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TAKE ME HOME: Waters of the World



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B4U PUBLISHING



LAKES ARE
FOUND ON EVERY
CONTINENT.



LAKES CAN BE FOUND
IN DIFFERENT KINDS
OF ENVIRONMENTS:
IN MOUNTAINS, IN
DESERTS, ON PLAINS
AS WELL AS NEAR
SHORES.



AN INLAND BODY
OF WATER THAT'S
SURROUNDED BY
LAND.

The Lake

“Dear visitors, I’m Donna. I never miss a splash or single croak, so I always get the ‘Tour Guide of the Year’ award. You may have noticed the greenery that grows around our lake. You see, it’s not just decor. In fact, it’s a very functional part of our lake. The vegetation that grows around the shores provides a hiding place for many of our inhabitants. Don’t fail to notice all the different types of aquatic plants and animals that live here.. Don’t hesitate a second and follow me – I’ll get you acquainted with all of the tenants!”

LAKES, LIKE PEOPLE, GO THROUGH DIFFERENT STAGES OF LIFE. ALL LAKES, EVEN THE LARGEST ONES, MAY SLOWLY DISAPPEAR IF THEY DON’T HAVE A CONSTANT FLOW OF NEW WATER. IN THAT CASE, LAKES BECOME SMALLER, STARTING AT THE EDGES AND WORKING TOWARDS THE MIDDLE.

LAKES MAY BE FRESHWATER, SALINE, SMALL, HUGE, SHALLOW OR VERY DEEP. SOME LAKES MAY BE SO SHALLOW, YOU COULD WADE ACROSS THEM. OTHERS ARE INCREDIBLY DEEP: THE DEEPEST LAKE IN THE WORLD IS THE LAKE BAIKAL.



THE WATER IN LAKES
COMES FROM RAIN,
SNOW, MELTING ICE,
GROUNDWATER LEAKS
AND STREAMS.

QUACK-QUACK.

MUMMY?

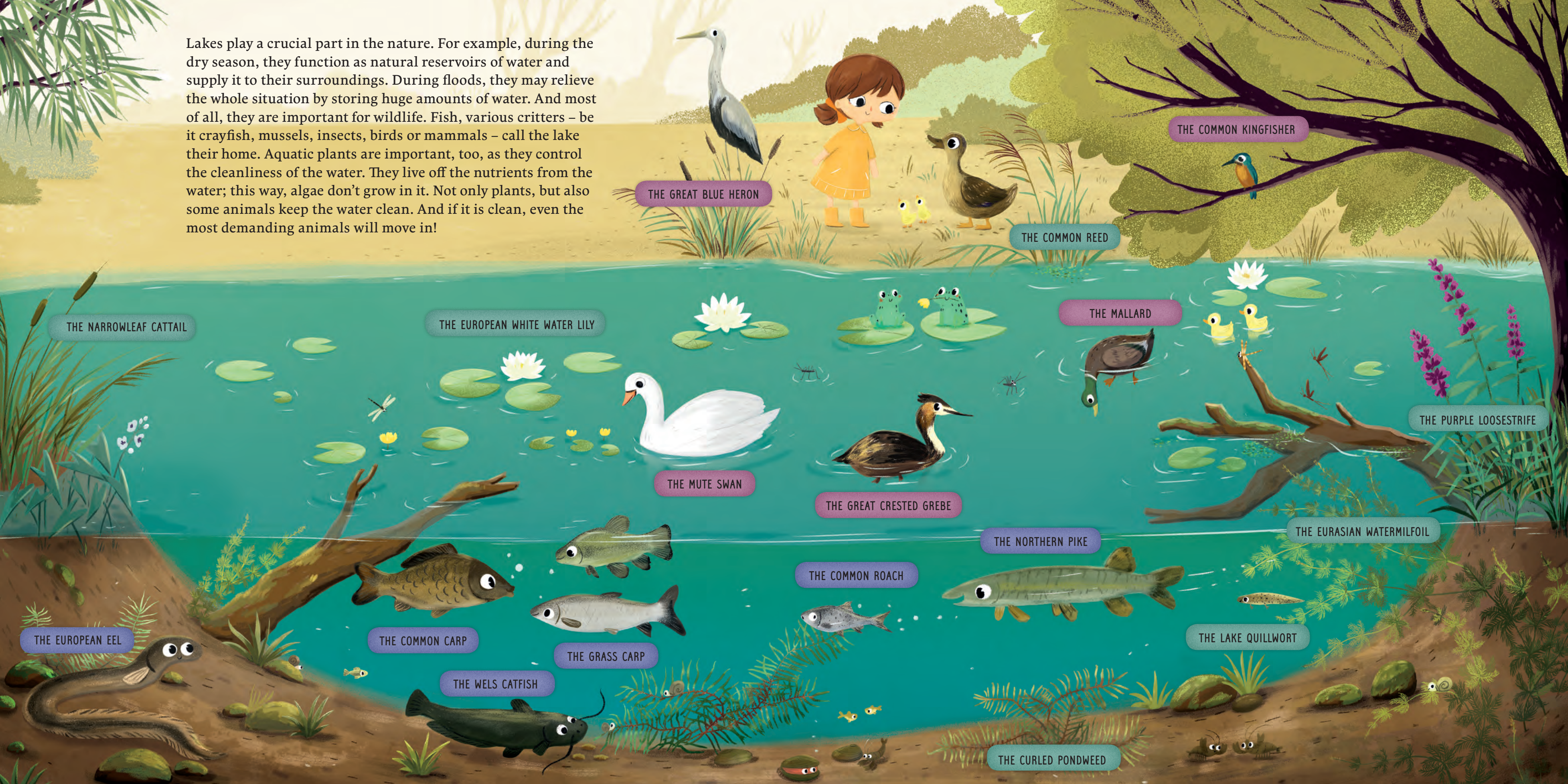
WE'RE SO
EXCITED!

THIS IS OUR
LAST STOP!

DEAR VISITORS,
FOLLOW ME.



Lakes play a crucial part in the nature. For example, during the dry season, they function as natural reservoirs of water and supply it to their surroundings. During floods, they may relieve the whole situation by storing huge amounts of water. And most of all, they are important for wildlife. Fish, various critters – be it crayfish, mussels, insects, birds or mammals – call the lake their home. Aquatic plants are important, too, as they control the cleanliness of the water. They live off the nutrients from the water; this way, algae don't grow in it. Not only plants, but also some animals keep the water clean. And if it is clean, even the most demanding animals will move in!



THE NARROWLEAF CATTAIL

THE EUROPEAN WHITE WATER LILY

THE GREAT BLUE HERON

THE COMMON REED

THE COMMON KINGFISHER

THE MALLARD

THE PURPLE LOOSESTRIPE

THE MUTE SWAN

THE GREAT CRESTED GREBE

THE EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL

THE NORTHERN PIKE

THE COMMON ROACH

THE LAKE QUILLWORT

THE COMMON CARP

THE GRASS CARP

THE WELS CATFISH

THE CURLED PONDWEED

THE EUROPEAN EEL

WHAT GROWS HERE?



THE EUROPEAN WHITE WATER LILY
...THIS BEAUTY IS VERY SENSITIVE TO POLLUTED WATERS. ITS LEAVES TAKE UP A LOT OF SPACE ON THE LAKE, PROVIDING FISH WITH SHADE.



THE COMMON DUCKWEED
...COVERS LAKE LIKE A CARPET. IT'S NOT ROOTED IN THE GROUND; IT GETS ALL ITS NUTRIENTS DIRECTLY FROM THE WATER.



NARROWLEAF CATTAIL
... IS AN AQUATIC PLANT THAT THRIVES IN MUDDY ENVIRONMENTS. YOU CAN'T MISS IT - ITS "FLOWER" LOOKS LIKE A CUBAN CIGAR.



THE YELLOW WATER-LILY
...IS RELATED TO WATER LILIES, BUT ITS BLOOM IS YELLOW. ITS ROOTS ARE ANCHORED IN THE MUD AND STEM AND LEAVES GROW OUT OF IT.



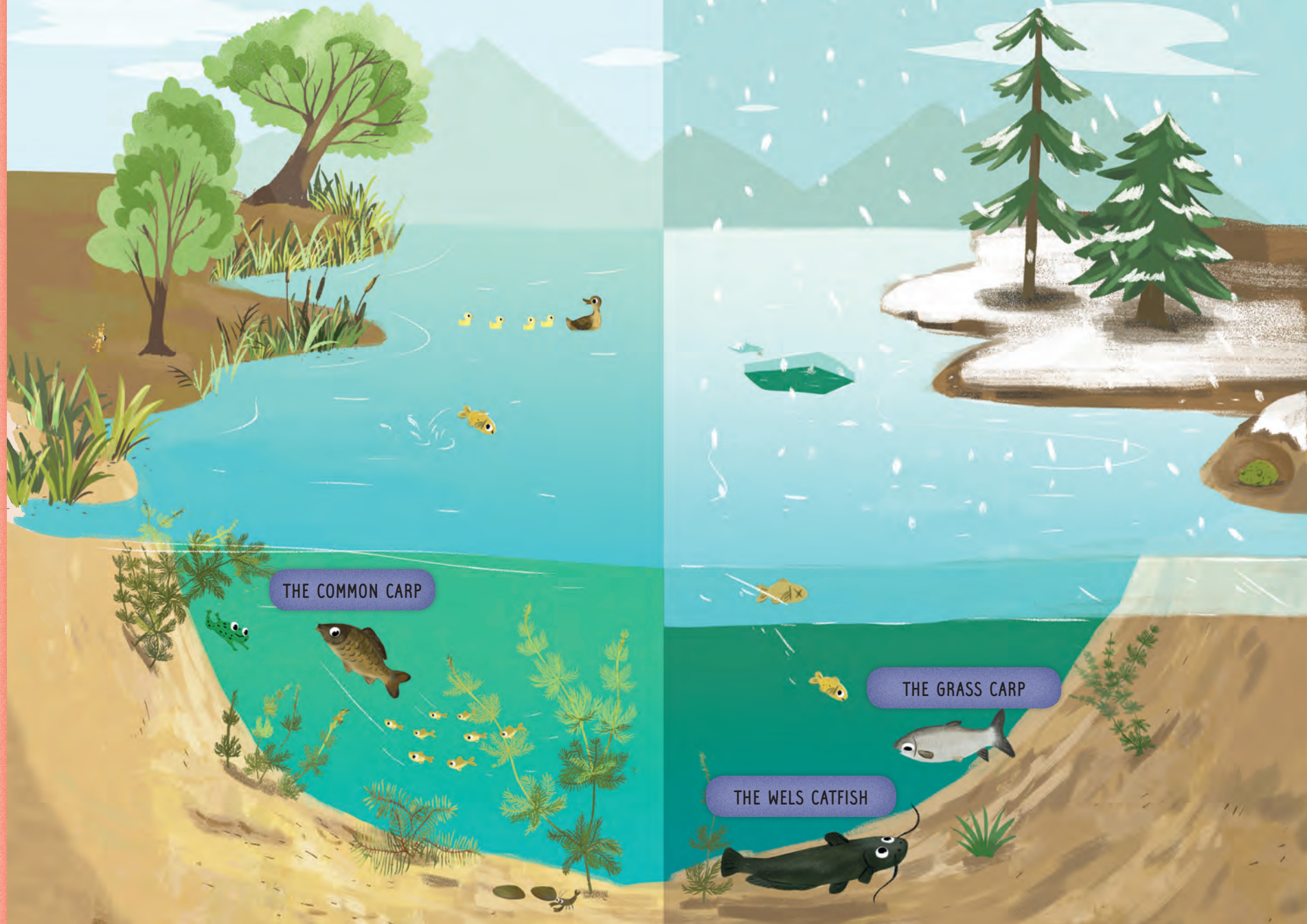
THE EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL
...CAN COVER THE WHOLE LAKE UP IN NO TIME. LUCKILY, SOME TYPES OF FISH, SUCH AS THE GRASS CARP, CAN GET RID OF IT.



THE COMMON REED
THIS GRASS GROWS ON BANKS AND PROVIDES SHELTER, HIDING PLACE AS WELL AS BUILDING MATERIAL FOR VARIOUS ANIMALS.

Lake Turnover

Has it ever occurred to you how lakes change throughout the year? In summer, when the sun takes over, the water in lakes splits into several layers. The layer close to the surface gets warmer due to the sunshine; the colder water sinks down to the bottom.



When it's colder outside, the top layer of water gets colder, too. The temperature of water is evenly distributed throughout the lake – the wind helps to mix it up. It's the right time for the lake turnover. When the surface of the lake freezes, the warmer water sinks down to the bottom. This way fish can survive during the winter. When spring comes, the cycle starts all over again...

WHO LIVES HERE?



THE SWAN MUSSEL
...HELPS TO KEEP THE WATER CLEAN. IT FILTERS SMALL PARTICLES FROM THE WATER AND THE MUD. IT MOVES USING ITS MUSCULAR LEGS, LEAVING BEHIND TRACES IN THE MUD.



THE GREAT DIVING BEETLE
...IS A FEROCIOUS BEETLE AND A GREAT SWIMMER. ITS STRONG HIND LEGS ARE SHAPED LIKE VESSELS. IT'S FEARED BY TADPOLES, LARVAE, INSECTS AND SMALL FISH.



THE NORTHERN PIKE
... LIKES TO LOOK FOR IDEAL HIDING SPOTS, WHERE IT LURKS FOR ITS PREY. IT'S A QUICK HUNTER THAT EATS FISH, FROGS OR MICE.



THE COMMON CARP
WHEN IT'S HUNGRY, IT SEARCHES THE BOTTOM OF THE LAKE FOR FOOD. IT'S ACTIVE DURING THE NIGHT. IT'S A VERY CURIOUS, BUT ALSO CAUTIOUS FISH.



THE EURASIAN COOT
...LIKES TO SWIM AND DIVE. YOU CAN SEE IT AROUND THE COMMON REED, WHERE IT HIDES ITS NEST. THIS IS WHERE IT FEELS SAFE, SO IT WILL GUARD ITS HOME CAREFULLY.




THE MUSKRAT
THIS MAMMAL BURROWS INTO THE BANKS. SWIMMING IS EASY PEASY FOR THE MUSKRAT: IT HAS A FLAT TAIL AND WEBBED FEET.

TAKE ME HOME:

Waters of the World


WRITTEN BY PAVLA HANÁČKOVÁ
ILLUSTRATED BY LINH DAO

Go around the world with us and get to know different types of waters and their inhabitants as well as plant. Our animal friends will join you on this journey. They're having the adventure of a lifetime: they want to get to the home they belong to. But what if they don't know where their home is? Luckily, they have Annie. She'll accompany them on their journey to see and discover various waters – from polar waters to the Amazon river – to find which one is the right one for each of them. And what happens after they reach their final destination? We'll sure the animals will love to tell you. Join us on our journey along which you'll learn many new things!

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Small parts. Not suitable for children
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