



Wilderness Detectives *Unit Study*

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Become a Wilderness Detective

In *Attack of the Killer Komodos*, Maggie and Nate solve clues left behind by unusual animals.

If you'd like to learn more about the animals creeping about near you, this guide can help.

Wild animals are often sneaky so you'll need to do some detective work.



The Clues: Animal Tracks

Animal tracks can tell you a lot about nearby critters, such as their roaming grounds, if they travel alone or in a group, and their routines. For example, zig-zagging tracks indicate a creature was looking for food, while straighter tracks hint that the animal was headed somewhere with a purpose.

Use the following pages to get familiar with common animal tracks, and discover what species are in your area.



Tracks



Wolf



Bobcat



Deer



Rabbit



Bird

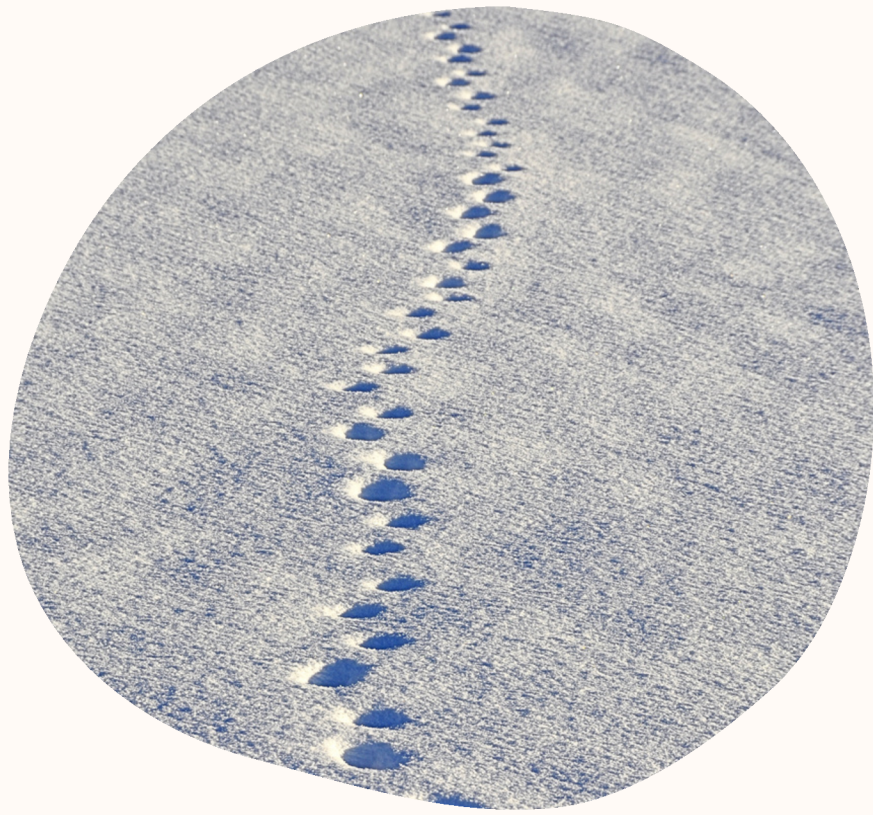


Raccoon

Tracks



Coyote



Fox



Duck



Bear



Squirrel



Cougar



The Clues: Animal Scat

Scat, dung, guano. Any way you say it, it's kind of gross. But you might be surprised how much you can learn from what animals leave behind. For example, herbivores like deer or rabbits have scat filled with plant fibers. While carnivores like wolves and foxes leave scat with bones and fur.

The next page offers a few examples for the curious wilderness detective.



Scat



Rabbit



Coyote



Silka Deer



Buffalo



Owl



Moose



The Clues: Animal Homes

Komodo Dragons, one of the stars of Attack of the Killer Komodos, are only native to a few islands in Indonesia. So, unless you're headed there, you probably won't get to see this giant's home. However, chances are your area has plenty of wildlife of its own.

Like tracks and scat, animal homes are another way to sleuth out what creatures might be living nearby. The following pages offer some habitat clues.



Homes



Wasp



Beaver



Badger



Squirrel



Hawk



Rabbit

Homes



Snake



Bee



Orb Weaver



Butterfly



Prairie Dog

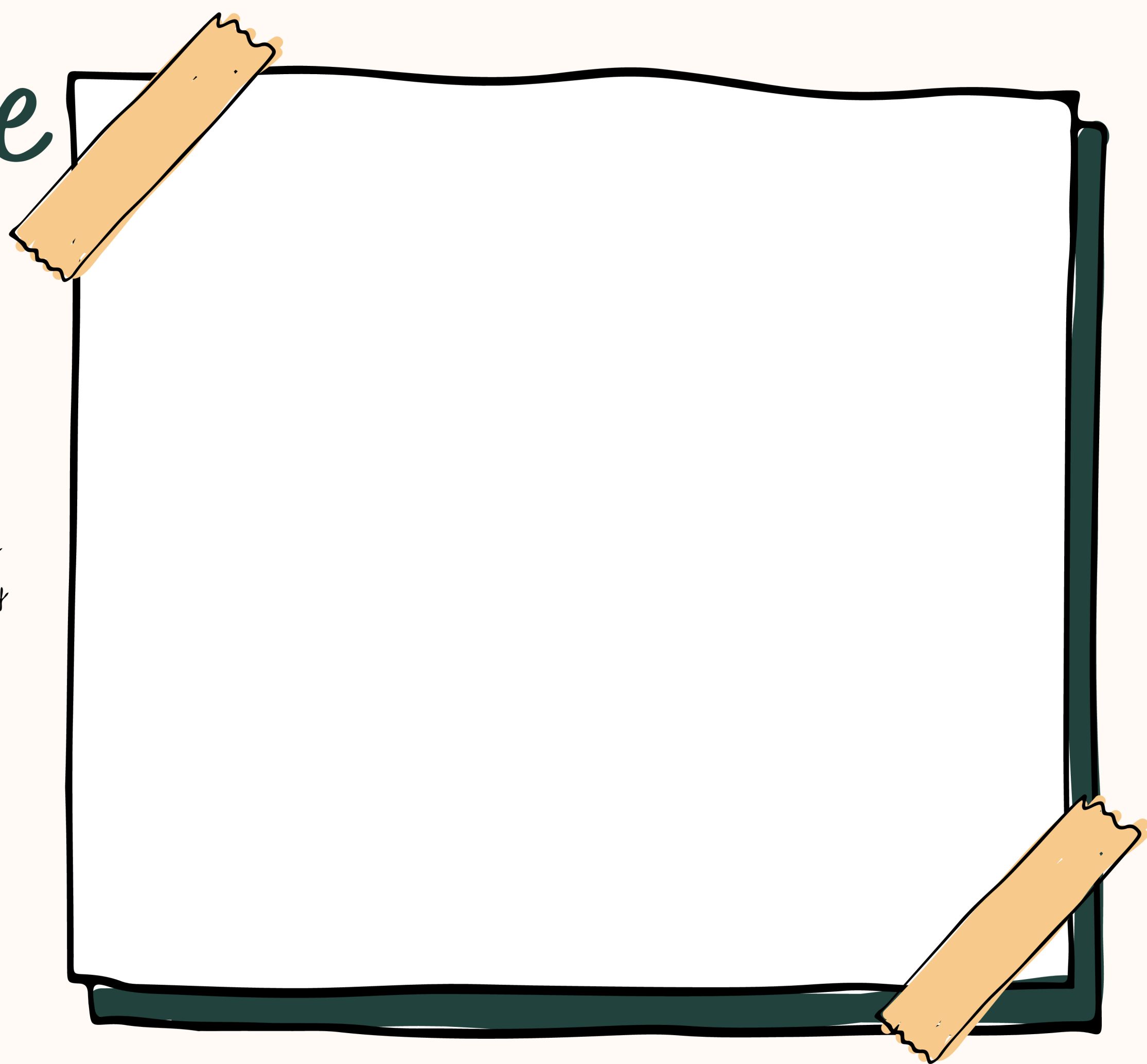
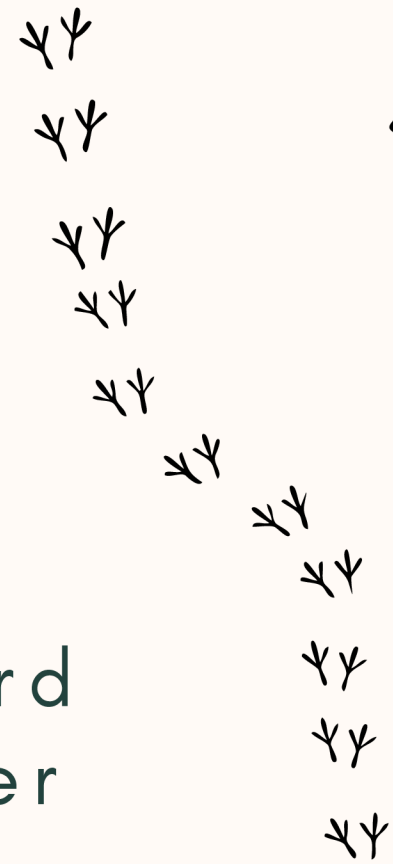


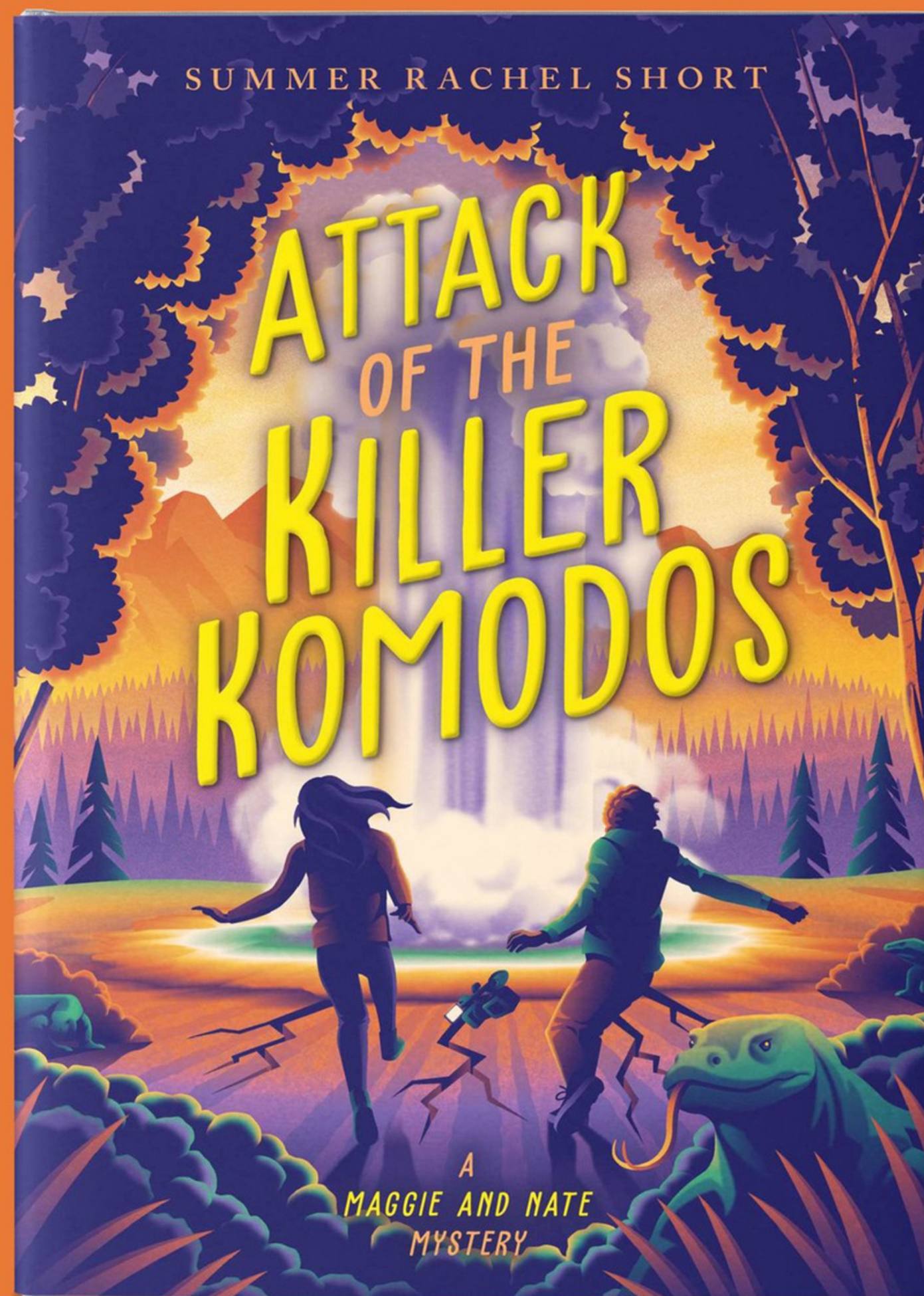
Moth

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with a thick black border. On the left side, there are six small, empty square boxes arranged vertically. To the right of each box is a horizontal line, creating six rows for writing or drawing. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across most of the width of the page.

Investigate the scene!

Maggie kept a record of her findings in her trusty journal. Try sketching something you spotted outside that caught your interest.





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