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# What Some of Smokey's Friends Think of People Who are Careless with Fire

United States Department of Agriculture

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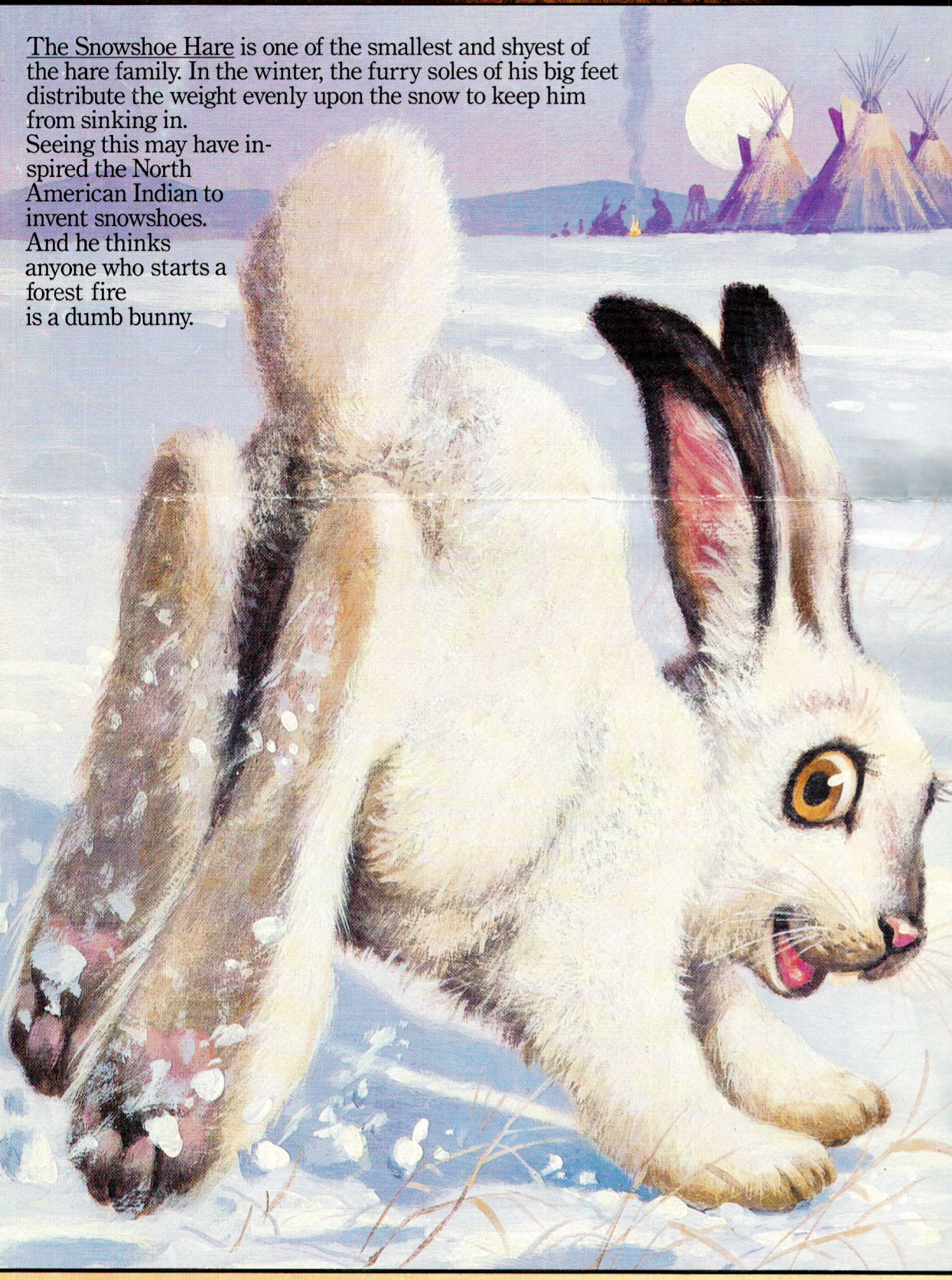
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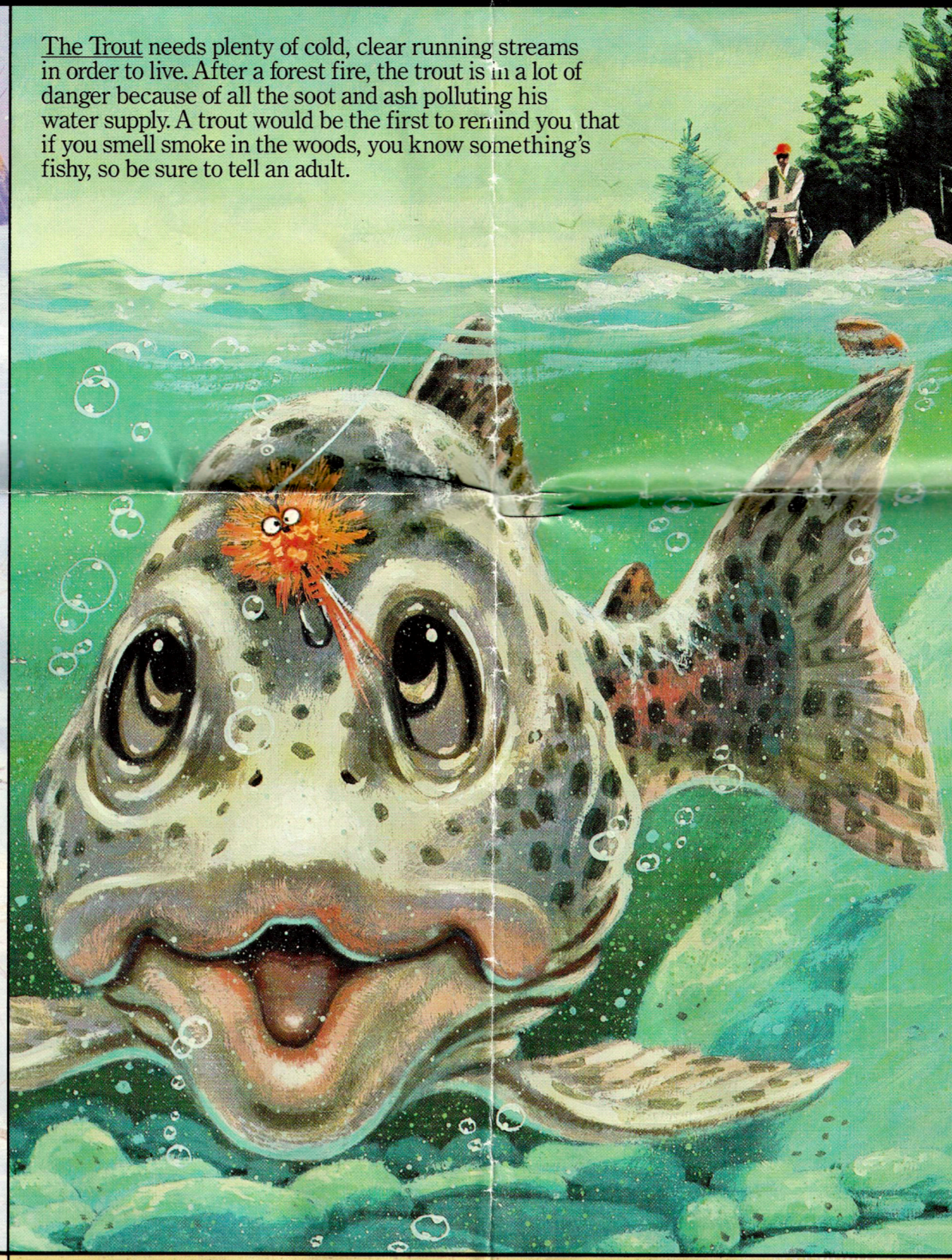
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# What some of Smokey's friends think of people who are careless with fire.



The Snowshoe Hare is one of the smallest and shyest of the hare family. In the winter, the furry soles of his big feet distribute the weight evenly upon the snow to keep him from sinking in. Seeing this may have inspired the North American Indian to invent snowshoes. And he thinks anyone who starts a forest fire is a dumb bunny.



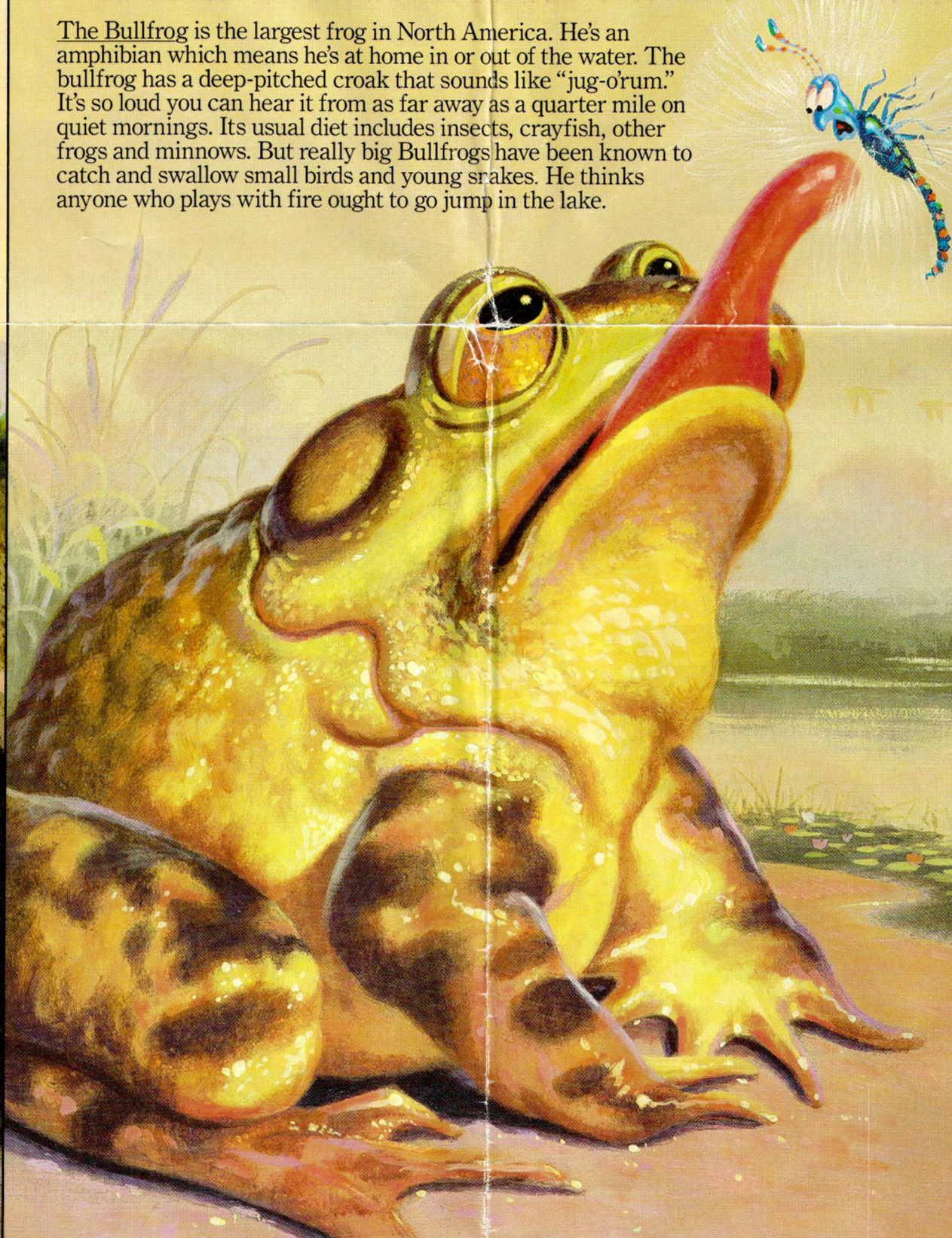
The Trout needs plenty of cold, clear running streams in order to live. After a forest fire, the trout is in a lot of danger because of all the soot and ash polluting his water supply. A trout would be the first to remind you that if you smell smoke in the woods, you know something's fishy, so be sure to tell an adult.



The Mallard Duck is the most common type of duck species throughout the Northern Hemisphere. He's the ancestor of our domestic duck. In fact, you can often see the two of them socializing and interbreeding in our cities. The female lays 8-10 light olive-green eggs in a nest often placed away from water. Sometimes she'll even lay them in a tree. The mallards think that if you play with matches, you've got to be daffy.



The Garter Snake is the most often seen of all the American snakes. They use their keen sense of smell to find food. Even when shedding skin has covered its eyes, a snake can zero in on its next meal. But garter snakes, like all snakes, don't smell with their noses, they smell with their tongues. They flick it out and pick up scent particles. Then flick it in and lick against the scent-detecting organ in the roof of the mouth. And they think you'd have to be lower than a snake's belly to start a forest fire.



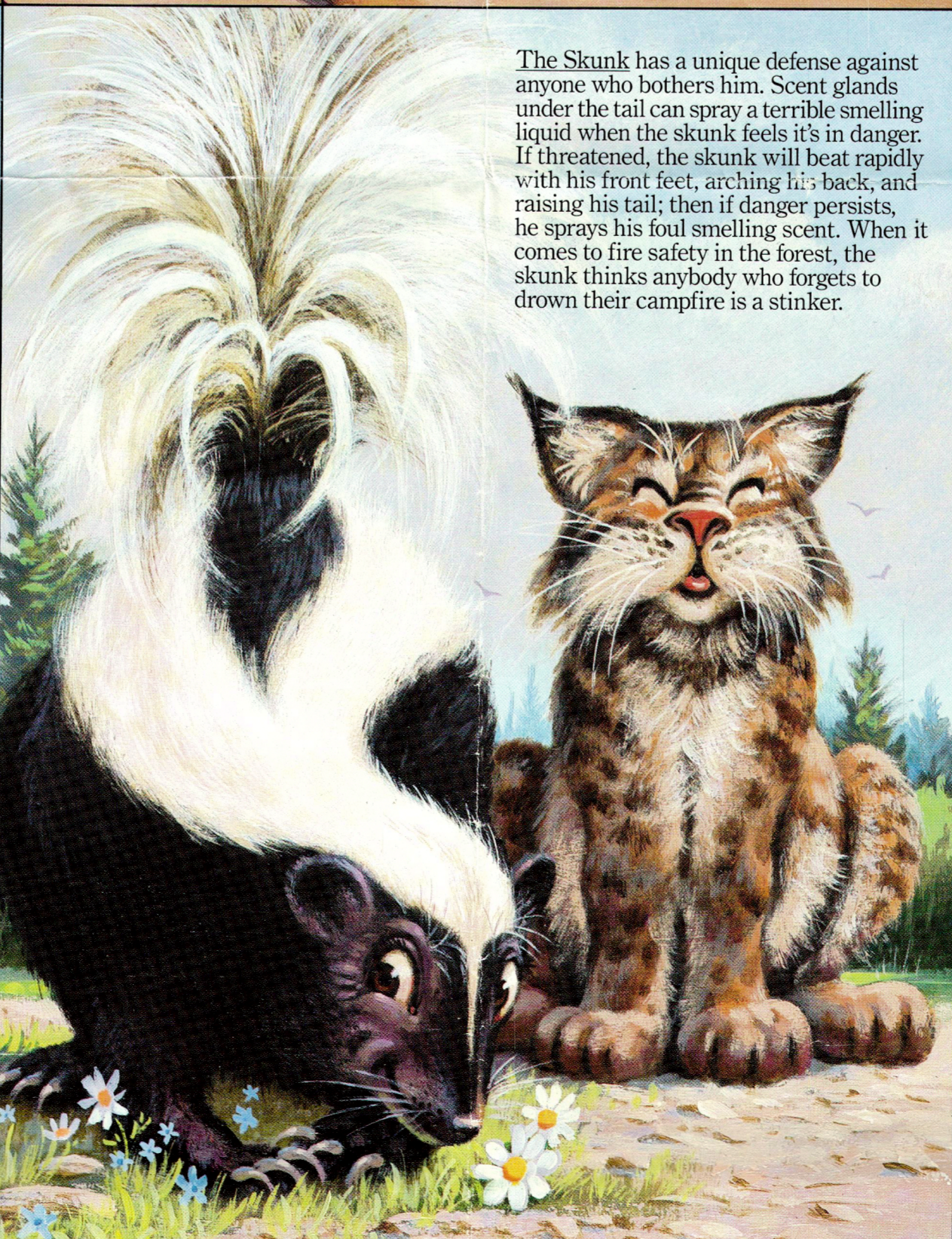
The Bullfrog is the largest frog in North America. He's an amphibian which means he's at home in or out of the water. The bullfrog has a deep-pitched croak that sounds like "jug-o-rum." It's so loud you can hear it from as far away as a quarter mile on quiet mornings. Its usual diet includes insects, crayfish, other frogs and minnows. But really big Bullfrogs have been known to catch and swallow small birds and young snakes. He thinks anyone who plays with fire ought to go jump in the lake.



The Flying Squirrel prefers to be active at night and sleep during the day. He doesn't really fly, but he can glide through the air up to 80 yards from the top of one tree to the trunk of another. A large fold of skin between his front legs and hind legs acts like a combination parachute and sail. He says you've got to be nuts to play with fire in the forest.



The Gray Fox is a small fox. It can climb trees and on occasion, will even make its den in trees. It eats a variety of foods, insects, small birds and mice, even fruit. Because the fox eats fruit, he constantly scatters their seeds throughout the forest. In this way, plants are carried into new places. Foxes are active, moving quickly with cat-like movements. They're playful and like to pounce in the air in graceful arches. They'd tell you if you ever smell smoke in the forest to run quick like a fox and tell an adult.



The Skunk has a unique defense against anyone who bothers him. Scent glands under the tail can spray a terrible smelling liquid when the skunk feels it's in danger. If threatened, the skunk will beat rapidly with his front feet, arching his back, and raising his tail; then if danger persists, he sprays his foul smelling scent. When it comes to fire safety in the forest, the skunk thinks anybody who forgets to drown their campfire is a stinker.



The Western Pipistrelle Bat is usually the first bat to appear in the evening. These bats drink while flying. They'll skim a pond or a stream, dip their jaws in and start sipping. With a body only 2 and a half to 3 inches long this winged mammal can flit in and out of tight places easily. And he thinks anyone who's careless with fire has got to be batty.