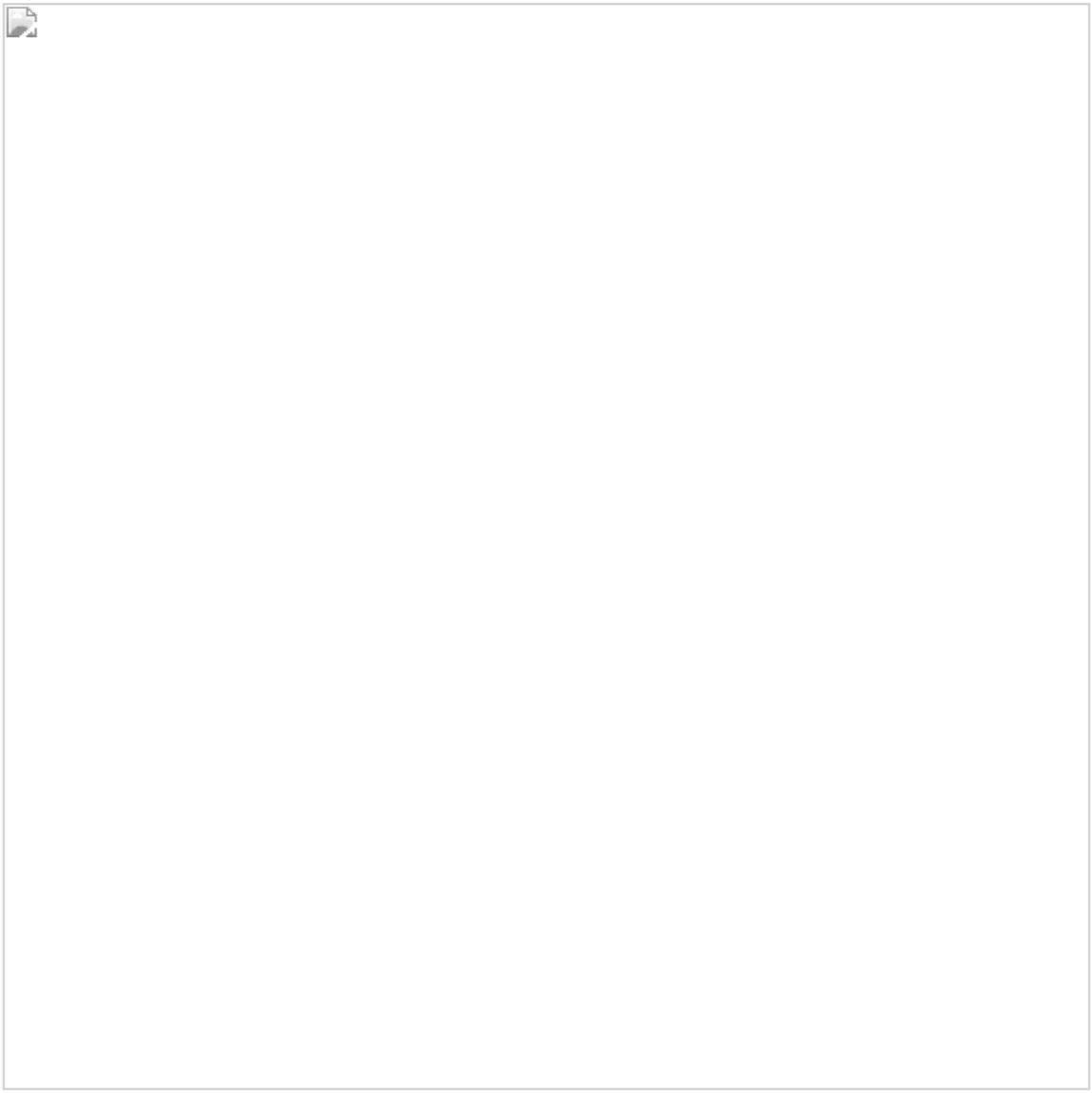
COLORING THE CLASSICS

The Crab and the Crane

A Tale from India



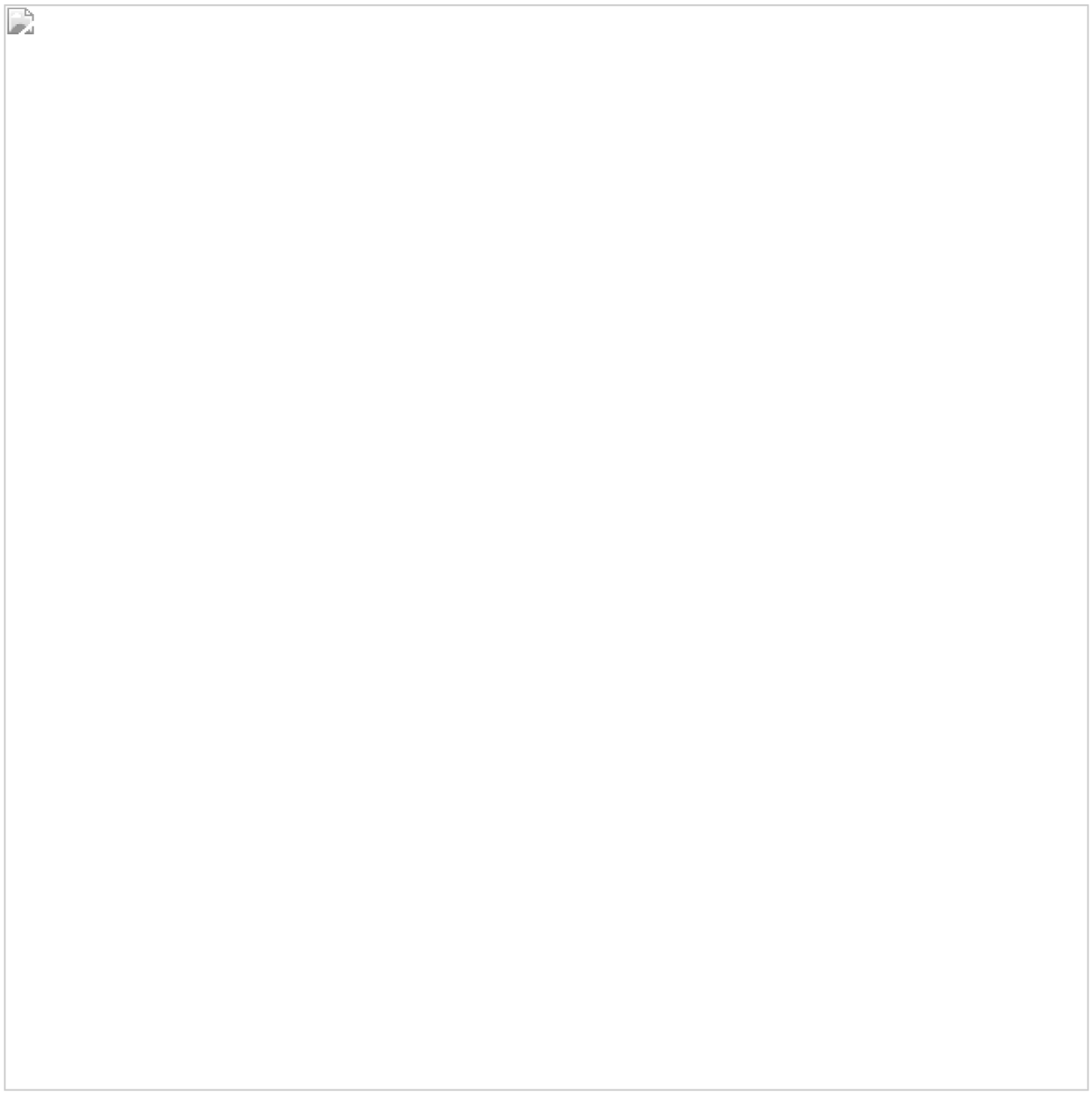
In the Long Ago there was a summer when very little rain fell. All the Animals suffered for want of water, but the Fishes suffered most of all.

TALK ABOUT IT

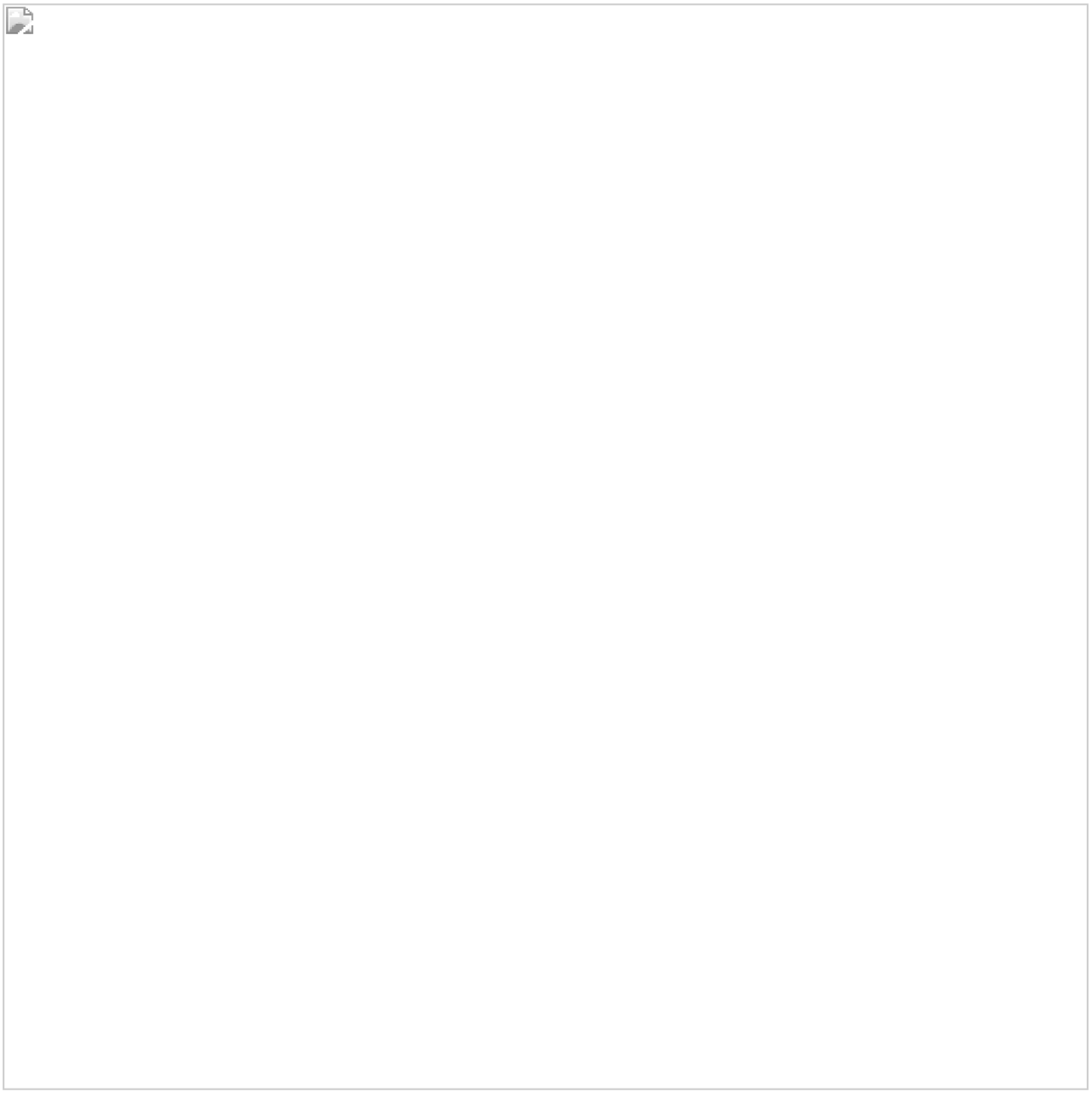
What do you do on a very hot day when you are thirsty?

This book belongs to _____

The Crab and the Crane · another picture



The Low Pond



In one pond full of Fishes, the water was very low indeed. A Crane sat on the bank watching the Fishes.

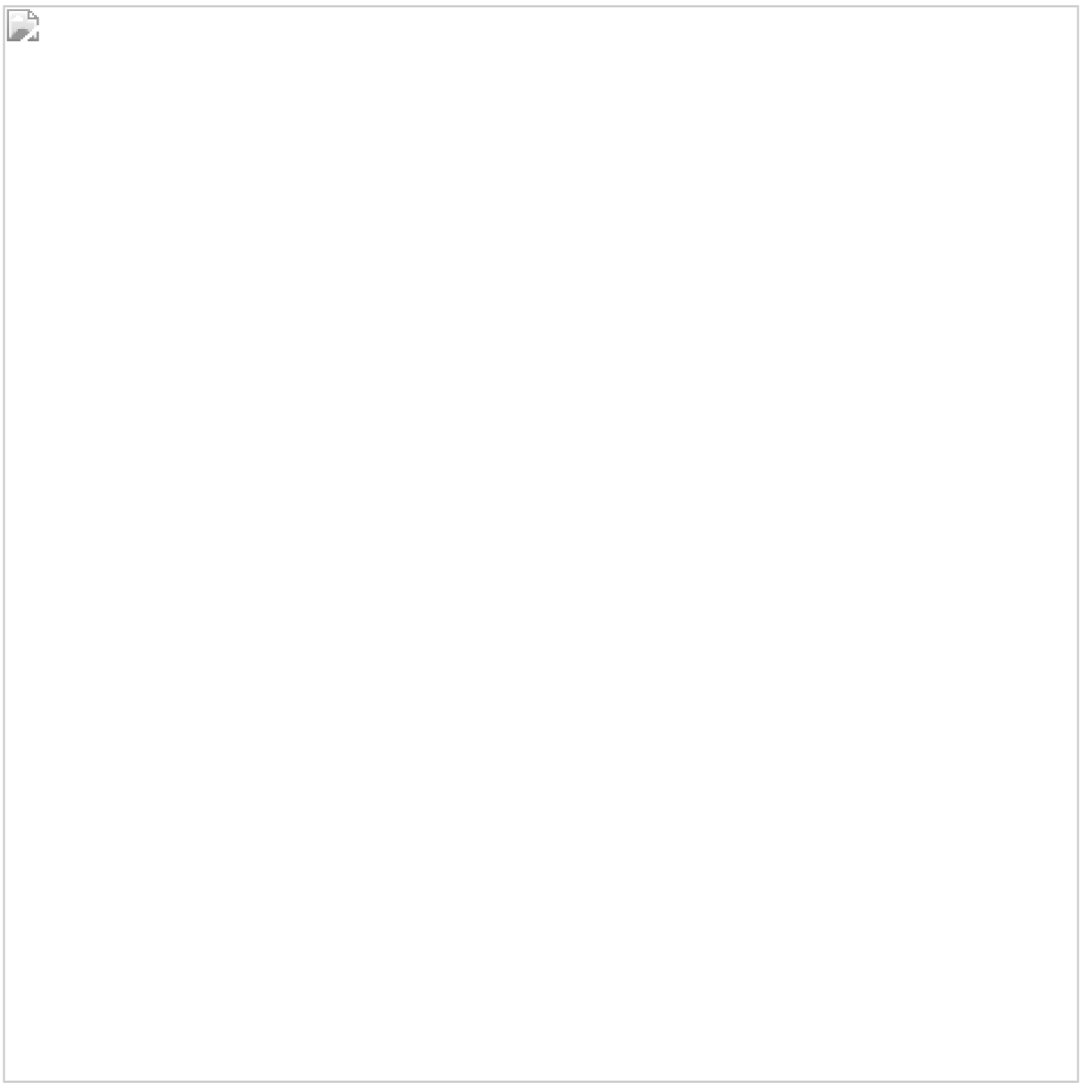
“What are you doing?” asked a little Fish.

“I am thinking about you Fishes there in the pond. It is so nearly dry,” answered the Crane.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Crane said he was thinking about the Fishes. Do you think that is the whole story? What would you ask him?

The Low Pond · another picture

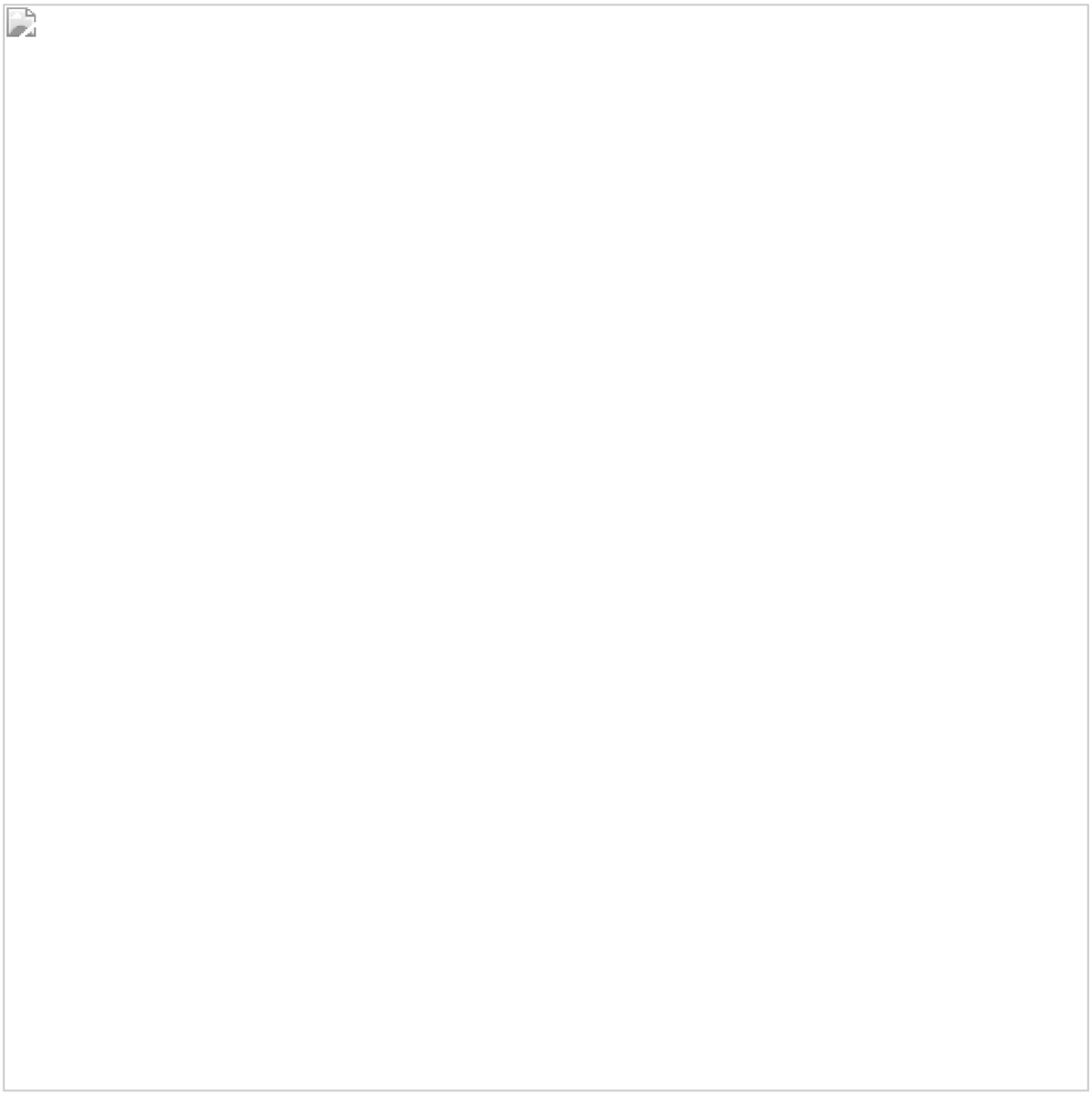


Think about it

1. Where was the Crane sitting?

- ○ On a rock in the sea
- ○ On the bank of the pond
- ○ In a tree

A Kind Offer?



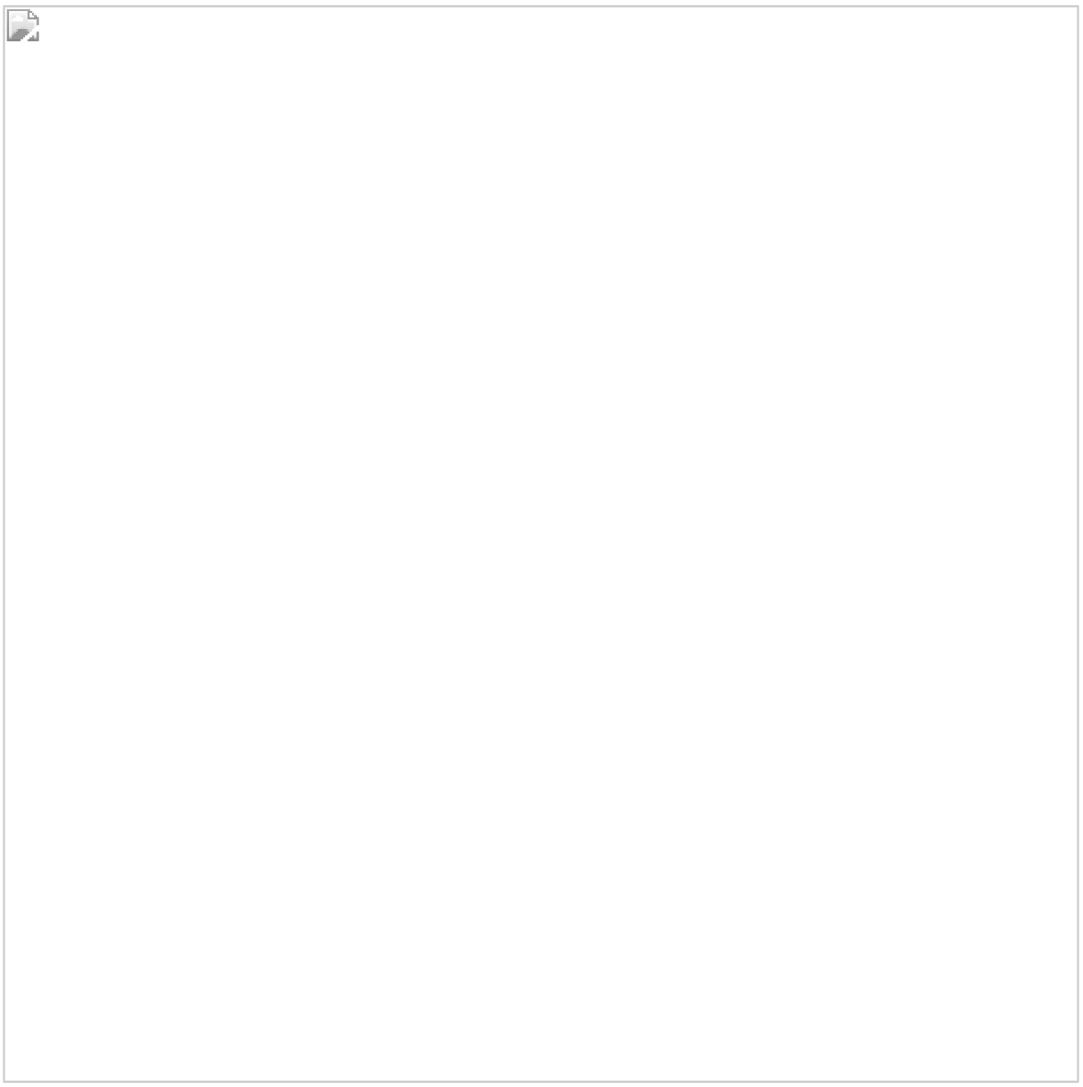
“I was wishing I might do something for you,” the Crane went on. “I know of a pond in the deep woods where there is plenty of water.”

“I declare,” said the little Fish, “you are the first Crane that ever offered to help a Fish.”

“That may be,” said the Crane, “but the water is so low in your pond. I could easily carry you one by one on my back to that other pond where there is plenty of water and food and cool shade.”

TALK ABOUT IT

Has anyone ever offered to help you, and you were not sure you should trust them? What did you do?

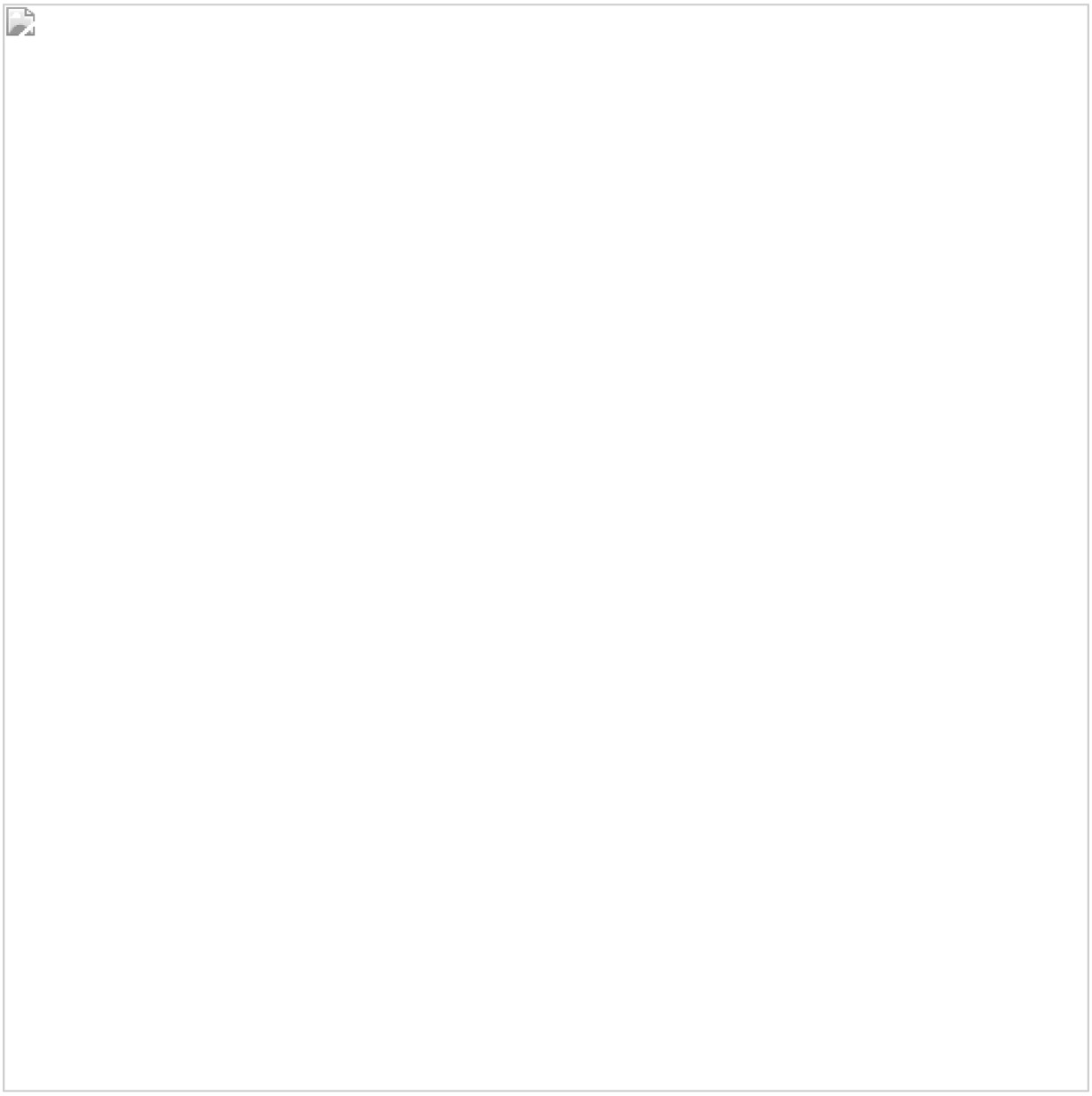


Think about it

1. How would the Crane carry the Fishes?

- ○ In his beak
- ○ In a net
- ○ One by one on his back

The Little Fish Doubts



“I don't believe there is any such pond,” said the little Fish. “What you wish to do is to eat us, one by one.”

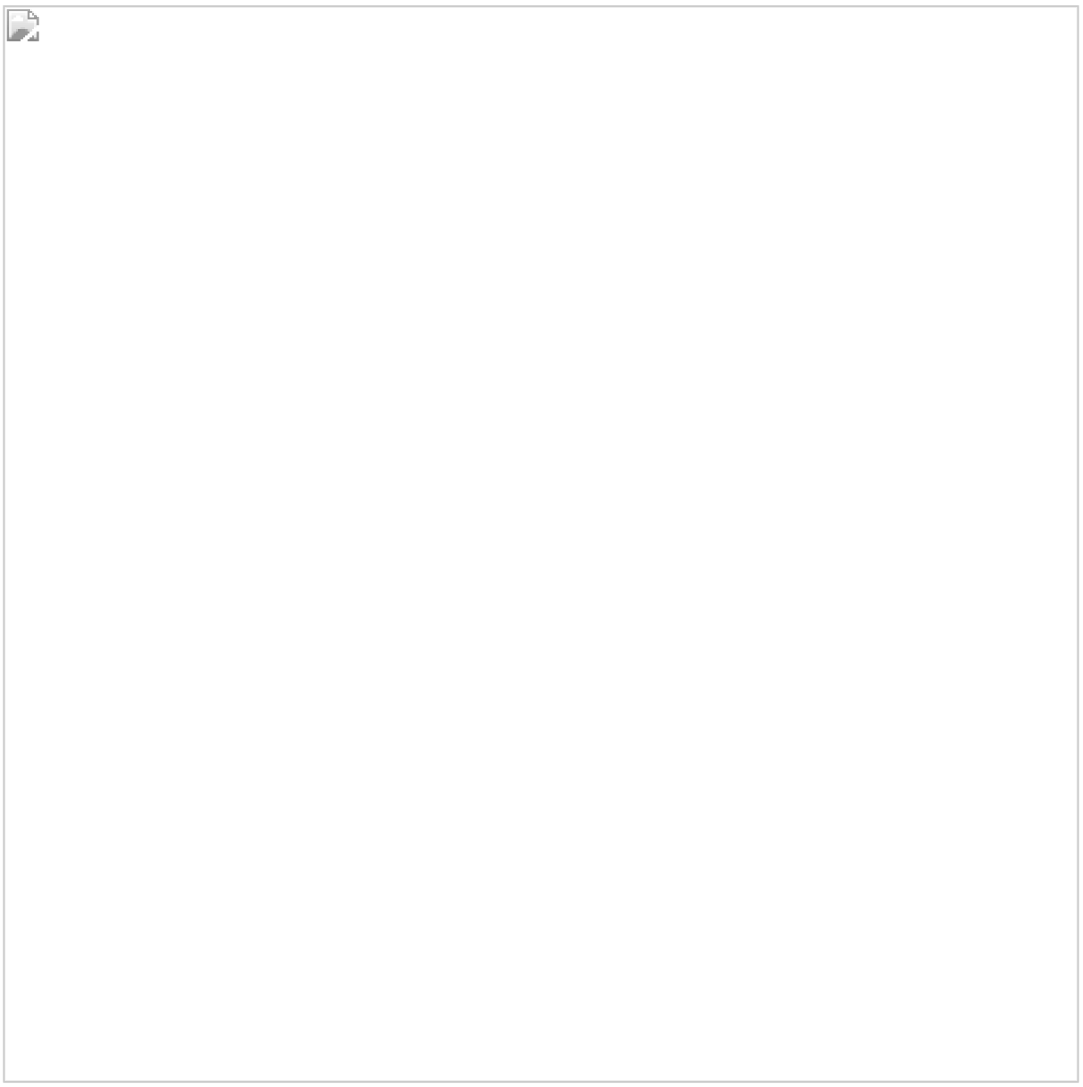
“If you don't believe me,” said the Crane, “send with me one of the Fishes whom you can believe. I'll show him the pond and bring him back to tell you all about it.”

A big Fish heard the Crane and said, “I will go with you to see the pond--I may as well be eaten by the Crane as to die here.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The little Fish guessed what the Crane wanted. How do you think the little Fish knew?

The Little Fish Doubts · another picture

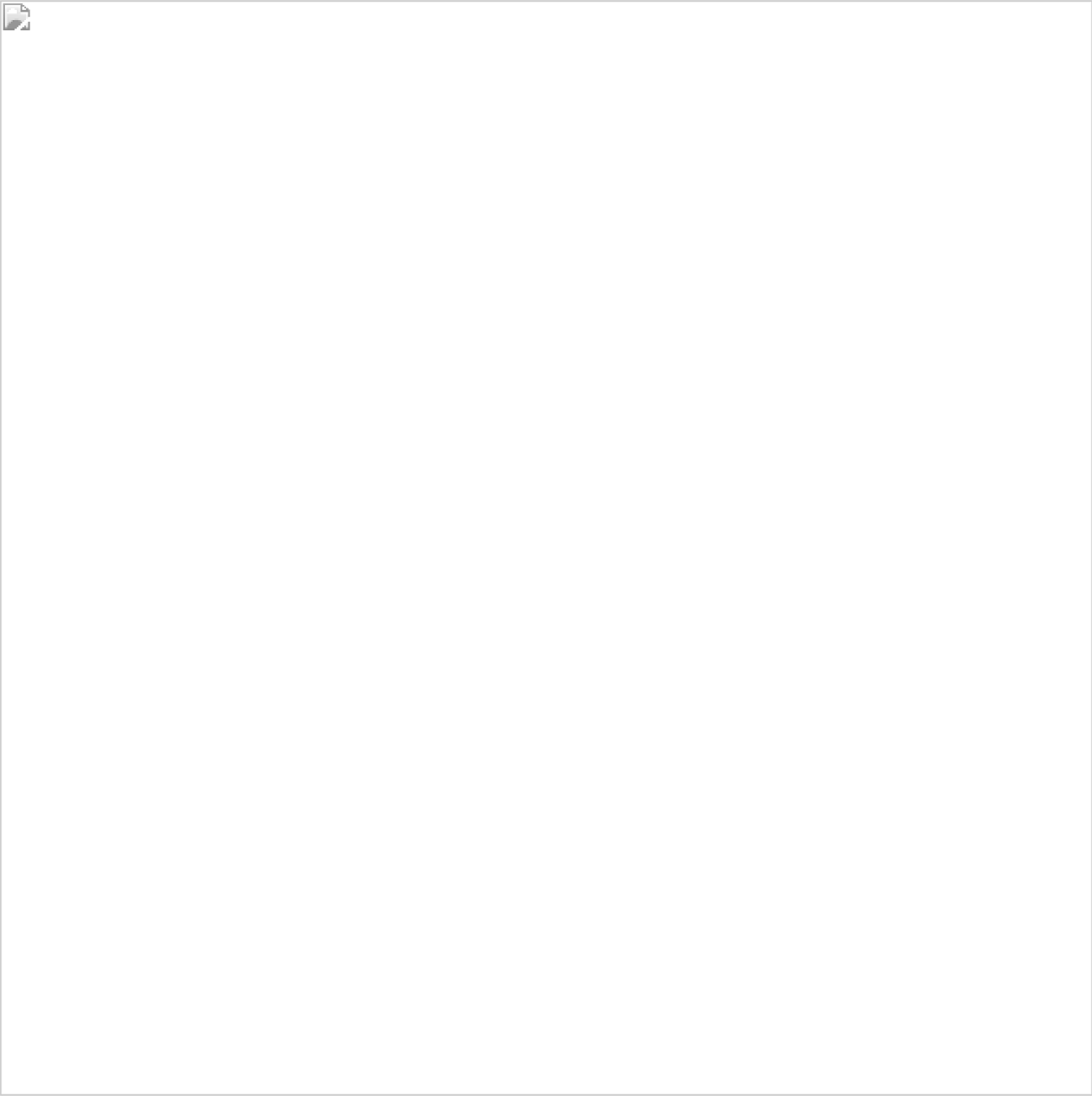


Think about it

1. What did the little Fish say the Crane wished to do?

- ○ Show them the sky
- ○ Eat them one by one
- ○ Race them

The Pool in the Woods



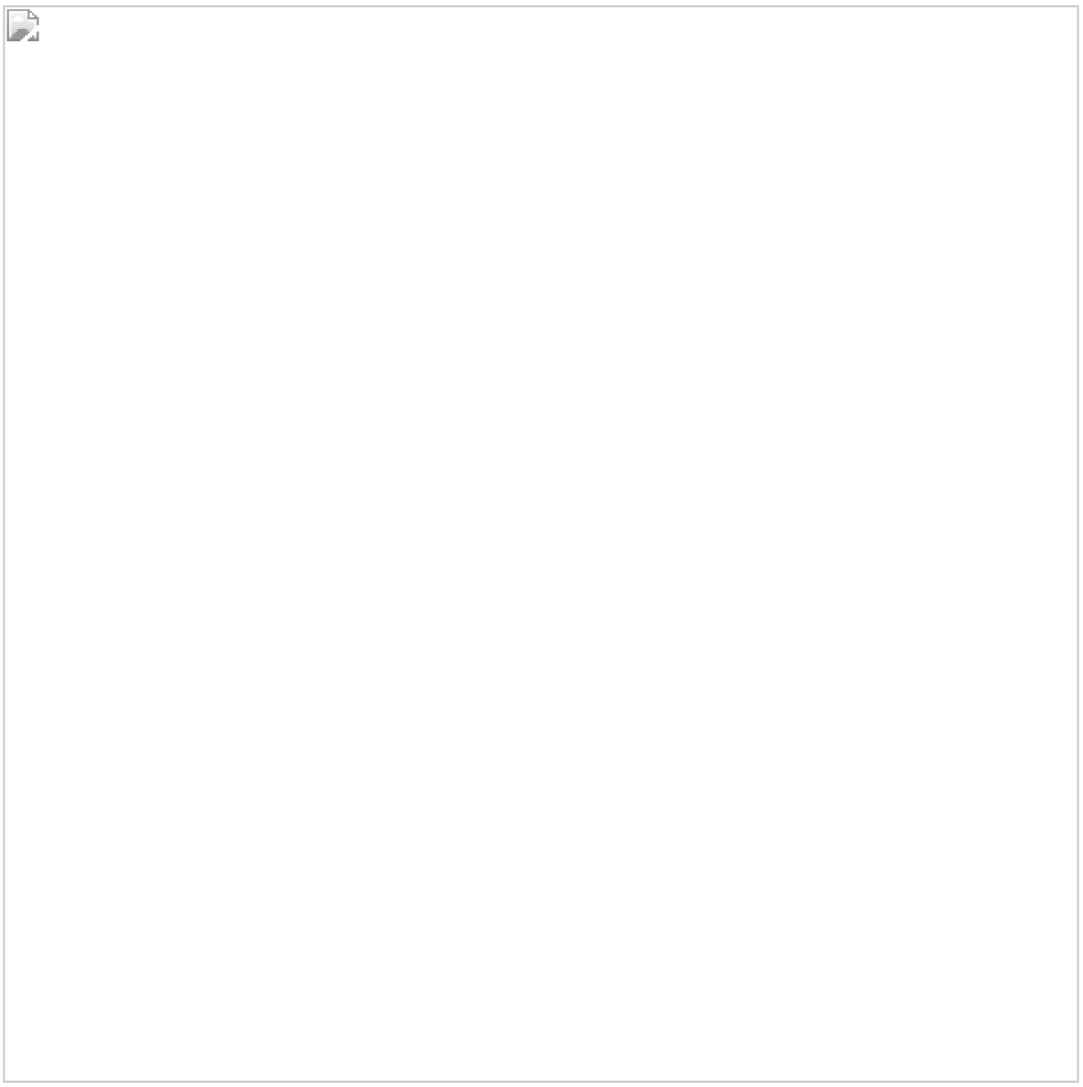
So the Crane put the big Fish on his back and started for the deep woods.

Soon the Crane showed the big Fish the pool of water. “See how cool and shady it is here,” he said, “and how much larger the pond is, and how full it is!”

“Yes!” said the big Fish, “take me back to the little pond and I'll tell the other Fishes all about it.” So back they went.

TALK ABOUT IT

The pond in the woods was real. Why do you think the Crane showed it?

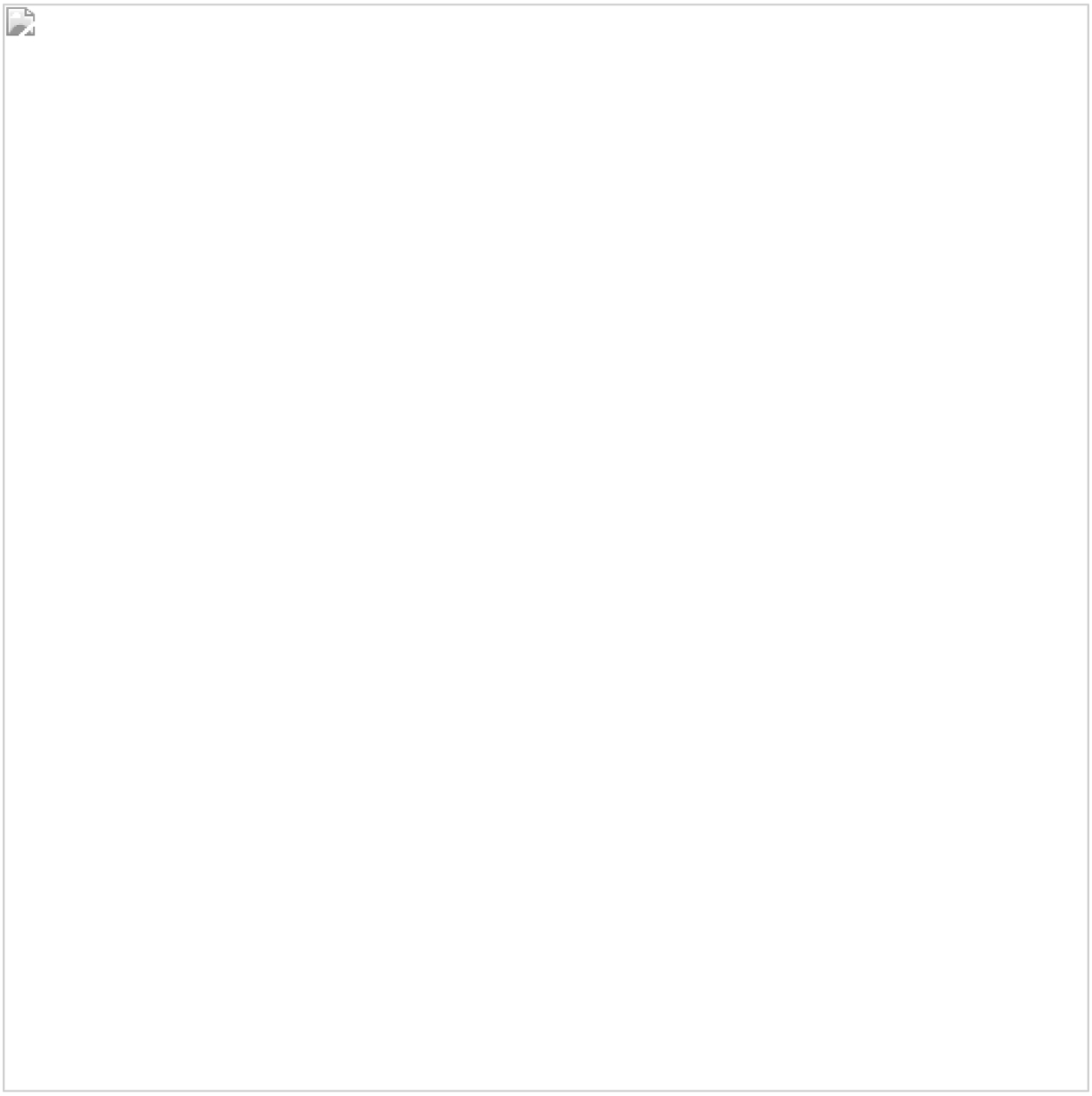


Think about it

1. Was there really a pool in the woods?

- ○ No, it was made up
- ○ Yes, the big Fish saw it
- ○ It was dry too

What Became of the Fishes



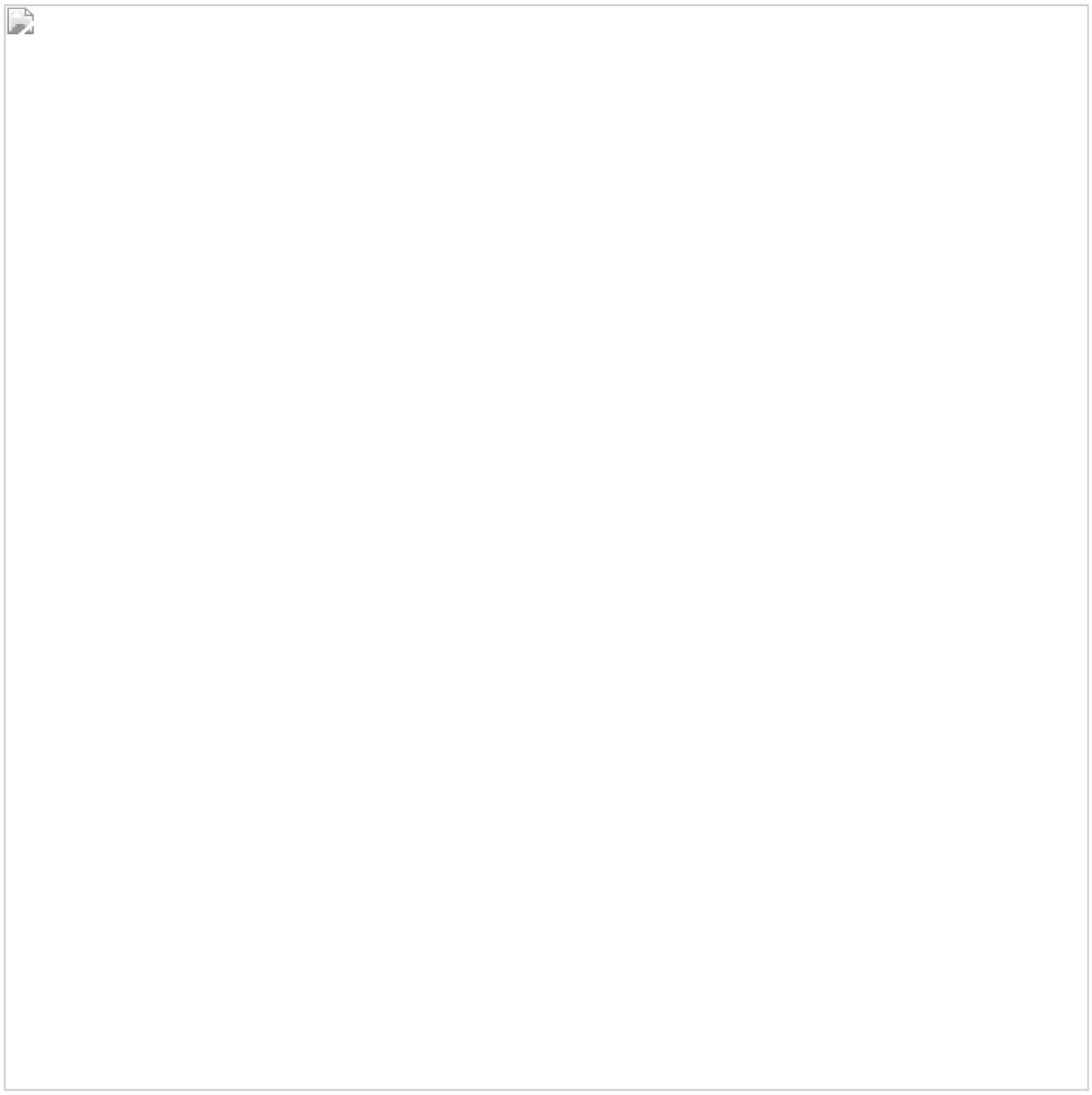
The Fishes all wanted to go when they heard the big Fish talk about the fine pond which he had seen.

Then the Crane picked up another Fish and carried it away. Not to the pool, but into the woods where the other Fishes could not see them. There the Crane put the Fish down and ate it.

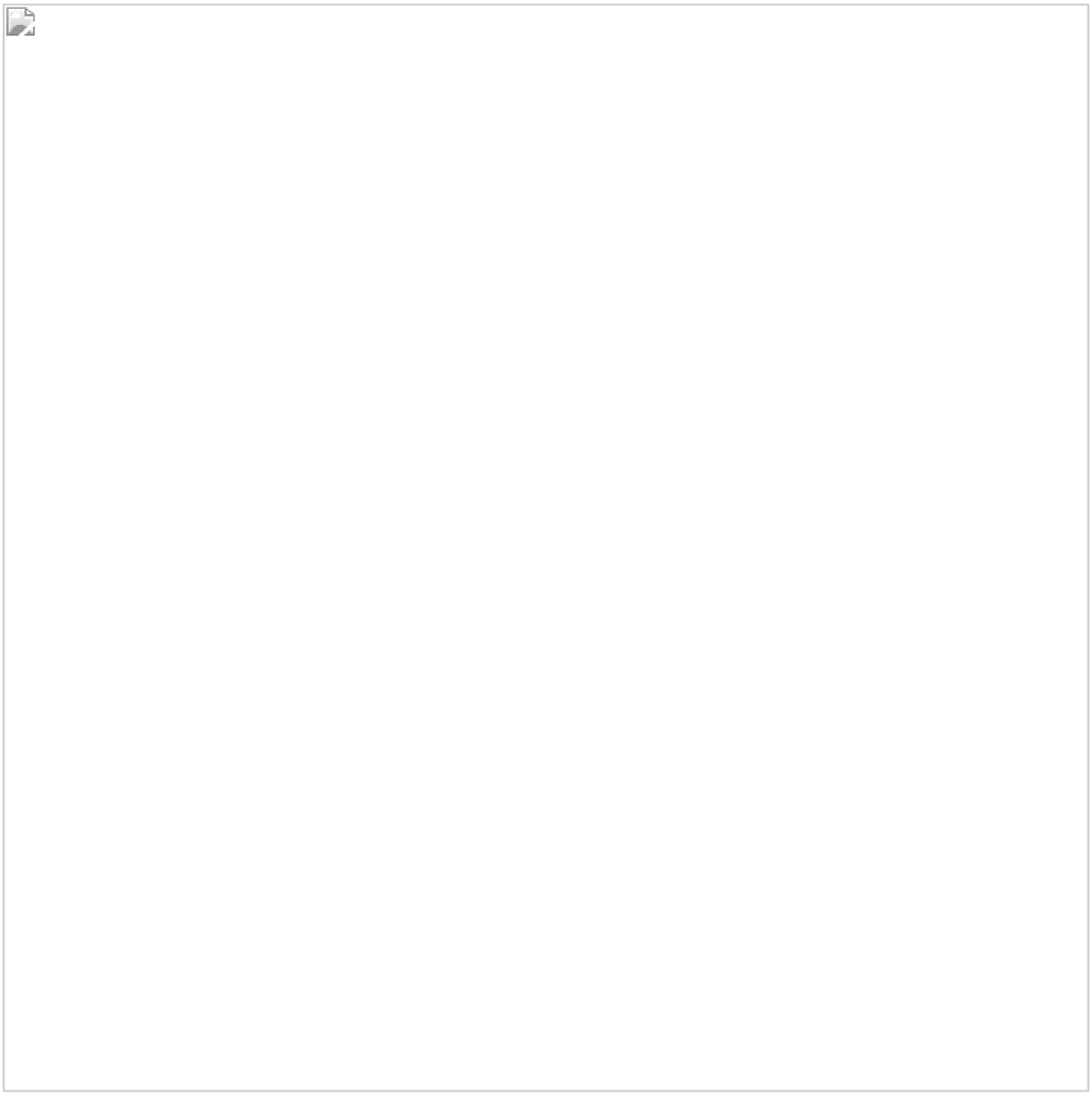
The Crane went back for another Fish. He carried it to the same place in the woods and ate it, too. This he did until he had eaten all the Fishes in the pond.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Fishes believed the big Fish. What do you wish someone had told them?



The Crab



The next day the Crane went to the pond to see if he had left a Fish. There was not one left, but there was a Crab on the sand.

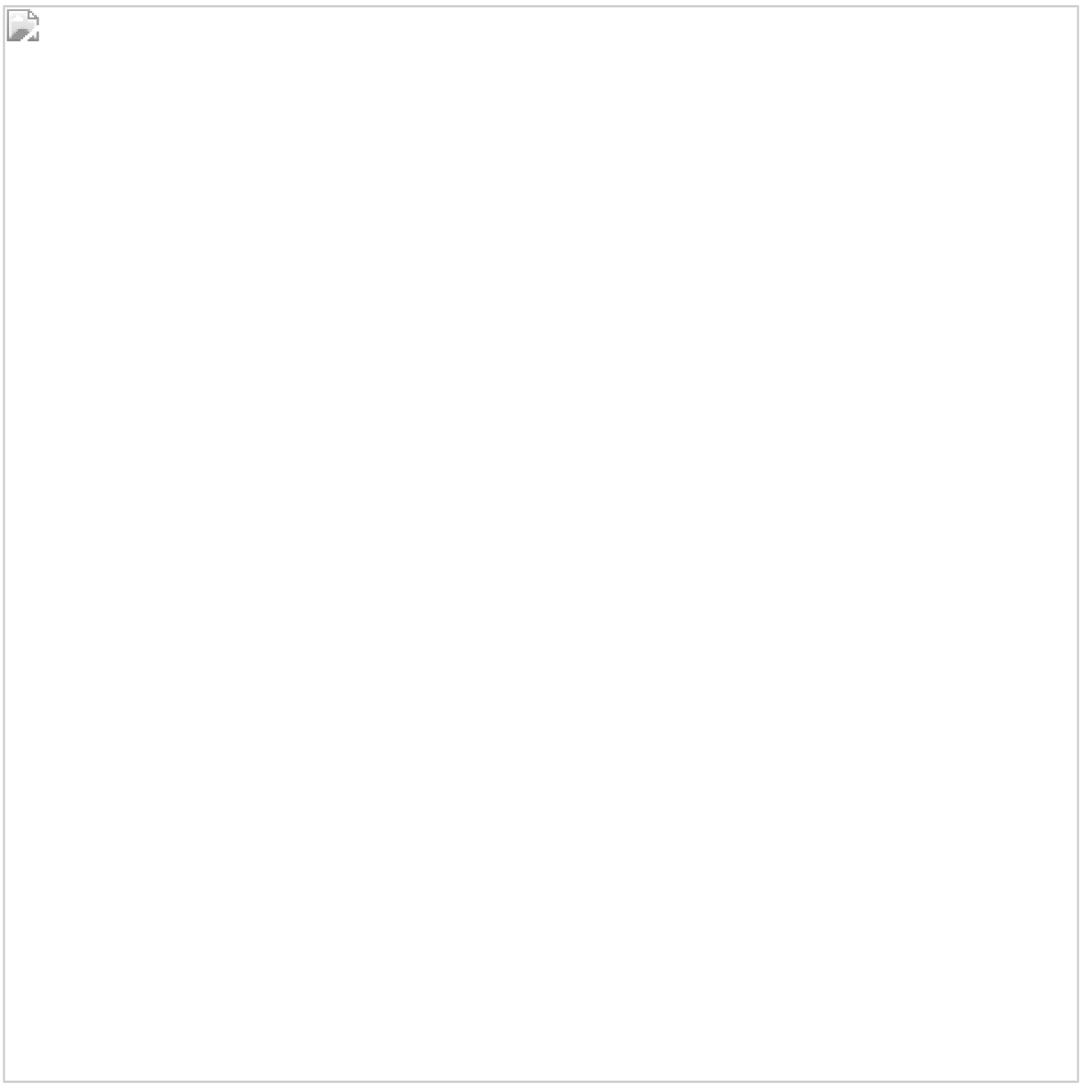
“Little Crab,” said the Crane, “would you let me take you to the fine pond in the deep woods where I took the Fishes?”

“But how could you carry me?” asked the Crab.

“Oh, easily,” answered the Crane. “I'll take you on my back as I did the Fishes.”

TALK ABOUT IT

The Crab asked a question before saying yes. What do you ask before you go somewhere new?

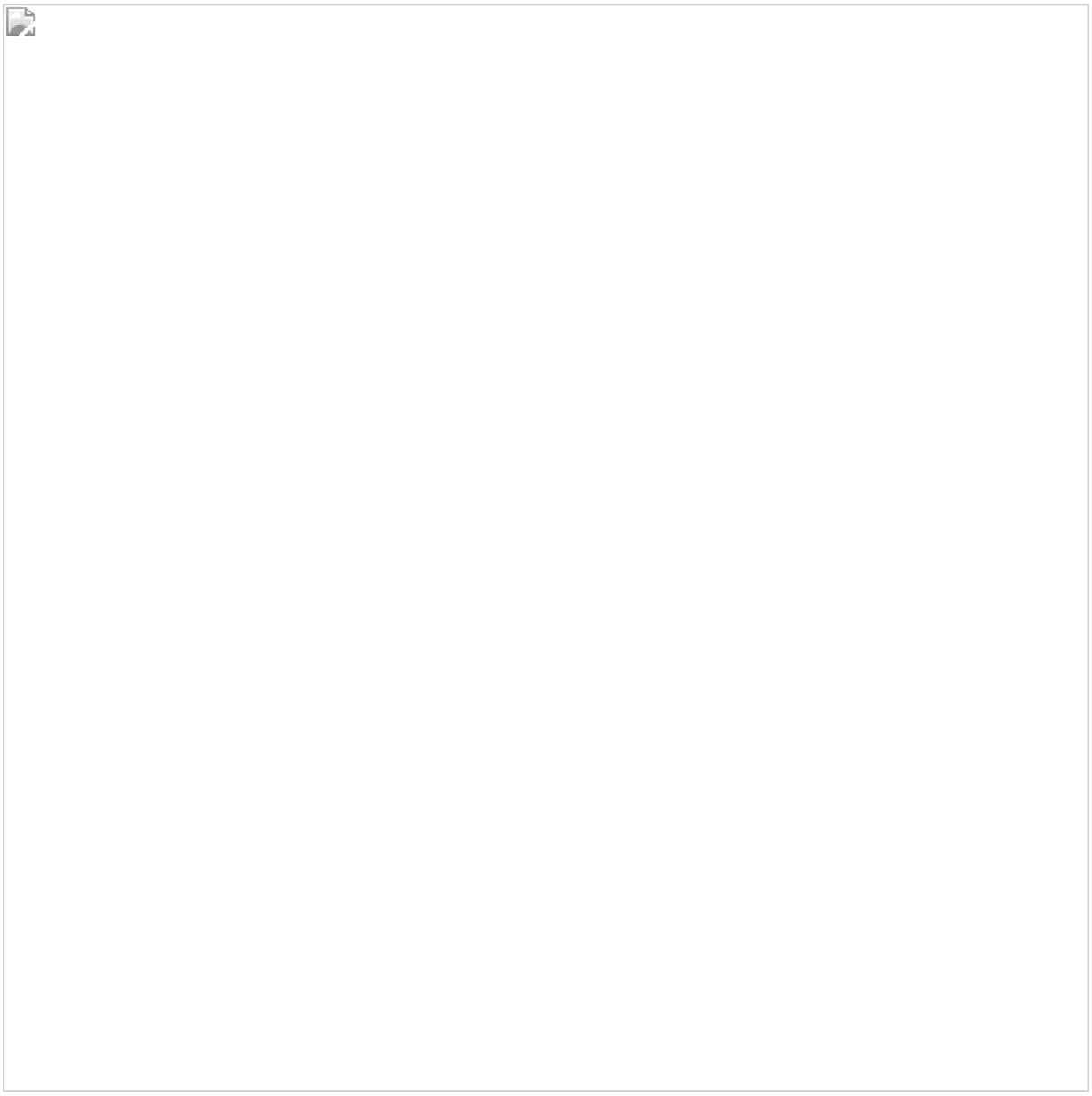


Think about it

1. Who was on the sand by the pond?

- ○ A Turtle
- ○ A Crab
- ○ A Frog

Hold Tight



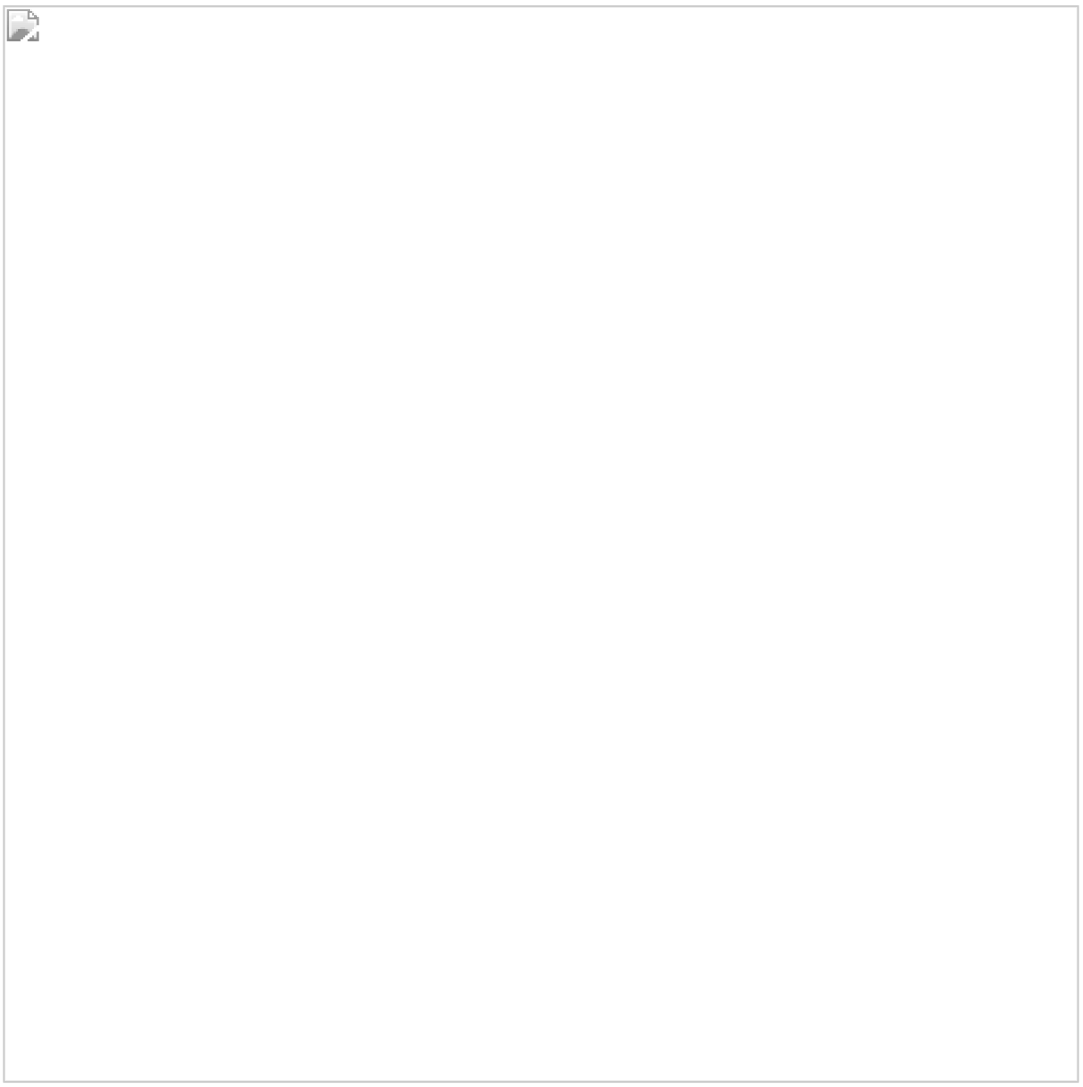
“No, I thank you,” said the Crab, “I can't go that way. I am afraid you might drop me. If I could take hold of your neck with my claws, I would go. You know we Crabs have a tight grip.”

The Crane knew about the tight grip of the Crabs, and he did not like to have the Crab hold on with his claws. But he was hungry, so he said: “Very well, hold tight.”

And off went the Crane with the Crab.

TALK ABOUT IT

Why do you think the Crab asked to hold on by the neck?

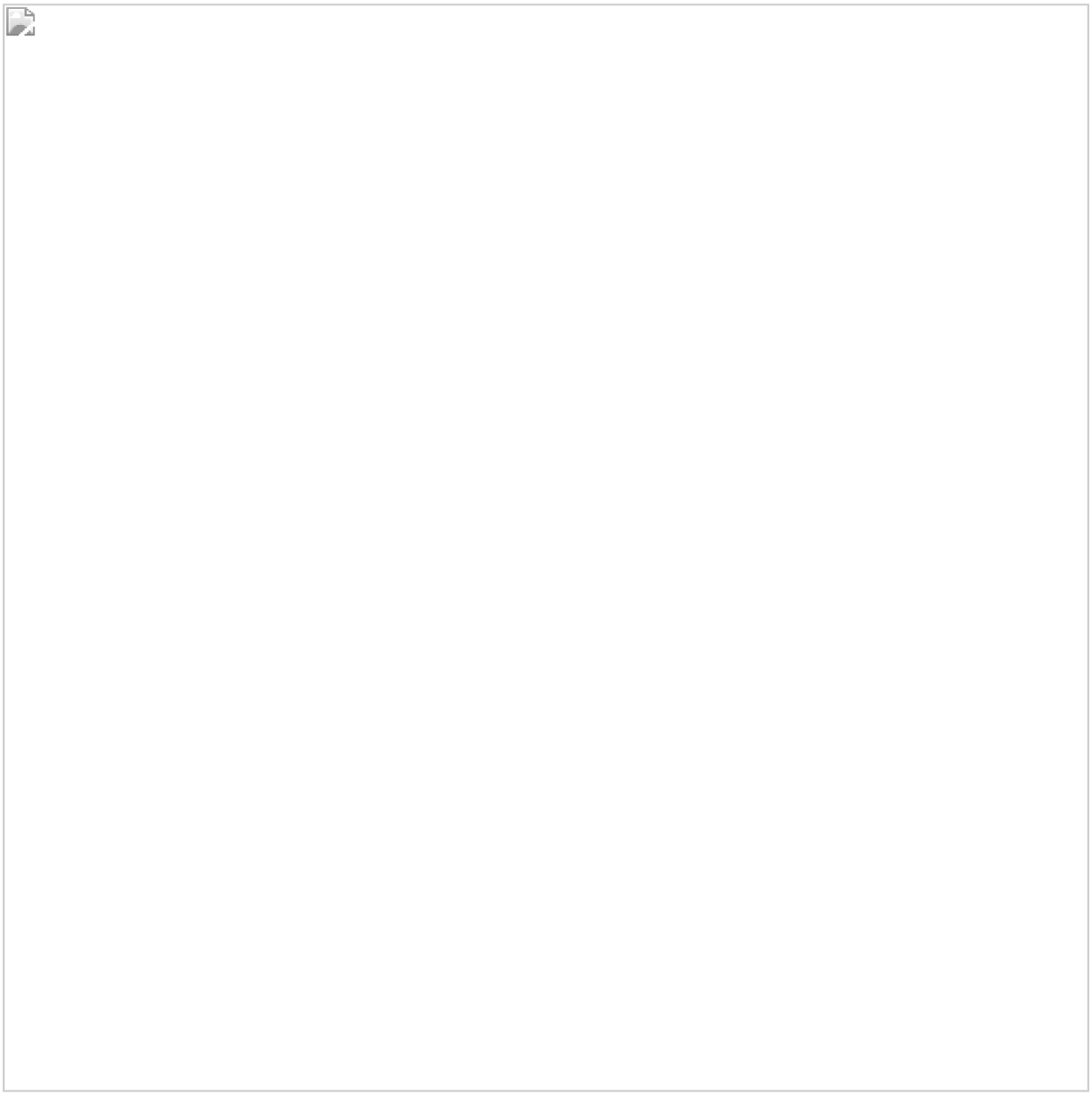


Think about it

1. Where did the Crab want to hold on?

- ○ The Crane's neck
- ○ The Crane's tail
- ○ The Crane's foot

The Pile of Bones



When they reached the place where the Crane had eaten the Fishes, the Crane said: “I think you can walk the rest of the way. Let go of my neck.”

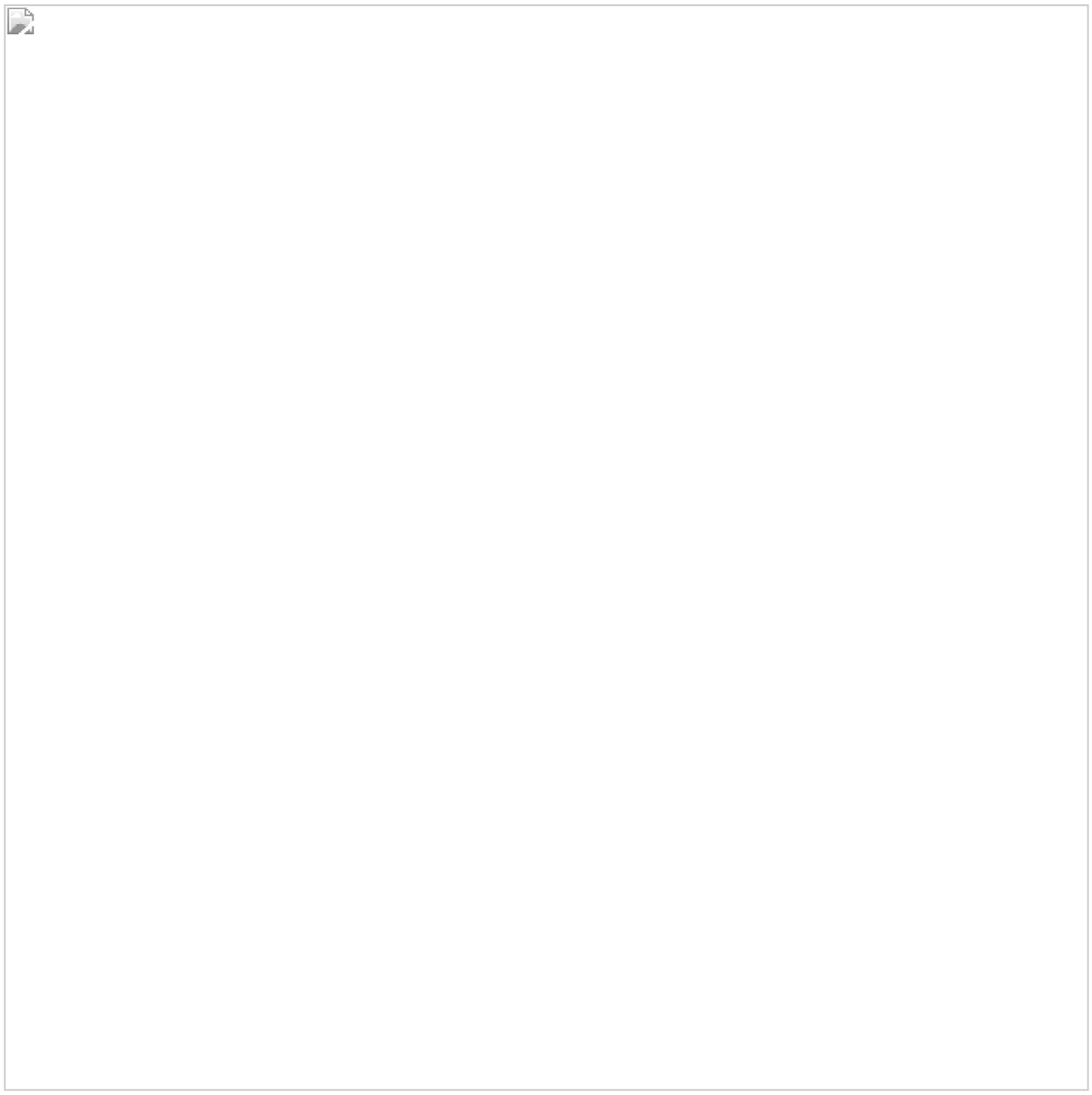
“I see no pond,” said the Crab. “All I can see is a pile of Fish bones. Is that all that is left of the Fishes?”

“Yes,” said the Crane, “and if you will let go of my neck, your shell will be all that will be left of you.” And the Crane put his head down near the ground so that the Crab could get off easily.

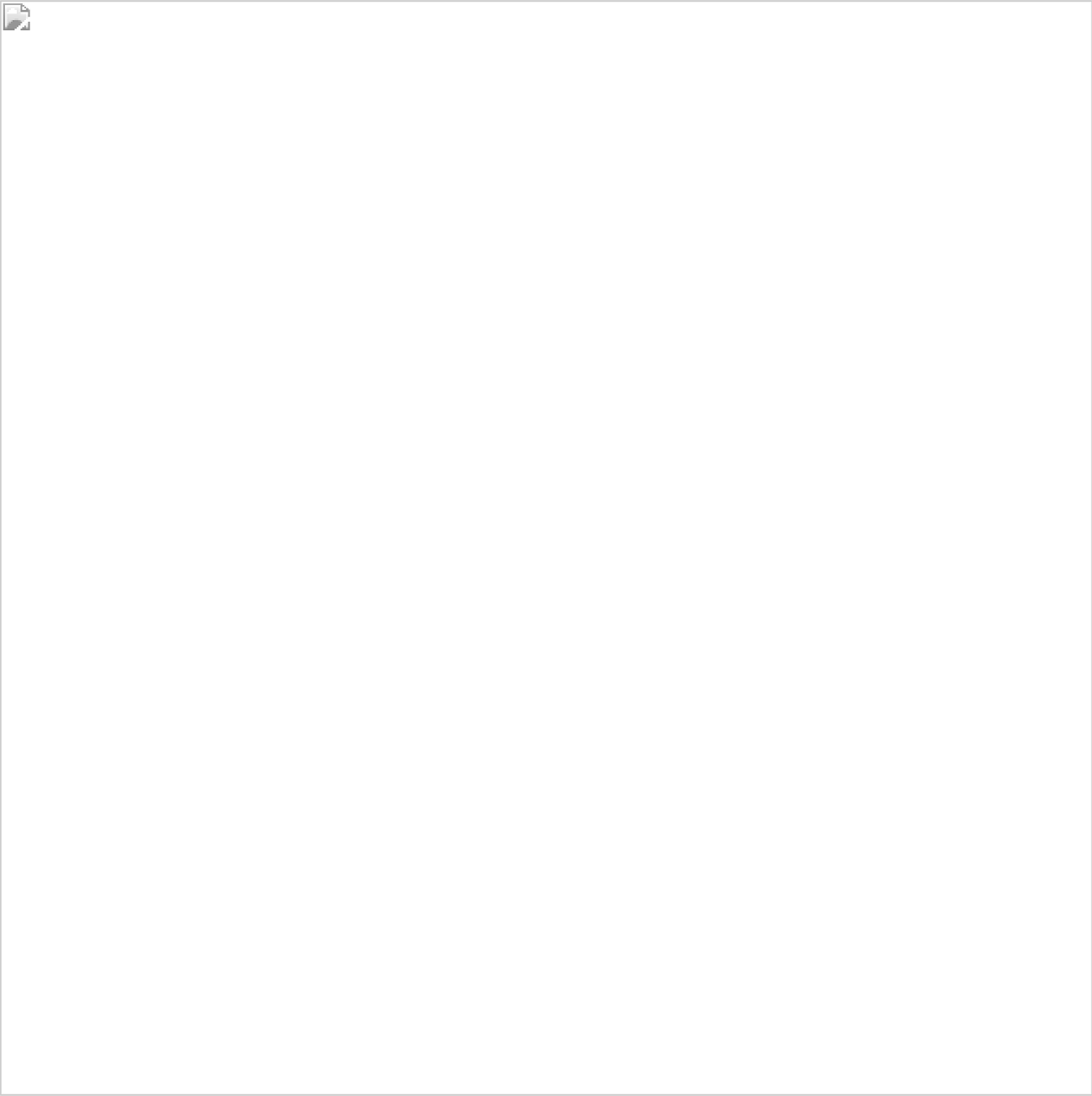
TALK ABOUT IT

What do you think the Crab was thinking when he saw the bones?

The Pile of Bones · another picture



A Tight Grip



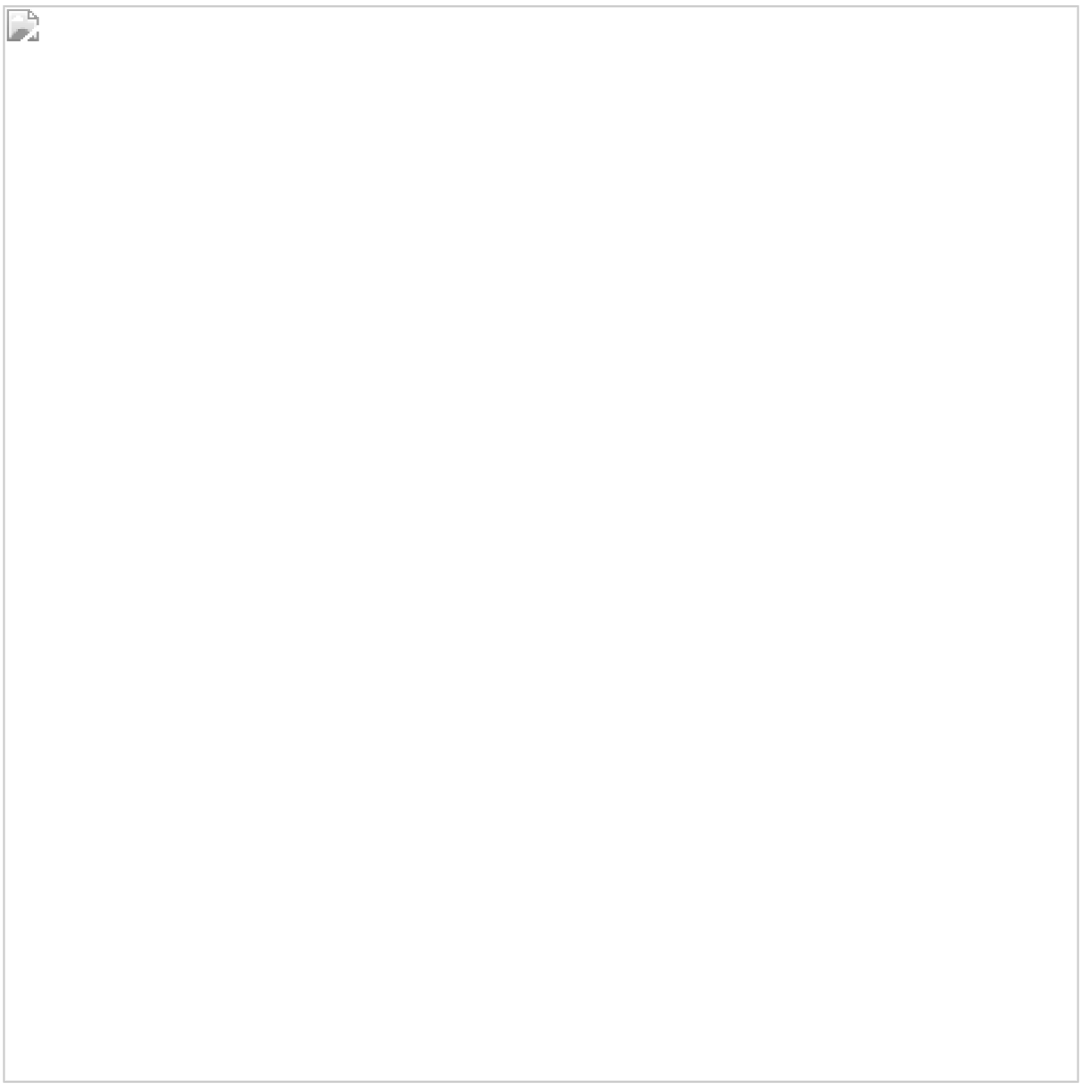
But the Crab pinched the Crane's neck so hard that it was the end of the Crane.

“Not my shell, but your bones are left to dry with the bones of the Fishes,” said the Crab.

TALK ABOUT IT

The Crane had planned to trick the Crab too. What do you think of how it ended?

A Tight Grip · another picture



Think about it

1. What did the Crab say at the end?

- ○ “Not my shell, but your bones are left to dry with the bones of the Fishes.”
- ○ I am sorry for the Fishes
- ○ Take me to the pond

“There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.”

— Yeshua HaMashiach

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