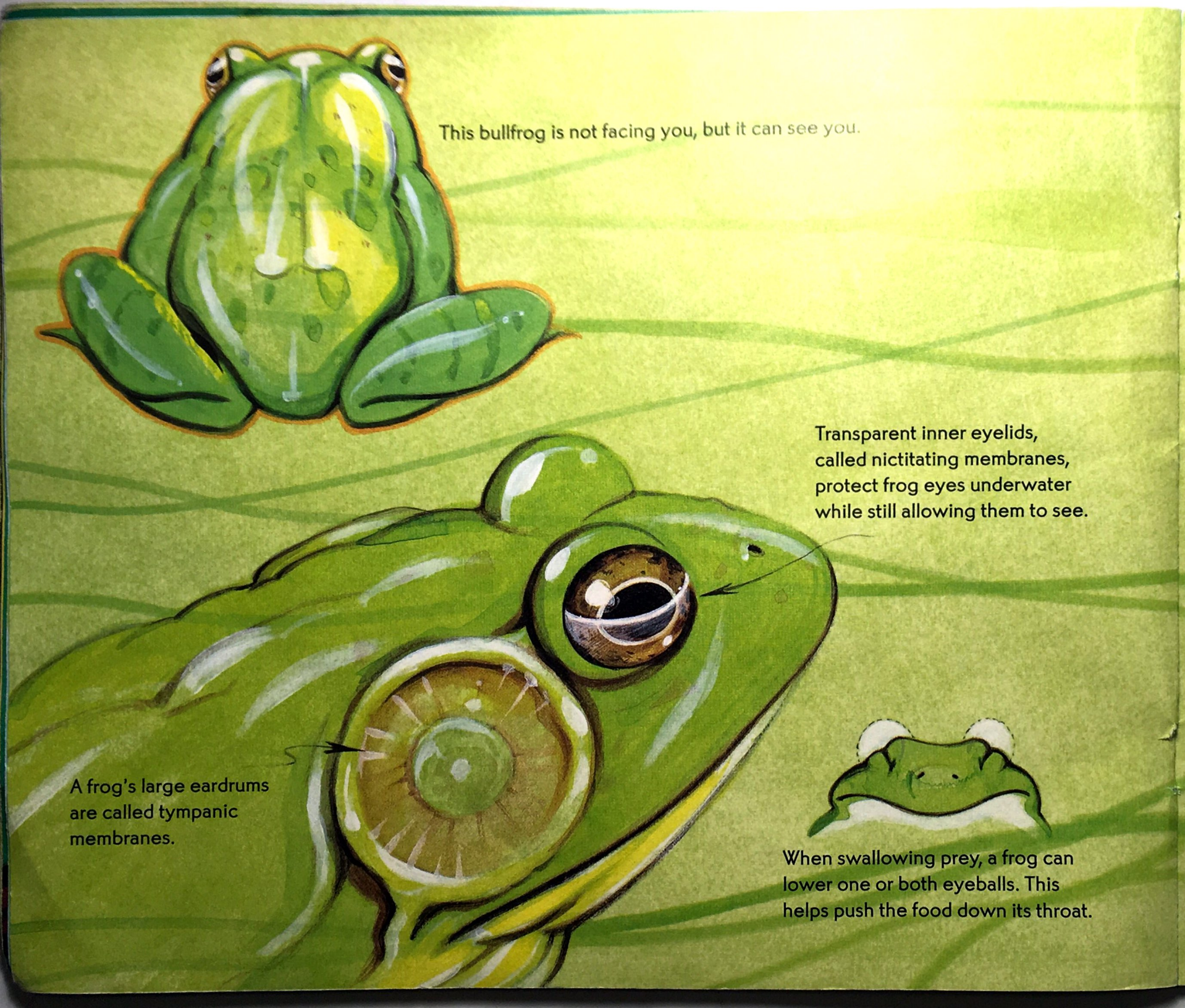

This bullfrog is not facing you, but it can see you.
Transparent inner eyelids, called nictitating membranes, protect frog eyes underwater while still allowing them to see.
A frog's large eardrums are called tympanic membranes.
When swallowing prey, a frog can lower one or both eyeballs. This helps push the food down its throat.

A frog's head is wide to accommodate a huge mouth. Frogs swallow food whole. Large external eardrums provide excellent hearing, alerting a frog to the sounds of approaching danger. And big eyeballs give a frog a 360-degree view of the world.

In many species of frogs, you can tell females from males by the size of their eardrums. If the eardrum is smaller than the eye, the frog is a female. If it is larger than the eye, the frog is a male. In every other way, male and female frogs look alike.

CLUCK CLUCK

call of the wood frog

CROAK

call of the pickerel frog

call of the barking frog

two vocal sacs inflated

Only male frogs make sounds. They call to attract female frogs. Frogs produce sounds by inflating vocal sacs in their throats and vibrating the air as they slowly let it out. Some species inflate one large vocal sac. Others inflate two small vocal sacs.

single vocal sac inflated

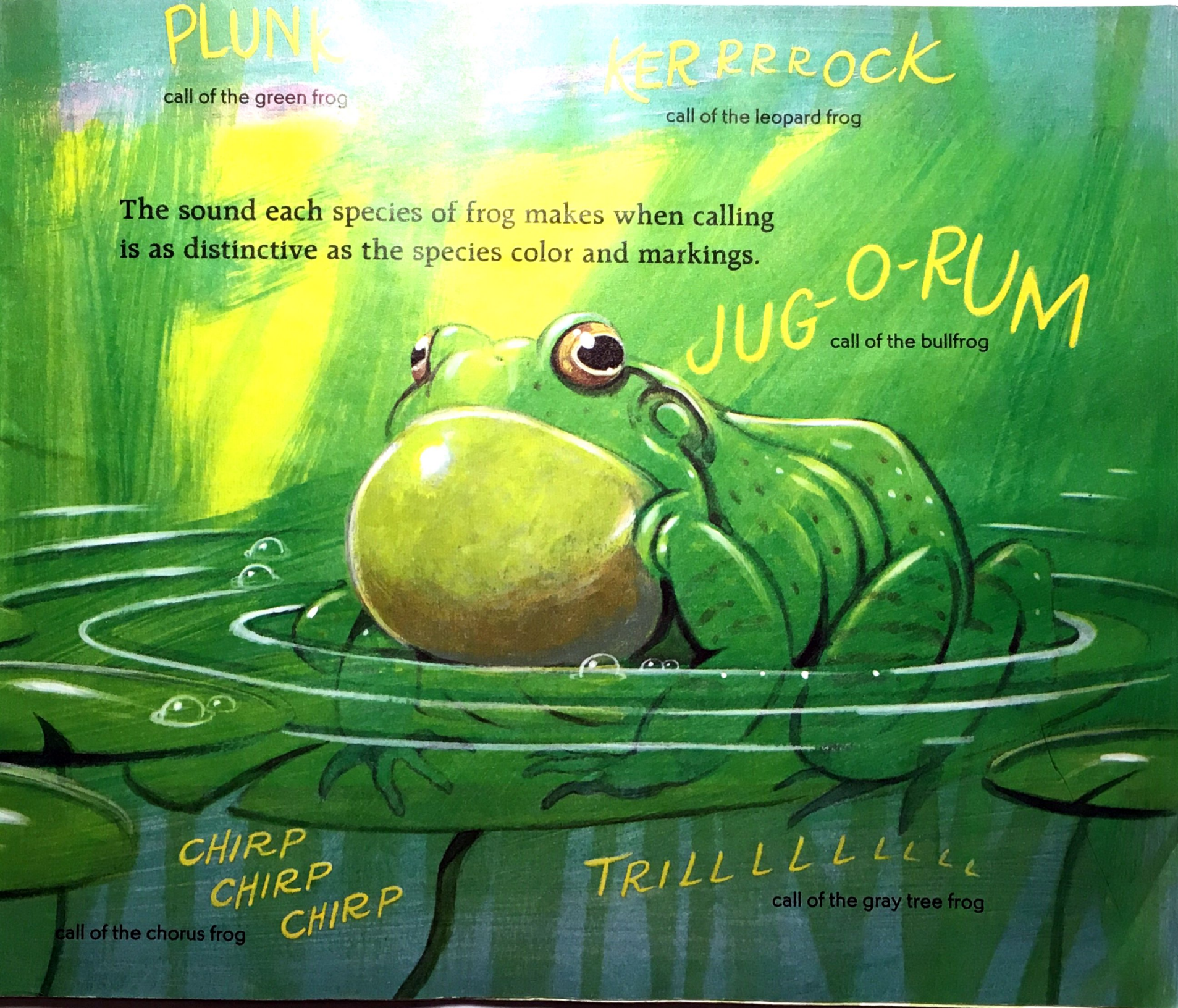
spring peeper calling

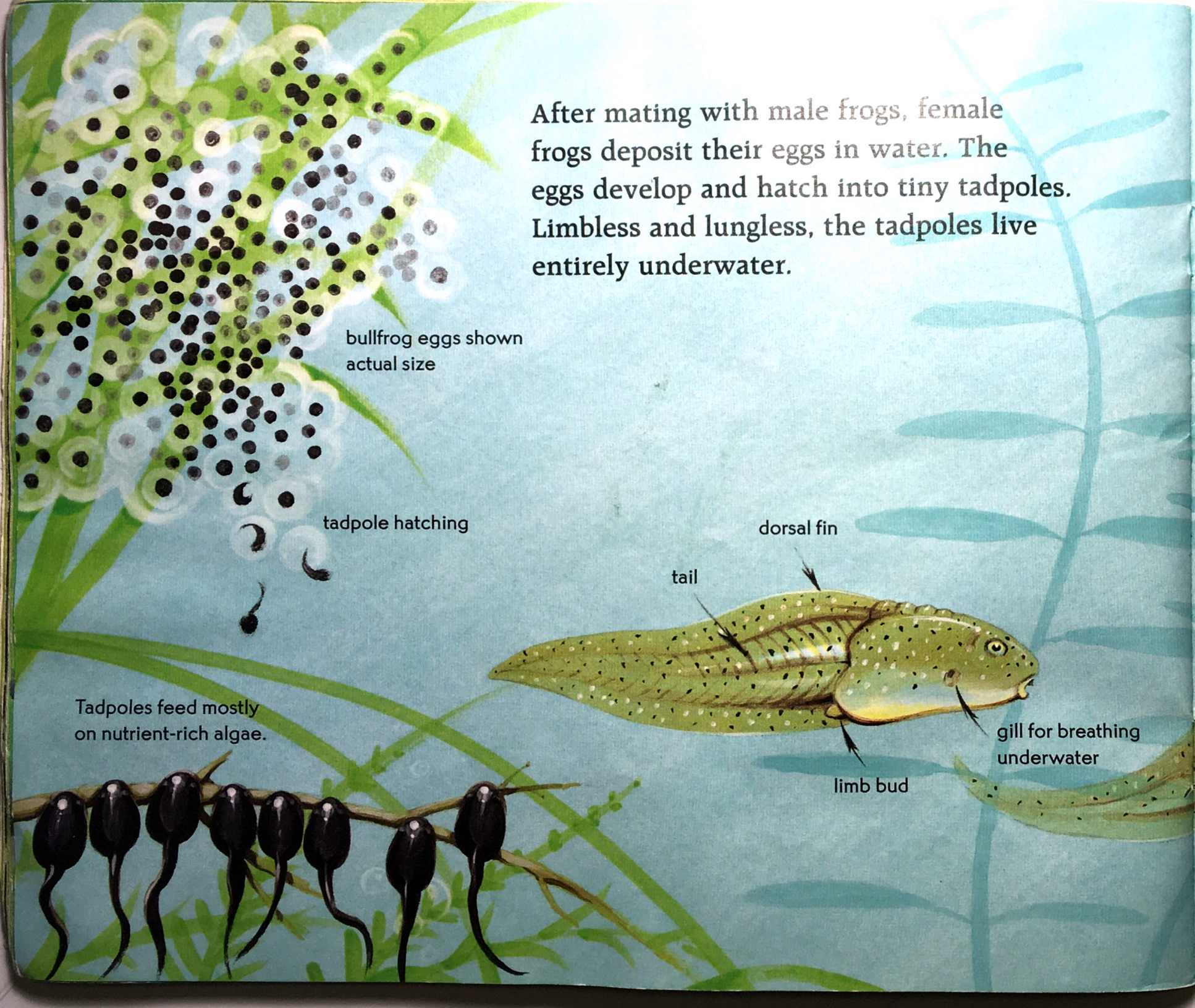
PEEP PEEP PEEP

call of the spring peeper

GRUNT GRUNT

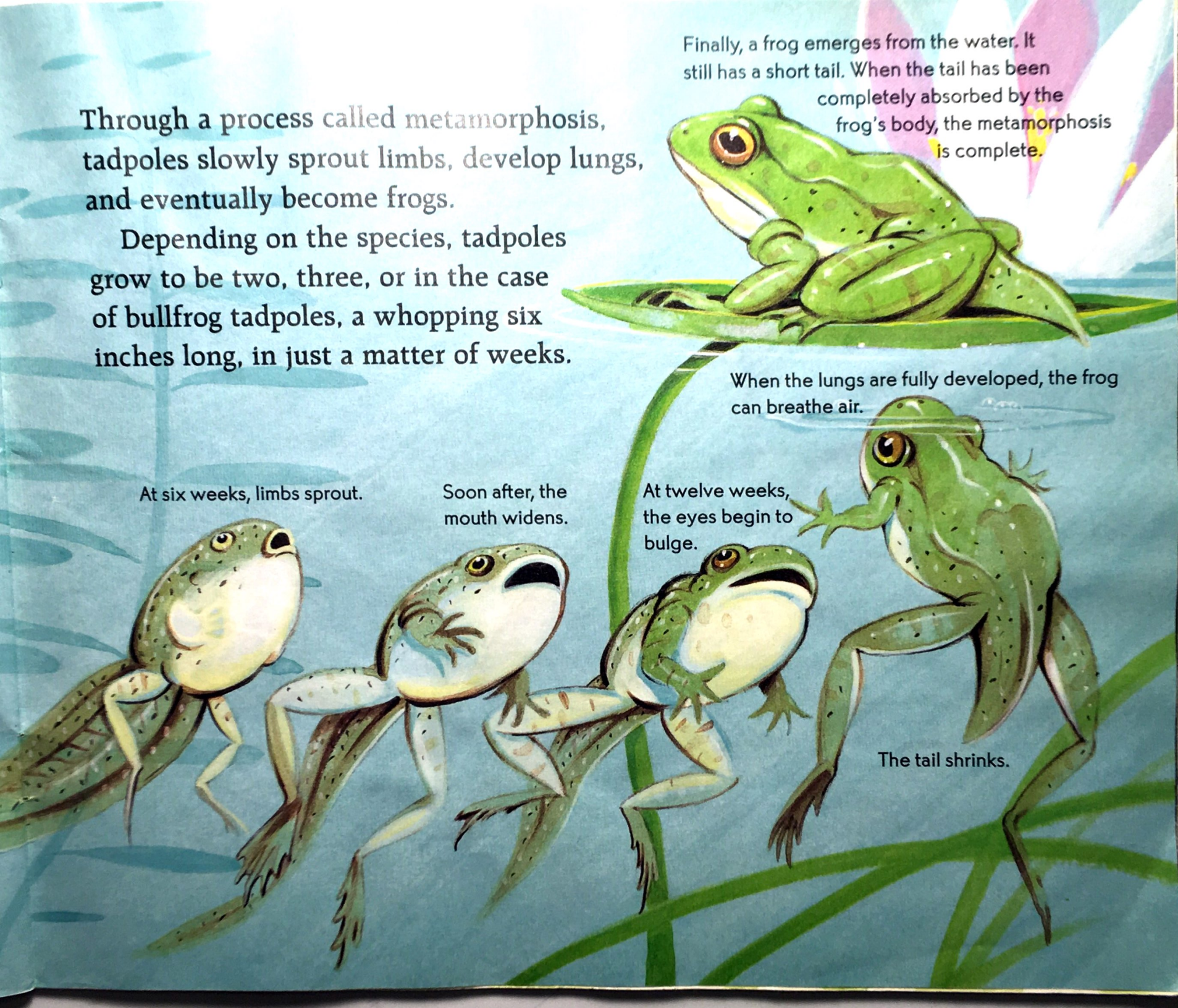
call of the pig frog


PLUNK
call of the green frog
KERRRROCK
call of the leopard frog
The sound each species of frog makes when calling is as distinctive as the species color and markings.
JUG-O-RUM
call of the bullfrog
CHIRP CHIRP CHIRP
call of the chorus frog
TRILLLLLLLLL
call of the gray tree frog

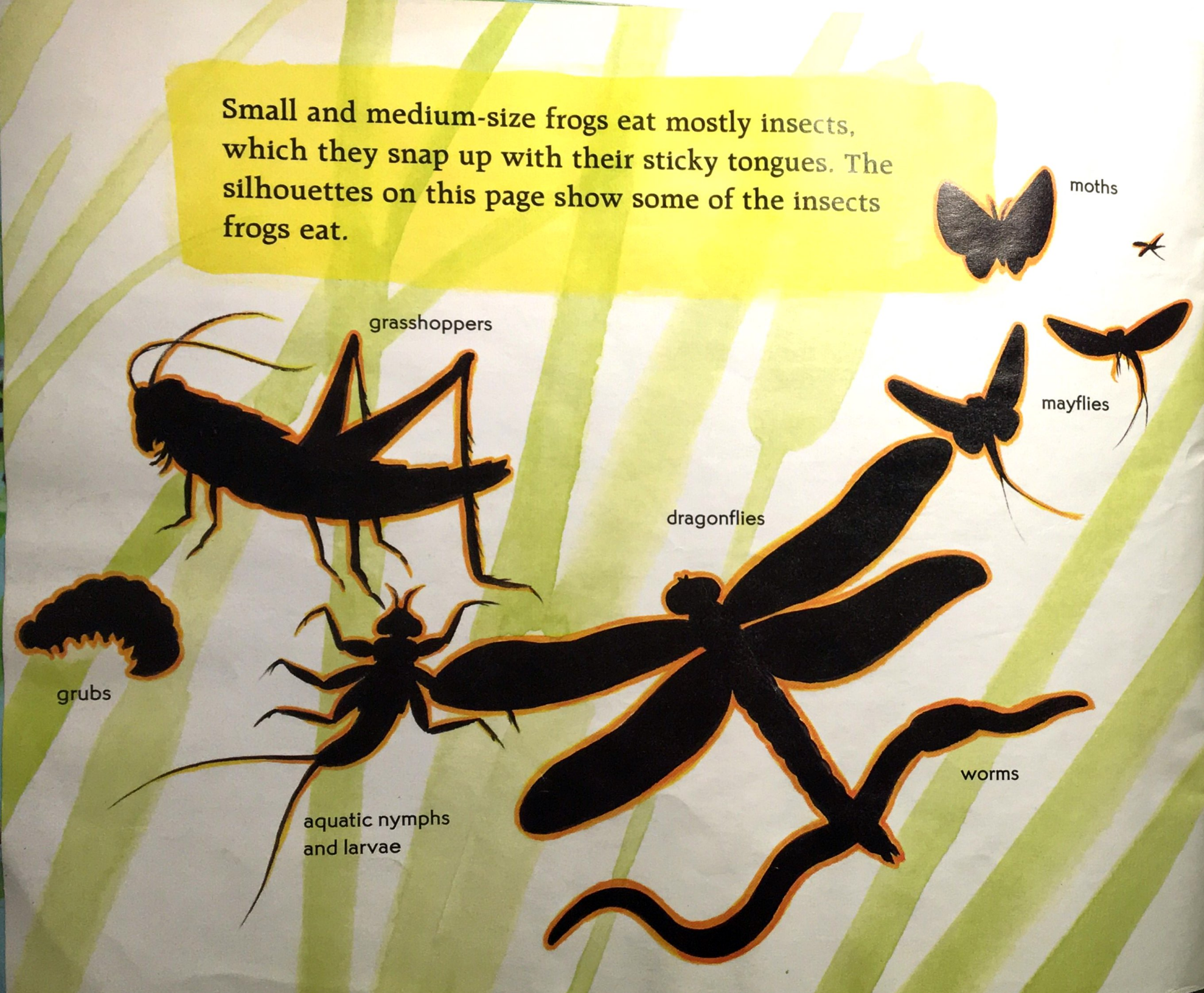

After mating with male frogs, female frogs deposit their eggs in water. The eggs develop and hatch into tiny tadpoles. Limbless and lungless, the tadpoles live entirely underwater.
bullfrog eggs shown actual size
tadpole hatching
dorsal fin
tail
Tadpoles feed mostly on nutrient-rich algae.
gill for breathing underwater
limb bud

Through a process called metamorphosis, tadpoles slowly sprout limbs, develop lungs, and eventually become frogs.

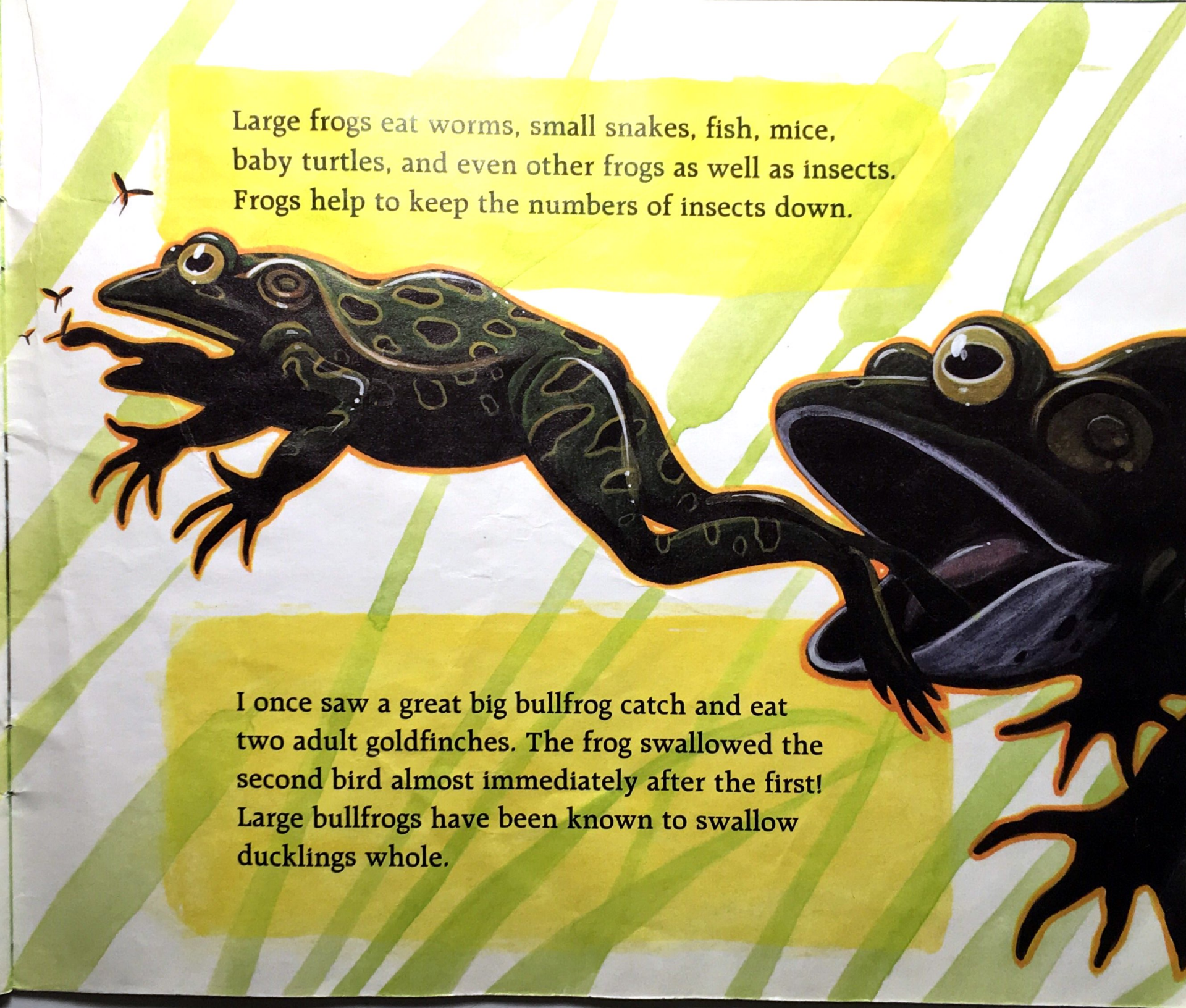
Depending on the species, tadpoles grow to be two, three, or in the case of bullfrog tadpoles, a whopping six inches long, in just a matter of weeks.



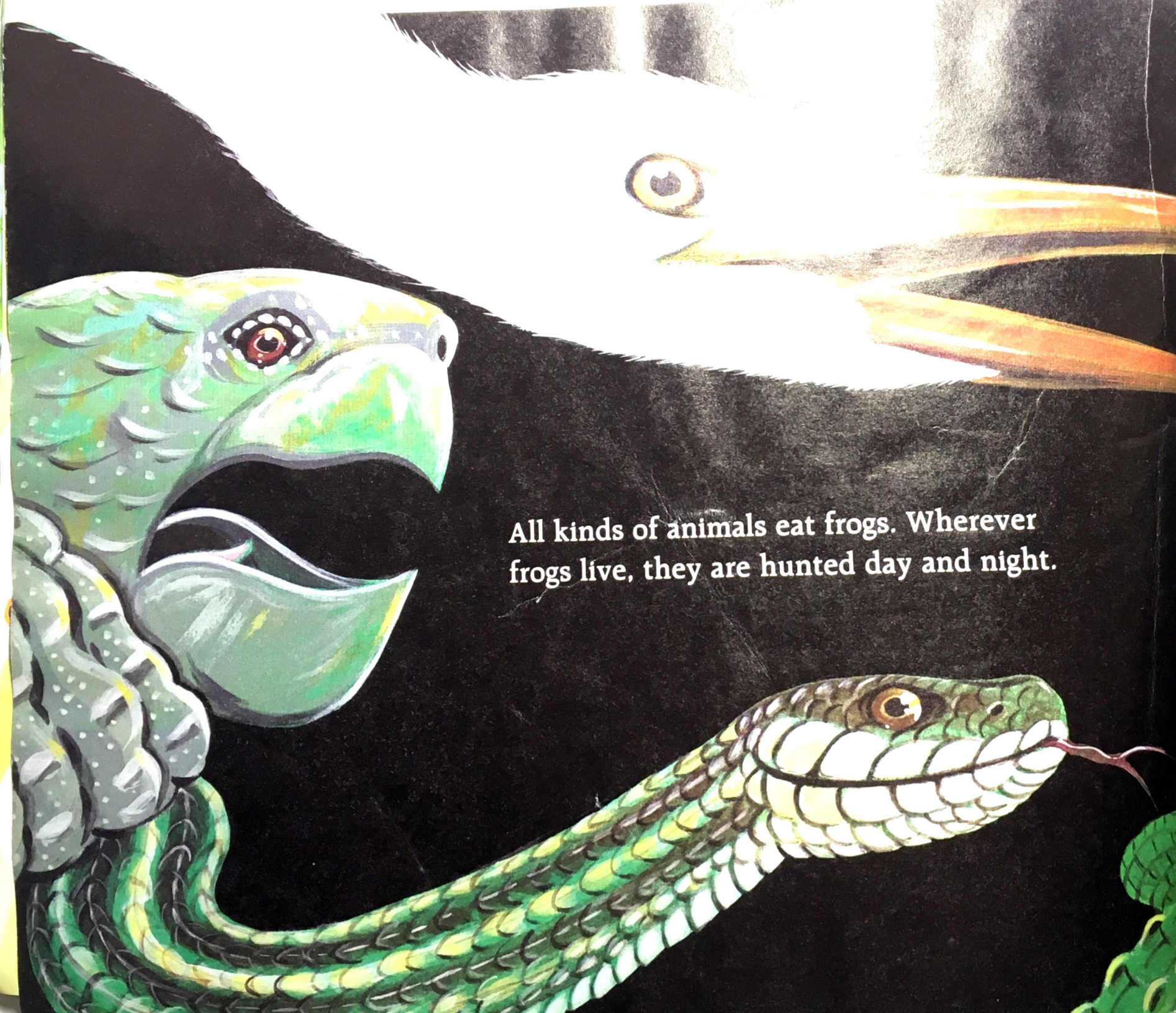
Small and medium-size frogs eat mostly insects, which they snap up with their sticky tongues. The silhouettes on this page show some of the insects frogs eat.



Large frogs eat worms, small snakes, fish, mice, baby turtles, and even other frogs as well as insects. Frogs help to keep the numbers of insects down.

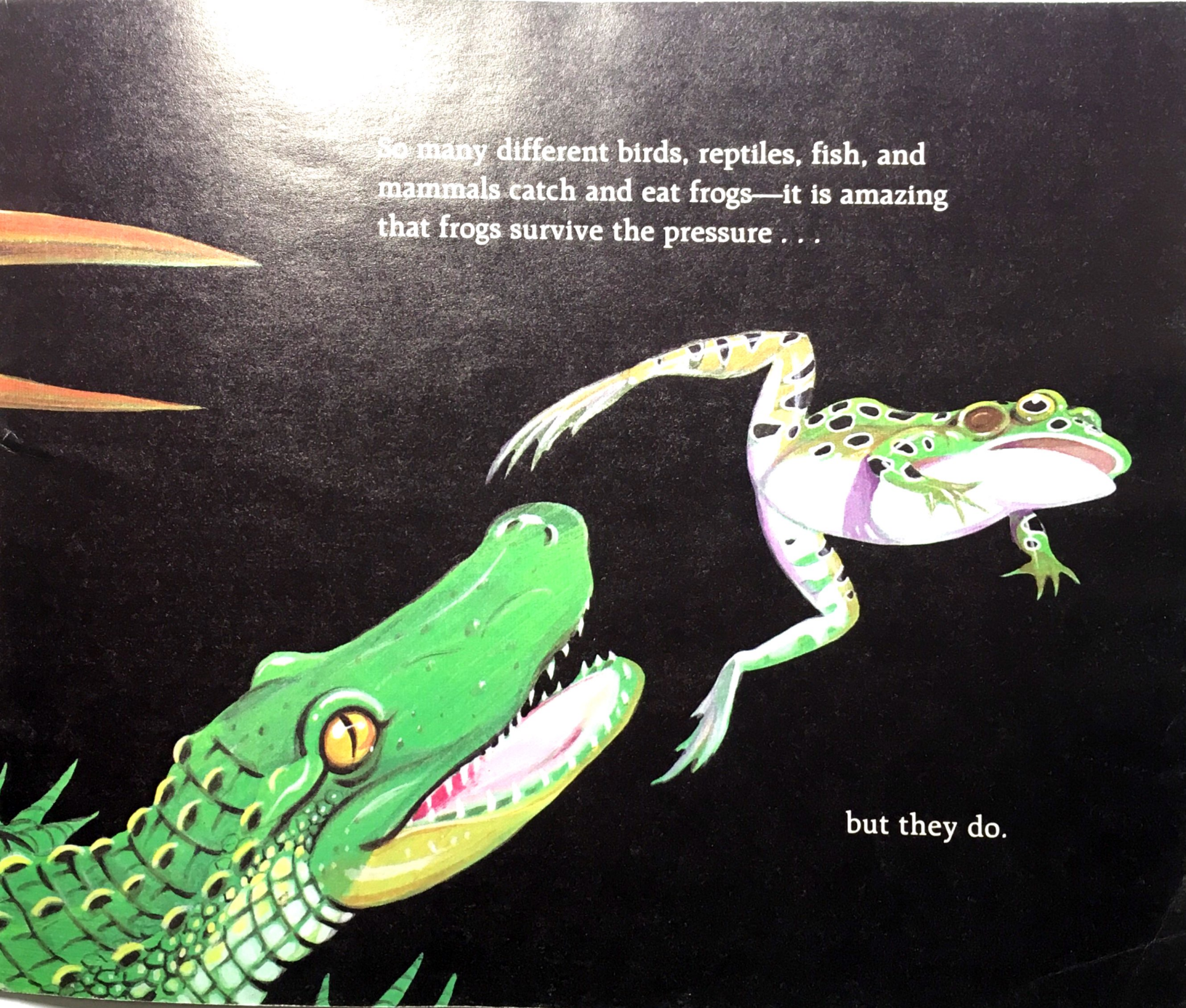


I once saw a great big bullfrog catch and eat two adult goldfinches. The frog swallowed the second bird almost immediately after the first! Large bullfrogs have been known to swallow ducklings whole.

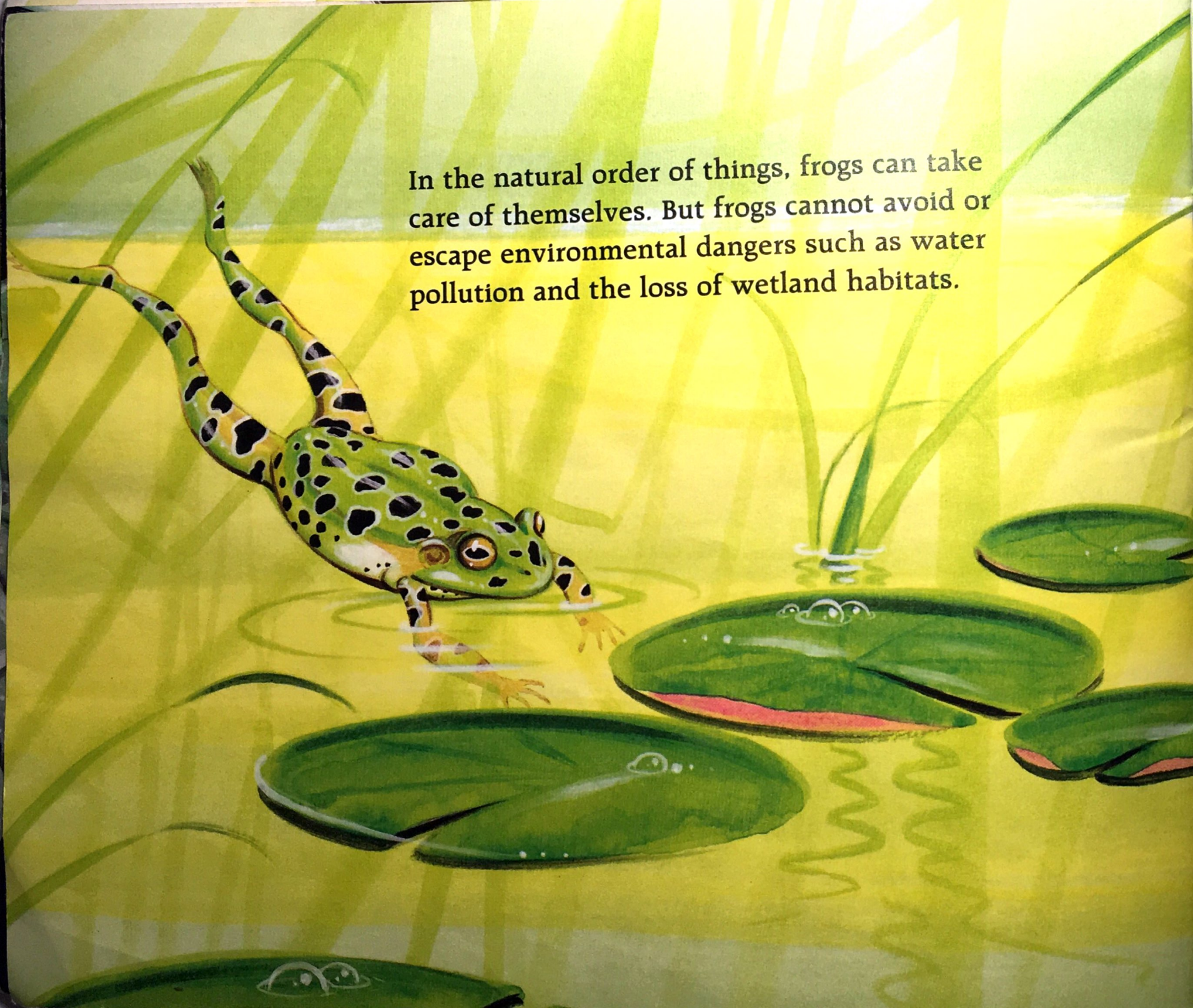


All kinds of animals eat frogs. Wherever frogs live, they are hunted day and night.

so many different birds, reptiles, fish, and mammals catch and eat frogs—it is amazing that frogs survive the pressure . . .



but they do.



In the natural order of things, frogs can take care of themselves. But frogs cannot avoid or escape environmental dangers such as water pollution and the loss of wetland habitats.