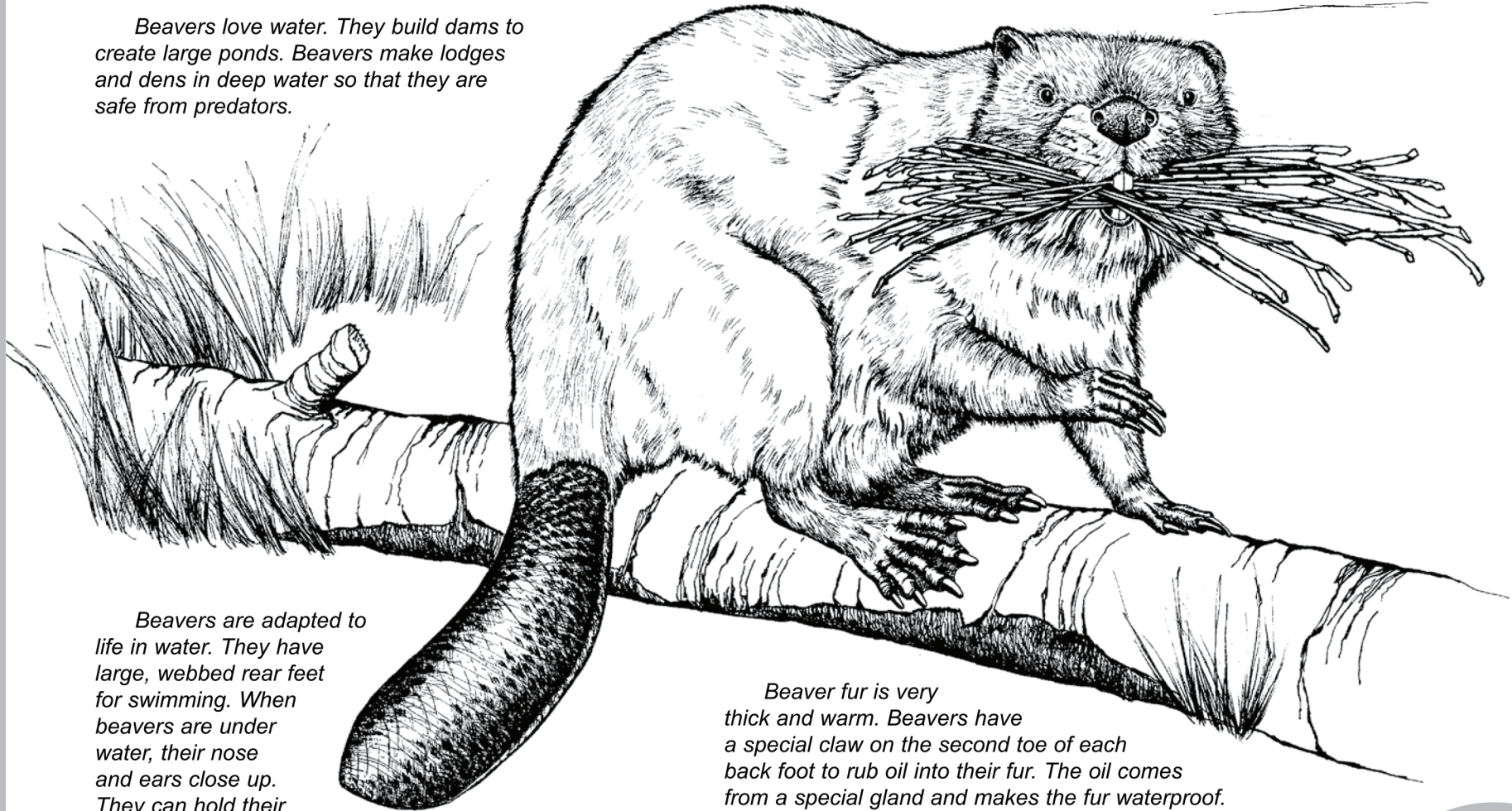


Beavers

Beavers love water. They build dams to create large ponds. Beavers make lodges and dens in deep water so that they are safe from predators.



Beavers are adapted to life in water. They have large, webbed rear feet for swimming. When beavers are under water, their nose and ears close up. They can hold their breath for up to 15 minutes. They have clear eyelids that work like goggles. Beavers have lips behind their front teeth. They can chop and chew wood without getting water in their mouths!

Beaver fur is very thick and warm. Beavers have a special claw on the second toe of each back foot to rub oil into their fur. The oil comes from a special gland and makes the fur waterproof.

Beavers' wide, flat tails also help them live in water. The tails store fat for extra energy. Beavers use their tails as a rudder when swimming. When they sense danger, they will slap the surface of the water with it to warn other beavers.

