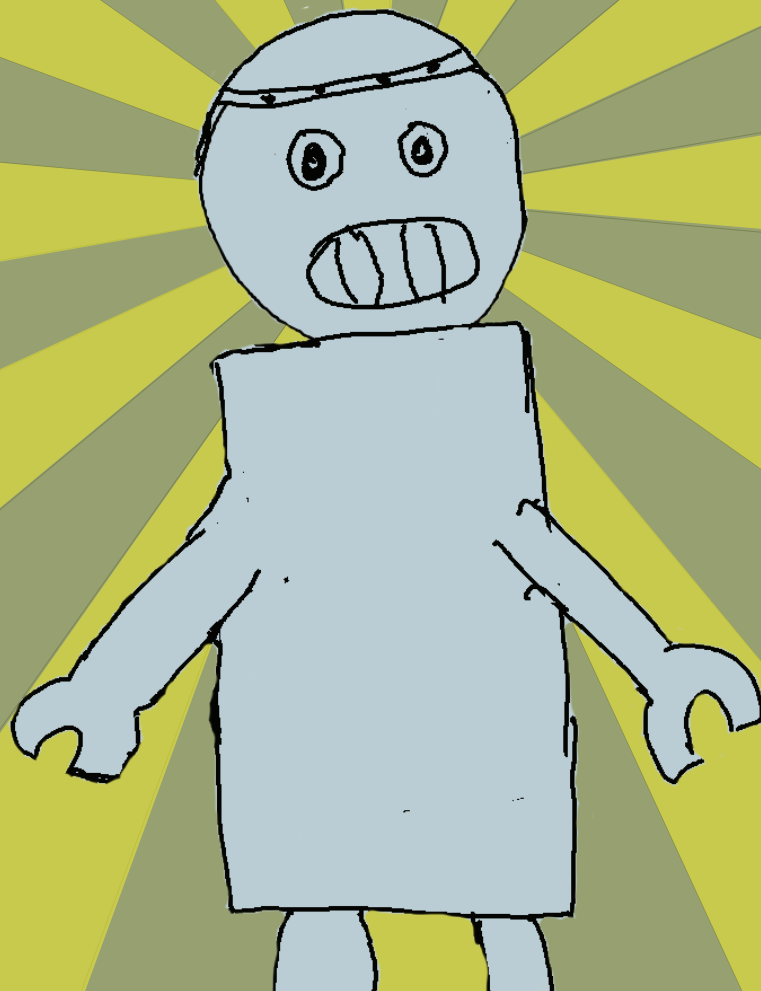


D-7's Journey Through Time



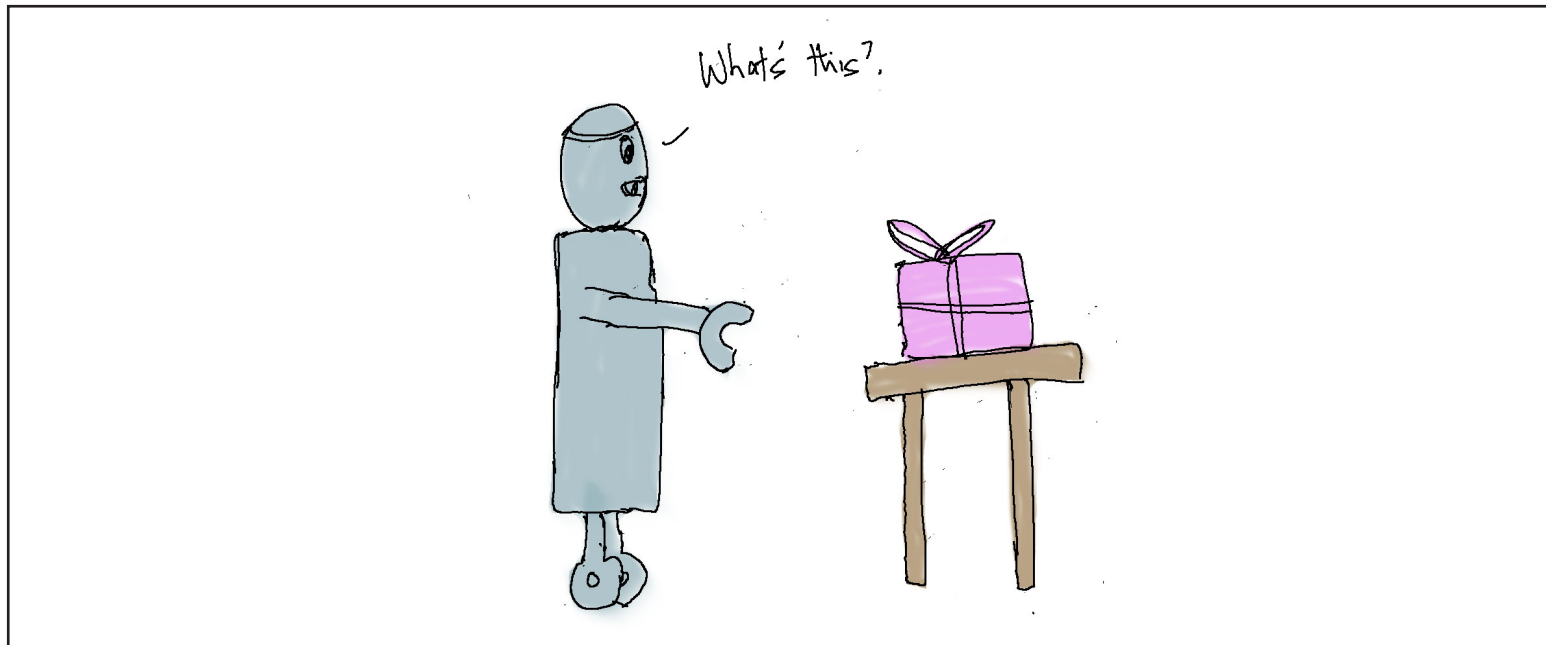
Written and Illustrated
by
Tang Ching Yee 1742683

This book is dedicated to young explorers who, just like young Charles Darwin, wondered about the origins of life.

In the distant future, humanoid make up the main population of the earth. Everything in the world derives energy directly from the sun. Humanoids do not eat nor drink. They are most active during the day when the sun is brightest.

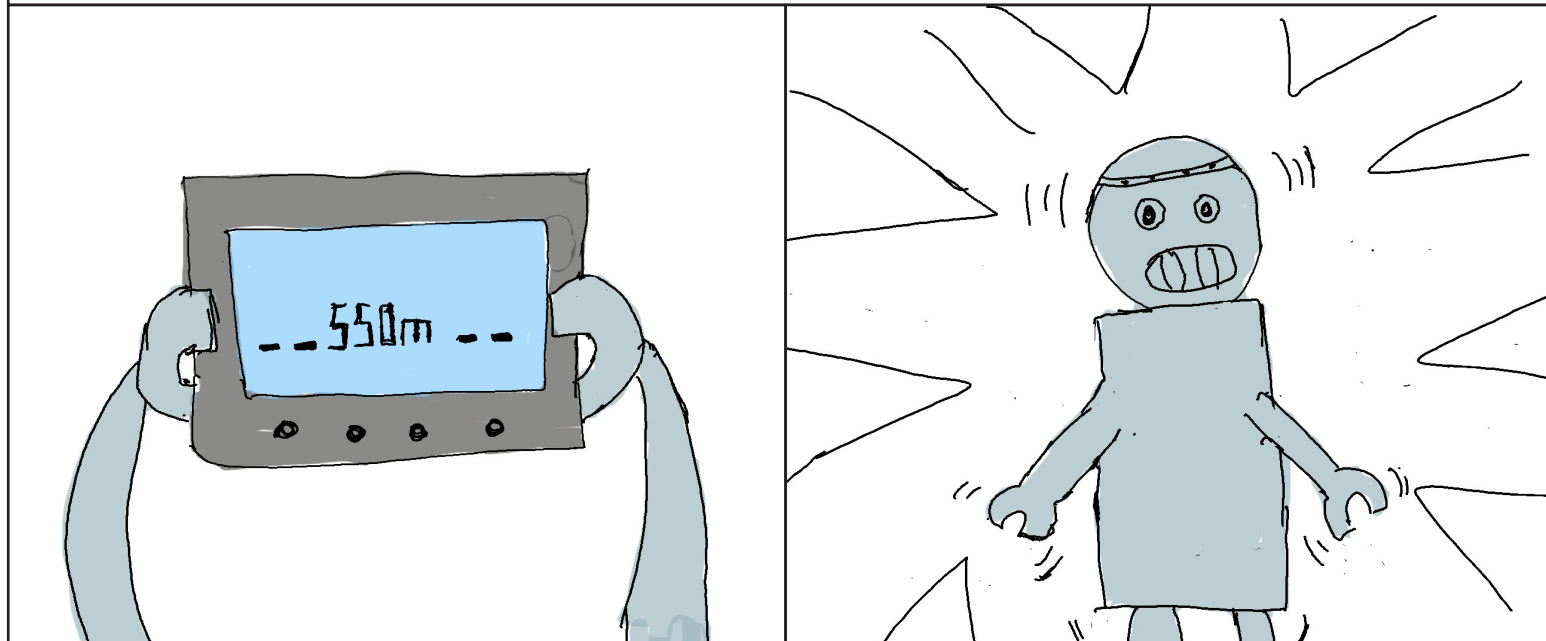
Rivet Town, the busiest district in the country, is at its peak hour. Life is fast paced in Rivet Town. Thousands of humanoids travel here daily for work and leave during sunset. They conserve their energy at home to get ready for the next day.





It was a typical day for D-7 until he came back home from work to find a surprise on his desk. "What could it be?," D-7 thought.

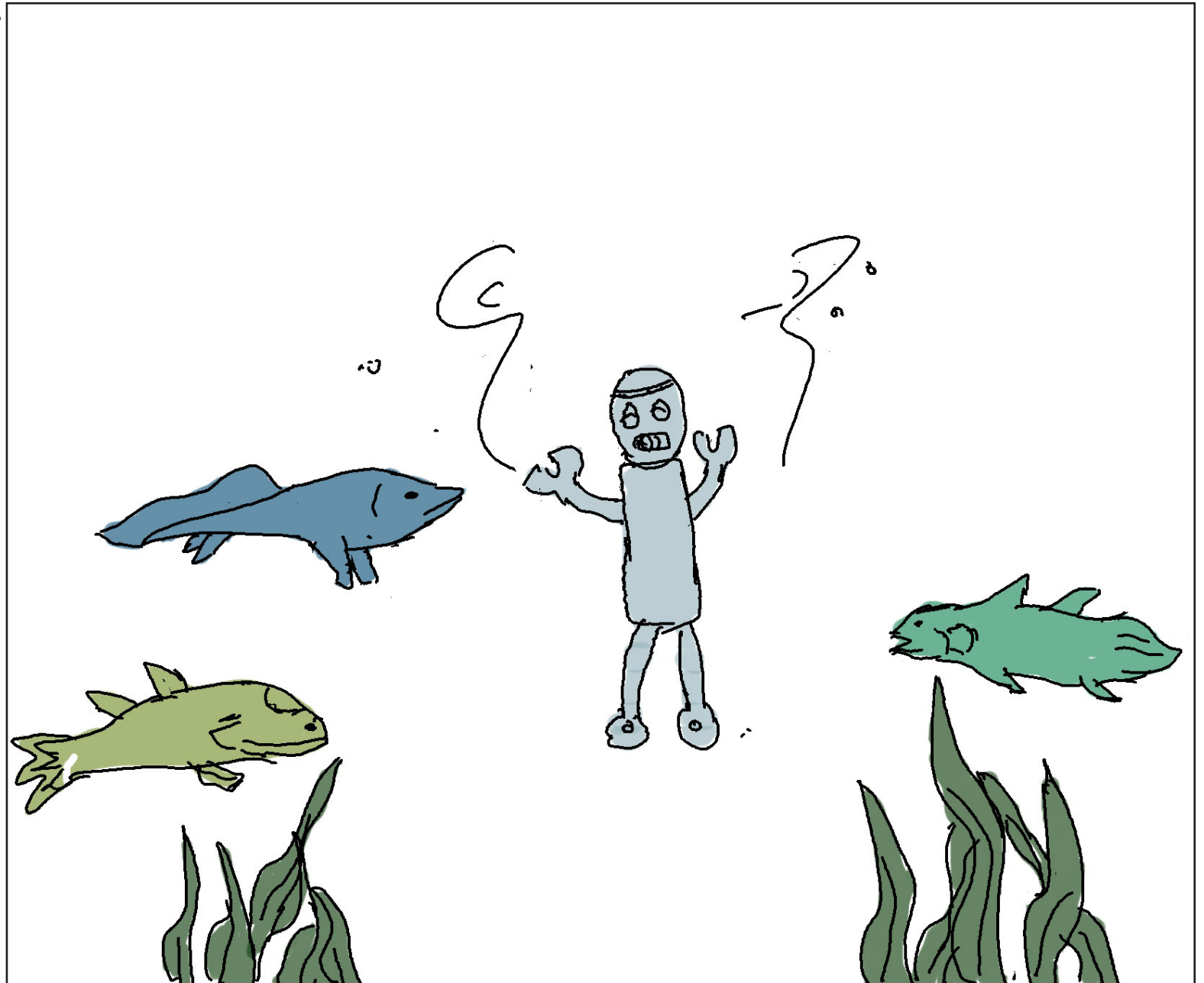
He opened the box carefully; anticipating that it contains a delicious meal so that he does not have to cook. To his disappointment, he found an electronic device sitting by itself. D-7 held up the device and examines it. Suddenly, the screen lights up with the words "550m"

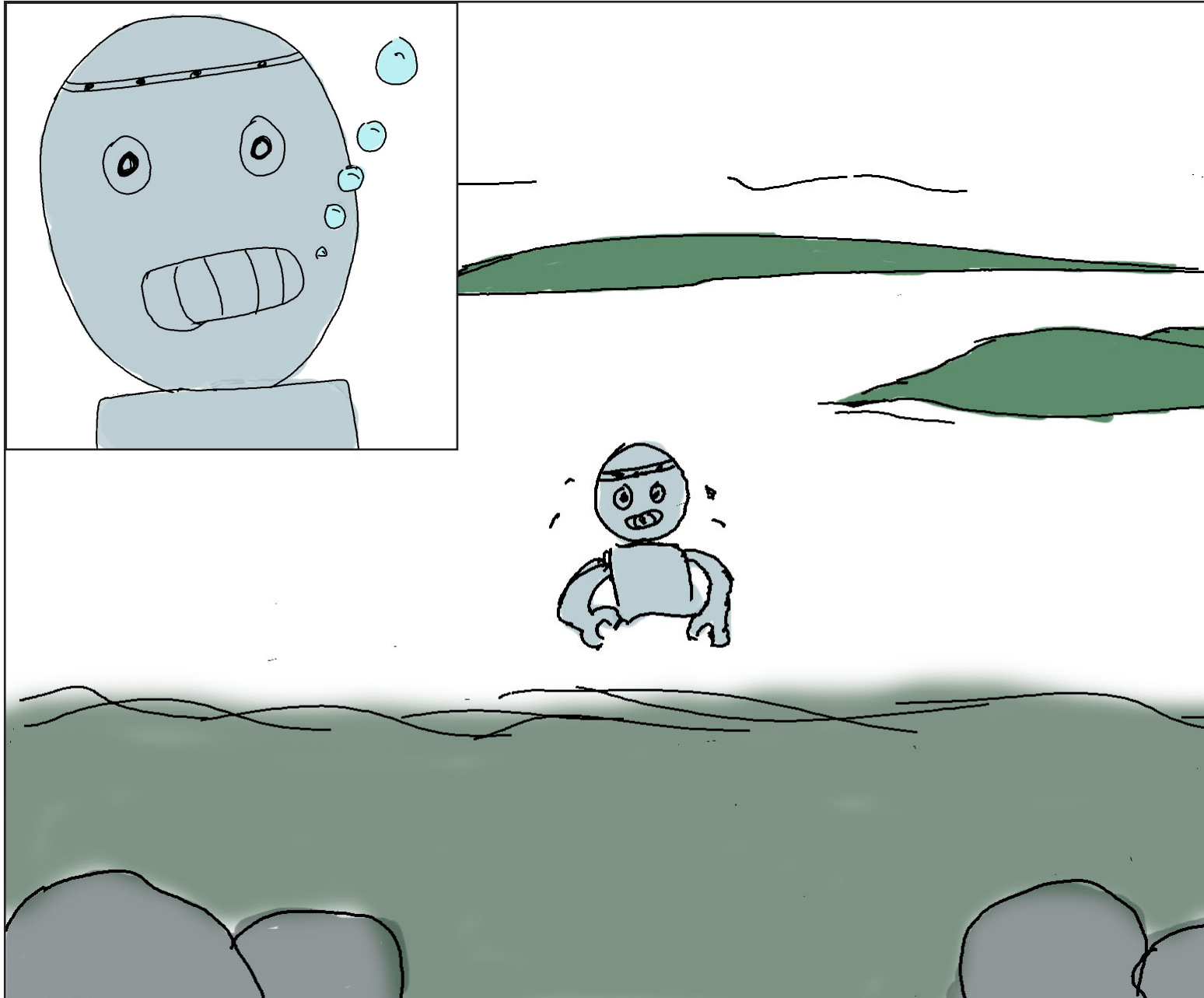


"AAAAHHHHH"

D-7 felt a jolt all over his body. In a blink of an eye, he was teleported back in time to 550 million years ago!

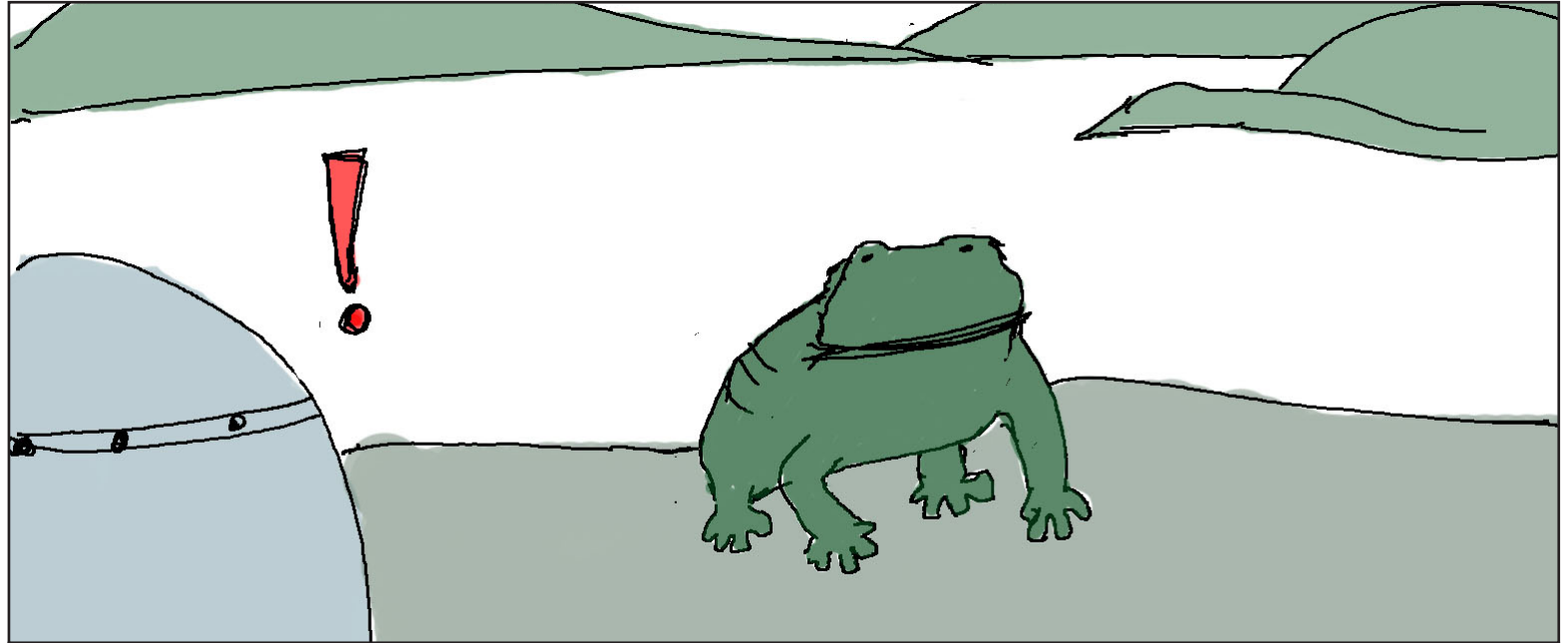
This is the Cambrian explosion, where most of the major animal groups evolved. The earliest species are bony fishes, thriving in the oxygen-rich ocean. During this time, animals can only be found in the sea.





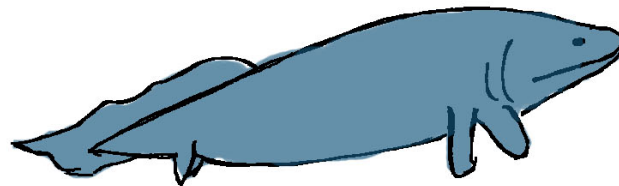
D-7 could feel the water around him as he woke up. He quickly swam to the shore. Earth looks so different from where he came from, the land is bare with hardly any plants in sight. The sky is gloomy from the thick clouds. D-7 pulled himself on dry land, exhausted from swimming.

He saw a creature following behind him. It looked like one of the fishes in the sea. D-7 looked closely and realised that it has legs!

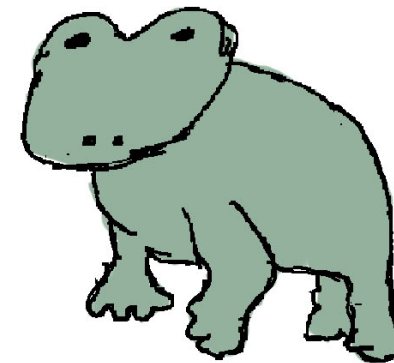


The early fish are the ancestors of all the vertebrates we know today. Vertebrates are animals that have a backbone or spinal column such as mammals, birds, reptiles, and humans too! Although they look nothing like us, they have the essential body parts that will someday evolve to human form.

As the ocean become more crowded with marine animals, competition for shelter and food increases. Some fishes have find a new home, they begin to evolve body parts so that they can survive on dry land. This is the evolution of fish to amphibians, where some species cut their ties to the ocean and take on land. The modern frog is an example of an amphibian.



- Characteristics
- has a back bone
 - has a mouth
 - has jaw and teeth

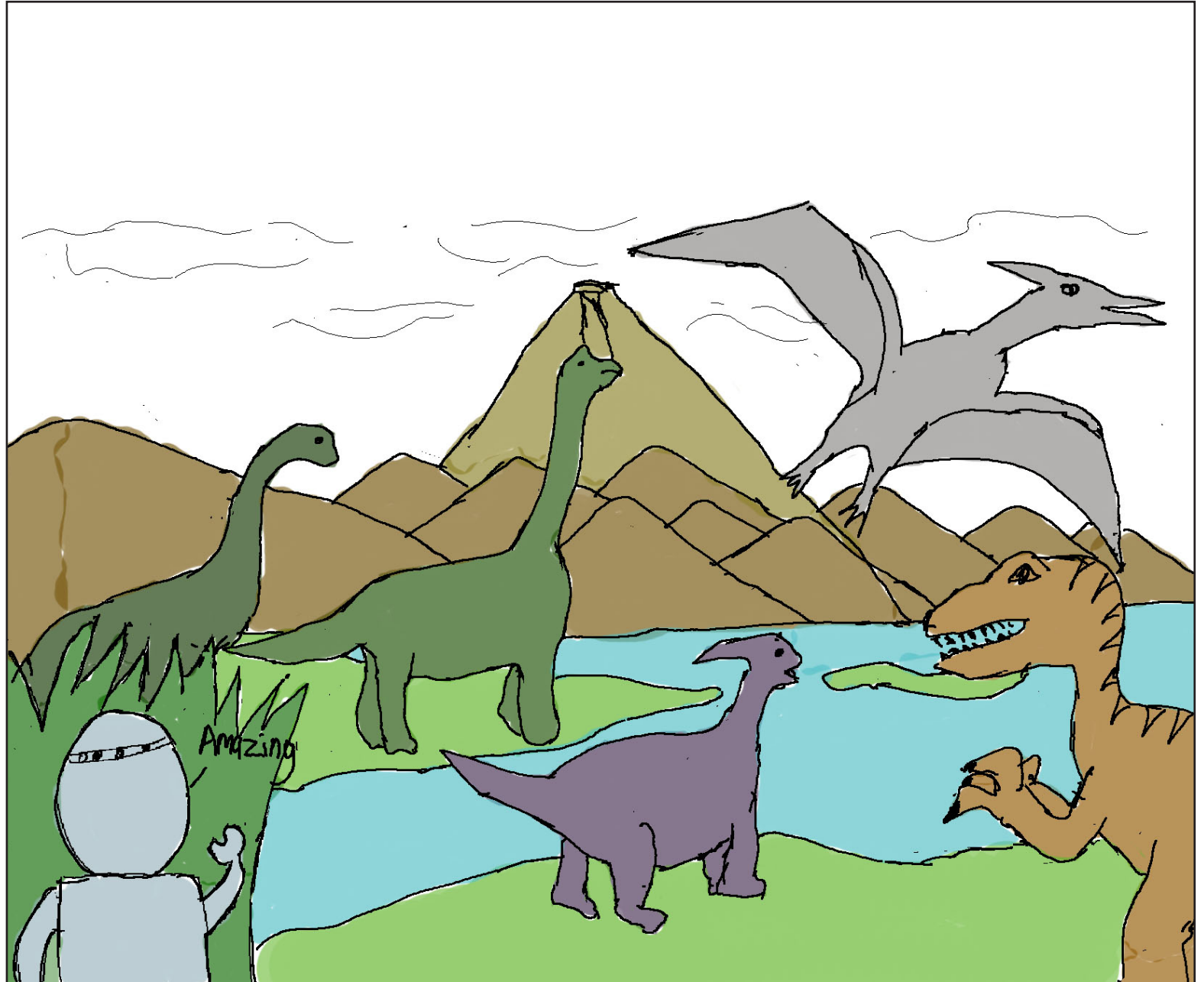


- Characteristics
- has legs
 - has lungs
 - can breathe on land



The device beeped again. D-7 was immediately teleported to a tropical rainforest 160 million years ago. There were plants everywhere, from the small bushes on the ground to the tallest canopy tree reaching the skyline.

D-7 heard loud roars that echoed throughout the forest. He followed the noise and discovered a land full of dinosaurs. He could see the pterodactyl, the parasaurolophus, the brontosaurus, and the tyrannosaurus rex.

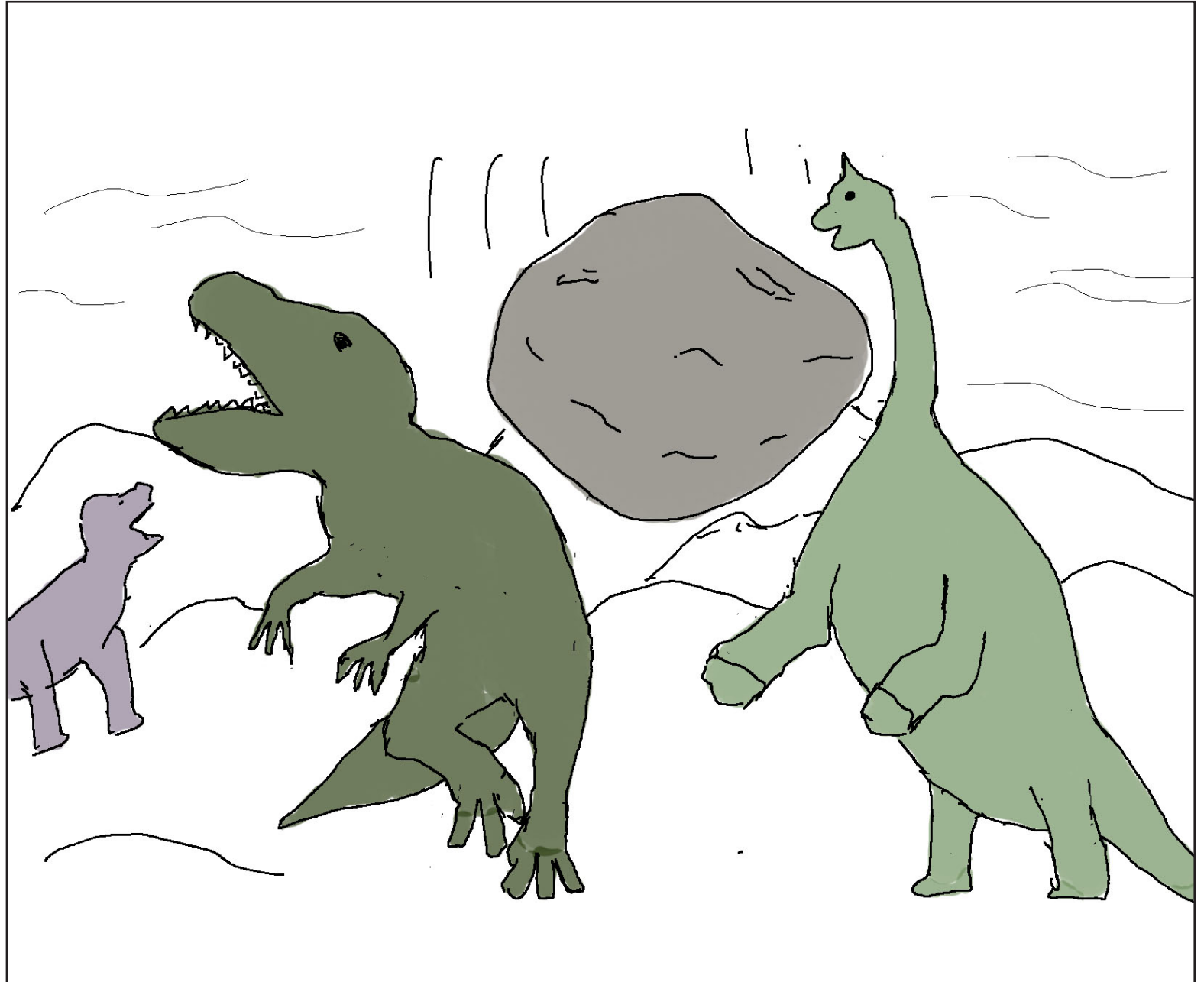




Suddenly, the device let out loud sirens which startled D-7. "Something bad is happening," he thought.

An asteroid, six-mile wide, was hitting towards earth.

A loud bang was heard. The forest was covered in flames. The dinosaurs were killed instantly from the explosion.





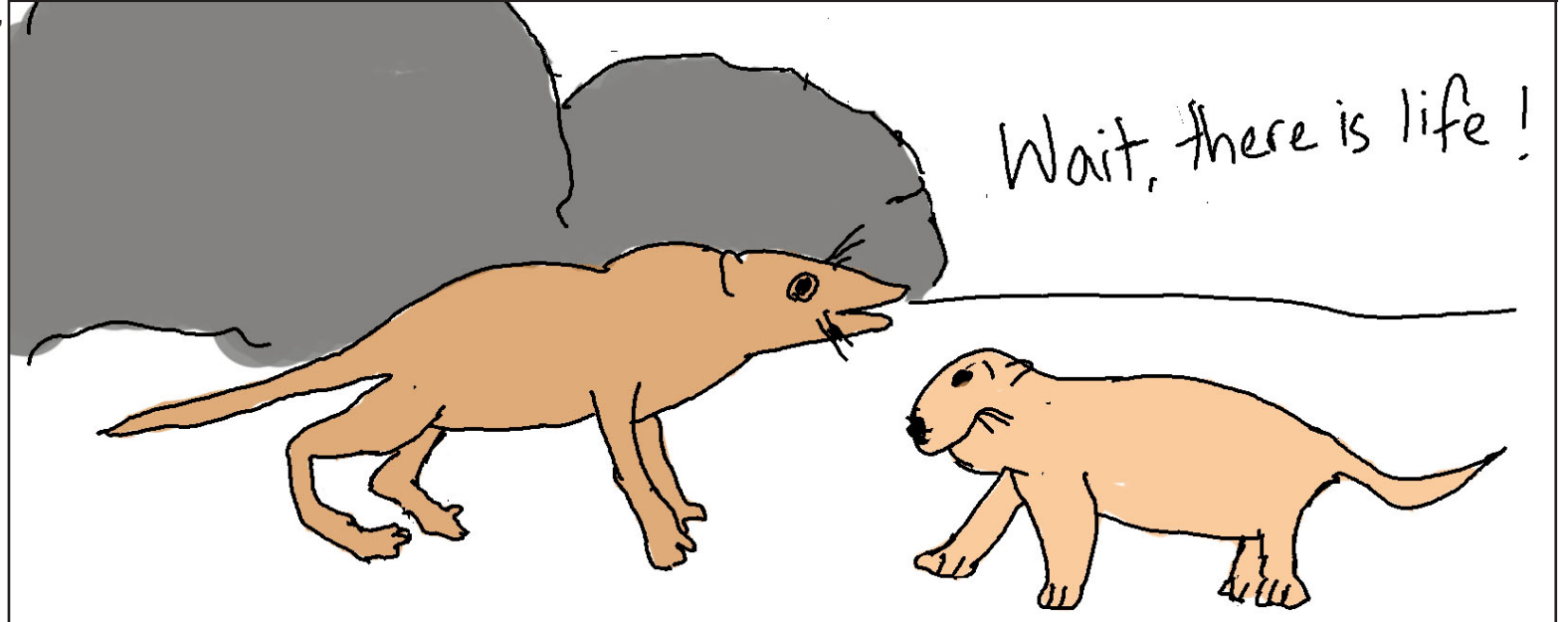
The device teleports D-7 forward to 65 million years ago. D-7 stood alone at the aftermath of the asteroid hit. The sky was covered with thick dust cloud, blocking the sunlight from reaching the earth. Earth was very cold. There were nothing in sight except for burnt woods and ashes. All the dinosaurs did not survive; they were extinct.

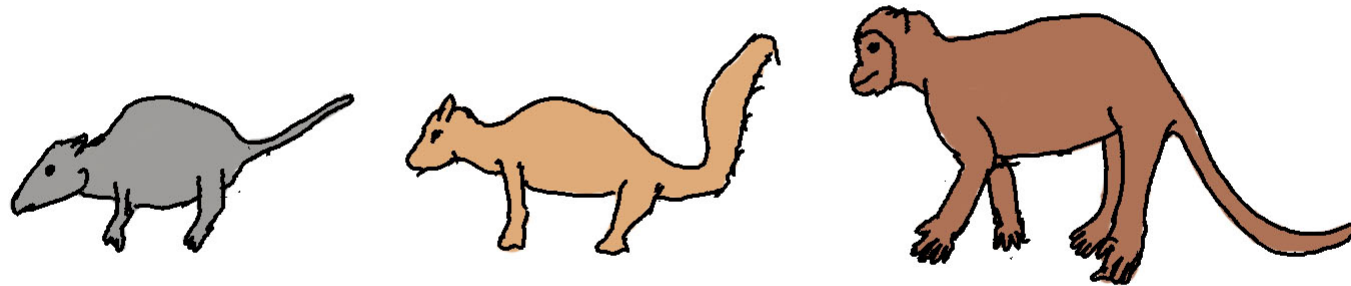
Extinction is a recurring event in evolution. Every few hundred million years, some catastrophe wipes out the dominant species. This reshuffles of the deck, allowing new creatures to dominate earth.

Feeling lost and scared, D-7 wondered the empty forest, trying to find any signs of life.



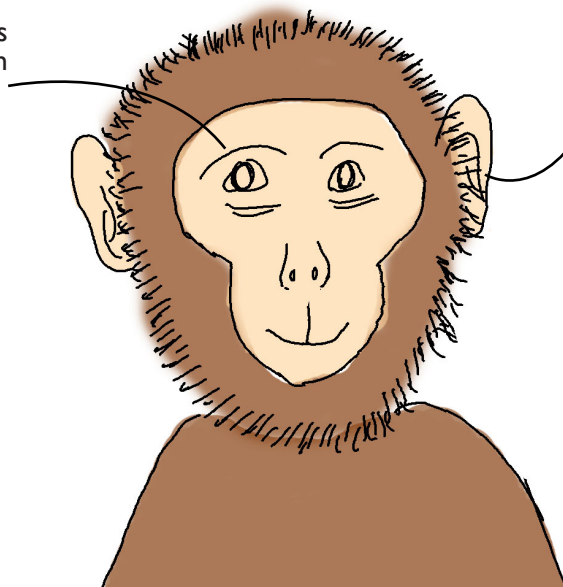
Just as he almost gave up, he heard squeaks from the ground. He found tiny shrew-like mammals living under the rocks. D-7 was excited to find that there was still life on earth.





These small mammals, like the modern rat, are linked to the human species. They live alongside the dinosaurs out of plain sight, stealing dinosaur eggs for food and hiding underground from predators. When the dinosaurs go extinct, they get a fighting chance on earth. As the earth recovers from the asteroid hit, the sky is clearer and the temperature is optimum for plants to flourish. The small mammals evolve into primates, which are bigger and more complex.

forward facing eyes
for accurate depth
perception



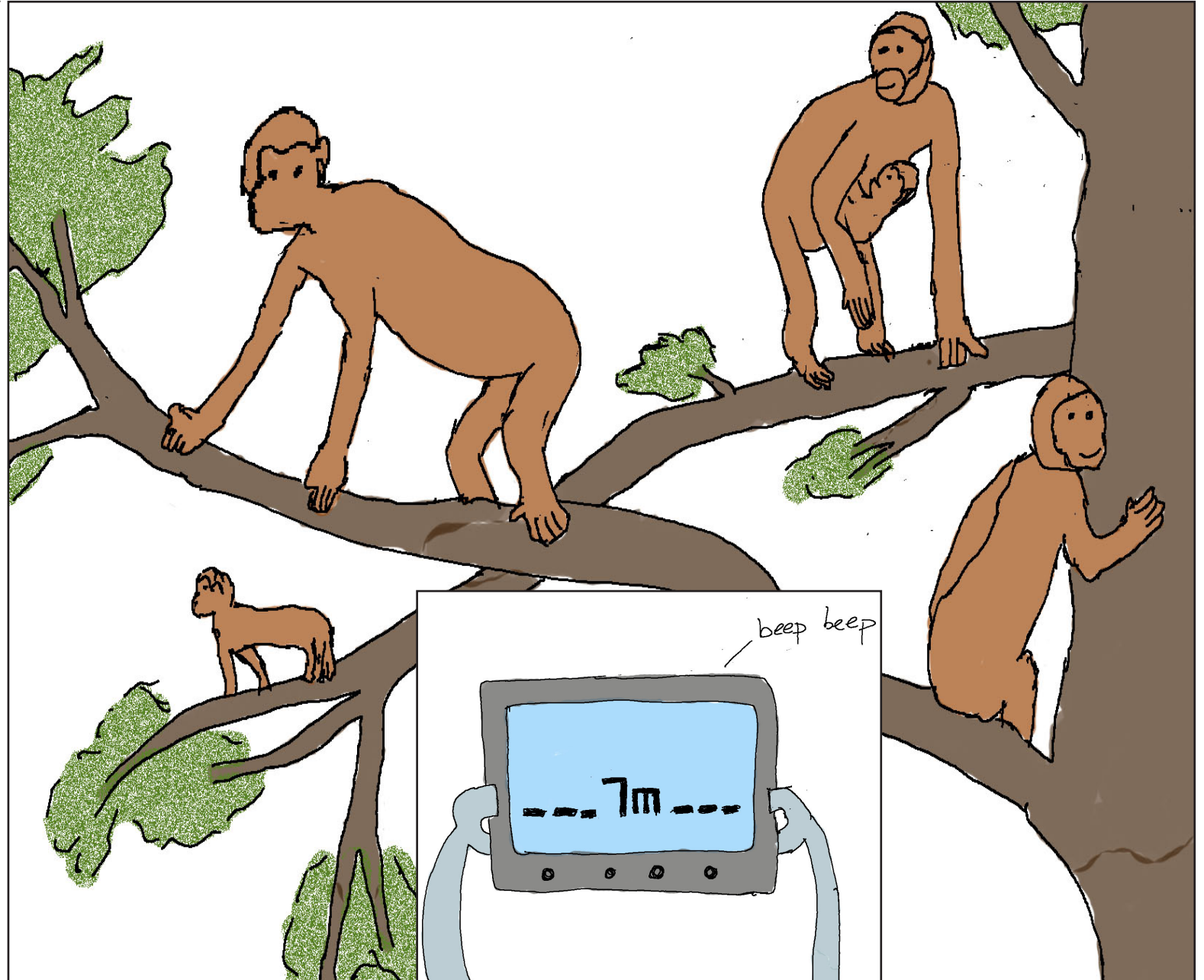
side ears

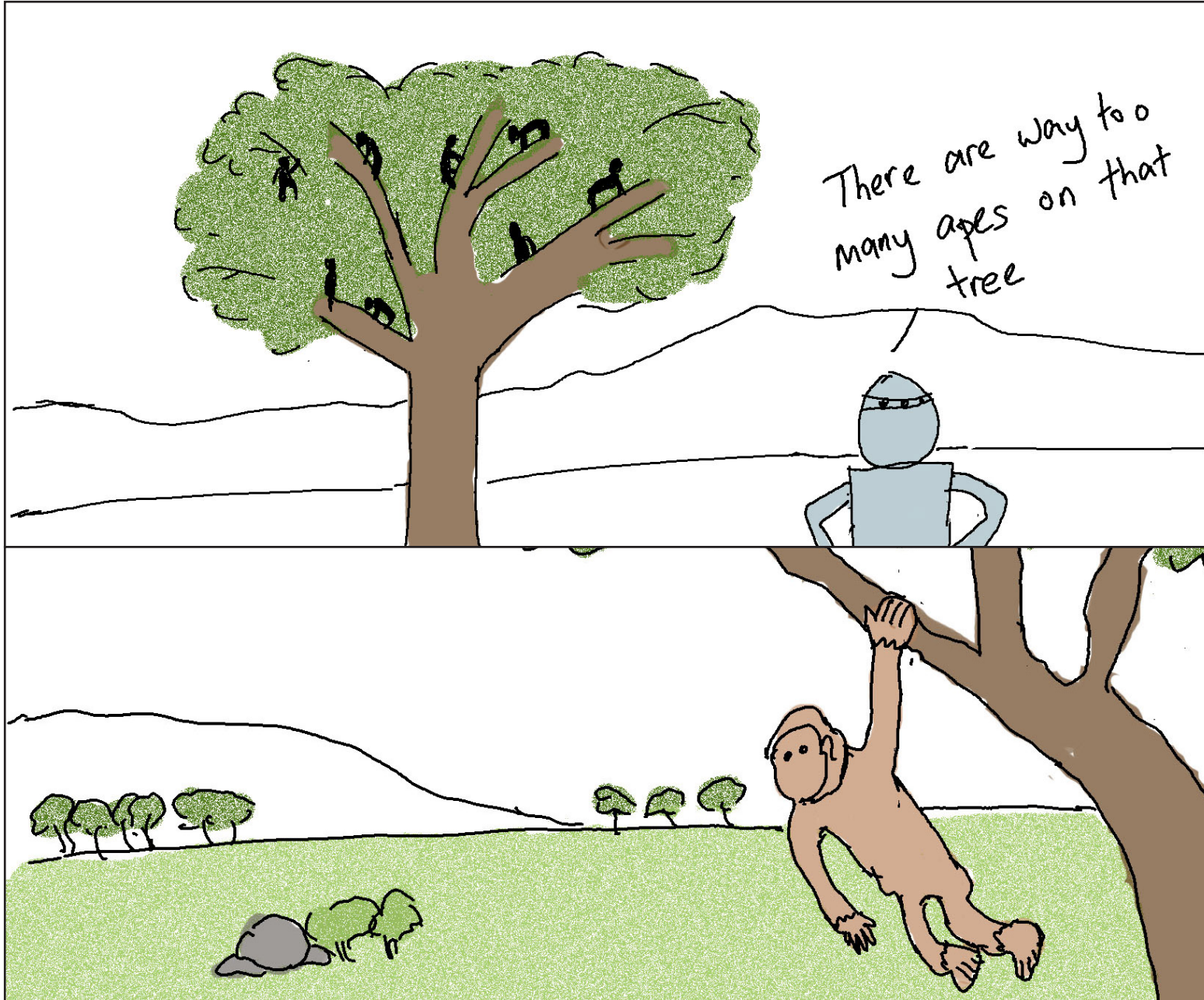
flexible hands with five
fingers allowing them to
hold things



The modern apes are an example of primates. We share a lot of characteristics with them.

The device brought D-7 to 7 million years ago.

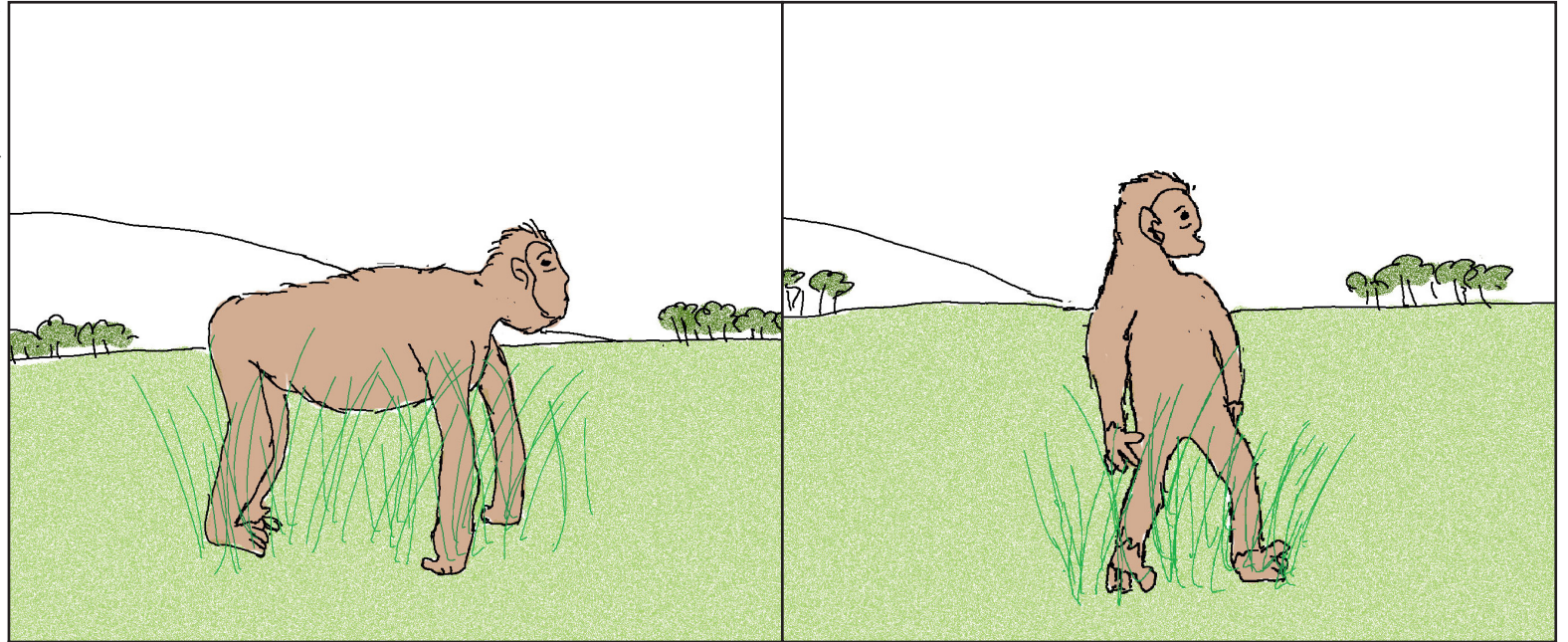




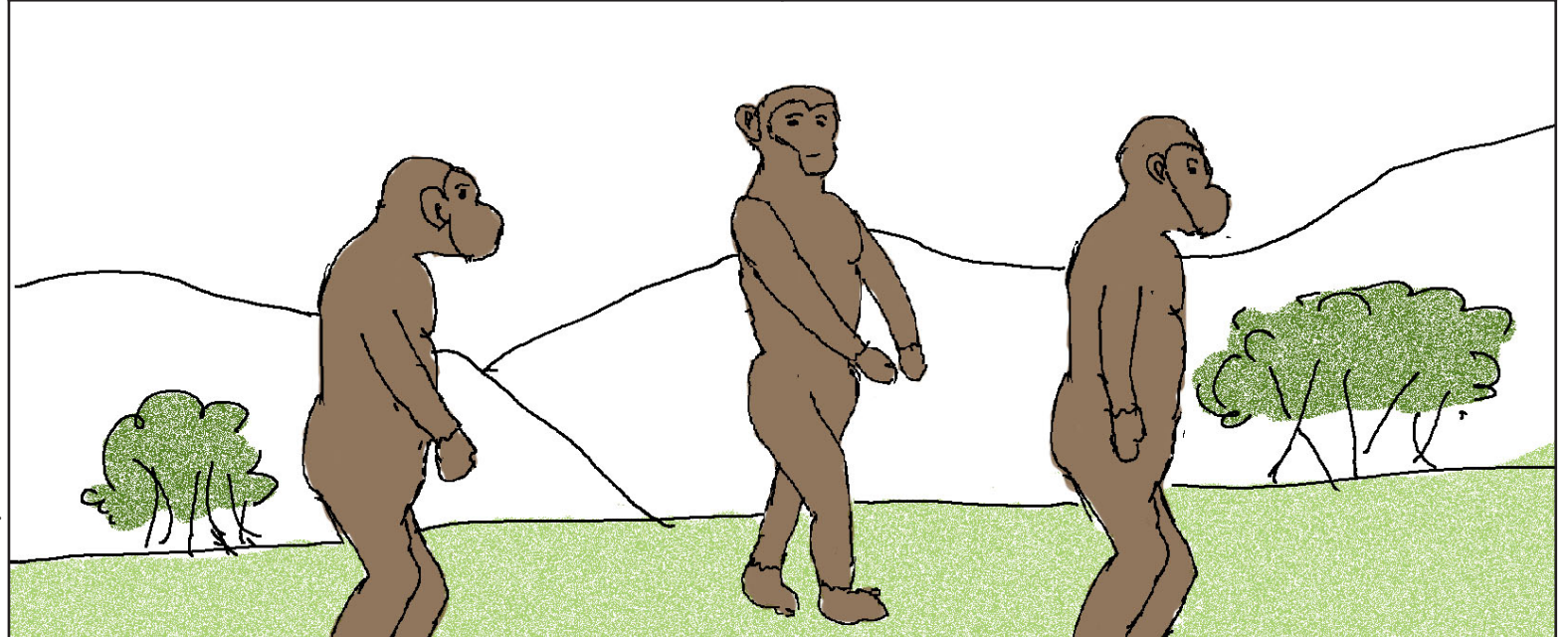
He found himself in a vast grassland. He saw a tree full of apes.

The grasslands appear simultaneously around the world especially in places such as Africa, Eurasia, Argentina and North America. They invade the forest, causing the number trees to decrease. For years, apes lived safely on the tree, but with fewer trees and bigger gaps between them, the apes have to overcome the limited space.

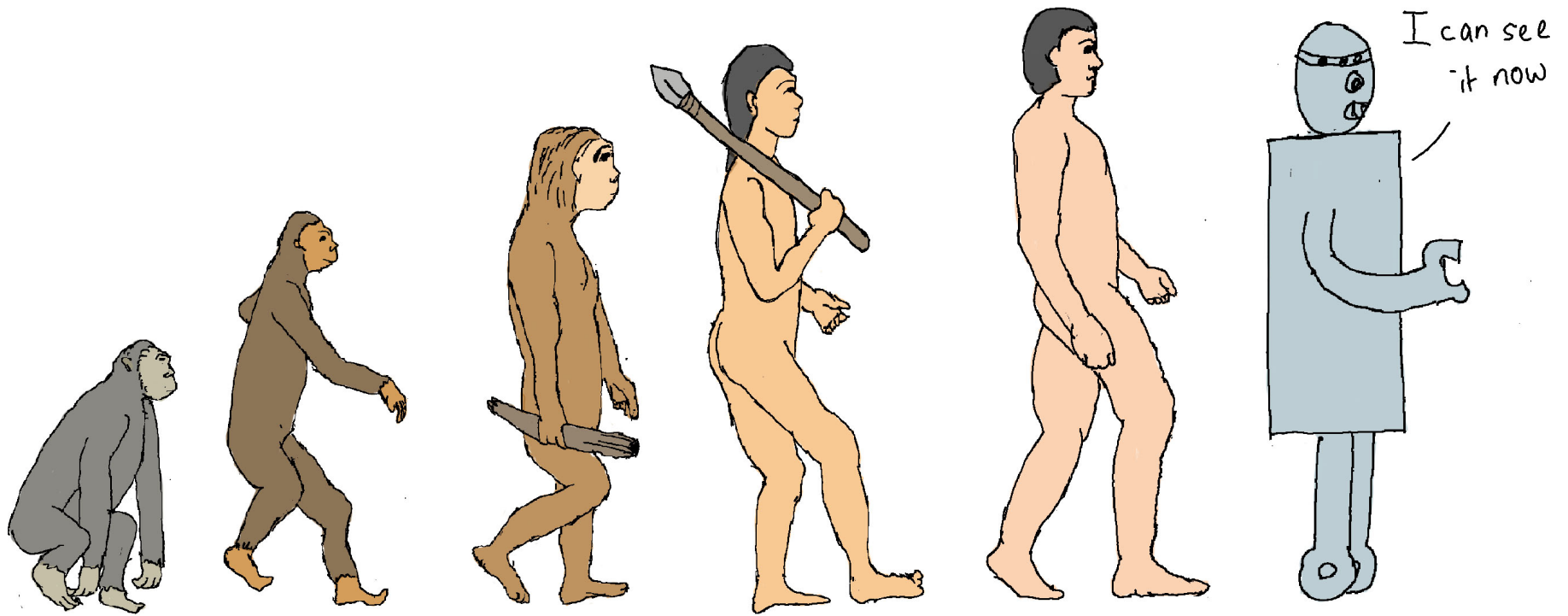
Then, an ape made its way down. It stood up on its hind legs, keeping its head up to look over the grass for predators. Others followed.



Standing on two legs is revolutionary because it frees up the hands, allowing the apes to use tools.



At 2.6 million years ago, the early proto-humans emerge. They will eventually evolve into us, the very species that walks the earth today.



The End

