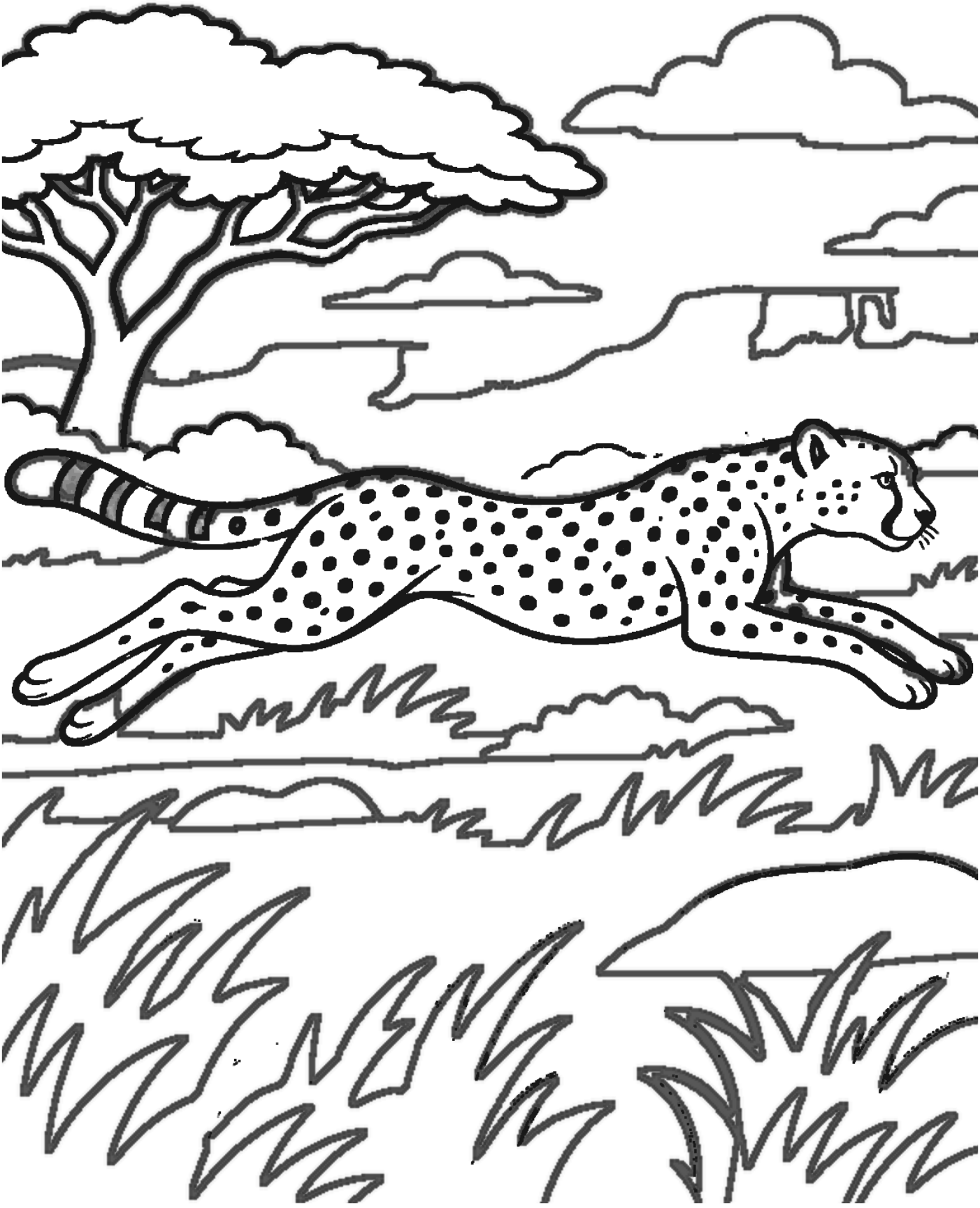
Cheetah

How does a cheetah steer at full speed?



Did you know? A cheetah uses its long tail to help it balance as it turns. Its flexible spine lets it stretch far on each stride, and its claws grip the ground as it accelerates.

Harpy Eagle

What can a harpy eagle catch high in a tree?



Did you know? Harpy eagles hunt animals that spend much of their lives in the canopy, including sloths and monkeys. Their large feet and curved talons give them a strong grip as they snatch prey among the branches.

Komodo Dragon

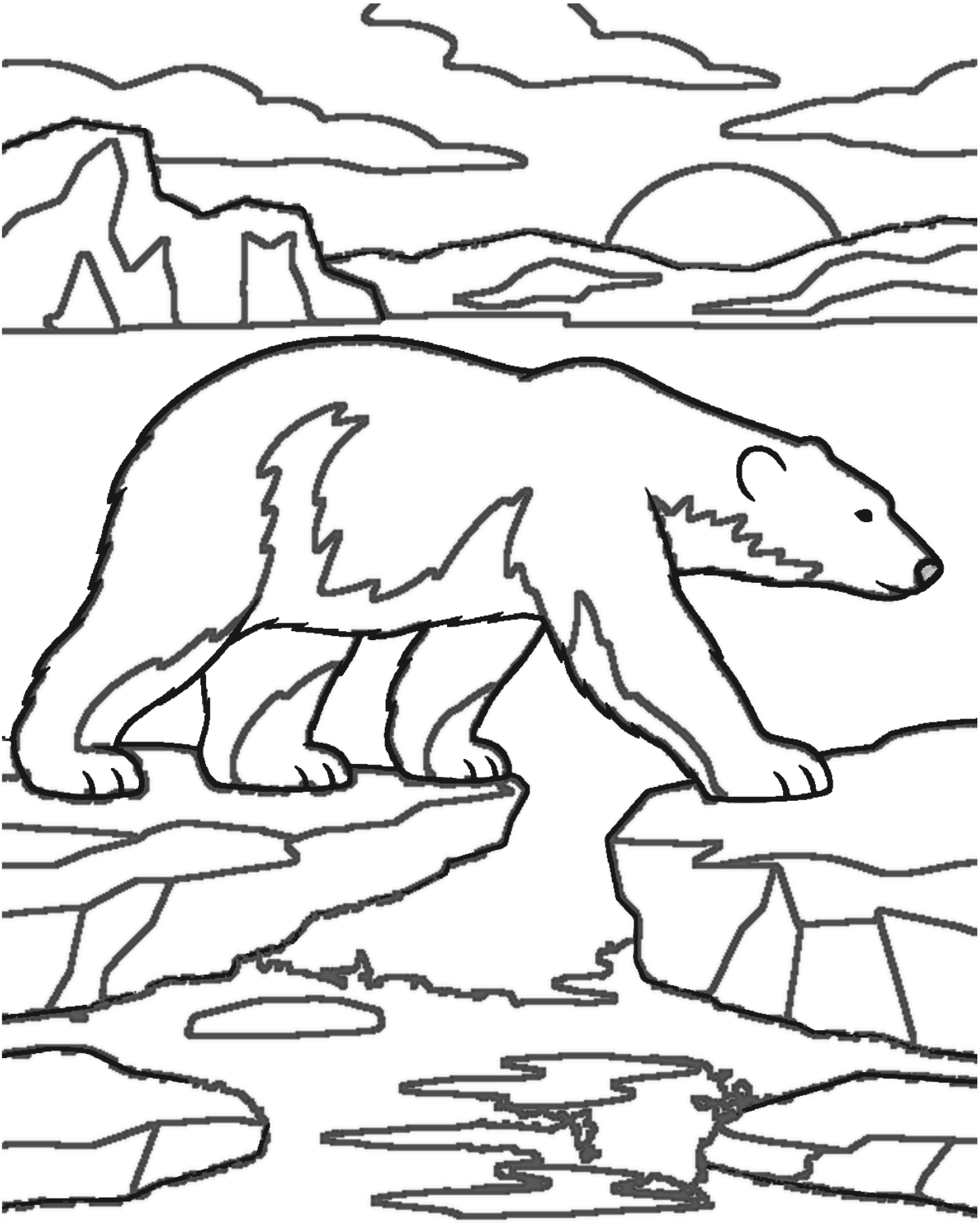
Why does a Komodo dragon flick its tongue?



Did you know? A Komodo dragon picks up scent particles with its forked tongue. A sensory organ in the roof of its mouth reads those scents, helping the lizard find food even when it is out of sight.

Polar Bear

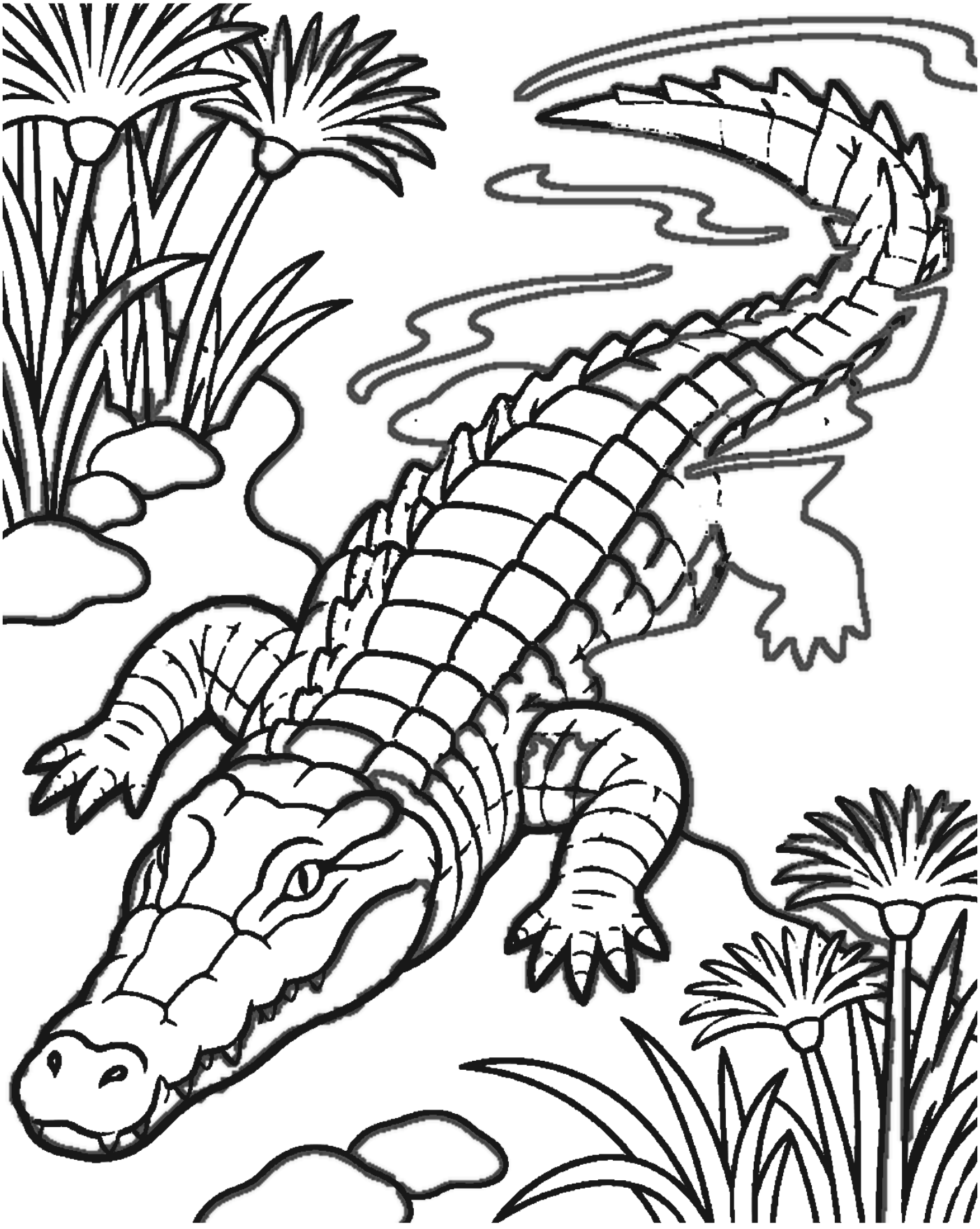
Why are a polar bear's paws so wide?



Did you know? Wide paws help spread a polar bear's weight across ice and snow. Rough bumps on the pads give it a better grip, and the big front paws act like paddles when it swims.

Nile Crocodile

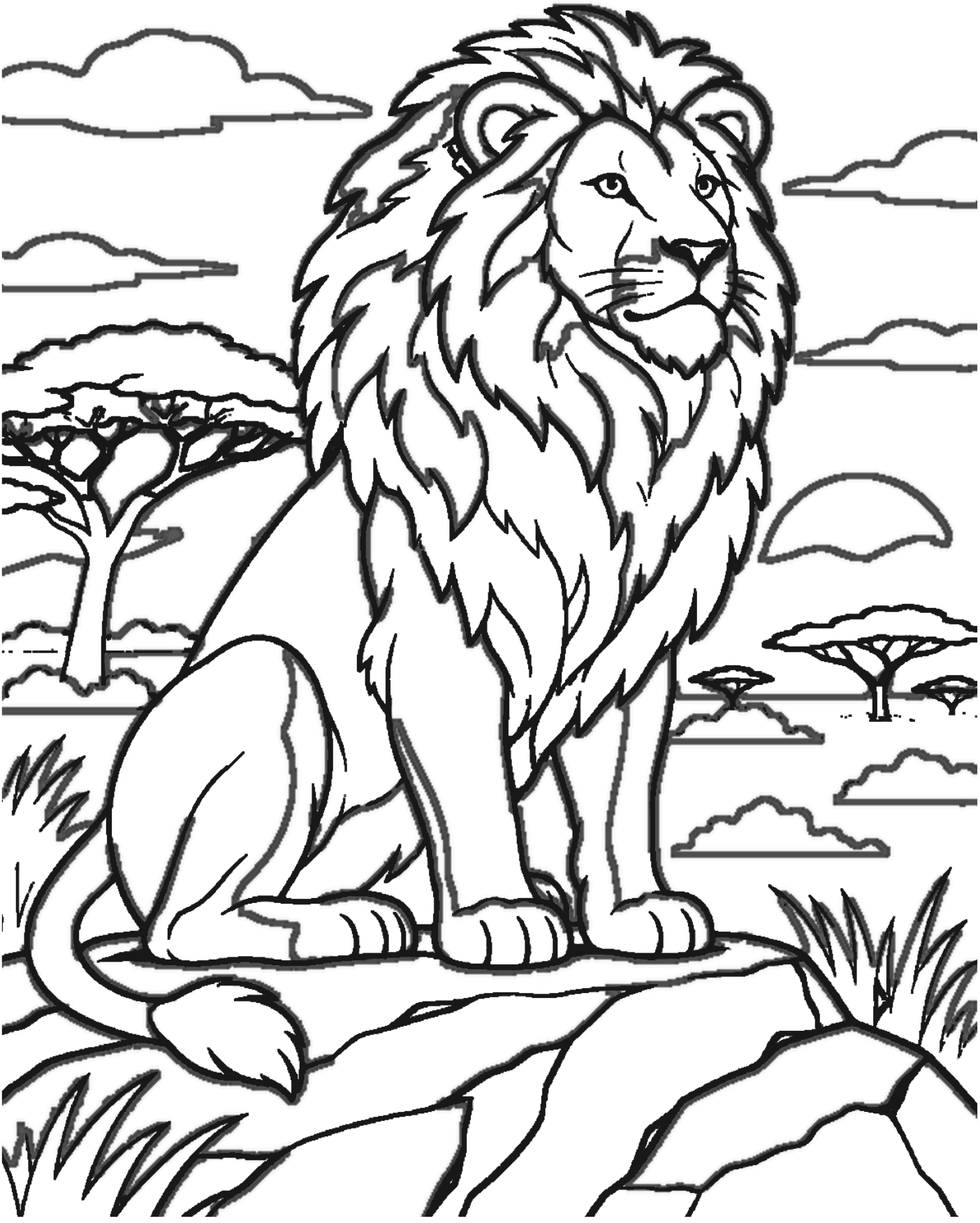
How can a Nile crocodile hide in shallow water?



Did you know? Its eyes and nostrils sit high on its head. With most of its body underwater, a Nile crocodile can still see and breathe at the surface while it waits for an animal near the bank.

African Lion

What can a lion's mane tell another lion?



Did you know? A mane makes a male lion look bigger. Its color and fullness vary from lion to lion, and a thick, dark mane can signal a mature male in good condition.

Gray Wolf

Who lives in a gray wolf pack?



Did you know? A pack is usually a family, often with parents, their pups and older offspring. Pack members help care for the young, defend a territory and can work together to hunt large prey.

Green Anaconda

Why are an anaconda's eyes on top of its head?



Did you know? With eyes and nostrils high on its head, a green anaconda can look and breathe while most of its body stays underwater. Dark spots help its green body blend into wet vegetation.

Snowy Owl

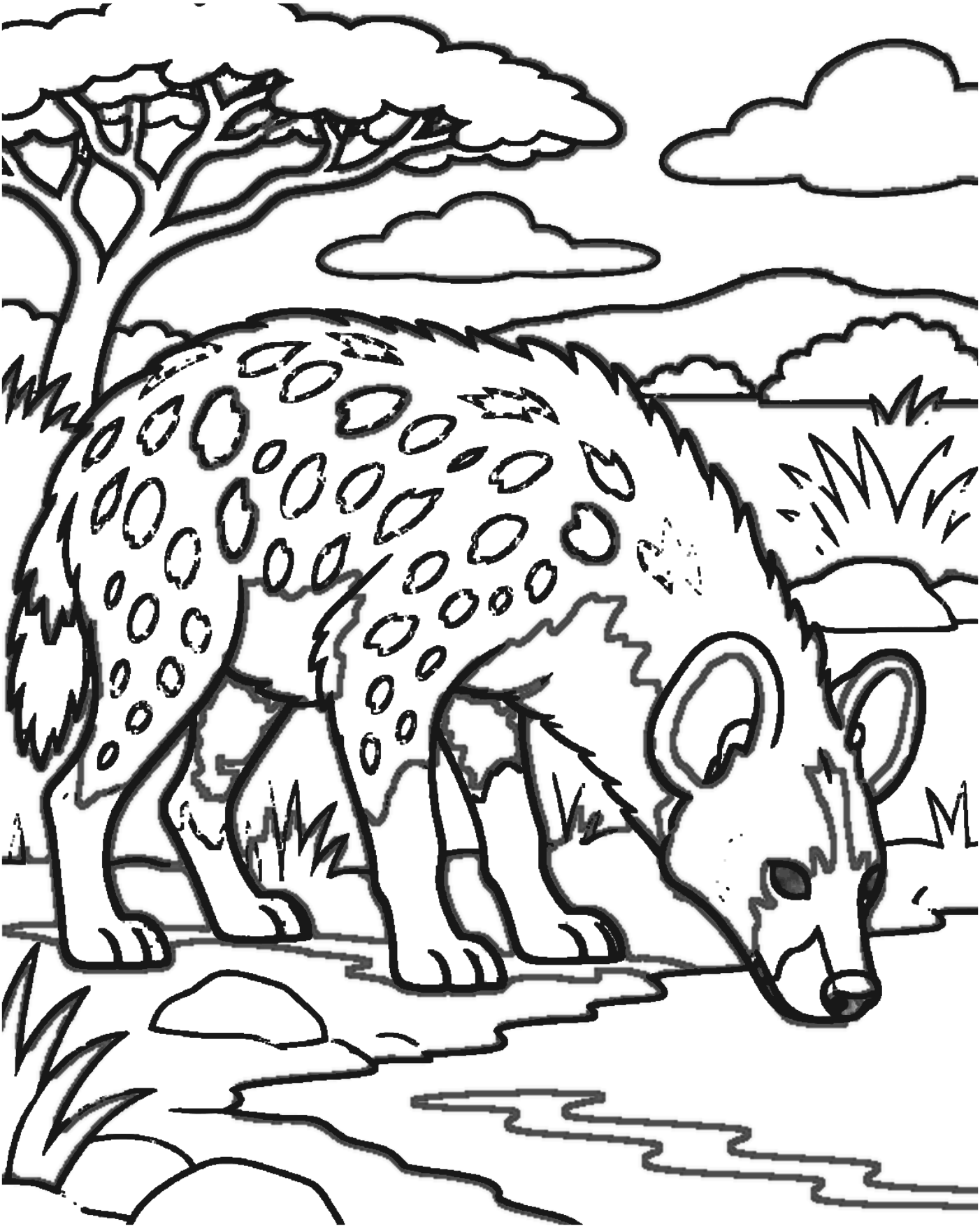
How does a snowy owl keep warm on the tundra?



Did you know? Thick feathers trap a layer of warm air near the owl's body. Feathers even cover its legs and feet, giving it a coat that reaches almost to the tips of its toes.

Spotted Hyena

What can a spotted hyena eat that many hunters leave behind?



Did you know? A spotted hyena's strong jaws and teeth can crack bones. Its digestive system can handle bone and skin, so it gets food from parts of a carcass that many animals leave behind.

Bengal Tiger

Does every tiger have the same stripes?



Did you know? Each tiger has its own stripe pattern. In a habitat with reeds, grass or patches of shade, the dark bands break up the outline of its body and help it approach prey quietly.

African Wild Dog

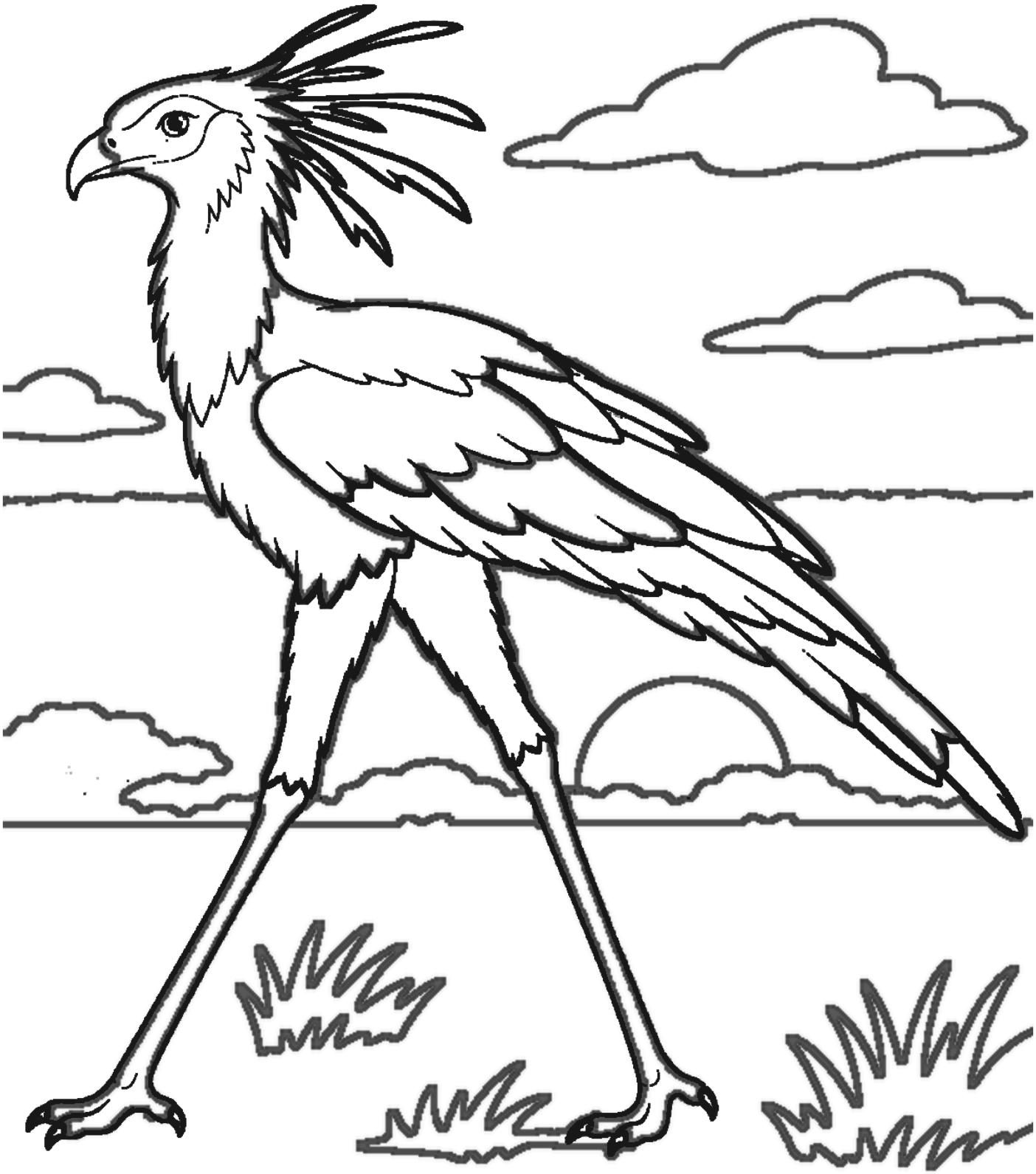
Why do African wild dogs look as though they were painted?



Did you know? Patches of black, brown and white give these hunters their nickname, painted dogs. Each dog has its own pattern. They live in packs and some members guard the pups while others hunt.

Secretarybird

How does a secretarybird hunt on foot?



Did you know? A secretarybird strides through open grass on long legs, looking for small animals. It can stamp at prey with rapid kicks and uses its strong feet to subdue even some snakes.

Alligator Snapping Turtle

What looks like a worm inside this turtle's mouth?



Did you know? An alligator snapping turtle has a small, wormlike lure attached to its tongue. It can stay still underwater and wriggle that lure, drawing curious fish close enough for a quick snap.

Jaguar

What makes a jaguar's spots look like little flowers?



Did you know? Many of the dark rings on a jaguar's coat have small spots in the middle. These markings are called rosettes. Their pattern helps the cat blend into patches of light and shade.

Tasmanian Devil

Why is this small animal called a devil?



Did you know? The name comes from the animal's loud growls and screeches. Tasmanian devils often make these calls while feeding together. They use powerful jaws to eat meat and even crush small bones.

Wolverine

Why are a wolverine's feet handy in deep snow?



Did you know? A wolverine has wide feet that spread its weight over the snow. That helps it travel through cold mountain country, where it hunts small animals and also feeds on carcasses it finds.

Shoebill

Why does a shoebill stand so still?



Did you know? A shoebill waits quietly in marshes until it spots a fish. Then it lunges forward and brings down its broad bill in a quick strike. The waiting is part of the hunt.

Peregrine Falcon

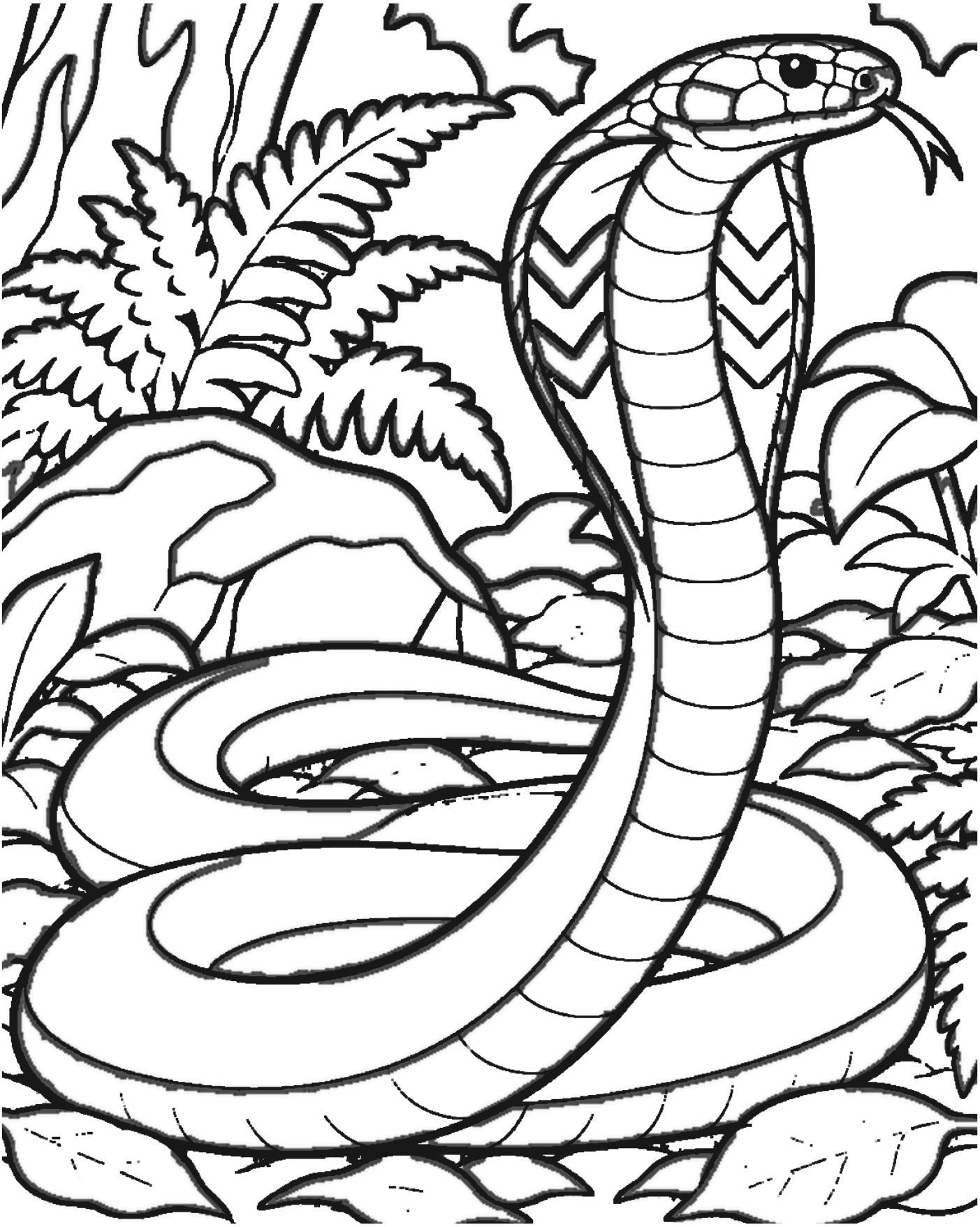
How does a peregrine falcon catch a bird in flight?



Did you know? The falcon often climbs above its target and folds its wings into a steep dive called a stoop. It can reach tremendous speed on the way down and strike prey in the air.

King Cobra

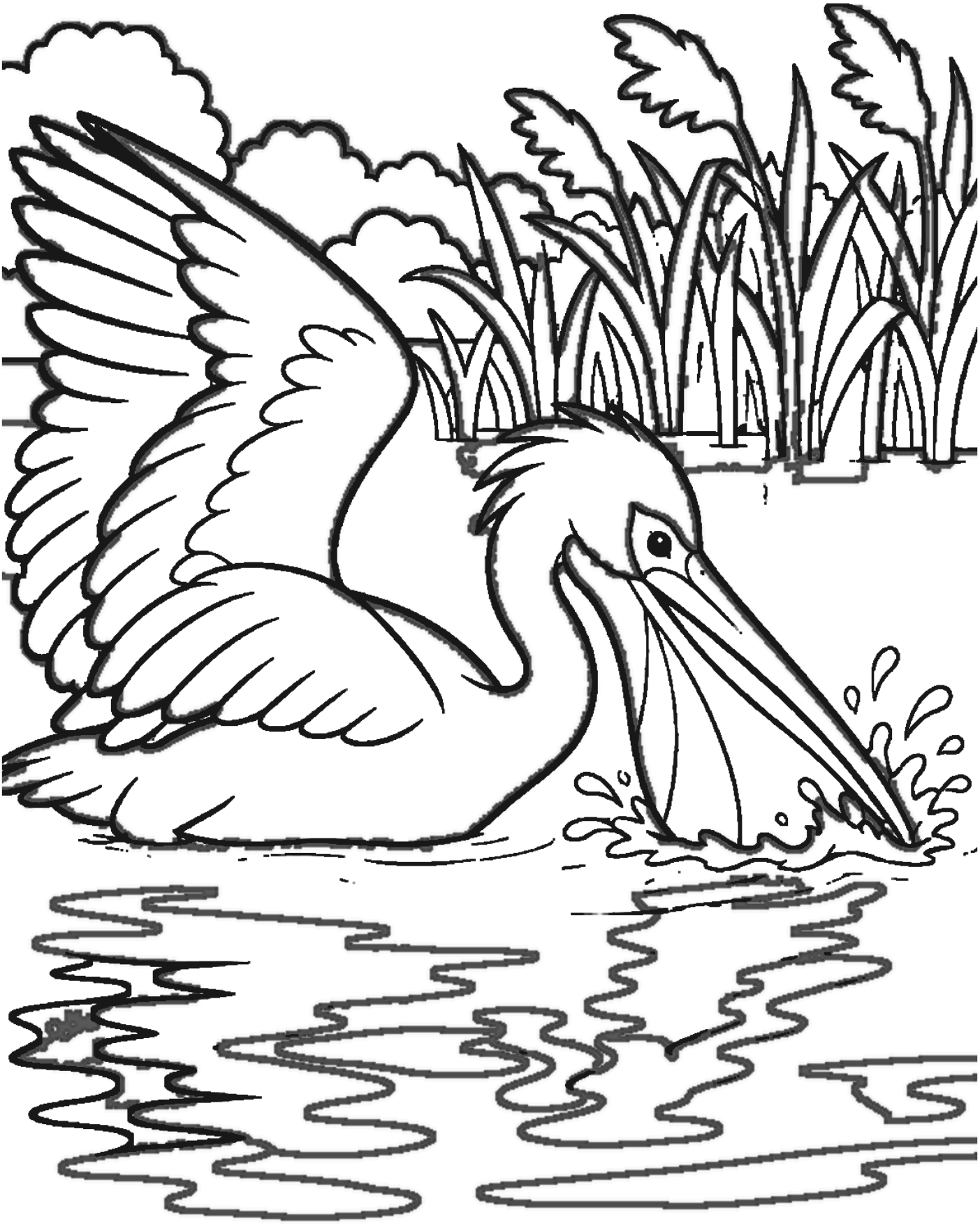
How does a king cobra spread its hood?



Did you know? The cobra spreads long ribs in its neck to stretch the skin into a hood. Raising its head and showing the hood can warn another animal to stay back.

Great White Pelican

What does a pelican scoop up in its bill pouch?



Did you know? A pelican scoops up fish and water together. It lets the water drain out before swallowing the fish. Great white pelicans can also fish as a group, herding fish into shallow water.

Fossa

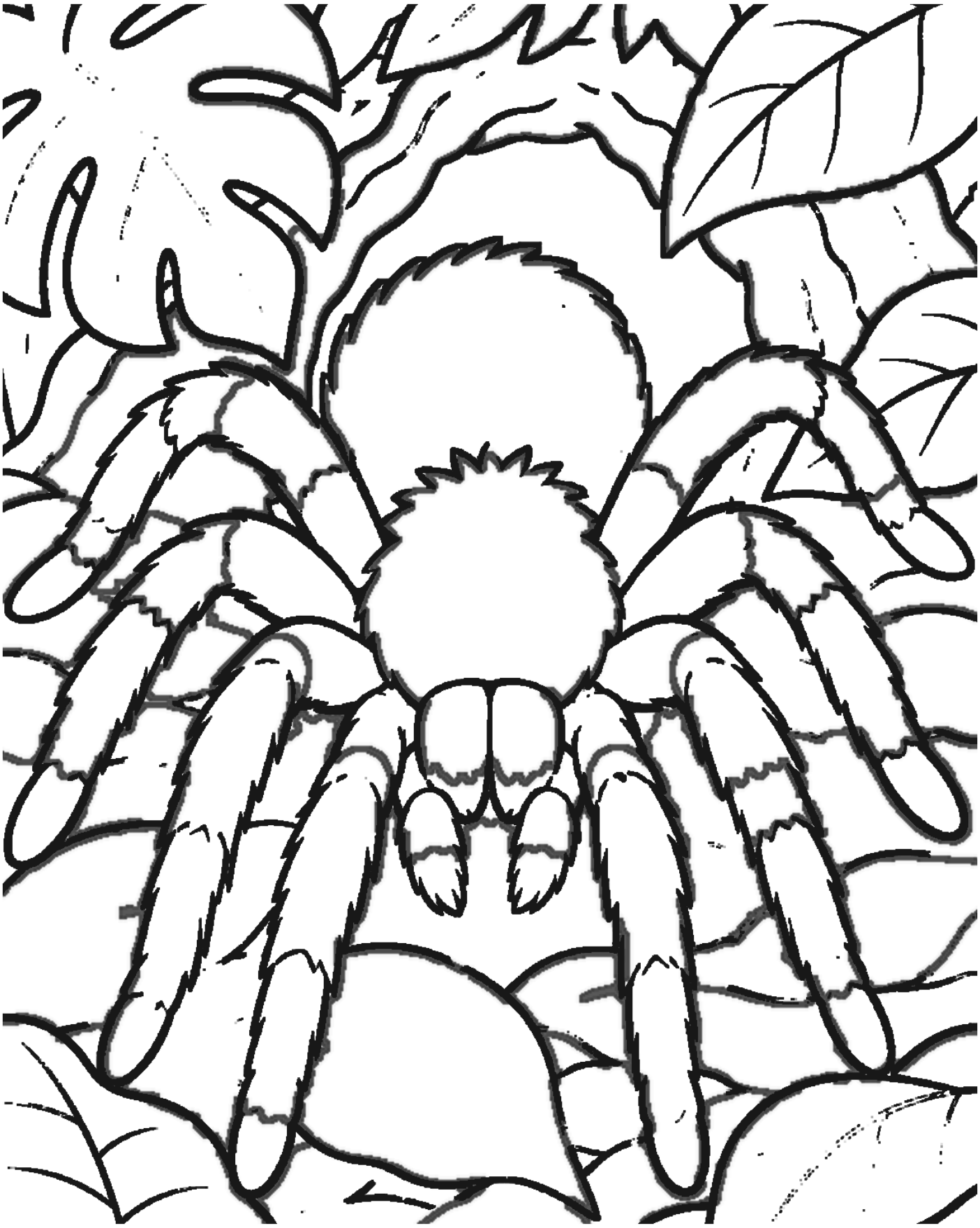
How does a fossa keep its balance in trees?



Did you know? A fossa uses its long tail for balance on branches. Flexible ankles help it grip as it climbs down headfirst. This Madagascan hunter can pursue lemurs through the canopy.

Goliath Birdeater

Does a goliath birdeater usually eat birds?



Did you know? Despite its name, this giant tarantula usually hunts smaller creatures on the forest floor, such as insects and worms. It spends much of its time close to a burrow in tropical South America.

Goliath Tigerfish

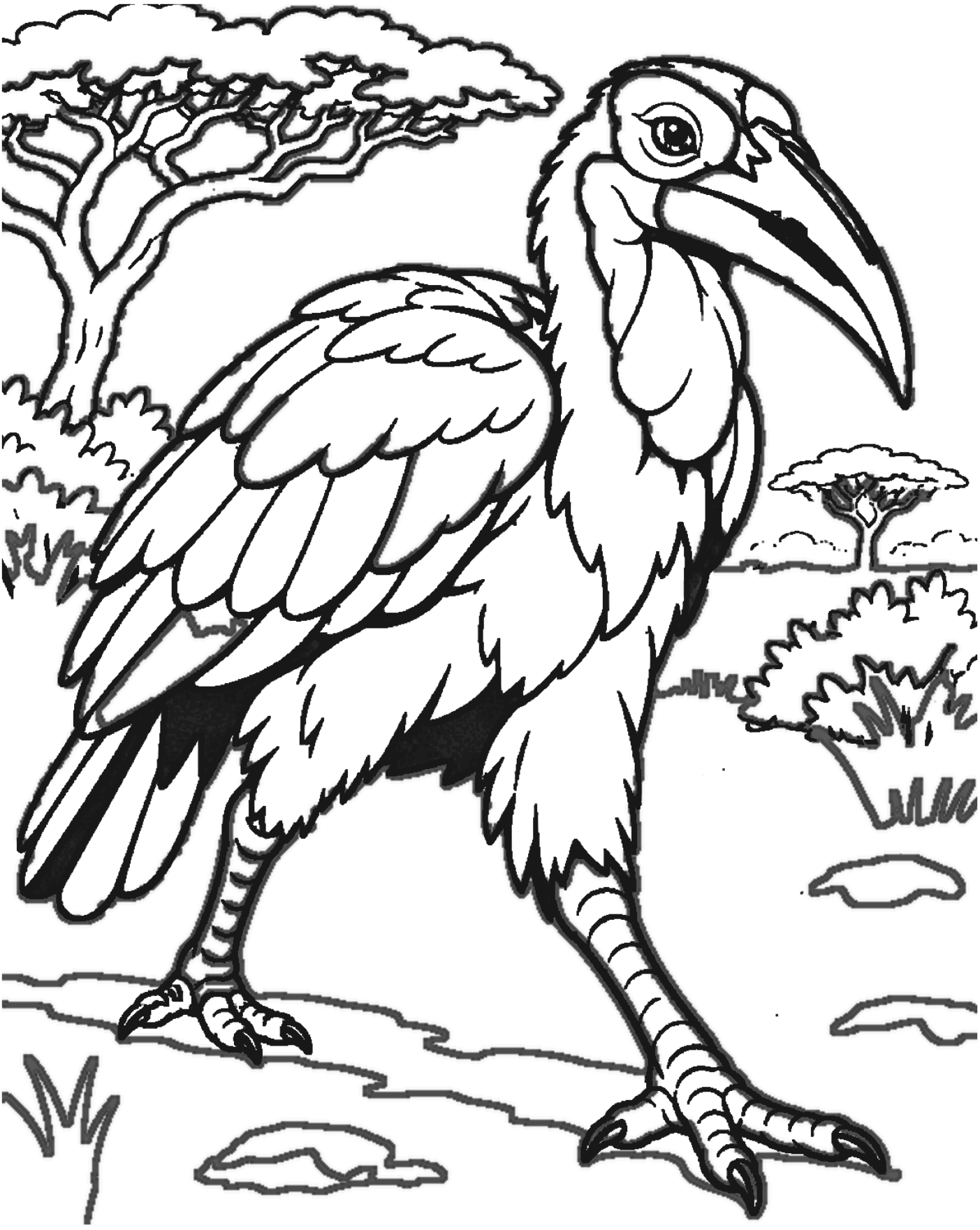
Where does a tigerfish hunt?



Did you know? The goliath tigerfish lives in freshwater in central Africa, including the Congo River basin. It uses its large, sharp teeth to seize other fish. Its name makes sense when you look at that mouth.

Southern Ground Hornbill

Why is it called a ground hornbill?



Did you know? This bird spends much of the day walking through grassland and open woodland. It searches for food with its long bill and can pick up insects, small reptiles and other animals from the ground.