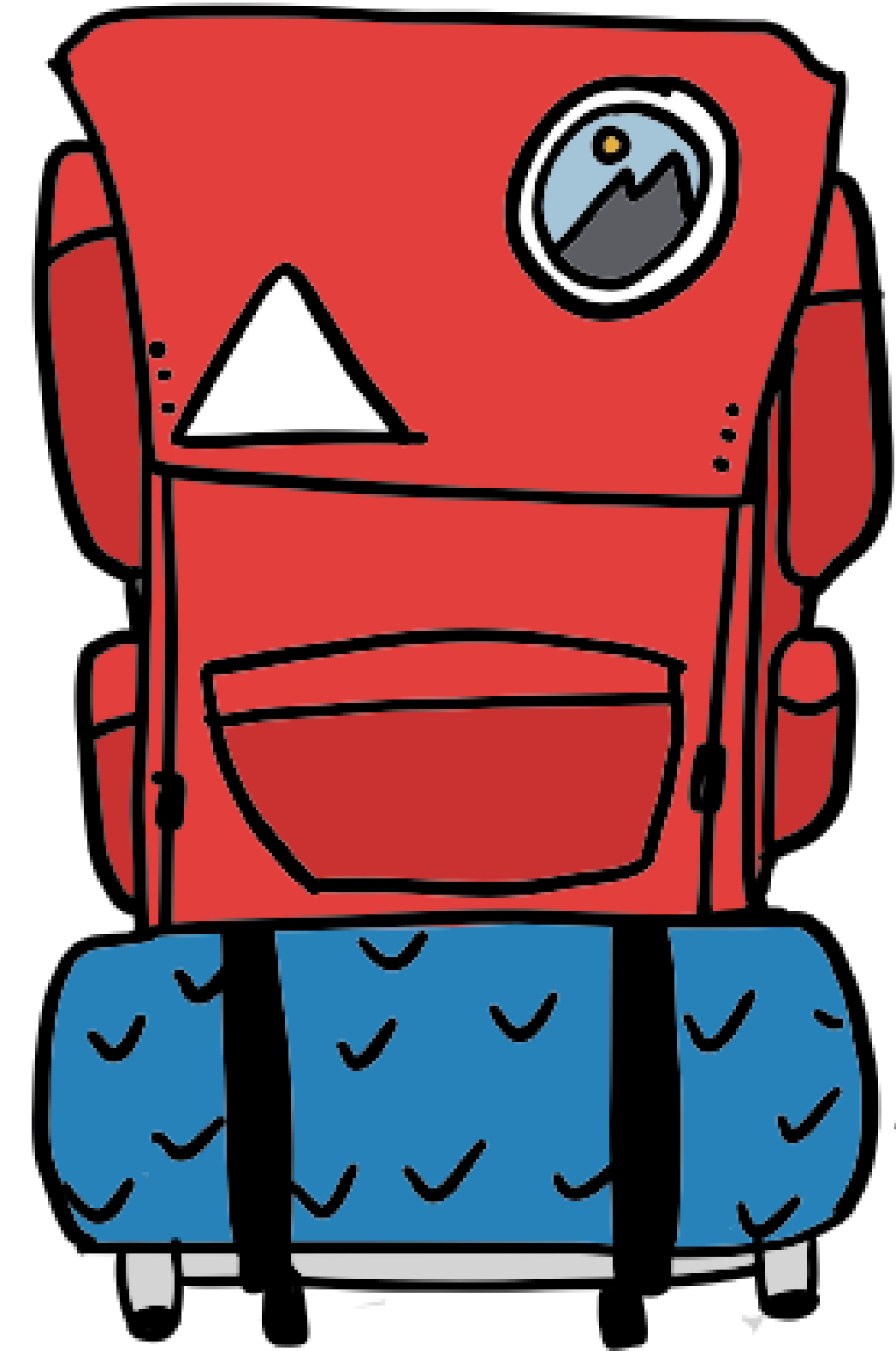


My Magical Backpack!



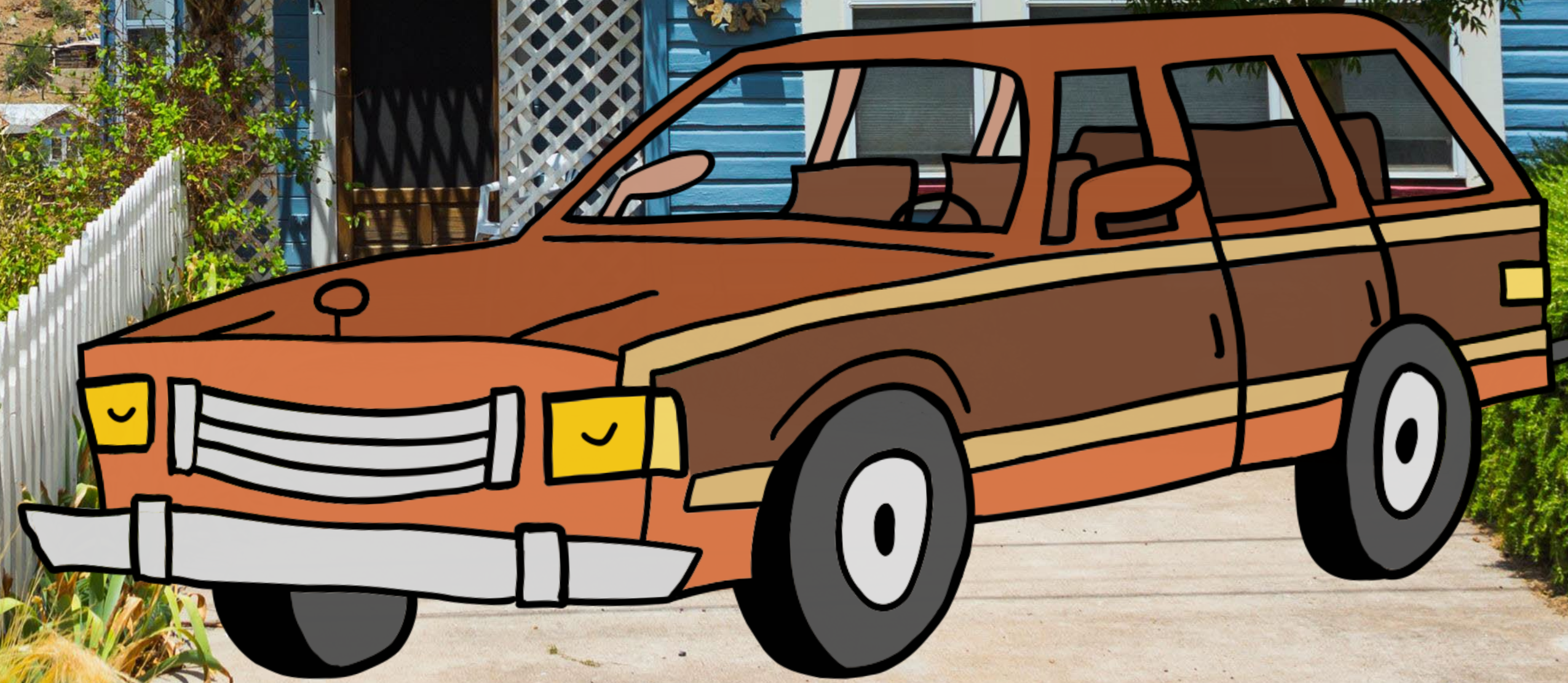
Note for the presenter: This outline is for you to use and adapt for your audience. Use movement or ask students to locate the animals to keep restless students engaged. More details about the animals can be found at the back of the book.

Today I am going on my first ever backpacking trip with my grandpa! I am so excited.

Rosie, who is my best friend in the whole world, goes backpacking every summer with her family. She says that it is really hard work—but she thinks I can do it.

She says you carry your whole house with you on your back: your bedroom, your kitchen, and your dining room. I imagine that my grandpa and I will look like a pair of giant snails in the mountain!

Animal pictured: Black-tailed Jack rabbit

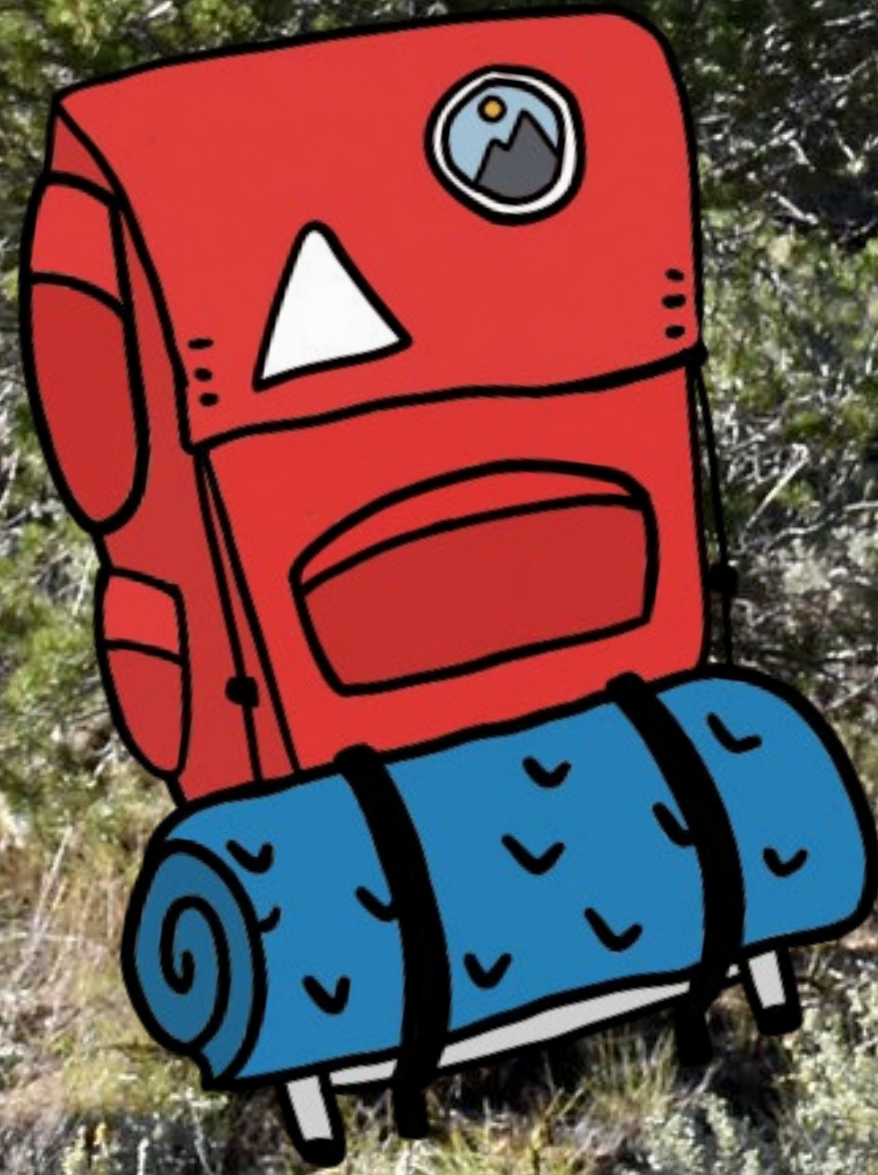


Note for the presenter: Depending on the students, you can "open" the backpack and reveal the contents.

My grandpa gave me a red backpack for our trip. It used to be my mom's. When she outgrew it, he gave it to my uncle. My grandpa says that it is full of everything that I will need.

My grandpa and I drove for what felt like forever. Finally, we came to the campground where we will start our adventure.

Animal pictured: Pinyon Jay



We pitched our tent, which my grandpa says is the funny word for setting up your tent! When we started, there were poles and fabric all over, but my grandpa was good at pitching the tent. Now the tent looks like a tiny house.

Now it is dark. What can I use to help me see?

[Reach into the backpack and pull out the headlamp and flashlight.]

I was sleepy, so I crawled into my tent, snuggled into my sleeping bag and fell fast asleep.

Animal pictured: Ringtail Cat



When we woke up in the morning, we ate our breakfast. Grandpa said it is important to leave the campsite clean. We put everything away before we started the hike to our next campsite.

Now it is very sunny! What can I use to help protect me from the sun?

[Reach into the backpack and pull out sunscreen and a hat.]

Animals pictured: Coyote



My backpack felt heavy, but my legs felt strong. After we hike for an hour, my stomach started to growl.

[You can ask the students to make the sound of a stomach growling, using a quiet voice.]

I am hungry! What can I do to feel better?

[Reach into the backpack and pull out a snack.]

Animal pictured: Abert's Squirrel

Picture for site



We came to a fork in the road, which is a place where the trail splits in two different directions. I wasn't quite sure where to go. Grandpa wanted to let me try and figure it out, before helping me.

How can I figure out which way to go?

[pull out a picture of a map.]

I found where we were on the map and we started down the right trail. Grandpa smiled.

Animals pictured: Hairy Woodpecker



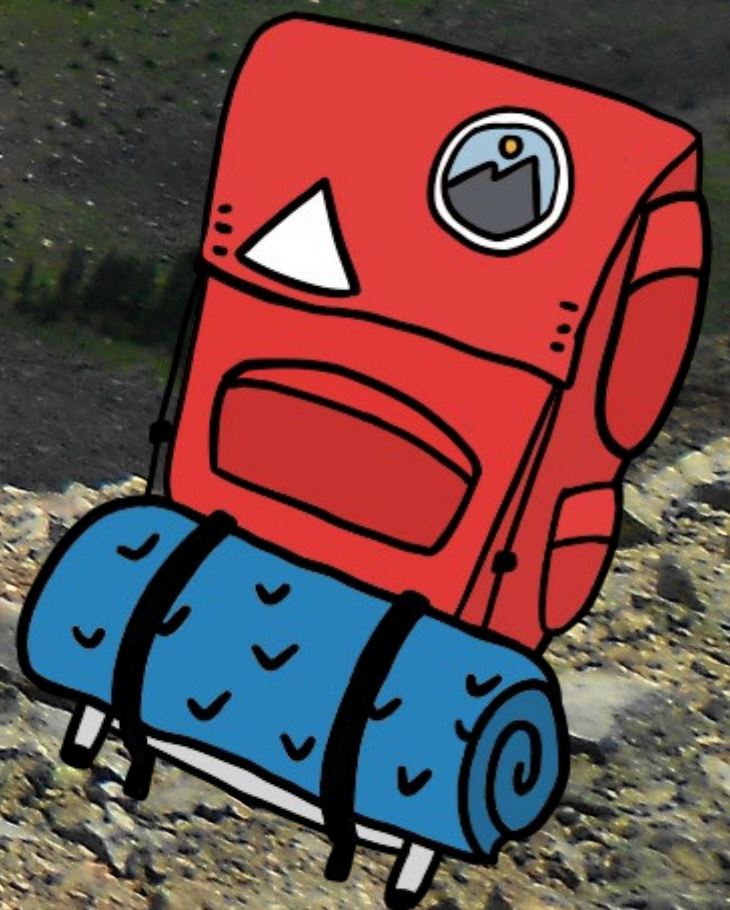
We followed the trail until we made it to the top of the mountain! We could see all around. Grandpa pointed out our campsite from the night before, many miles below us now. We saw something moving down below. What could it be? What could we use to help see it better?

[Pull image of binoculars out of the pack.]

It was a big-horned sheep, with great big horns that curled at its face. Grandpa told me that it is important to respect the wildlife.

[You can ask students what that means to 'respect wildlife.'"

Animals pictured: Pika



Grandpa said that we were allowed to have a campfire at our final campsite. He said that we had to always stay near the campfire and when we went to bed, we had to make sure that it was completely out.

[you can ask students about fire rules that they have in their families or add your own fire prevention message.]

As we got ready for bed, I wasn't quite tired yet. What is something you can do to pass the time outside at night?

[Students may come up with a lot of ideas. Validate the ideas, then pull out the journal.]

Animals pictured: Elk

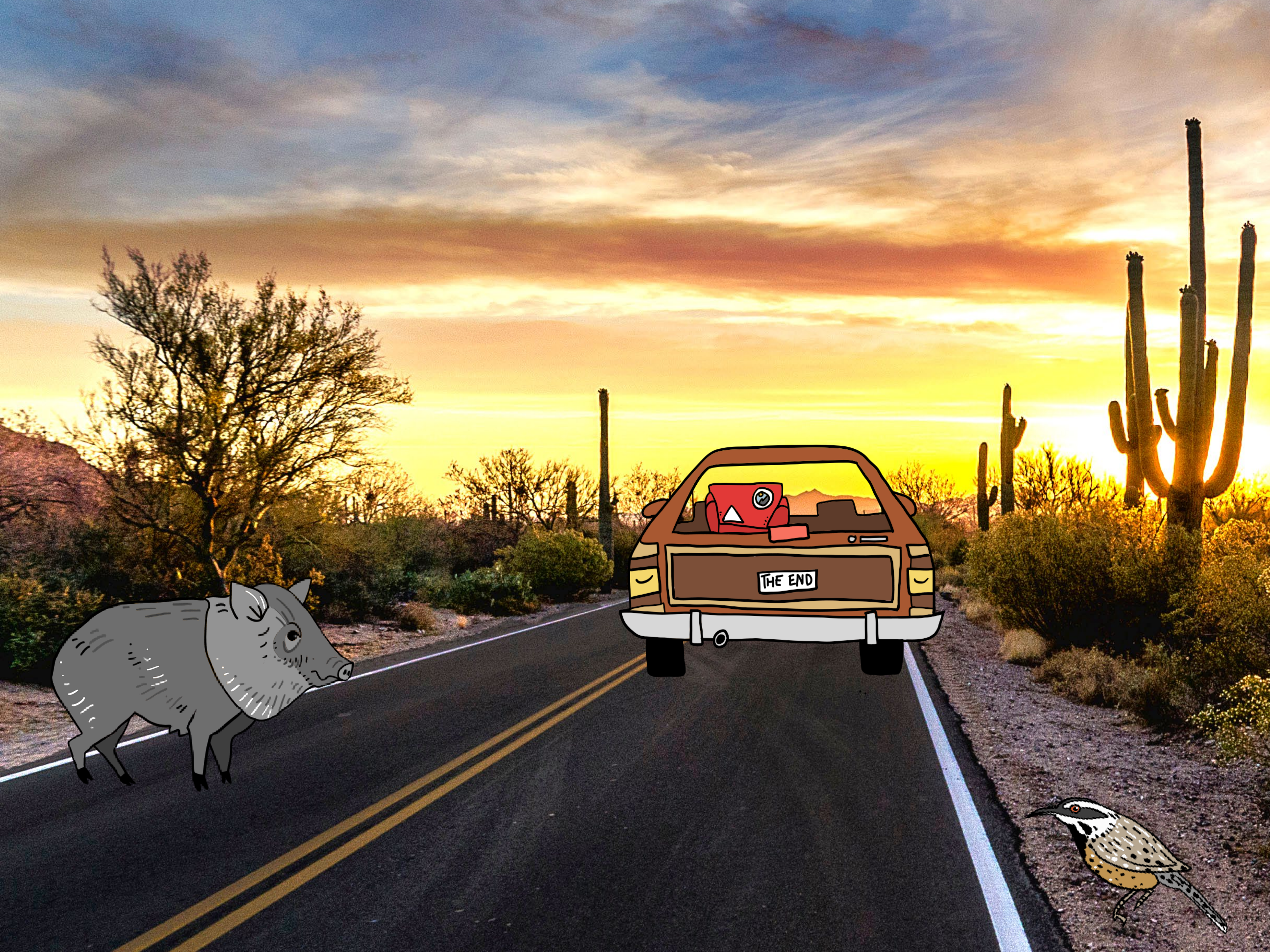


The next morning, we hiked all the way back to the car. I was so tired, but so happy. I can't wait to tell my best friend Rosie all about the trip.

The end.

Note for the presenter: You can use this time to debrief the story. Students can summarize what happened and talk about decisions that the characters made.

Animals pictured: Javelina, Cactus Wren



THE END

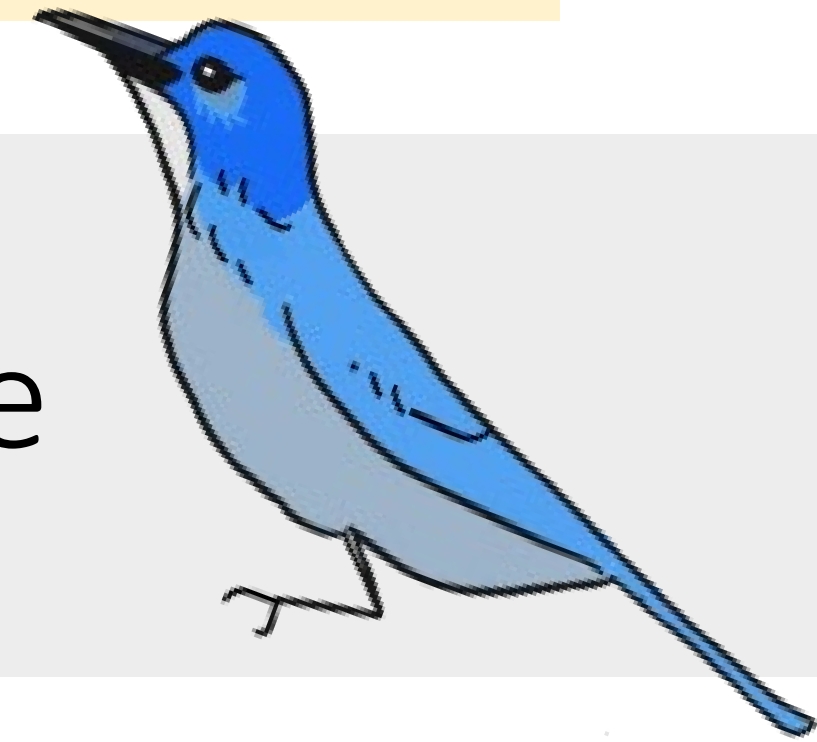
Note for the presenter: You can use this time to debrief the story. Students can summarize what happened and talk about decisions that the characters made.

More details about the animals featured in the book can be found in the following pages.



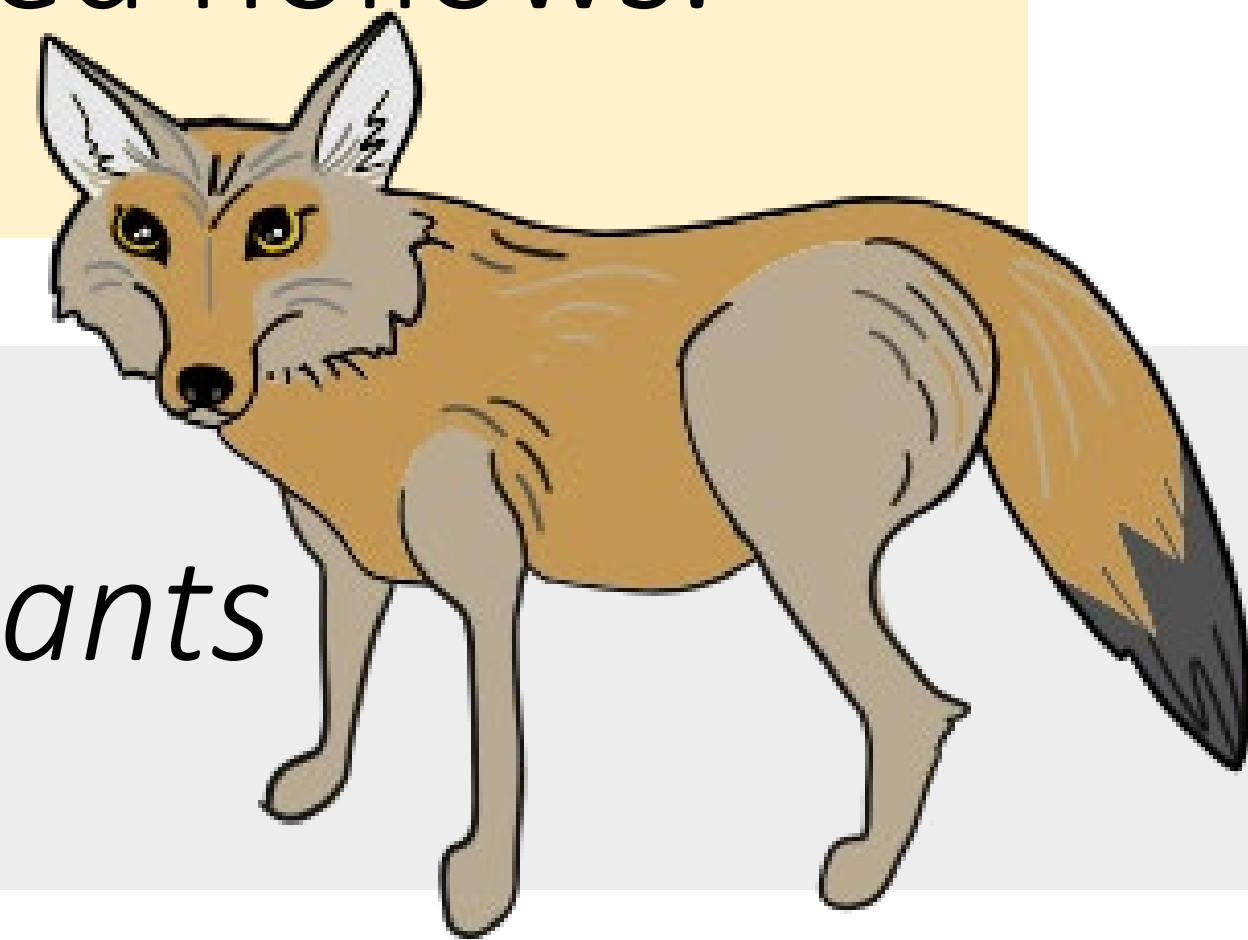
Black-tailed Jackrabbit – This mammal lives in desert scrub. Their fur helps them blend in with the desert. They are herbivores, which mean they eat plants.

Pinyon Jay – This bird lives in habitats with juniper and piñon trees. They are social, which means they are often seen in large groups. They eat piñon nuts.



Ringtail – This mammal lives in rocky habitats. They nest in the holes of trees, called hollows. They eat small animals, insects, and berries.

Coyote – This mammal can live in different habitats, even on the edge of cities. They eat plants and animals and they are most active at night.



Abert's Squirrel – This mammal lives in ponderosa pine forests. They eat the seeds and cones of pine trees. They build their nest high up in trees.



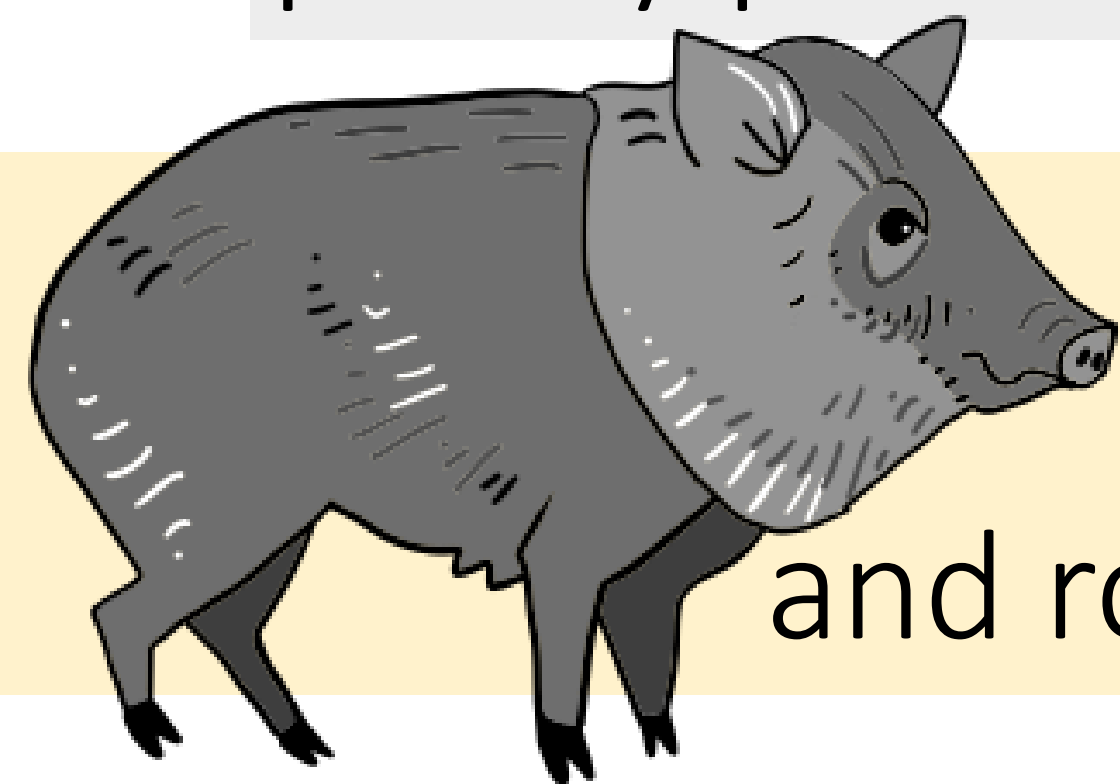
Hairy Woodpecker – This bird lives in the forests and mountains, they can also be found in neighborhoods with trees. They eat insects and larva in the bark of trees.

American Pika – Pikas live in the rocky slopes near the tops of mountains. They do not hibernate. In the winter they eat the dried grasses they collected in the summer.

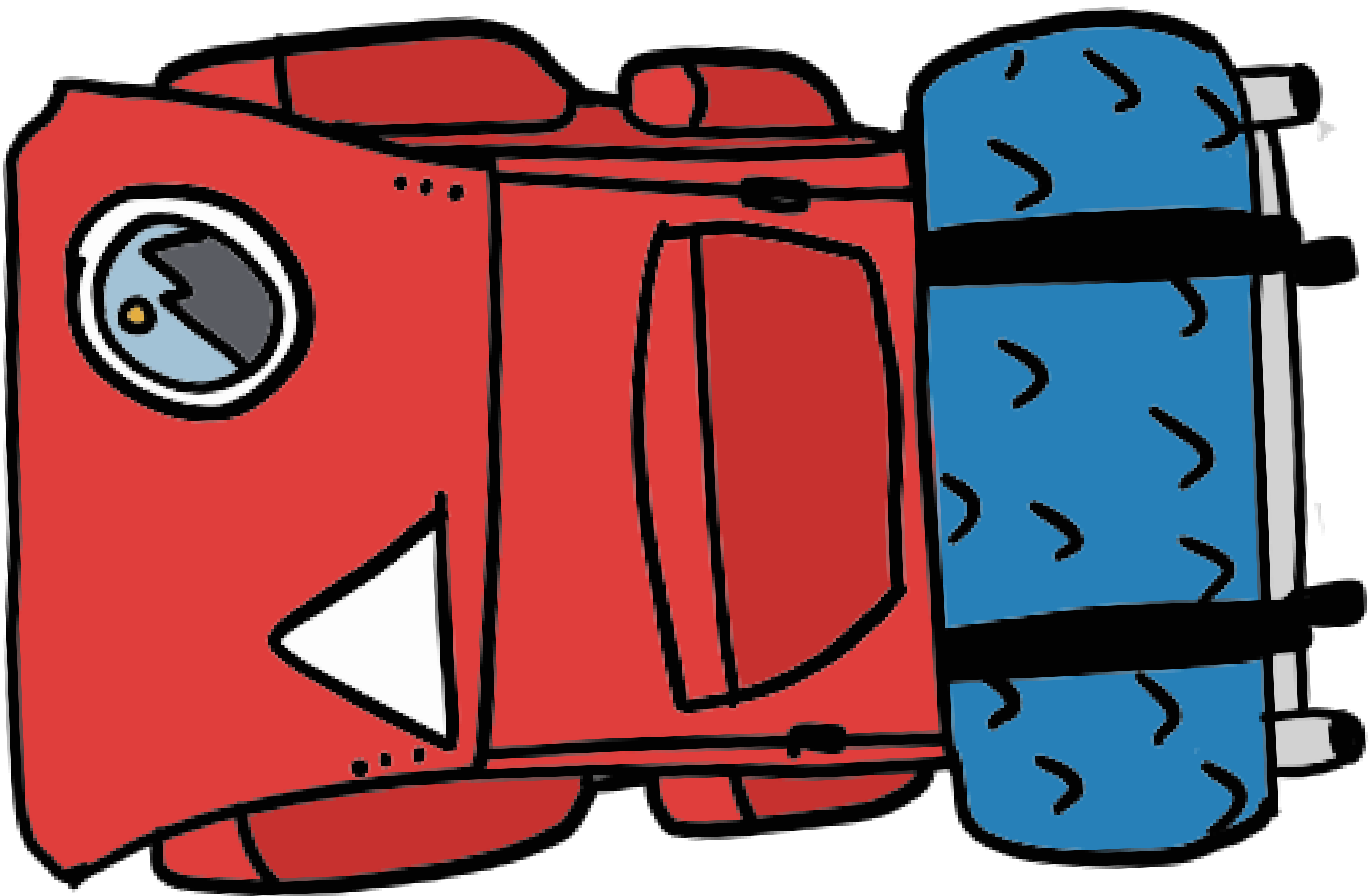


Elk – This mammal lives in mountains and valleys. They eat plants like grasses and bark. Male elk have antlers they shed in the fall and regrow the next year.

Cactus Wren – This bird lives in desert scrub habitats. They build their nests in desert plants like cholla and prickly pear. They eat insects and cactus fruit.



Javelina – This mammal lives in the desert. They have tusks to eat tough plants like cactus and roots. Tusks also help them protect themselves.

















FIRST AID