

Animals From Down Under:

The Australian Frill-Necked Lizard



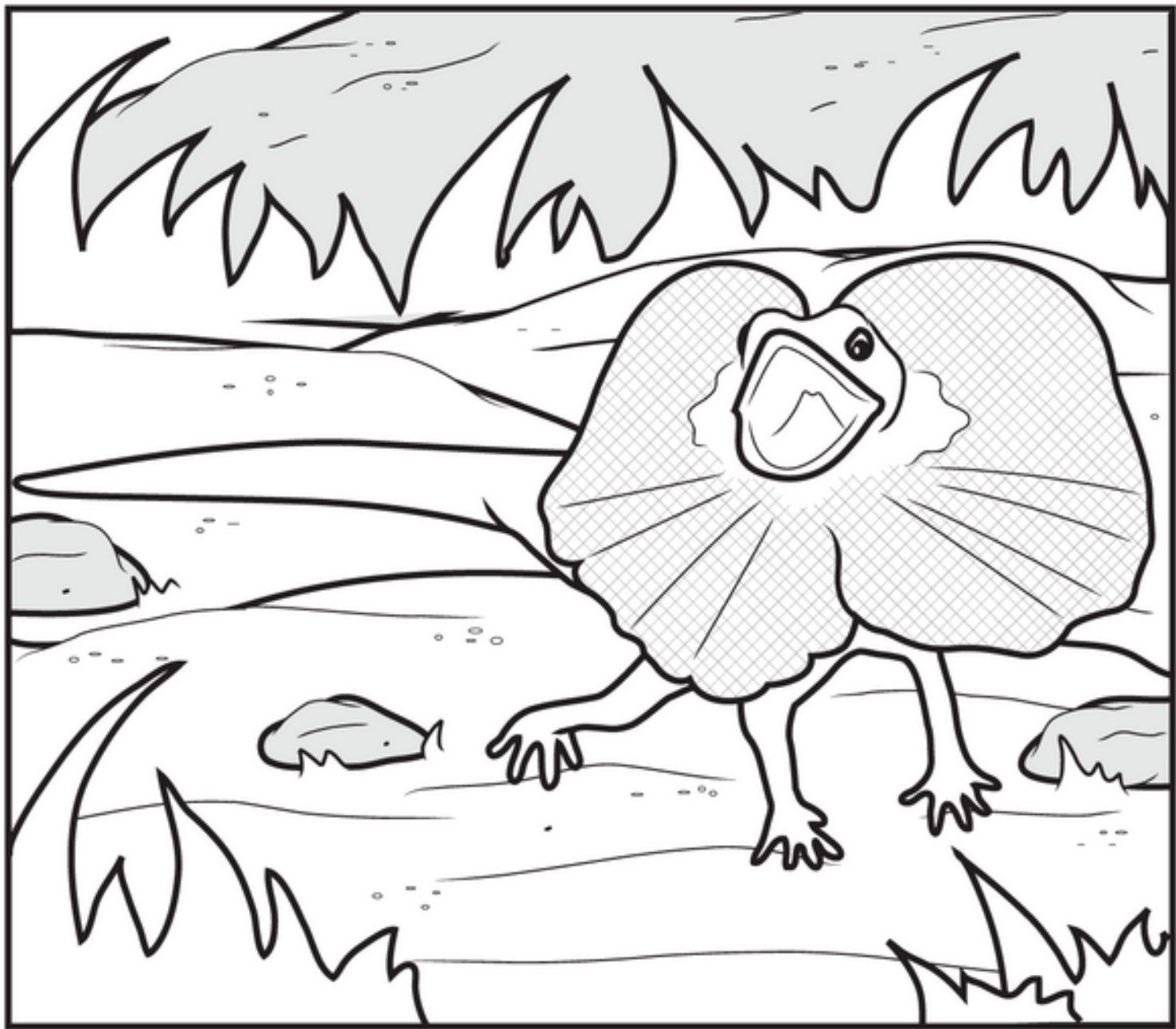


In the savannas of Australia, the frill-necked lizard
can be found.

Also known as the frilled dragon, it lives in trees and
on the ground.

The amazing frill-necked lizard is interesting, indeed.

Known for its unusual appearance, it's also known
for speed.

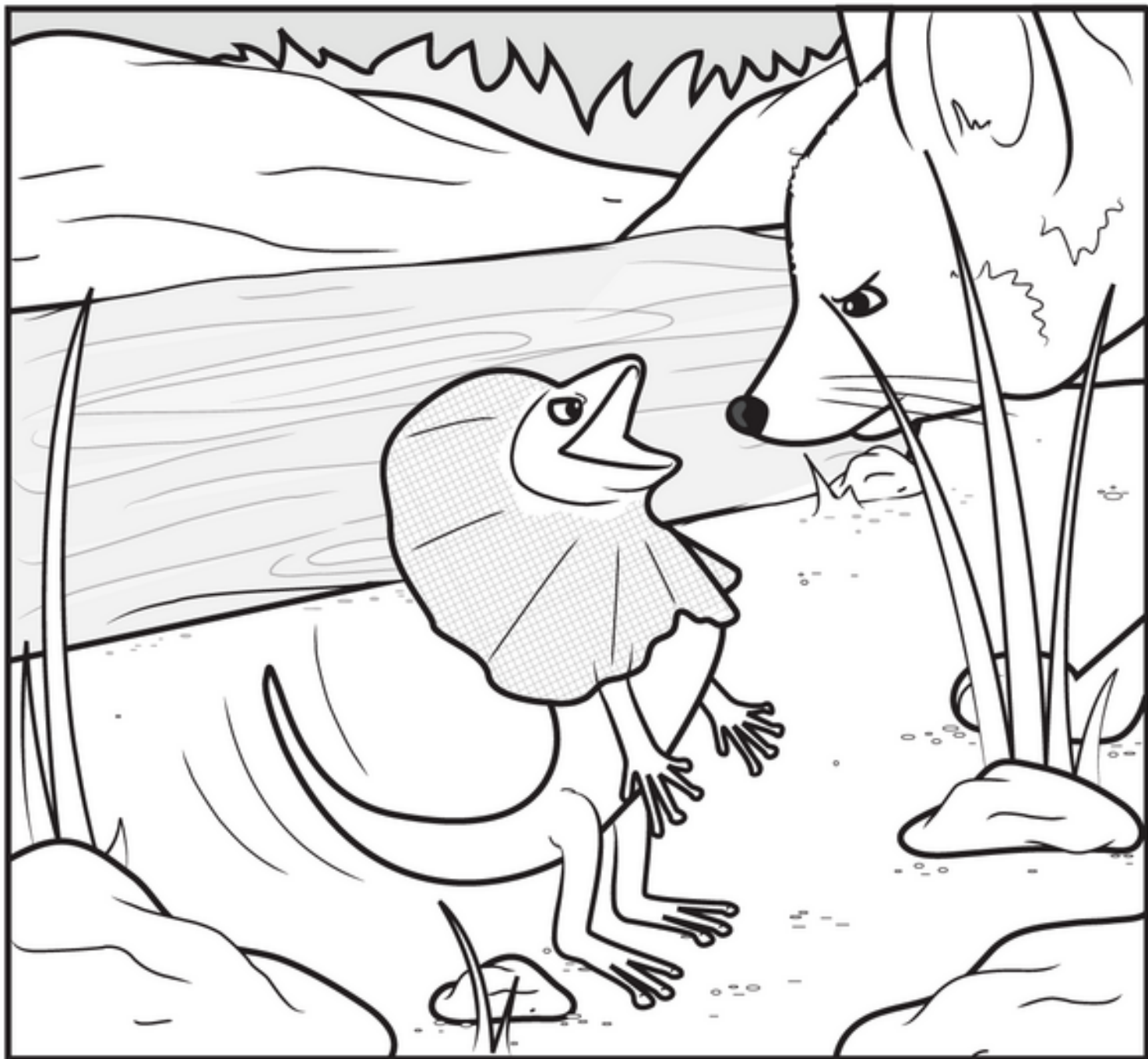


This lizard is called a “frill neck” because of the frill behind its head.

When this lizard is threatened, that frill begins to spread.

It opens its mouth wide, which also opens out its colored frill.

To frighten off its predators, this trick should fit the bill.

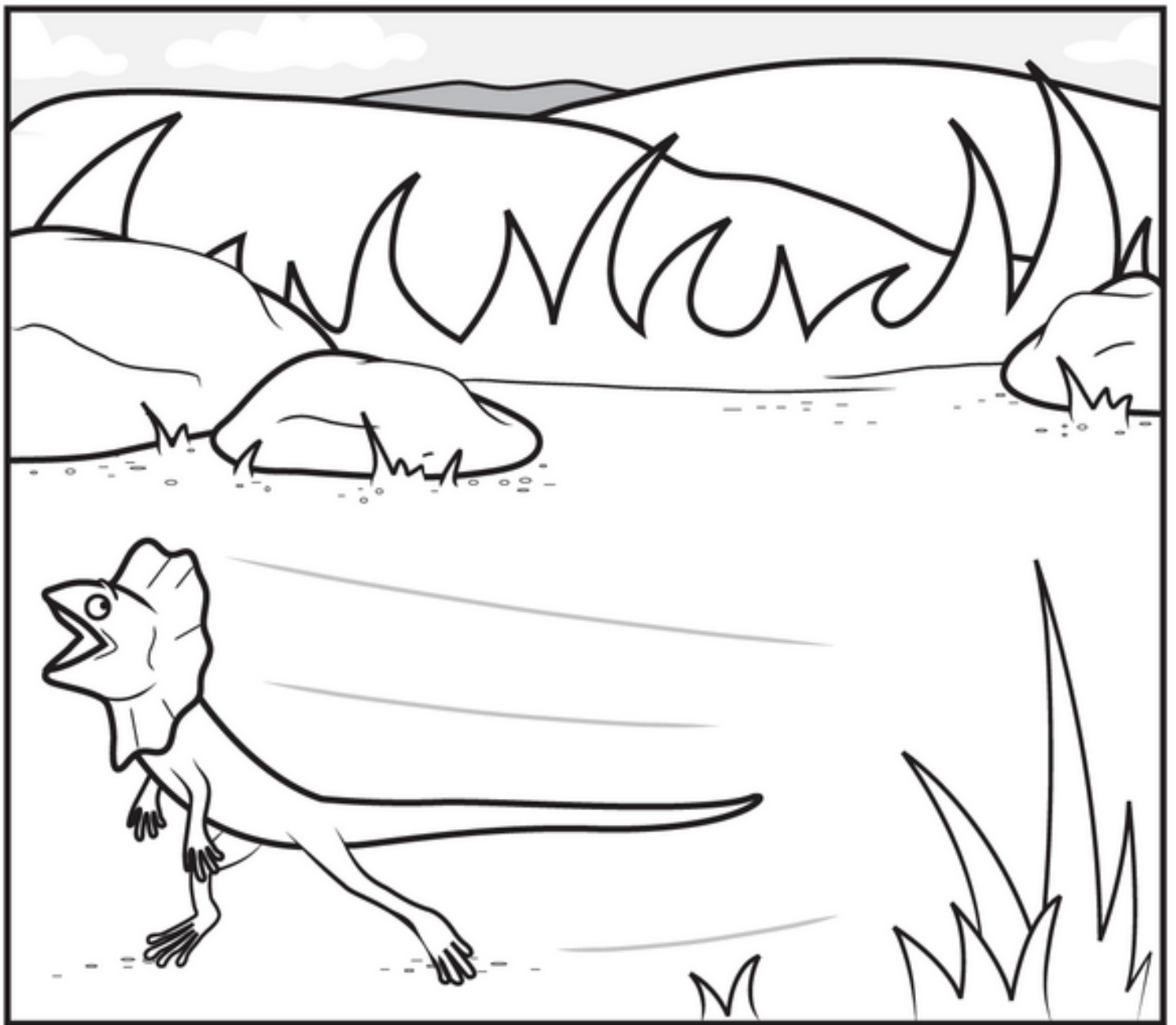


The frill is quite impressive with its bright orange and red scales.

The lizard will hiss and jump at a predator if this scare tactic fails.

It has still another defense when it perceives a threat.

It will lash its tail upon the ground, but it isn't finished yet.



If all those tactics do not work, it will not stay and fight.

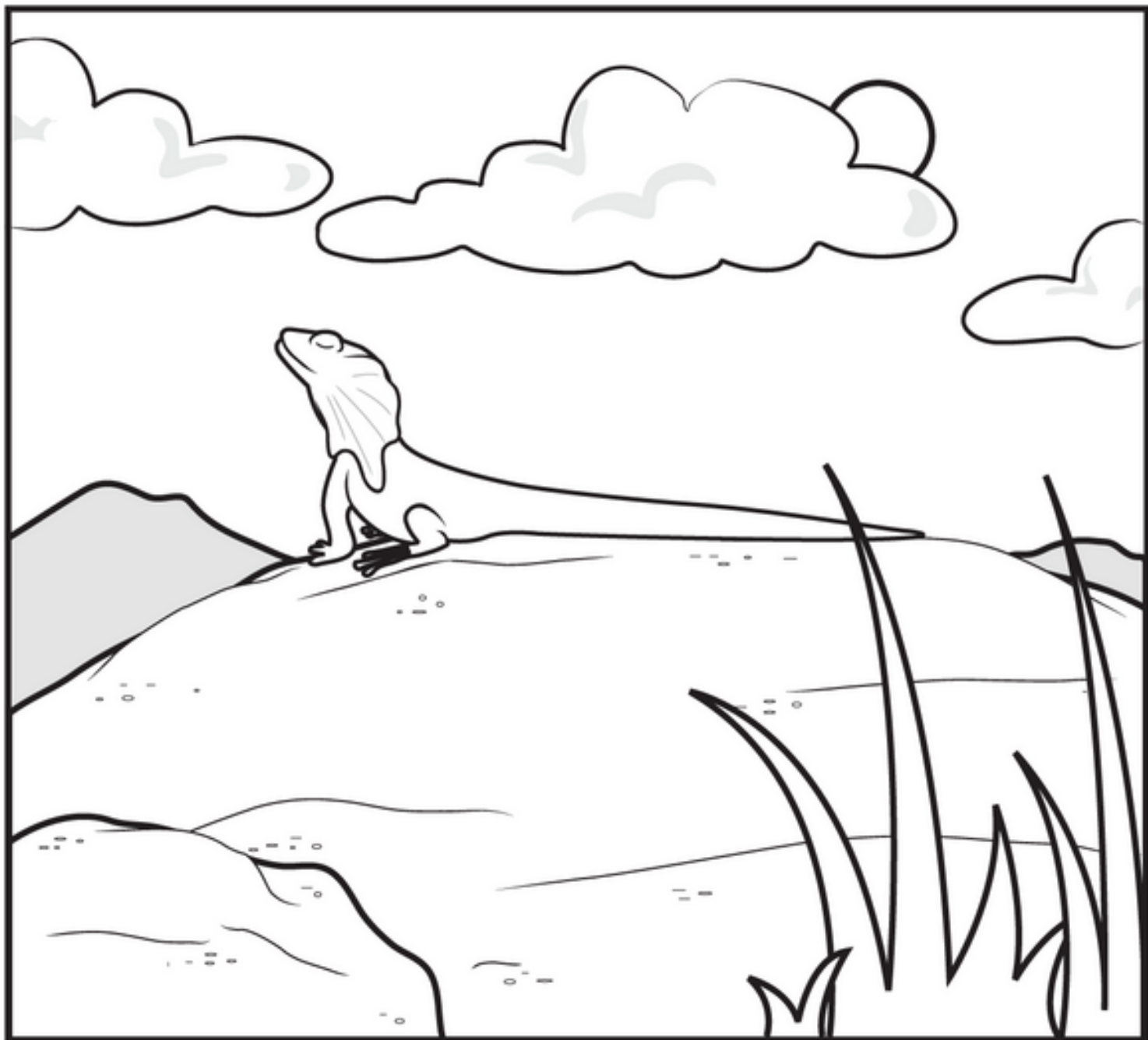
The frill-necked lizard simply turns and runs away with all its might.

When it starts running, it's kind of funny looking 'cause it starts out on all four feet, but then it stands and runs on two hind legs to make a safe retreat.



This lizard also uses camouflage to hide itself in trees.

Snakes and feral (wild) cats are its main enemies. The frill-necked lizard feeds on ants and termites when feeding on the ground, or it eats caterpillars and cicadas in the trees that are around.



The frill-necked lizard likes to sun itself. It's most active in daylight.

Even though it isn't poisonous, it has a nasty bite.

The frill-necked lizard is not endangered. There appear to be no threats.

This lizard is an Aussie favorite. Some are even kept as pets.

1. In what Australian habitat is the frill-necked lizard found?

2. Why is this lizard different?

- a. because of its tail
- b. because of its length
- c. because of its frill
- d. because of its eyes

Answer: _____

3. What color is the frill?

4. Which of these is another defense of the frill-necked lizard?

- a. dropping its tail
- b. turning blue
- c. puffing up
- d. hissing and jumping

Answer: _____

5. Where does a frill-necked lizard go when it runs away from predators?

6. What does a frill-necked lizard eat?

- a. caterpillars and ants
- b. flowers and shrubs
- c. fruit and nuts
- d. seeds

Answer: _____