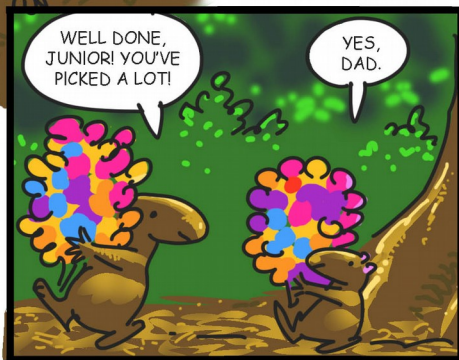
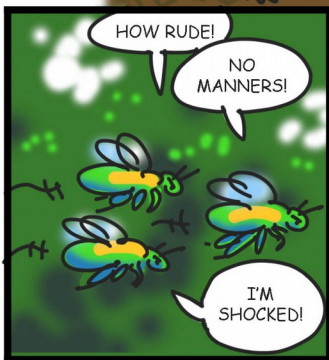
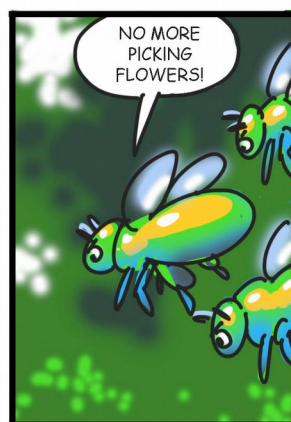
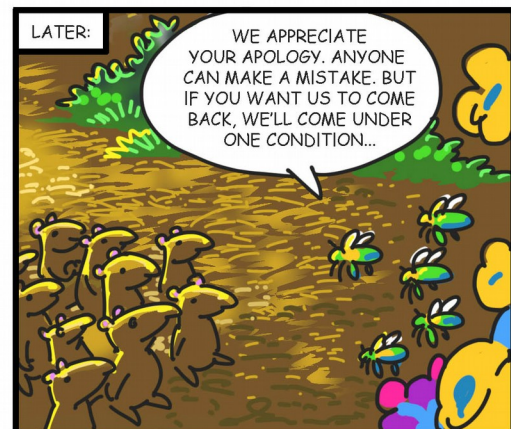
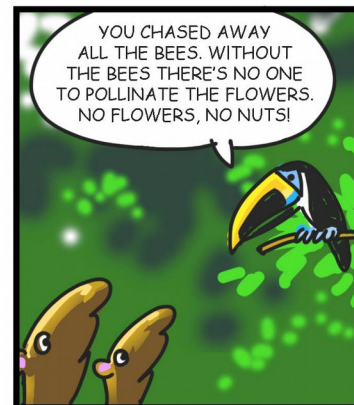
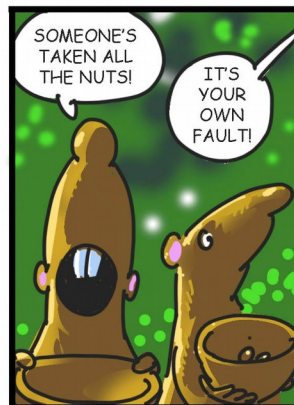
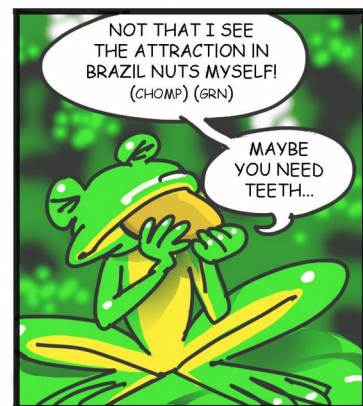
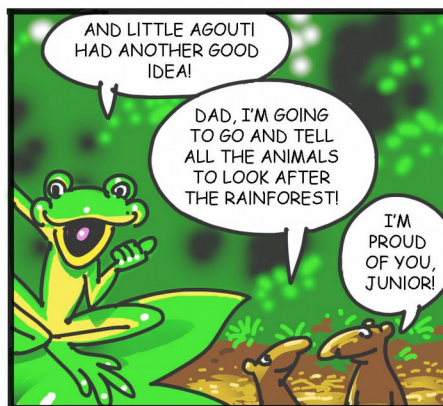


THE AGOUTIS AND THE ORCHID BEES







INTERESTING FACT!

The male orchid bee uses the chemicals in orchids to add colour to his wings to attract the female.

The female orchid bee is much bigger than the male. She is the one who pollinates the big, tough-to-open Brazil nut tree flowers.

So, orchids are essential for the bees' life-cycle. Without them there would be no more bees to pollinate the Brazil nut flowers and no more Brazil nuts!



Some Lesson Plan Ideas using *The Agoutis and the Orchid Bees* Story:

1) From the National Curriculum

Year 1 Statutory requirements: Pupils should be taught to ▪ identify and name a variety of common wild and garden plants, including deciduous and evergreen trees ▪ identify and describe the basic structure of a variety of common flowering plants, including trees.

On a field trip in the school grounds or a neighbouring park or woodland see how many flowers you can find. As the Agoutis learned, you should appreciate them where they are and not pick them. Make a list of the flowers you find. Can you identify the plant structures (including leaves, flowers (blossom), petals, fruit, roots, bulb, seed, trunk, branches, stem)?

2) From the National Curriculum

Year 1 Statutory requirements: Pupils should be taught to ▪ identify and name a variety of common animals that are carnivores, herbivores and omnivores.

Based on what you've learned from the story, what kind of animal do you think the Amazon Agouti is? Is it a carnivore, herbivore or omnivore? Can you name animals from this group that you might find in the UK?

(Answer: The Agouti is a herbivore. It eats only nuts and seeds and plant material. Mice, squirrels, rabbits, sheep, cows and goats are examples of UK herbivores.)

3) From the National Curriculum

Year 2 Statutory requirements: Pupils should be taught to ▪ identify that most living things live in habitats to which they are suited and describe how different habitats provide for the basic needs of different kinds of animals and plants, and how they depend on each other.

The Agouti is the only animal with teeth strong enough to open the tough pods that contain Brazil nuts. Agoutis bury nuts to eat later, then forget where they've buried them. These nuts become new trees. Without the Agouti, there would be no Brazil nut trees. Can you name an animal in the UK that behaves in a similar way? Draw a picture showing the cycle of life from nut to tree.

(Answer: Squirrel.)

4) From the National Curriculum

Year 3 Statutory requirements: Pupils should be taught to: ▪ explore the part that flowers play in the life cycle of flowering plants, including pollination, seed formation and seed dispersal.

Based on what you've learned from the story, how does the male orchid bee depend on orchids, and how does the Brazil nut tree depend on the female orchid bee? How do plants depend on bees in the UK (give details)? Can you name something you will find in the supermarket that comes from bees?

(Answers: The male orchid bee uses chemicals in the orchid to colour its wings to attract a mate. The Brazil nut tree needs the strong female orchid bee to reach the pollen protected by its tough petals. Bees in the UK act in a similar way, carrying the pollen from the stamens (the male part) of the flower to the stigma (the female part) of the next flower. This causes fertilization and a fruit, carrying seeds, can develop. Honey comes from bees.)