I am Different, We are Similar.

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Illustrated by Samuel Davis

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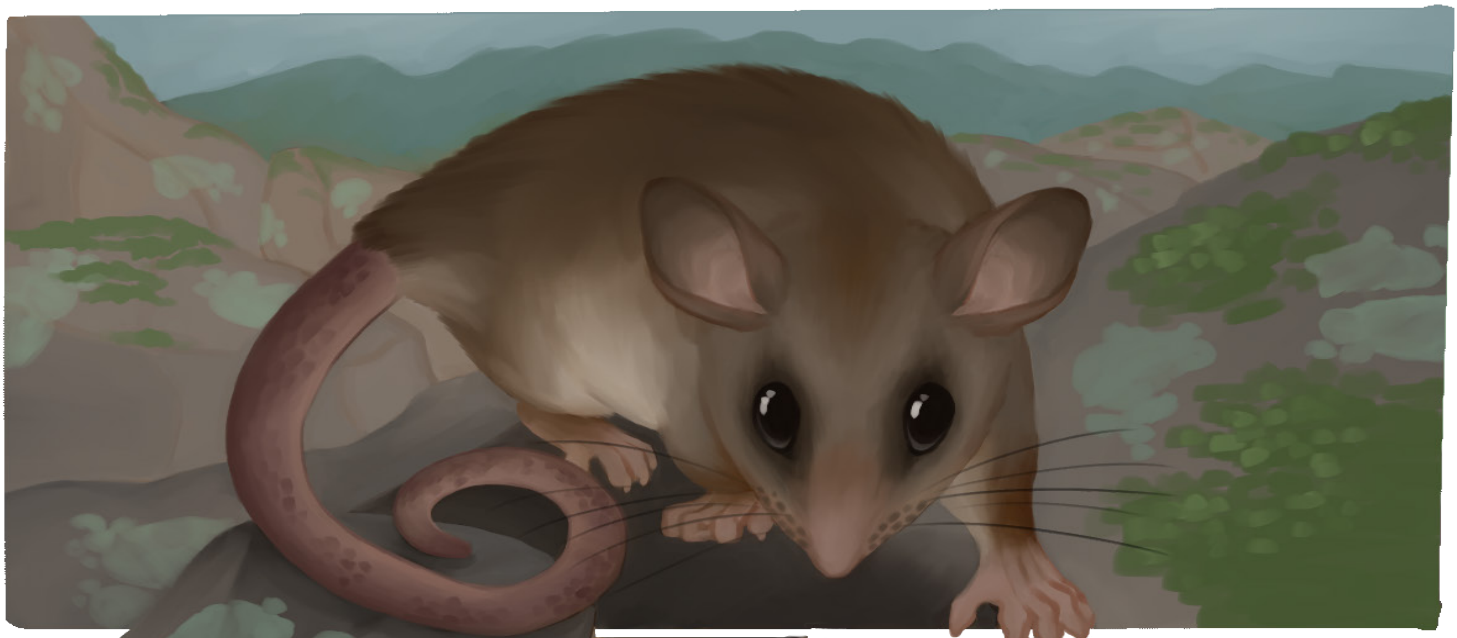
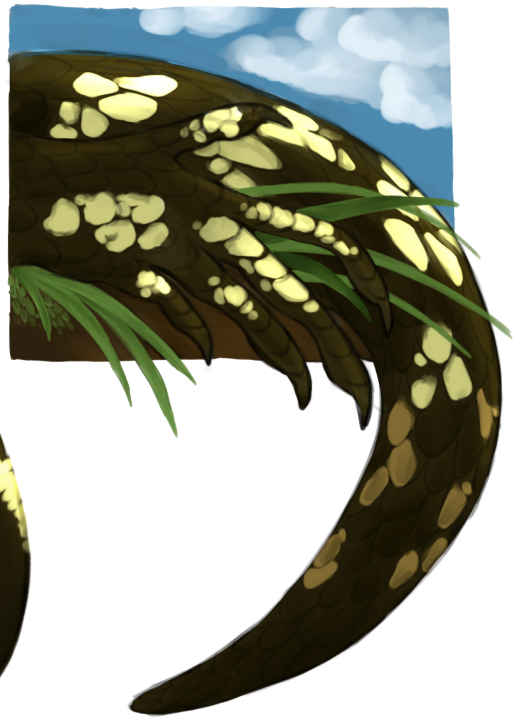


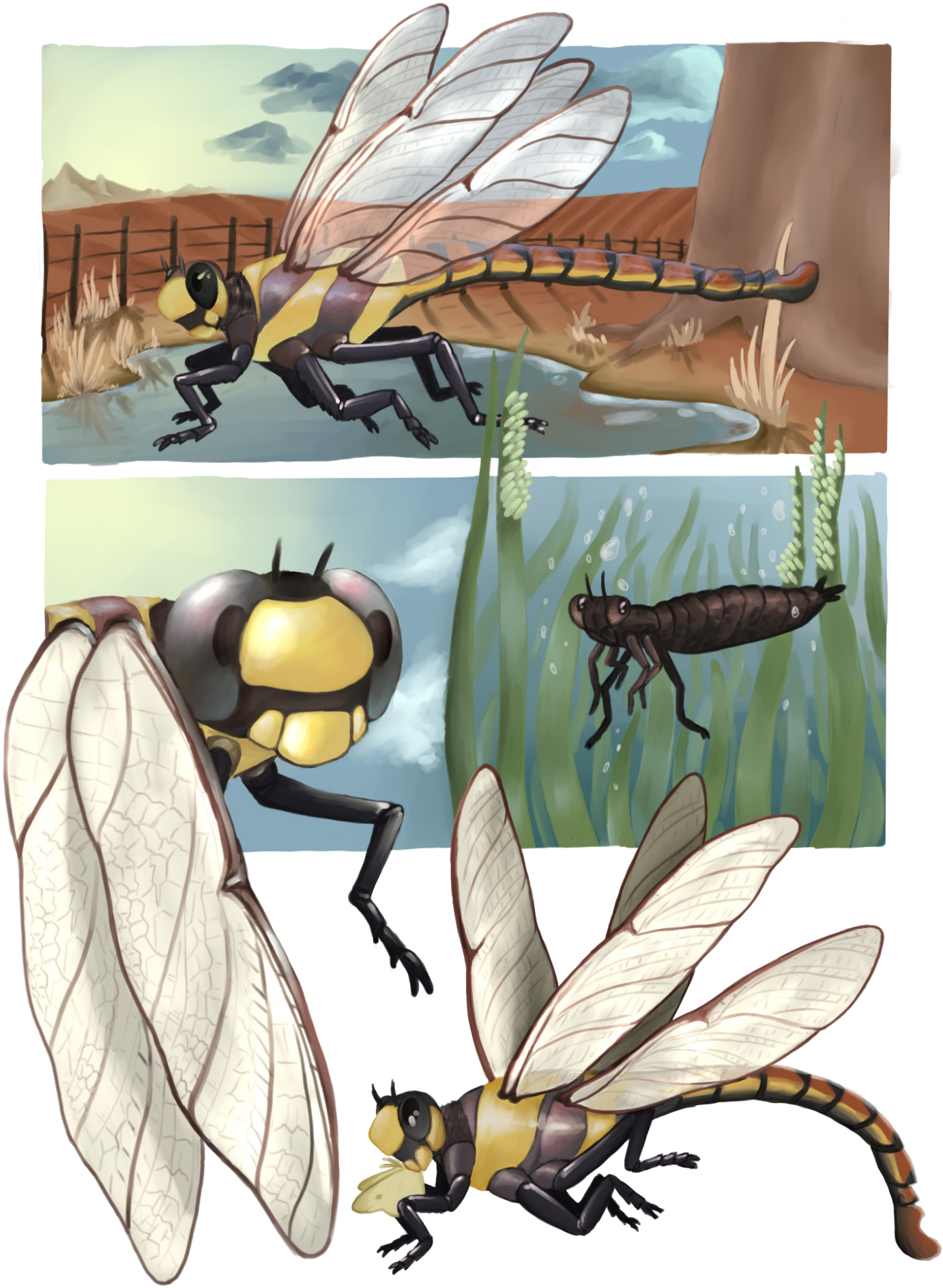
I am a mountain pygmy-possum.
I live on the ground in rocky areas and am nocturnal. This means that I am awake at night and sleep during the day. I eat insects like Bogong moths. I have fur. I give birth to live young, that grow inside my pouch. This makes me a marsupial. I am the only marsupial in Australia that hibernates.

I am a white-crowned snake. I am similar to the mountain pygmy-possum because i am nocturnal but I am different. I eat small lizards. I use my fangs to help me hunt. I am a reptile and bask in the sun with my dark scales to stay warm. I have no legs so I slither as I move. I lay eggs in the ground.

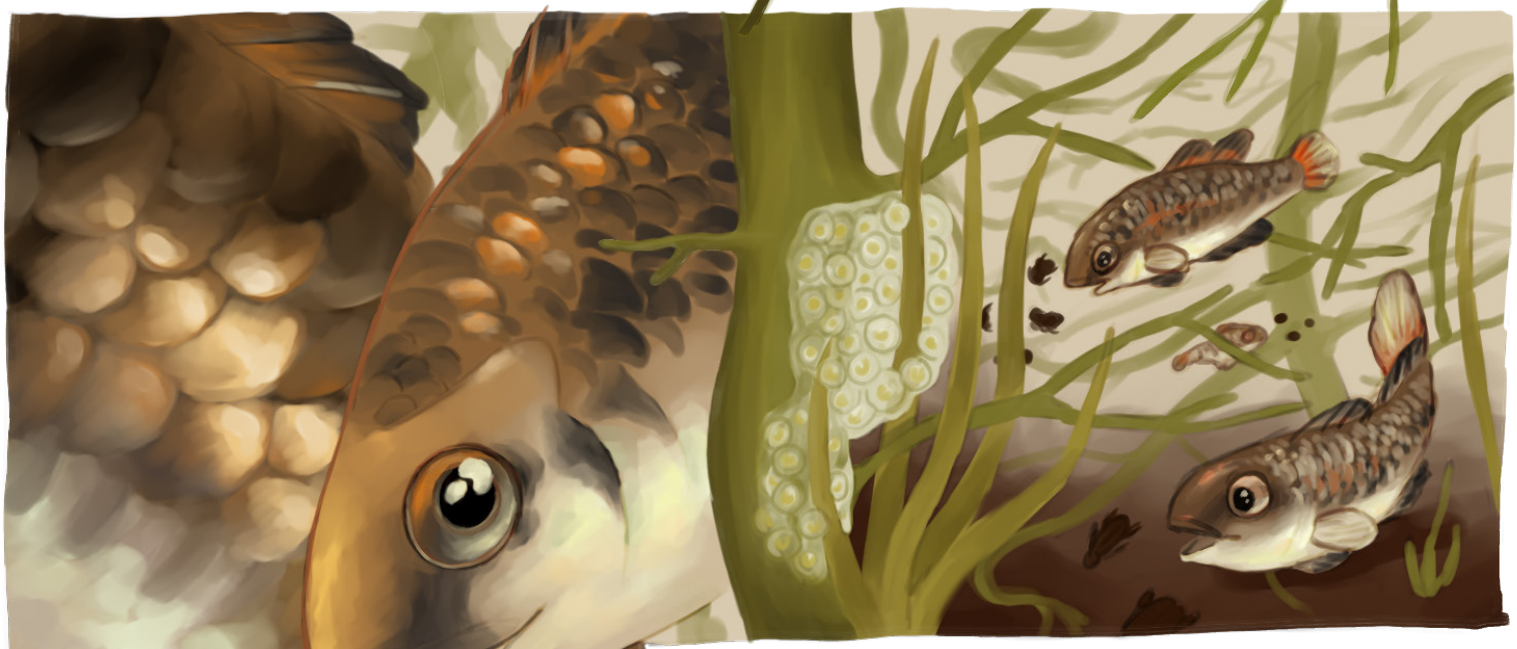


I am a Blue Mountains water skink. I am similar to the white-crowned snake because I am a reptile. I lay eggs in the ground, and bask in the sun with my scales to keep warm. But I am different because I have legs, I am awake during the day, and I eat grasshoppers, flies, moths and other insects.

I am a dusky woodswallow. I am similar to the Blue Mountains water skink because I eat insects. I am different because I am a bird and I catch my prey by hovering in the air or pouncing from fallen logs and sticks. I lay eggs in nests.



I am a giant dragonfly. I am similar to the dusky woodswallow because I catch insects by hovering in the air. I am different because I am an insect and I lay my eggs in moss or on plants near the water. My babies are called larvae and they can swim underwater to catch food.



I am a southern pygmy perch. I am similar to the giant dragonfly because I lay my eggs on plants and my babies swim underwater to catch food. I am different because I am a fish and can only live in freshwater.

We are similar but we are all very different. Some of us have fur, some of us have scales and some of us have feathers. Some of us lay eggs, some of us have pouches.
These differences are called biodiversity and that is what makes us special.
But we all have one thing in common...

We are threatened species. This means there are not many of us left and we are in danger of becoming extinct. In fact, nearly 1000 native plants and animals are currently threatened just like us in New South Wales.

But luckily people are helping to protect us and our biodiversity. These people conserve our habitat so we can be safe. We can all be Conservation Champions.

Definitions

Biodiversity: The variety, or differences of all living organisms found on earth.

Conservation: To protect. Humans can work to save plants and animals from extinction or protect the homes of animals.

Extinct: Any plant or animal that has no living members left. Dinosaurs are extinct, and so is the Tasmanian tiger.

Hibernate: When animal slows its heart rate to save energy and survive the winter without eating much. They are less active and seem like they are sleeping.

Hovering: Remaining in one place in the air. Like a helicopter.

Larvae: The young of an insect.

Marsupial: An animal that gives birth to live young, and carries the young in their pouch.

Native: A living thing that was born in a country or place naturally, without humans bringing them there. Koalas are native to Australia, cats and foxes are not.

Nocturnal: An animal that is awake at night and asleep during the day.

Prey: An animal that is the food source of another animal. Insects are the prey of many birds in Australia.

Threatened: Any living thing that could become extinct in the near future.