
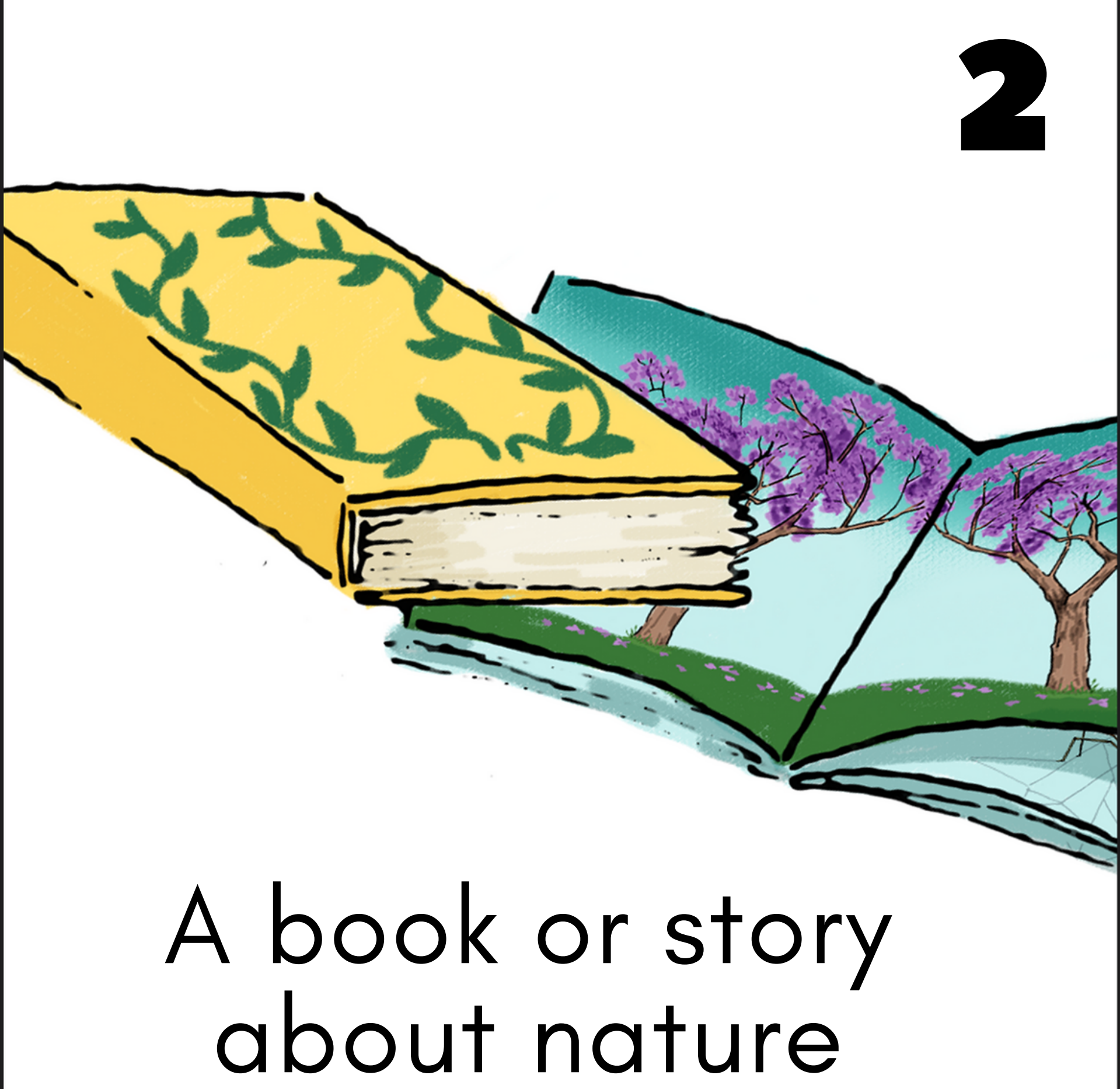
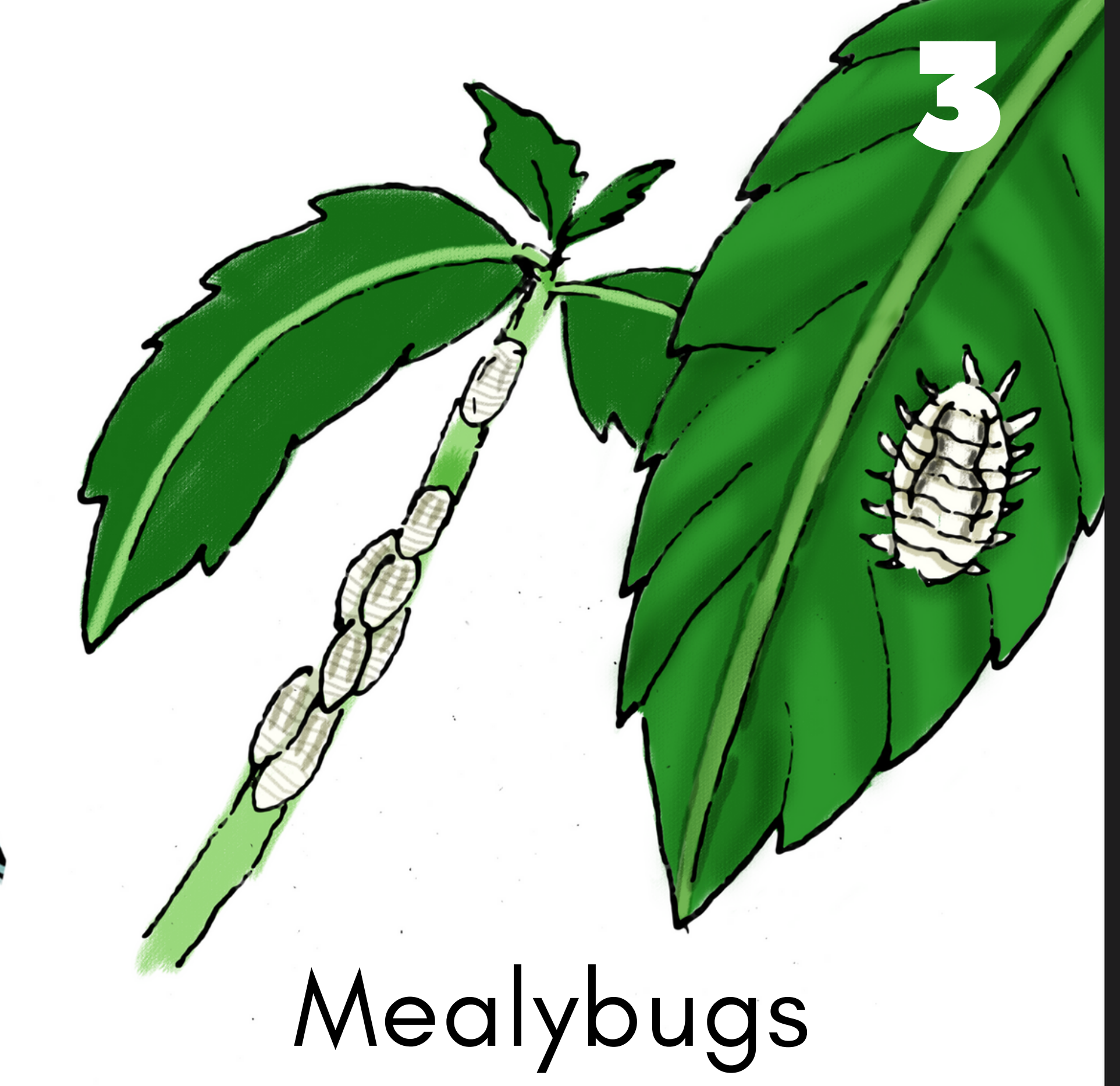
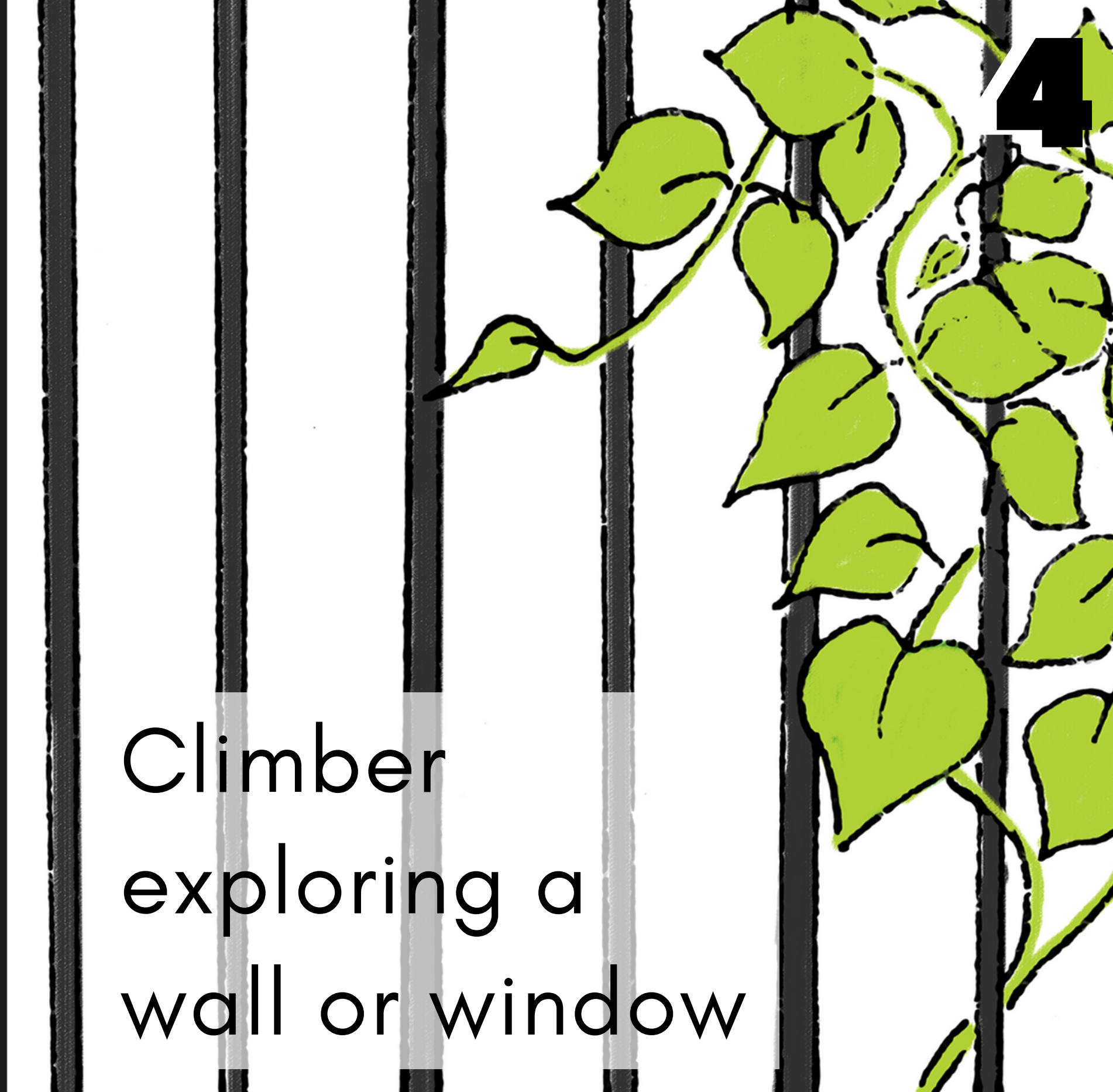

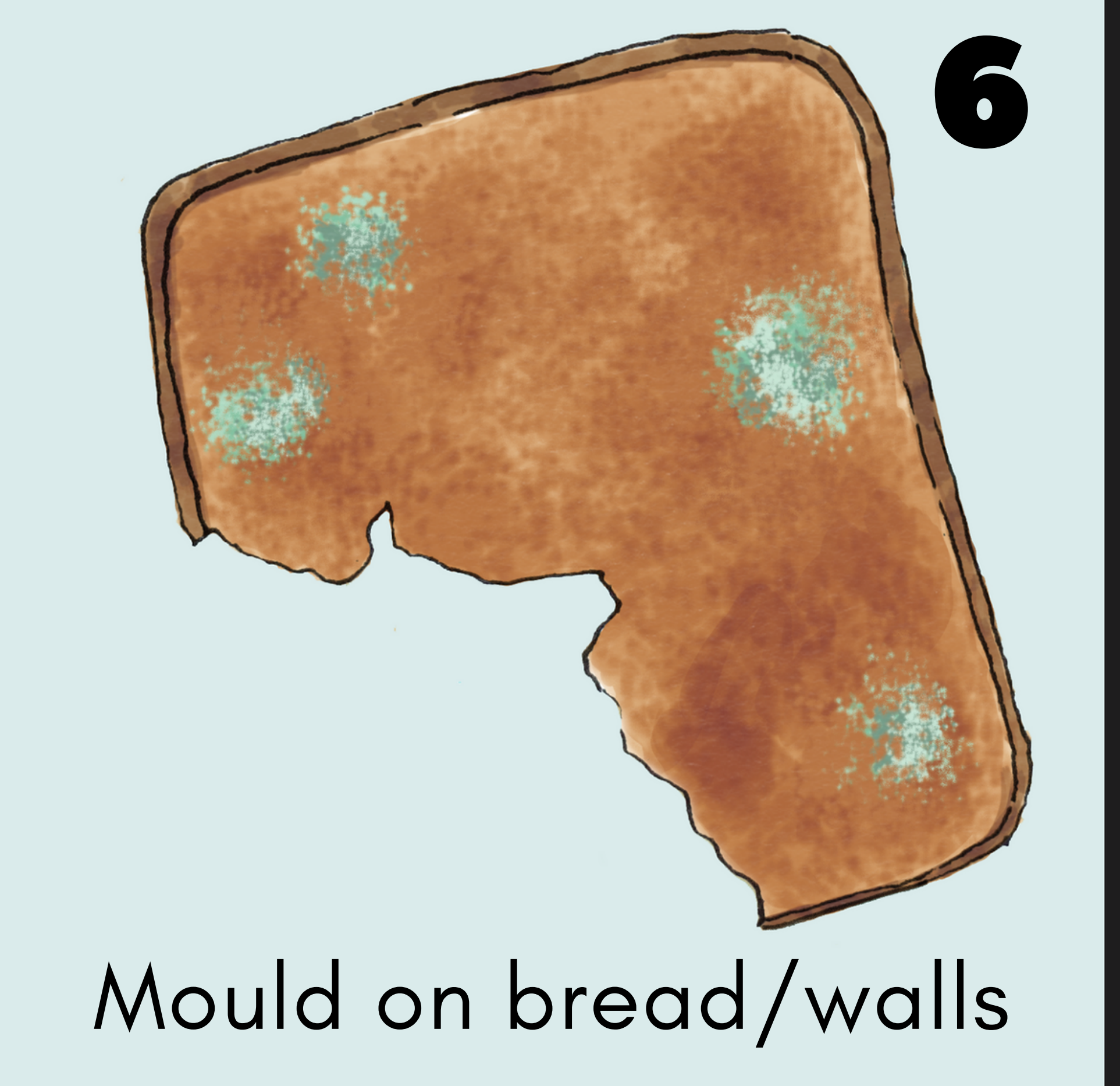


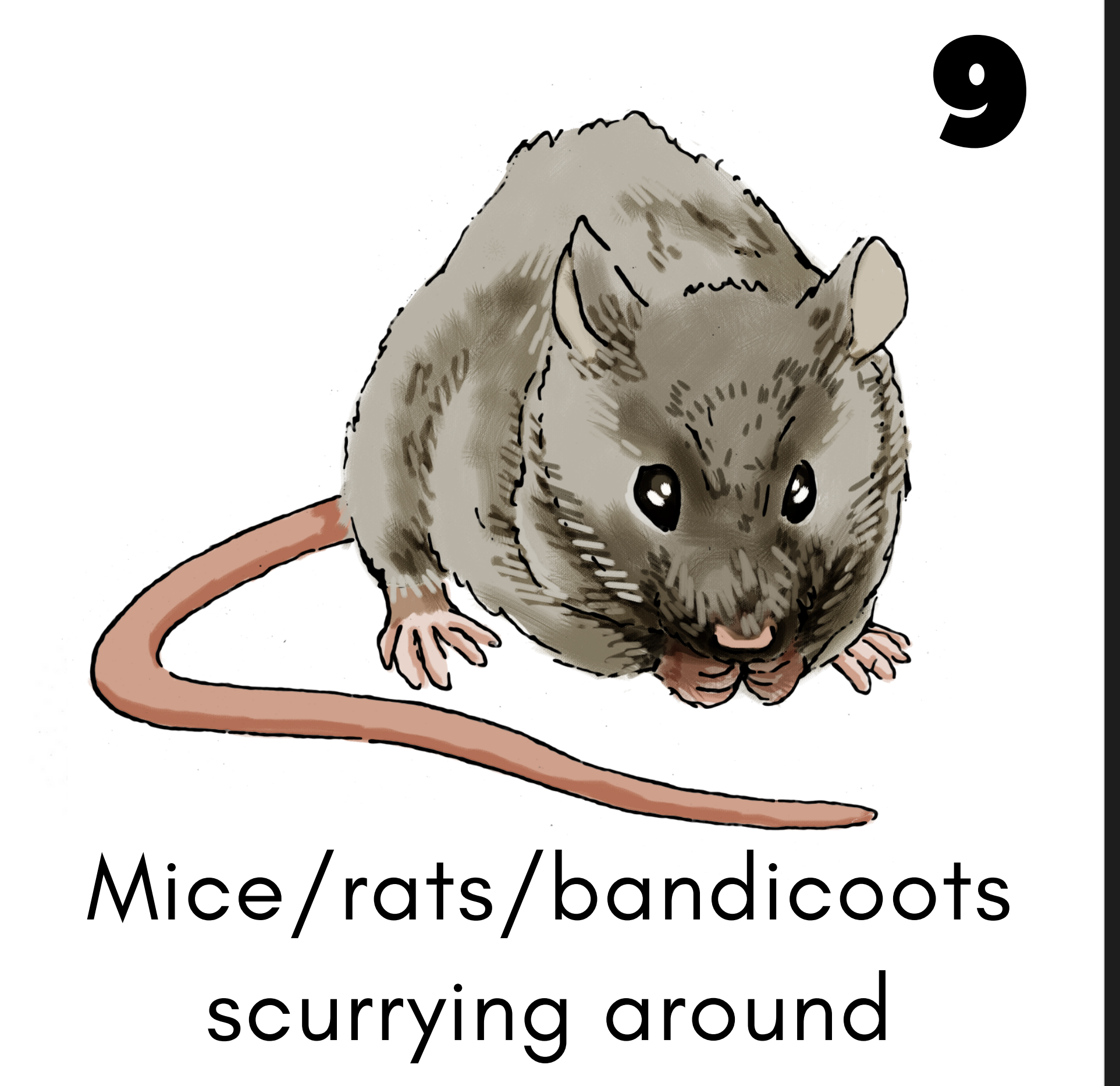


Hidden Housemates (3)

It may surprise you, but you don't need to go outside to experience nature! Look around your home, through a window, behind a door or under a flowerpot - find any three down or across and say **BINGO!**

 <p>1 Squirrel calling</p>	 <p>2 A book or story about nature</p>	 <p>3 Mealybugs</p>
 <p>4 Climber exploring a wall or window</p>	 <p>5 Disc web/round headed spider</p>	 <p>6 Mould on bread/walls</p>
 <p>7 Wasps</p>	 <p>8 Lizard/bird poop</p>	 <p>9 Mice/rats/bandicoots scurrying around</p>

Do you want to know more about the creatures and the plants in this Bingo? Explore the following **resources** (page 2) and **nature activities** (page 4) you can do from your home!

1	2	3
✓ 4	✓ 5	✓ 6
7	8	9

Tip: No need for a print out! Draw and number it for yourself on a piece of paper!

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Further Reading

Want to know more about your natural neighbours? Here are a few resources you can explore - tap/click the links below! Match the numbers to the creature or plant in the Bingo square!

1 Squirrel calling: Indian Palm Squirrels are very common- you may have seen them scurrying up tree trunks or even venture very close to your home. They have a loud chip-chip-chip call that you can hear through the day.

- Squirrel Goes to School (short story): <https://storyweaver.org.in/stories/22302-squirrel-goes-to-school>
- <https://www.wildwanderer.com/three-striped-palm-squirrel/>

2 A book or story about nature: Nature is also a favourite theme in stories, songs and poems.

- The Fascinating Fibonacci (short story): <https://storyweaver.org.in/stories/5619-the-fascinating-fibonacci>.
- Nature Trail (short story): <https://storyweaver.org.in/stories/9581-nature-trail>. You can also explore Storyweaver for more illustrated stories about nature, in multiple languages!
- The Very Quiet Cricket (video story): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YdiGEjz5b0Q>

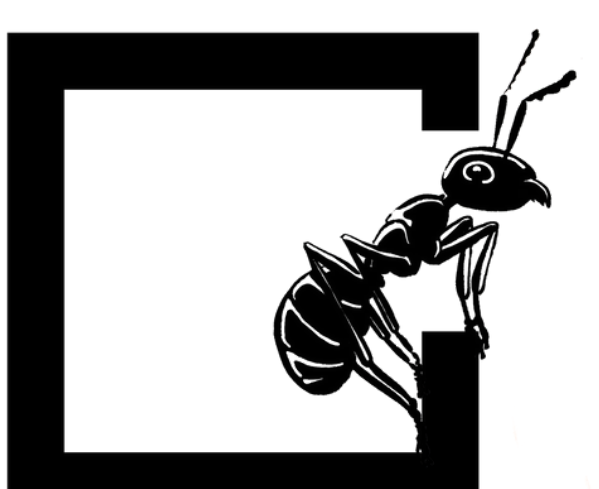
3 Mealybugs: Many mealy bugs are oval-shaped, scaly insects that are covered with white, powdery coating. They feed on plants and you can spot them in clusters-some of them resemble small balls of cotton.

- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gXPkIA0TGbM>
- <https://www.britannica.com/animal/mealybug>

4 Climbers exploring a wall or window:

Climbers are plants that use trees, walls for support to grow, climb upwards. Bougainvillea, Money Plant are climbers you may see around you.

- <https://www.wildwanderer.com/islands-of-green-climbers-creepers-vines/>





5 Disc web spider: Have you ever spotted white, star shaped webs in the corners of walls in your home? These are home to the tiny disc web weaver spider, who lives mostly in homes and enjoys snacking on ants and other small insects.

- <http://spiderbytes.org/tag/flatmesh-weavers/>
- What are spiderwebs made from: <https://theconversation.com/curious-kids-what-are-spider-webs-made-from-and-how-strong-are-they-91824>
- Different types of spider webs: <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/animals/2019/09/spiderwebs-explained/>

6 Mould on bread/walls: Have you seen furry green, black splotches on old bread? That is mould. Mould is a type of fungus which grows from spores. You can find mould on old food or fruit but also on ceilings and walls!

- <https://kids.kiddle.co/Mould>

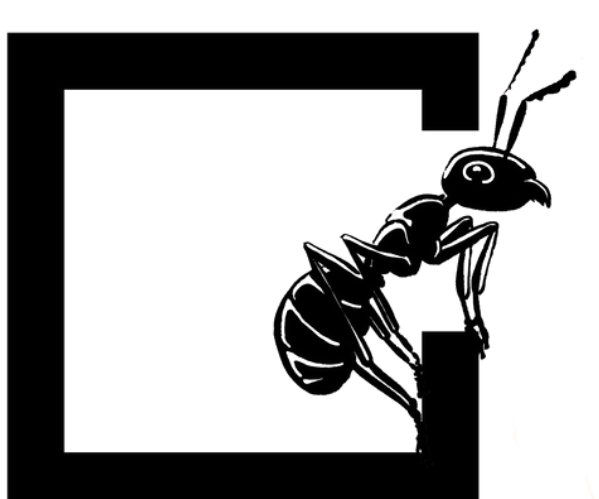


7 Wasps: Have you noticed these long-legged flying insects around your house? Some can be mistaken for flying ants, some are easy to spot with bright splashes of colour, and some can be seen buzzing around their unique mud or paper nests!

- Difference between bees and wasps: <https://sciencing.com/difference-between-wasps-bees-4578394.html>
- Paper wasp nest: <https://sciencing.com/do-wasps-make-nests-5470751.html>
- Potter wasp building nest: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Sjx5gh8cgE>
- How do wasps build their nests: <https://wonderopolis.org/wonder/how-do-wasps-build-their-nests>

8 Lizard/bird poop: In little nooks and crannies in your home- perhaps behind a painting or a bookshelf you may find tiny black droppings with white tips. Congratulations! You've been enjoying free, natural pest control thanks to your house gecko.

- Animals who hide by looking like poop: <https://www.sciencefocus.com/nature/heres-looking-at-poo-the-weird-and-wonderful-species-that-look-like-faeces/>
- Seed dispersal: https://kids.kiddle.co/Seed_dispersal



9 **Mouse, shrew or bandicoot:** If you've woken up in the middle of the night to get a drink of water in the kitchen and heard a strange gnawing sound-it is probably a house mouse. Mice, shrew and bandicoots belong to the rodent family-their sharp front teeth help them bite through almost anything!

- https://kids.kiddle.co/House_mouse
- <https://kids.kiddle.co/Shrew>
- Rodent teeth: <http://www.biokids.umich.edu/critters/Rodentia/>

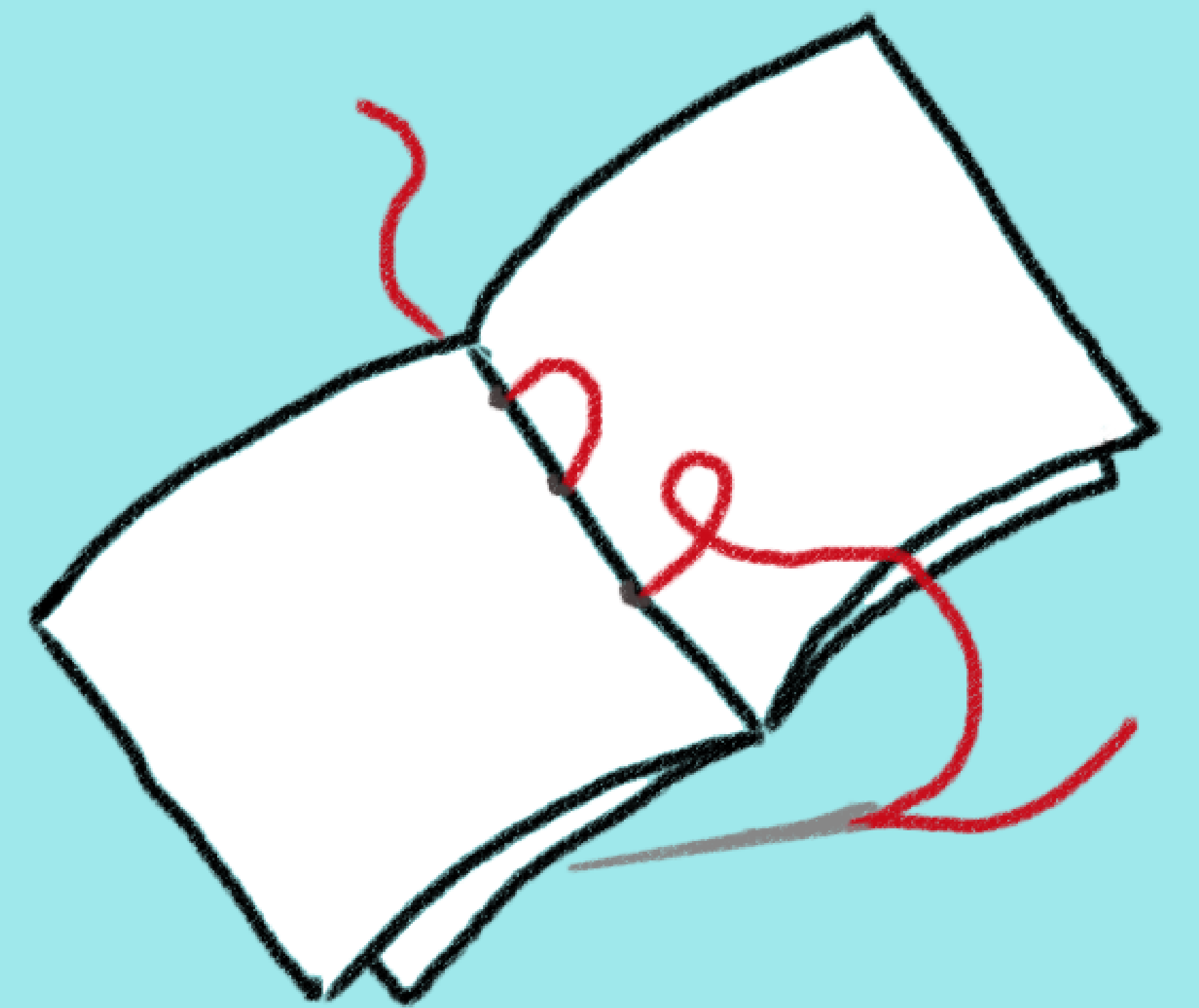


Activities

Time to be creative! Get to know your natural neighbours better through these special activities. Match the numbers to the creature or plant in the Bingo square!

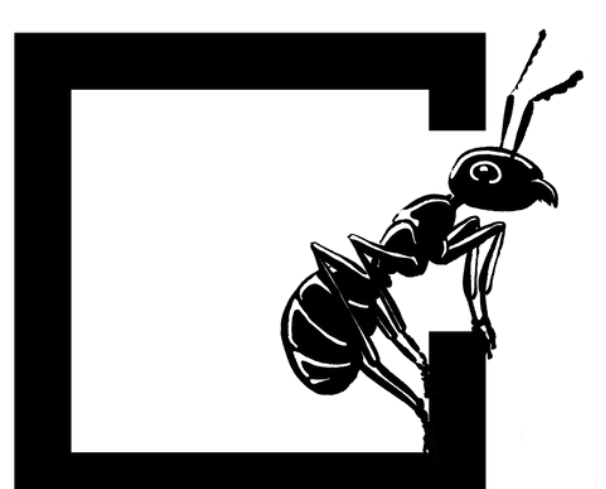
1 The loud *chip chip chip* you hear everyday is the call of the Indian Palm Squirrel. Can you make the same call? If you see one from your window, balcony- count the number of stripes...check with a friend/family living in another part of the country- how many stripes do squirrels have there? Ask your parents or grandparents for squirrel stories.

2 Have you had a memorable experience with nature? What do you miss most about being able to explore the outdoors? Take a few sheets of paper and fold them in half. Staple or sew the center. And here, you have a book of your own! Write your own story about nature to add to your bookshelf.



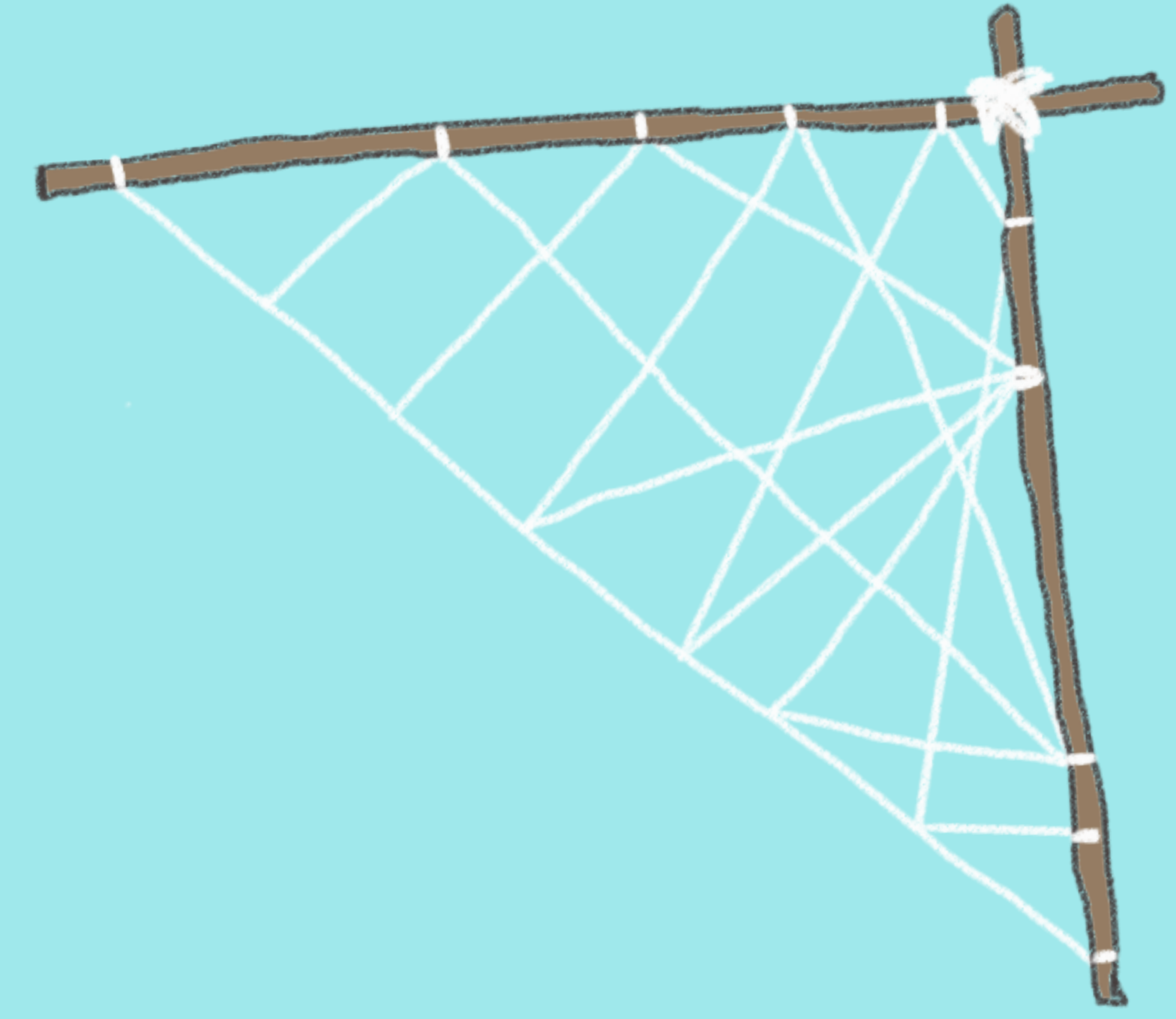
3 Imagine yourself as a mealybug. Which plant are you on? How does a typical day look like for you? Do you move? Who are your friends? Make a comic strip starring mealybugs and ants!

4 What makes climbers/creepers/vines different from other plants? Which parts of their bodies do they use to climb? How do you think plants know what to climb and which direction to go in? If you were a climber plant, how would you make these decisions? Write/draw a step-by-step guide teaching younger climber plants how to climb safely.



5

Using two sticks (tied perpendicular to each other) and a string, make a spider's web. Weave the thread in and out and make interesting shapes. How many shapes can you identify in your web?



6

Collect scraps such as fruit and vegetable peels, bread or rice. Store them at room temperature in different jars - sprinkle a couple of drops of water on them if they are dry. Is there appearance changing? How long does it take for mould to appear? Do all moulds look the same? Make drawings of what you see.

7

Has a wasp been visiting your home? Observe it for a few days - is it visiting your home regularly? Why? Using mud, papier mache or paper, make a model of a wasp nest.

8

Poop is useful to plants, animals and humans. Speak to adults in your family and find out ways in which different animal poop is used. Can you make a list of 'Useful Poops'? Share these with us so we can learn about them too!

9

Imagine that you are a superhero called MouseKid! What are your superpowers? What do you eat and drink? What is your costume like? Do you fight crime? Give a speech to your family and share a video of it with us!

