

Sea lions use their stiff, sensitive whiskers to feel where they are going and locate prey underwater. Mother sea lions spend many hours a day hunting, then return to the beach to nurse their pups. Even on foggy days, each mom must find her pup in the crowded, noisy rookery. Their great hearing helps moms pinpoint their pup's specific bark among hundreds of others.

Fog isn't the only challenge for sea lions. Sometimes the temperature gets too hot or too cold, but there's an adaptation for that, too.





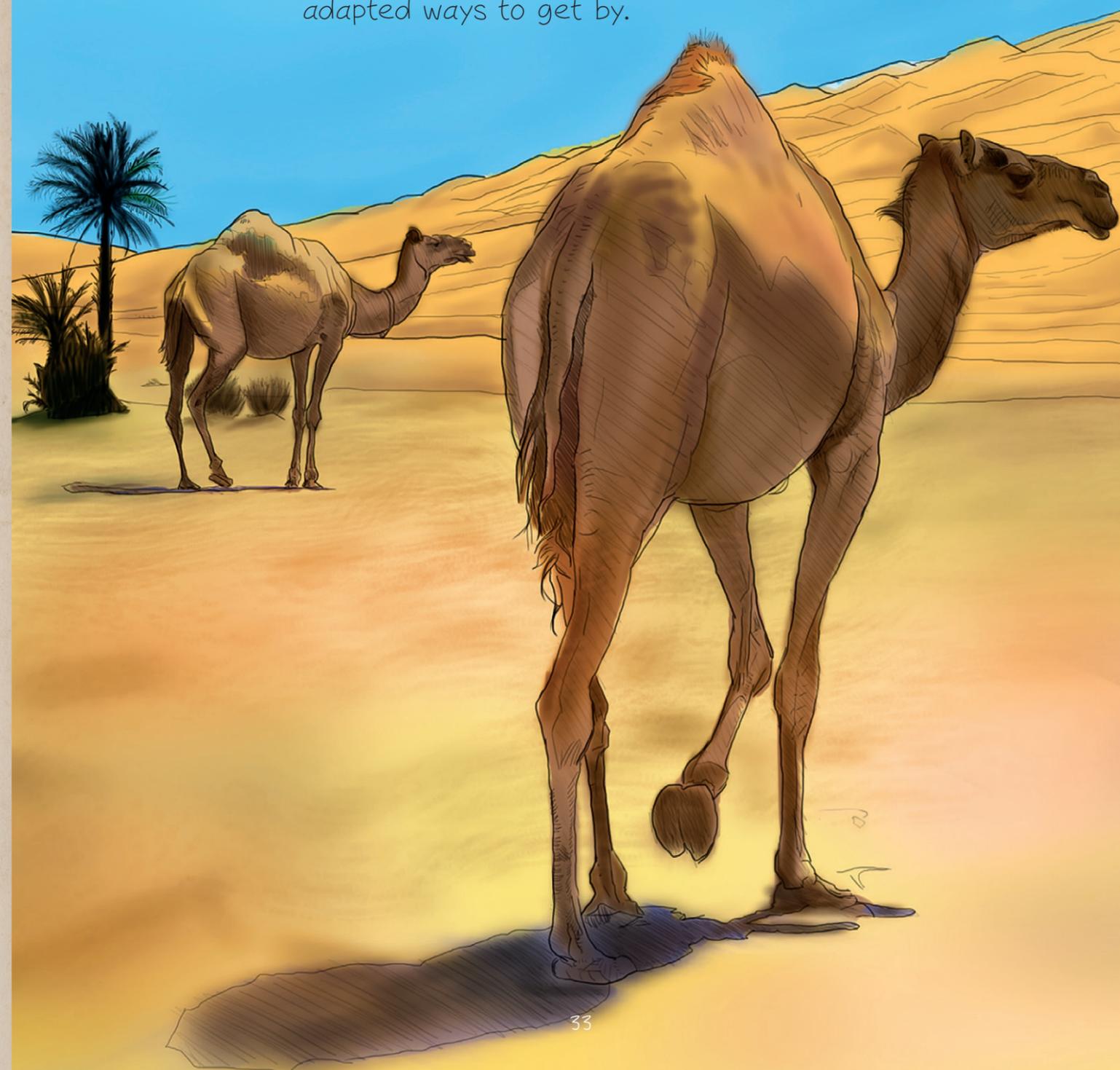
Sea lions can regulate their temperature with a practice called "SAILING." They roll onto their sides and hold a flipper above the water. The position of the flipper allows them to cool down or warm up.

Humans cool themselves off by wearing fewer layers, finding shade, or by playing in the pool. In foggy weather, we don't have whiskers to help us, but we have other tools, like lighthouses.

They help boats avoid crashing into the coast.

For a camel living in the desert, there is no escape from scorching temperatures. Some deserts are cloudless, with less than ten inches (25 cm) of rainfall per year. Without rain, water is hard to find.

Camels are really big, weighing up to one metric ton. They are herbivores, so they need to eat a lot of plants to survive. It's difficult for plants to grow without much water, but camels have adapted ways to get by.



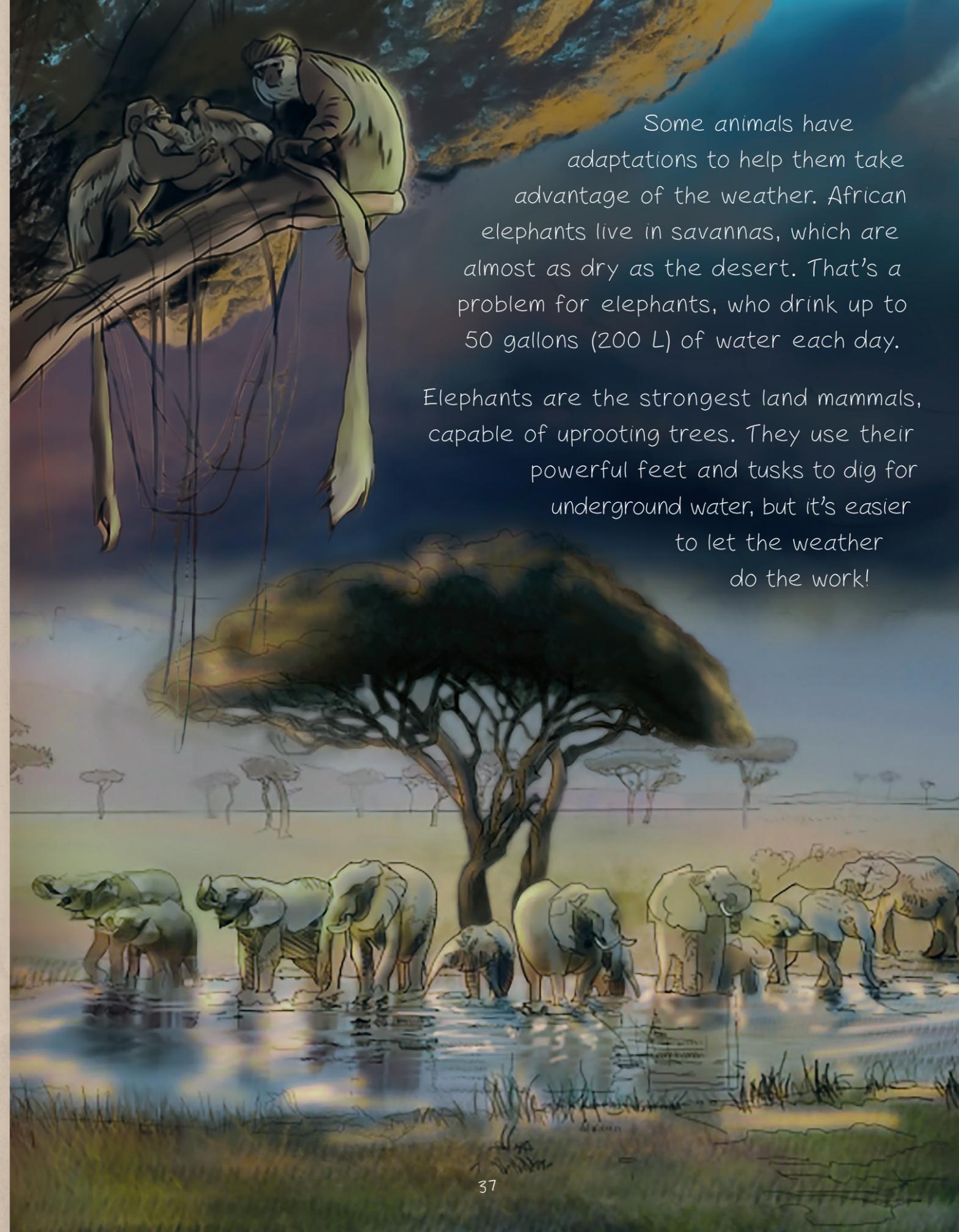
Camels eat grasses, seeds, and grains when they can, but their leathery mouths can handle thorny twigs and leaves. It's a common myth that camels store water in their hump—it actually stores fat. In the same way that grizzly bears survive during hibernation, camels can live off of this stored fat for a long time.

Camels have adapted to desert sand, too. The sand is hot enough to cause burns, so thick pads, like cushions, protect their chests and knees when they lie down to sleep. Strong winds can also suddenly blow the sand into huge dust clouds, thousands of feet tall. This is called a sandstorm or HABOOB.



In a haboob, sand whips through the air. It is blinding and painful. Camels have three sets of eyelids and two rows of eyelashes to protect their eyes. They can even close their nostrils to keep from breathing in the sand.

People who live in or travel through the desert cover their skin with clothes to protect against sun and sand. In a haboob, they wear a hat over their eyes and tie a damp cloth around their mouth and nose.



Some animals have adaptations to help them take advantage of the weather. African elephants live in savannas, which are almost as dry as the desert. That's a problem for elephants, who drink up to 50 gallons (200 L) of water each day.

Elephants are the strongest land mammals, capable of uprooting trees. They use their powerful feet and tusks to dig for underground water, but it's easier to let the weather do the work!

With the largest ears of any animal, elephants can hear the sound of approaching storms. They listen for rain clouds being formed miles away. The herd heads to dry watering holes or stream beds near the storm, knowing the rain will fill them up.

Elephants don't seek cover in heavy rains. Their skin is thick, and they have a layer of fat that keeps them warm and dry. Elephants satisfy their thirst at the watering holes, but they also suck up water with their trunks and spray each other to cool down.

