

Sinai Baton Blue

The story of the smallest butterfly

Samy Zalat

By:

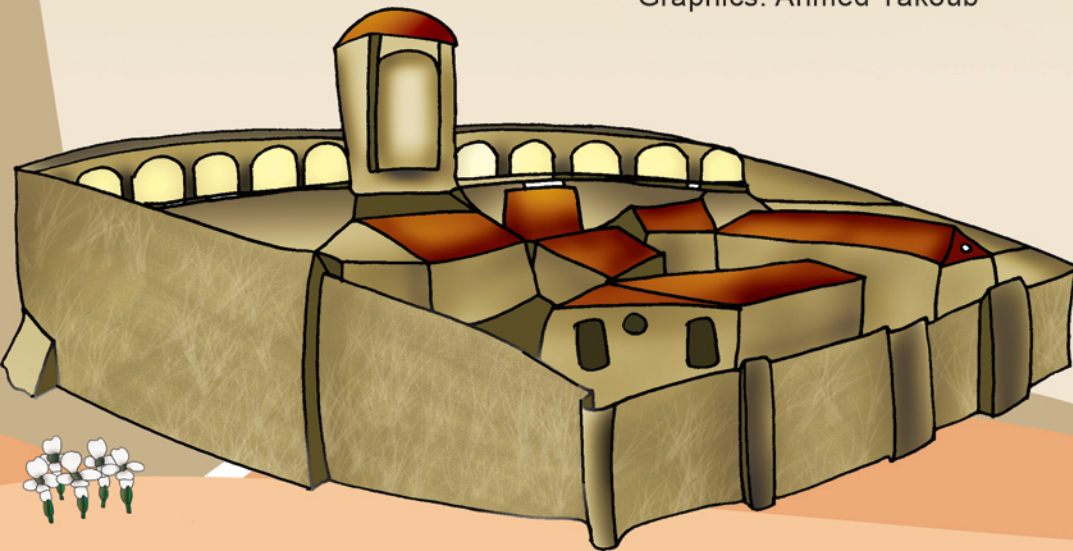
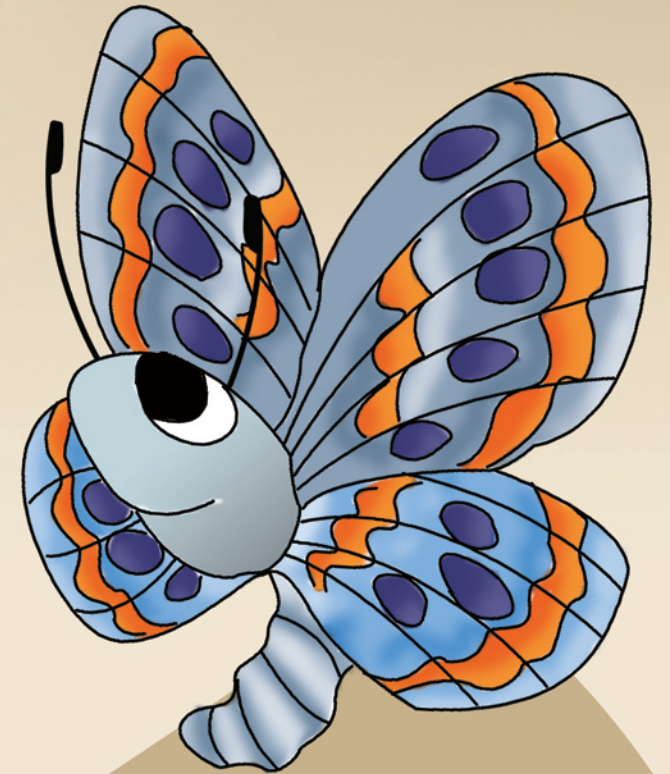
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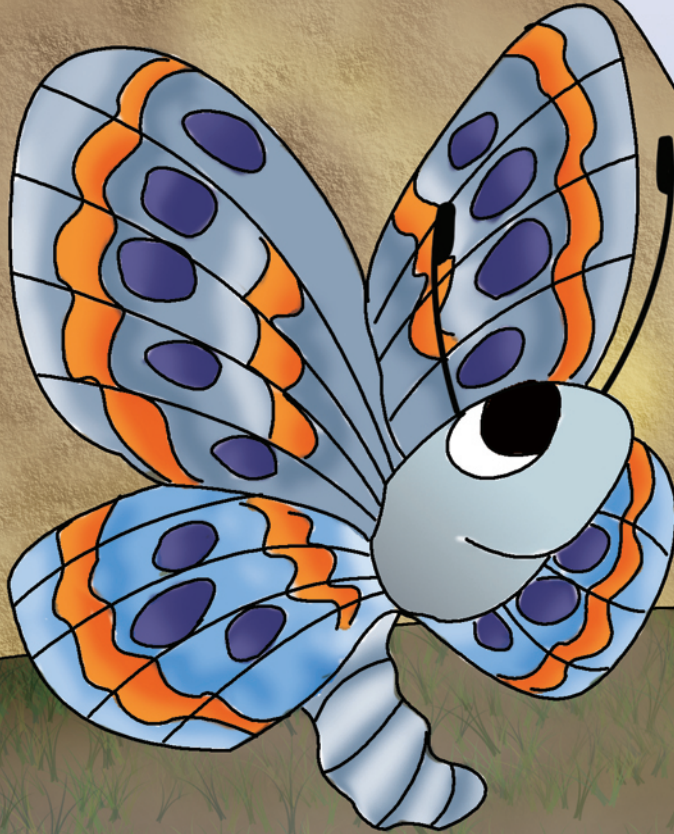
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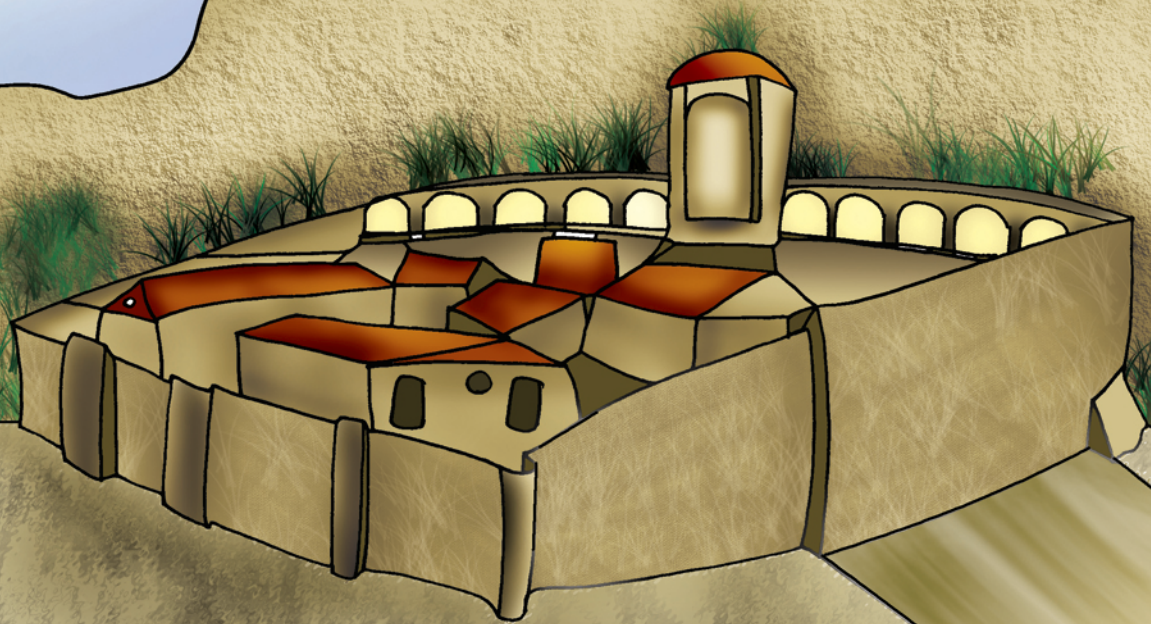


My name is Farfosha. I am the smallest butterfly
in the whole world. I am so glad to be tiny.

I am blue and have black and orange
spots on my wings. Egyptians
call me the "Sinai Little Blue
Butterfly".



I live in one of the most beautiful places in Egypt and the world. It is called St.Katherine and is in the south of Sinai on the high mountains surrounding the great St.Katherine monastery .

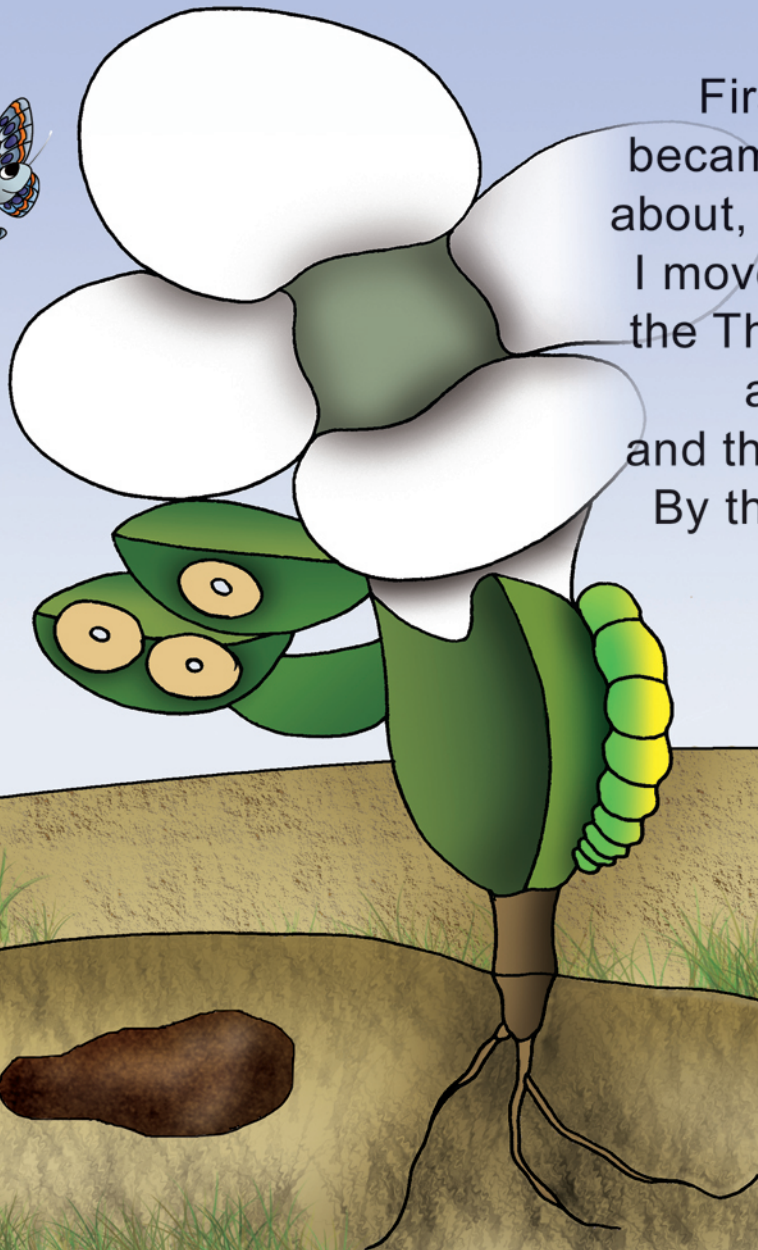


In the early mornings, I fly around using my delicate wings, and sit on the flowers of my beautiful friend, the Thyme. I drink the delicious nectar from her white flowers; it's just like honey. I keep drinking until my belly is full of this yummy nectar. It is my only food and I love it. The flowers love me too, because I help them to make new flowers.

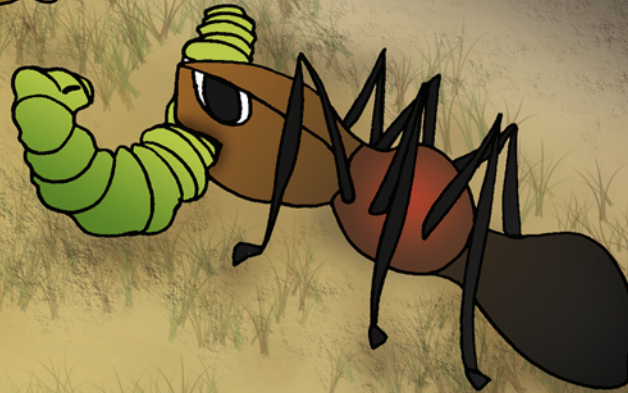
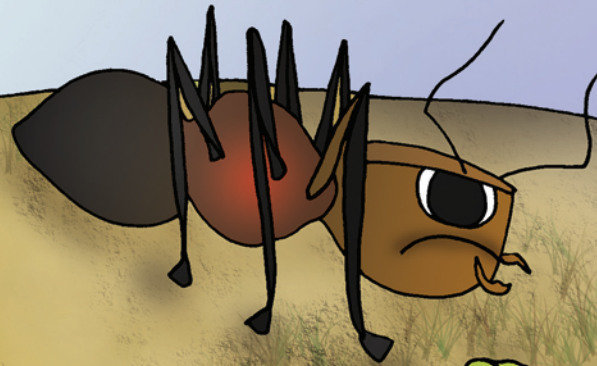
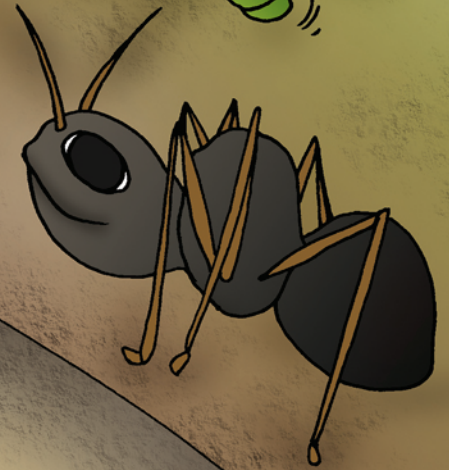
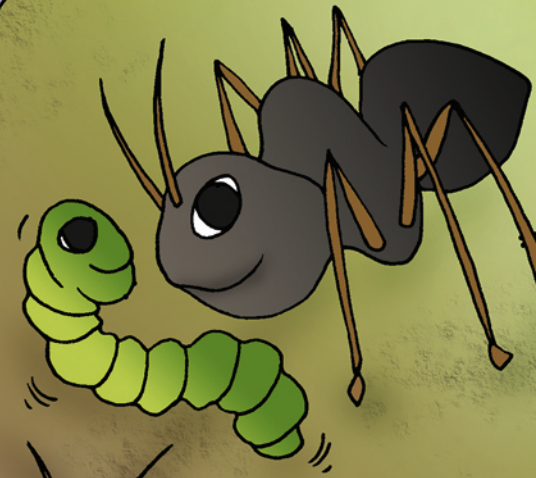




First, I was a little egg, and I then became a green caterpillar. I wandered about, eating the leaves of flowers. Then I moved into the soil under the roots of the Thyme. I made a brown bag, called a "cocoon", around my body, and there I stayed for a long, long time. By the end of spring, I came out as a beautiful butterfly.



I have many friends, like the black ant with whom I love to play. I share the nectar that I take from the flowers with him. In return, he protects me from my enemies. But there are also dangerous brown ants. They eat my cousins, but I am protected by my ant friend.



I am so tiny and weak and the weather is so hot.
It makes me ill and can kill me.
I am not like other strong animals
that can bear the hot weather
or move to live in better
climates.



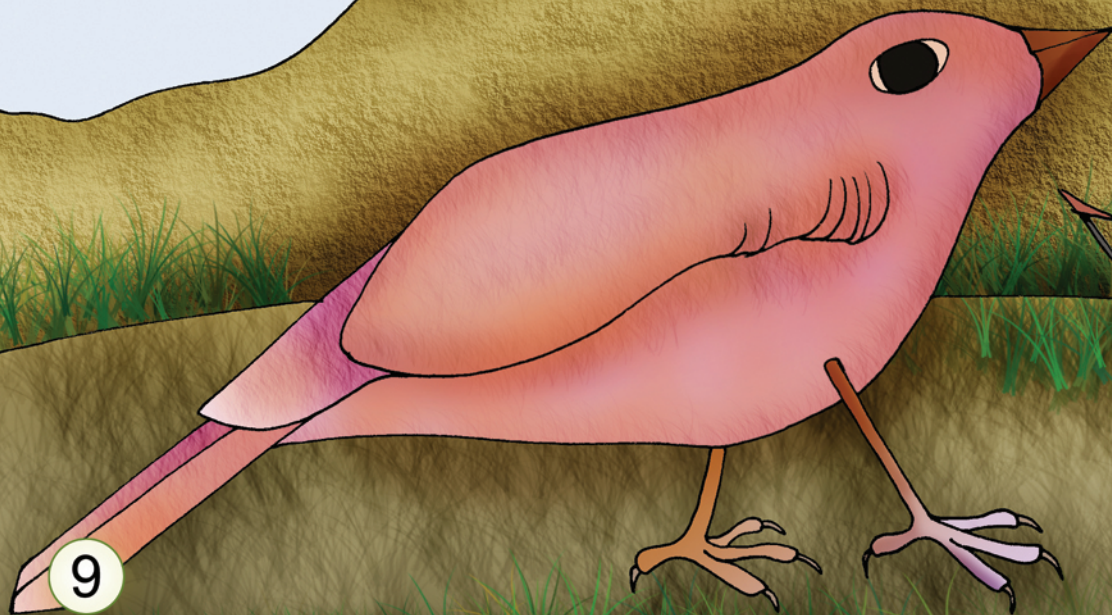
Yesterday, I was on my way to find some flowers to drink nectar as usual, but I couldn't find them. They had disappeared. A Bedouin woman brought a large herd of goats to graze in the area, and they ate all the flowers and didn't leave us with anything to eat.

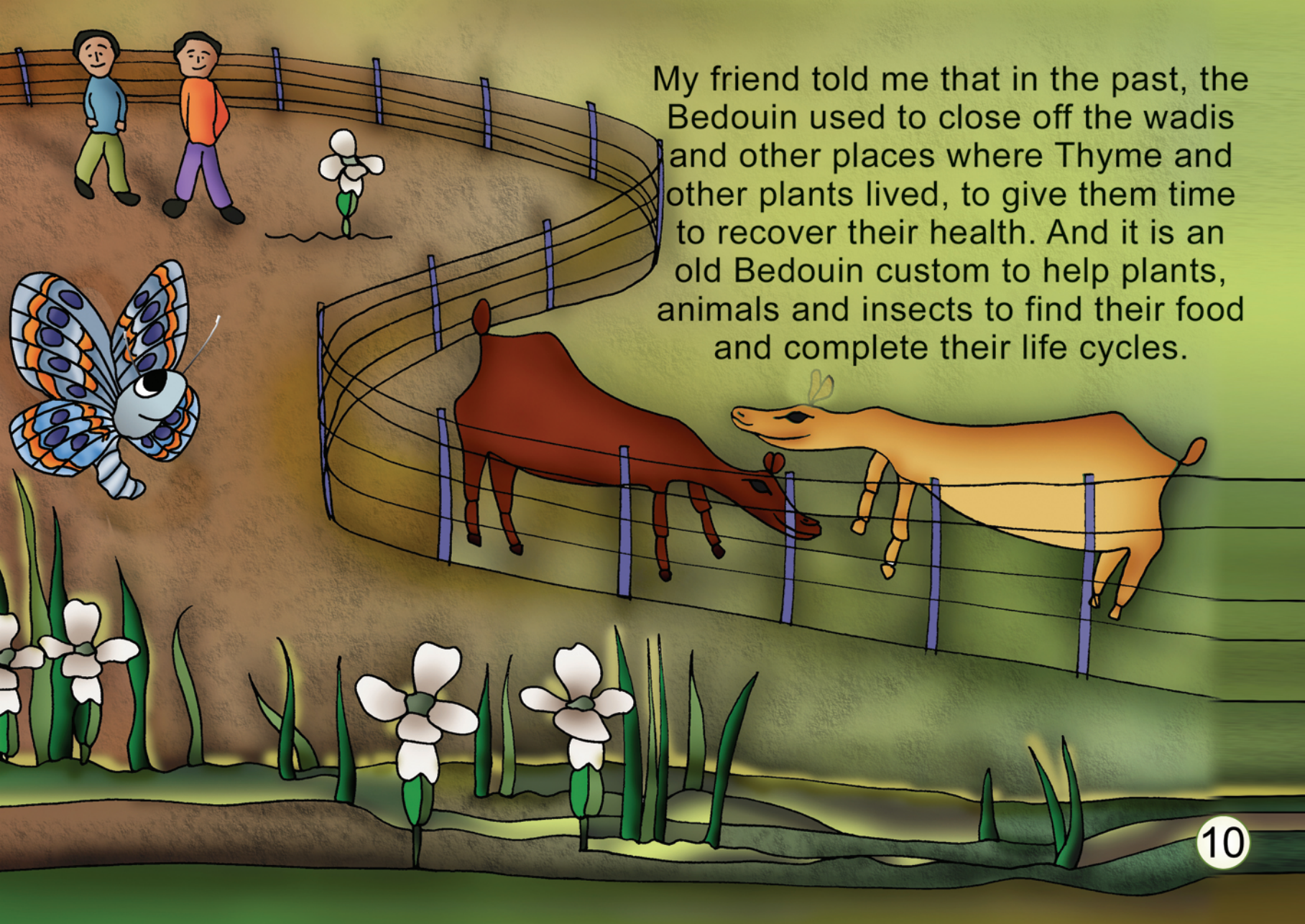


I went looking for Thyme in another place and found some Bedouin collecting it in huge bags. I know that they use it to make tea as a medicine to cure some diseases.



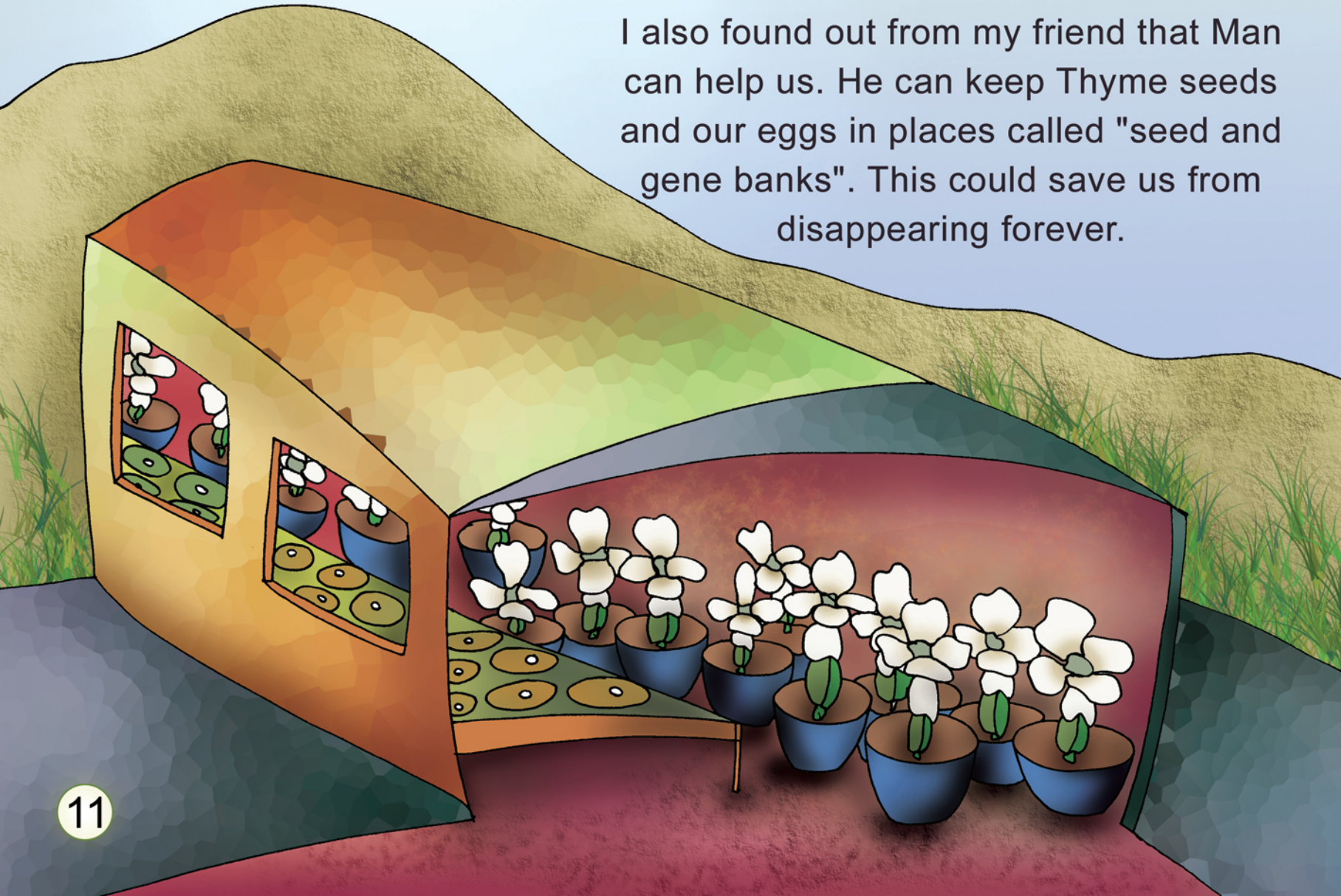
Because I was so hungry, I kept looking everywhere for food. At last I found a place surrounded with a fence. The rangers had set it up, to protect Thyme and other plants. I was so glad, because my animal friends and I could find food there.





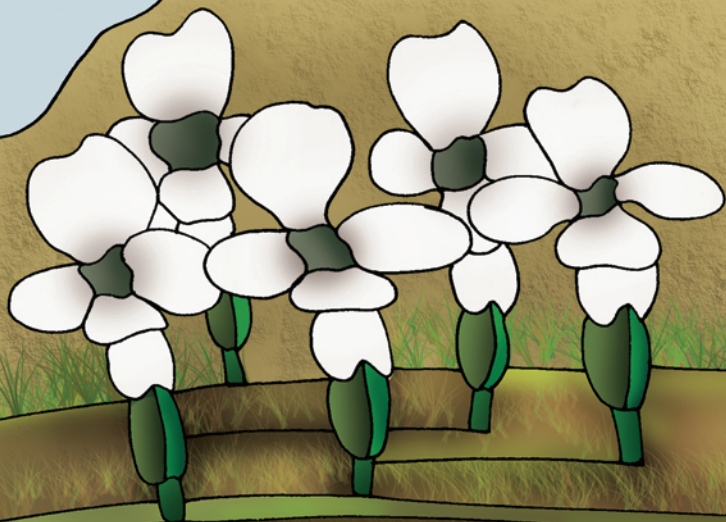
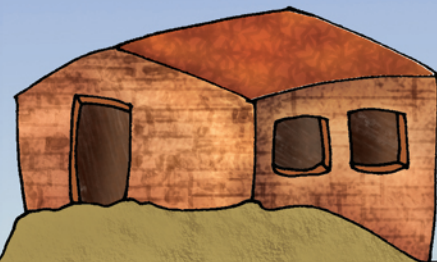
My friend told me that in the past, the Bedouin used to close off the wadis and other places where Thyme and other plants lived, to give them time to recover their health. And it is an old Bedouin custom to help plants, animals and insects to find their food and complete their life cycles.

I also found out from my friend that Man can help us. He can keep Thyme seeds and our eggs in places called "seed and gene banks". This could save us from disappearing forever.



Tomorrow, I will wake up in the early morning to watch the sunrise from the top of Mount Sinai.

I will ask God to help me, and I hope to find enough plants for us to be able to drink their nectar. I really don't want to die and disappear forever.



Extra information for parents or the teacher

- * The butterfly's life cycle takes one year.
- * Butterflies can be seen for nearly 2 to 3 months; they feed on thyme nectar, mate, lay eggs, and then die.
- * The eggs hatch within days to give little caterpillars.
- * Caterpillars live for a short time; between 1 and 2 months.
- * They feed on Thyme petals, becoming very active by the end of this phase. A caterpillar eats avidly, and then weaves a brown cocoon to become a pupa.
- * The Pupa is the dormant phase. The caterpillar moves to live in the soil next to Thyme roots and pupates. It stays dormant inside its cocoon for nearly 9 to 10 months. It then hatches by the end of spring or early summer to give a beautiful butterfly to repeat the cycle.
- * Thyme is vital for the life of the butterfly. In its turn, the butterfly, together with wild bees, helps the Thyme in transferring pollen grains from plant to plant to produce seeds which bring about new individuals.
- * St Katherine is famous for the presence of the St Katherine monastery, one of the oldest monasteries in the world.
- * The St Katherine is inhabited by groups of Bedouin belonging to the Gebalia tribe, meaning "mountain people". They take their herds of goats every day to graze.



Questions:

1. What are the basic three colours of the butterfly?
2. On what plant does the butterfly feed? And what does she get from it?
3. Where does she live in Egypt?
4. Where did the butterfly watch the sunrise from?

Egypt has a remarkable wildlife
Save Sinai Baton Blue
Sinai Little Blue Butterfly

SHADE THE WORDS ,

TO FIND OUT THE SECRET WORD

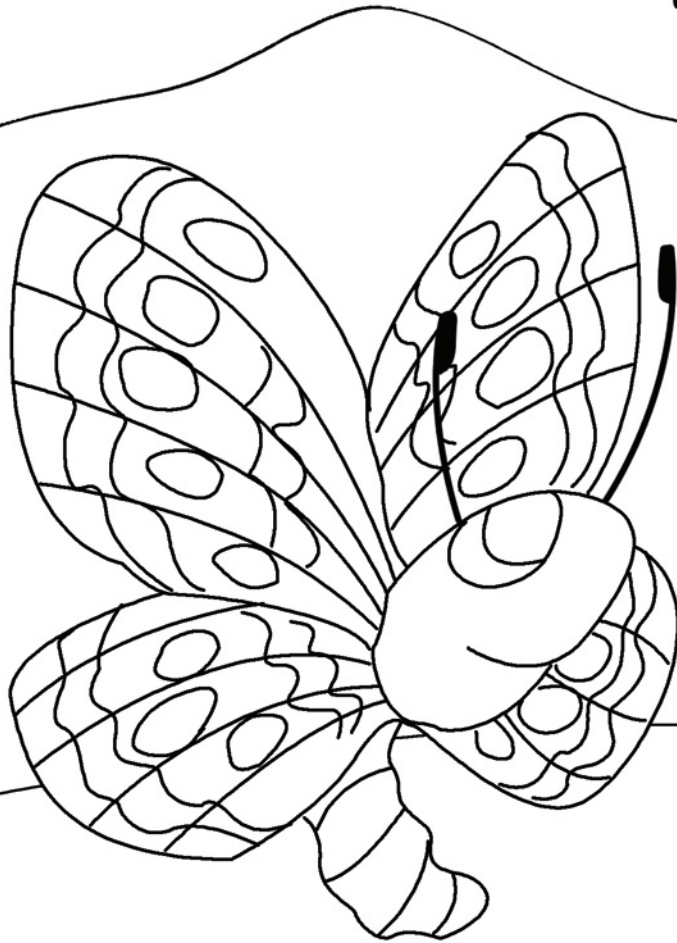
COCOON - EGYPT - THYME - NECTAR

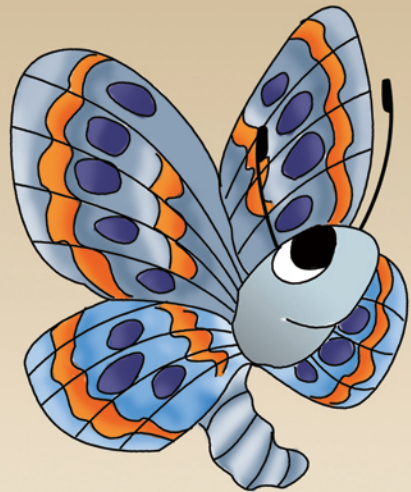
LITTLE - EGG - ANTS - FOOD - GOAT

C	O	C	O	O	N	E
N	L	S	F	E	A	G
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Sinai Baton Blue Butterfly

The World's Smallest Butterfly





Ministry of State For Environmental Affairs



**BIODIVERSITY MONITORING
& ASSESSMENT PROJECT
(BioMAP)**

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