

Growing Up Batty

My Life as a Bat-Eared Fox

PHOTOS BY SUZI ESZTERHAS

Hi! I'm Batty. My family and I are called bat-eared foxes because our ears are bigger than our heads—just like bats.

Check out Mom's ears. They're **HUGE!** Mine will be this big someday.

Mom
↓

Me
→



You won't find bat-eared foxes in your backyard. They live in Africa.

When I was a tiny baby, I slept most of the time. Mom kept me safe inside our underground home.



It wasn't long before my brothers and sisters and I were crawling all over everything—even Mom.



We like to dig in the dirt with our sharp claws. Digging is important because we eat mostly insects—and many insects live underground.

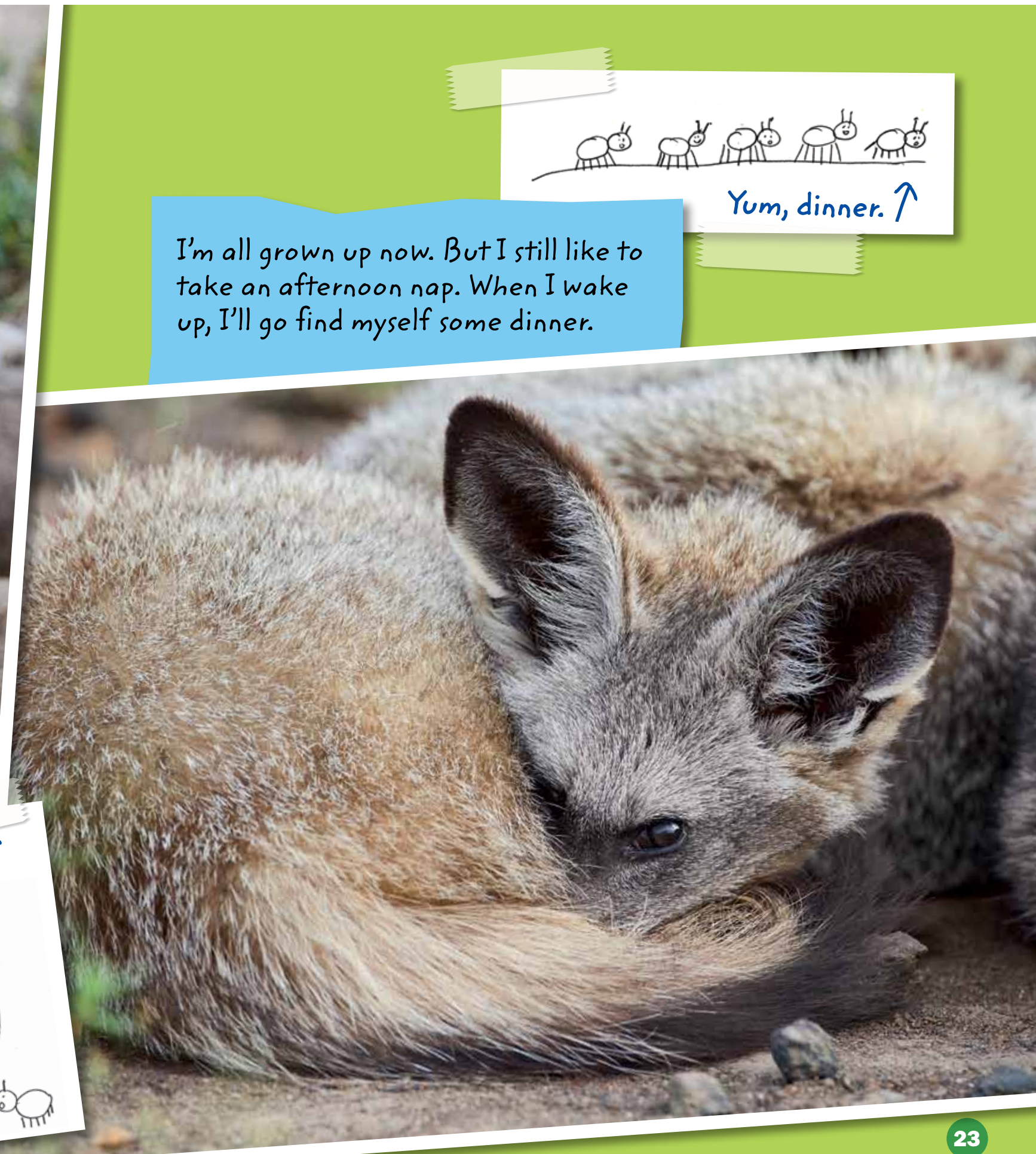
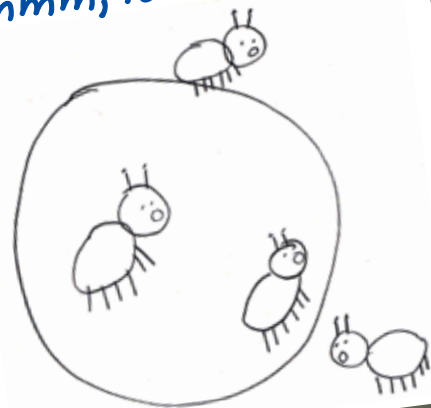


Our den underground



How do we find the insects we eat? It's simple. We listen for the tiny sounds they make. And there's nothing better for that than our **BIG EARS!**

Mom hears beetles.
Mmmm, lunch!



Yum, dinner. ↑

I'm all grown up now. But I still like to take an afternoon nap. When I wake up, I'll go find myself some dinner.