's tail helps him.

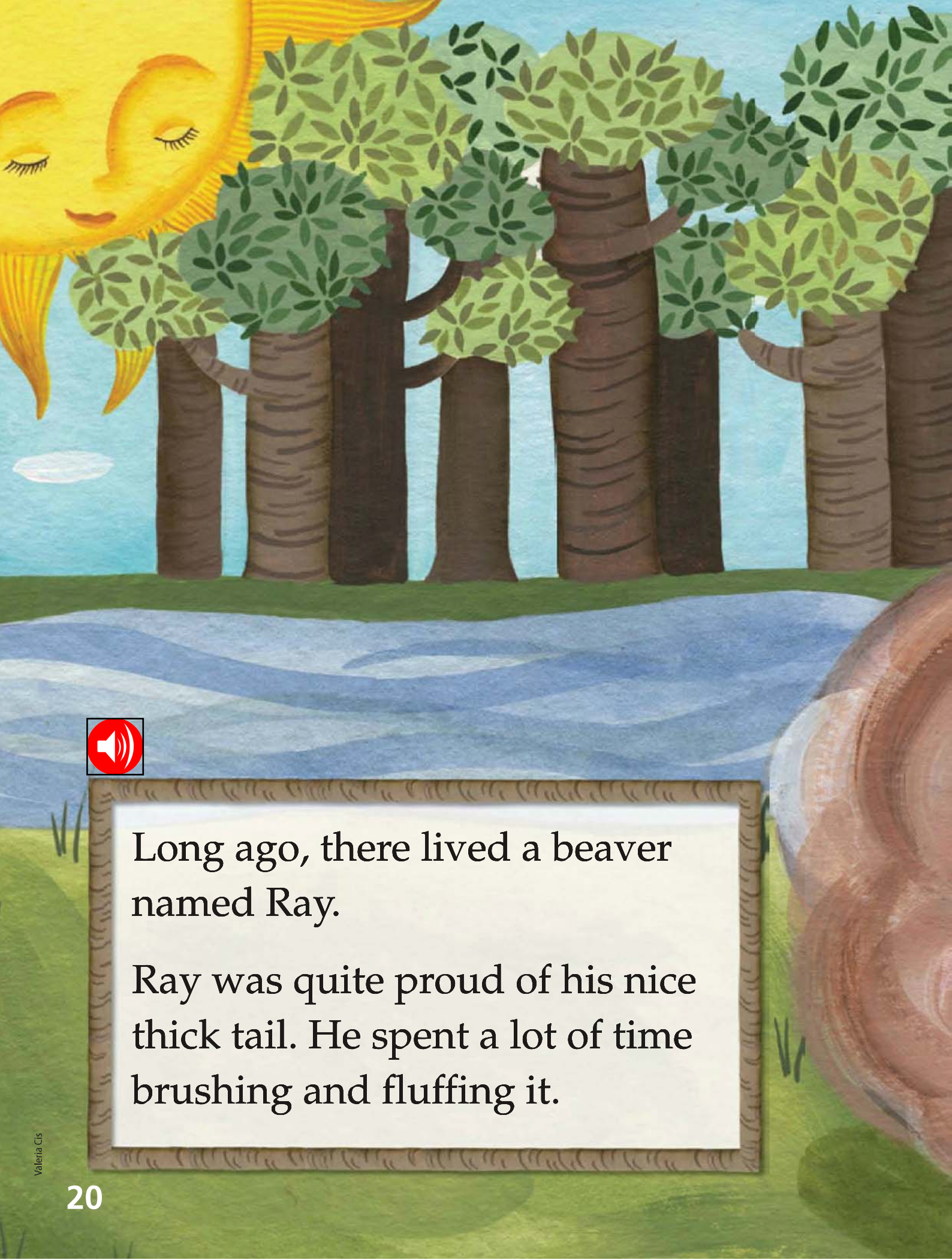


Go Digital!



A Tale of a Tail





Long ago, there lived a beaver named Ray.

Ray was quite proud of his nice thick tail. He spent a lot of time brushing and fluffing it.



“I have a **splendid** tail,” Ray bragged. “It is the best tail that an **animal** can have!”





One fine day in April, Ray went out.
“It is a nice day to chop wood,” he
said. So Ray got his ax. He chop,
chop, chopped a big tree **eight** times.

The big tree swayed this way and that. Then it fell—on top of Ray's tail! Ray tugged and tugged at his tail. He gasped when he pulled it out.





“My tail is flat!” Ray wailed.

The sun looked down at him. She could tell that Ray felt bad **about** his tail.

“A flat tail will help you swim fast,”
the sun explained. “A flat tail can
send a signal, too. Just slap it on the
water.”

That made Ray happy.



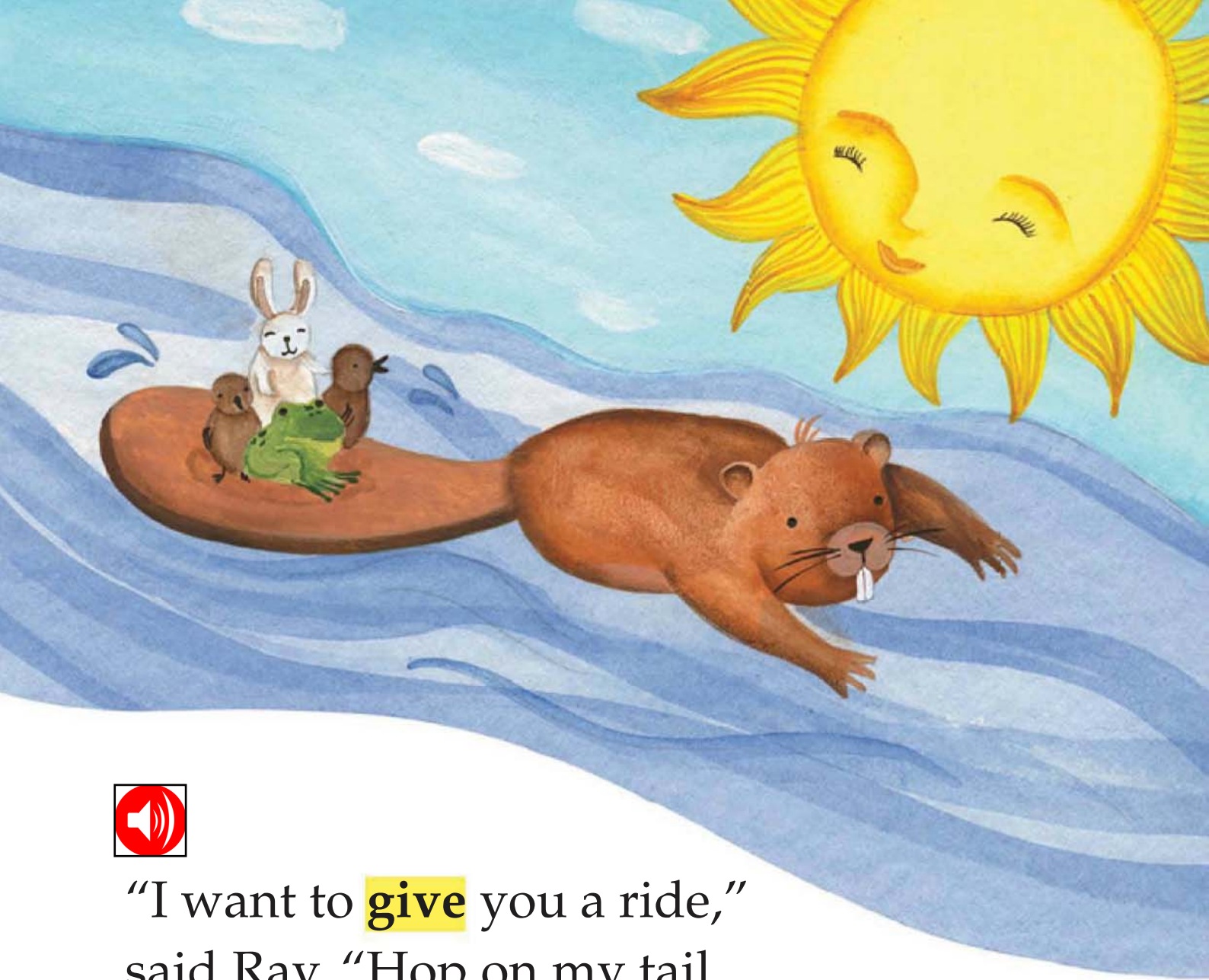


“I have a **special** tail!” yelled Ray.

Then Ray slapped his tail on the water. SLAP, SLAP, SLAP!

His pals came running. “Do you want **our** help?” they asked.





“I want to **give** you a ride,”
said Ray. “Hop on my tail.
I will **carry** you across the lake.”

And happy Ray swam off as fast
as a fish!

Make Connections



How did Ray's new tail
help him?

Sequence



The **sequence** is the order of events in a story. Think about what happens first, next, then, and last in the folktale.



Find Text Evidence

Find out what happens first in the story.

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Long ago, there lived a beaver named Ray.

Ray was quite proud of his nice thick tail. He spent a lot of time brushing and fluffing it.



**First**

Ray really liked his thick, bushy tail a lot.

**Next**

A tree fell and made Ray's tail flat. He was sad.

**Then**

The sun explains how a flat tail will help Ray.

**Last**

Ray's flat tail helps him send a signal, swim fast, and give his pals a ride.

**Your Turn**

Talk about the sequence of events in "A Tale of a Tail."

Go Digital! Use the interactive graphic organizer



Readers to...



Word Choice Craig used words to tell what sounds the animals made.



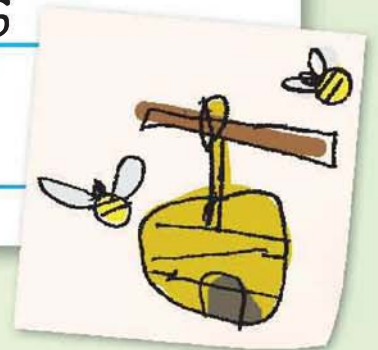
Craig's Folktale

Bees were in their hive. Buzz!

Bear was hungry. Yum, yum!

"I'll get some honey," he said.

Buzz, buzz! "My paw was stung!" Bear yelled.



Your Turn

COLLABORATE



Tell what sound words Craig chose.

Writers



Was and Were Use **was** to tell about one person, animal, or thing in the past. Use **were** to tell about more than one person, animal, or thing in the past.



Bees **were** in their hive.

Bear **was** hungry.



COLLABORATE



Your Turn



- Find another sentence with **was** in Craig's folktale.
- Write new sentences with **was** and **were**.