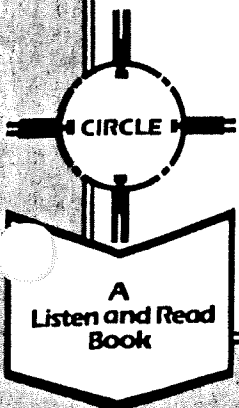


# WHY THE BEAVER HAS A FLAT TAIL



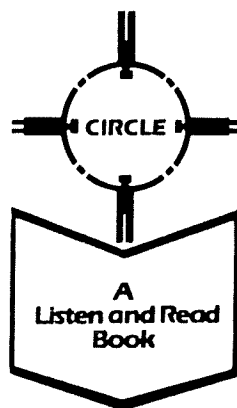
A  
Listen and Read  
Book

# WHY THE BEAVER HAS A FLAT TAIL

*Illustrated by Martin Panamick*

Adapted from the Ojibwe legend  
told by Mrs. Susan Enosse,  
written by Mary Lou Fox  
and prepared in book form  
by the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation,  
West Bay Reserve, Manitoulin Island

*Tape reading by Gary Farmer*



**Fitzhenry & Whiteside**

Permission to adapt the legend for use in this program has been granted by the Ojibwe Cultural Foundation, West Bay, Ont. The legend was first published by the Highway Book Shop, Cobalt, Ont. in 1974. It included an Ojibwe translation by Melvina Corbiere.

### **Circle Level One Listen & Read Books**

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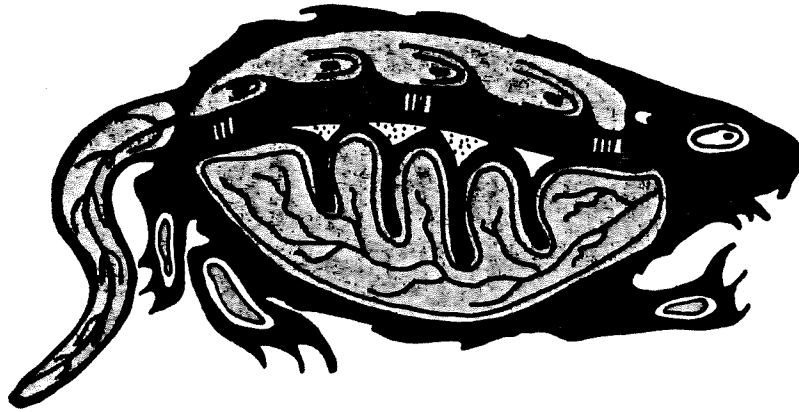
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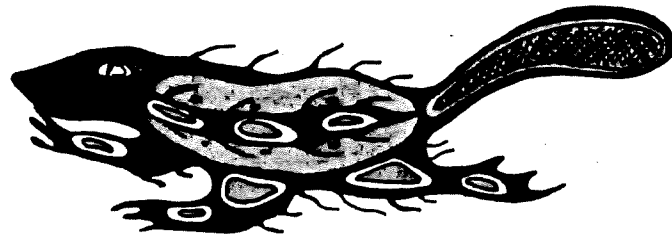
This book is part of the Kindergarten Level of the CIRCLE program, an integrated ESL language arts program for Native children. The program was developed in the Modern Language Centre of the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education with funding from the Ontario Regional Office of the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development and from the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education. The project team was Barbara Burnaby, Linda Guebert, Margaret Izatt, John McInnes, Wanda Moore, Joan Speares, and Mary Upper. The art director was David Beyer and the audio producer Joe Barr.

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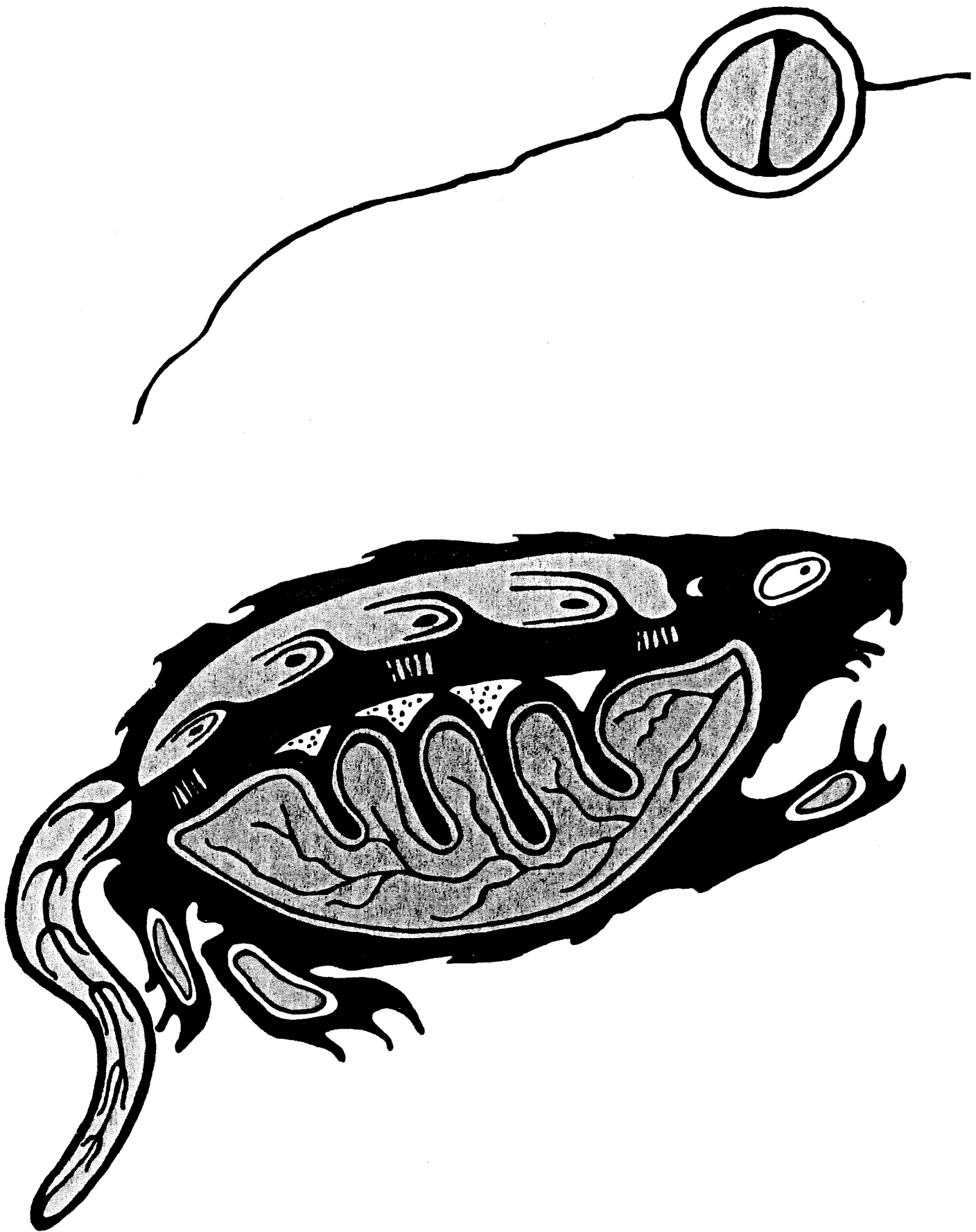
Long, long ago the animals were different than they are today.

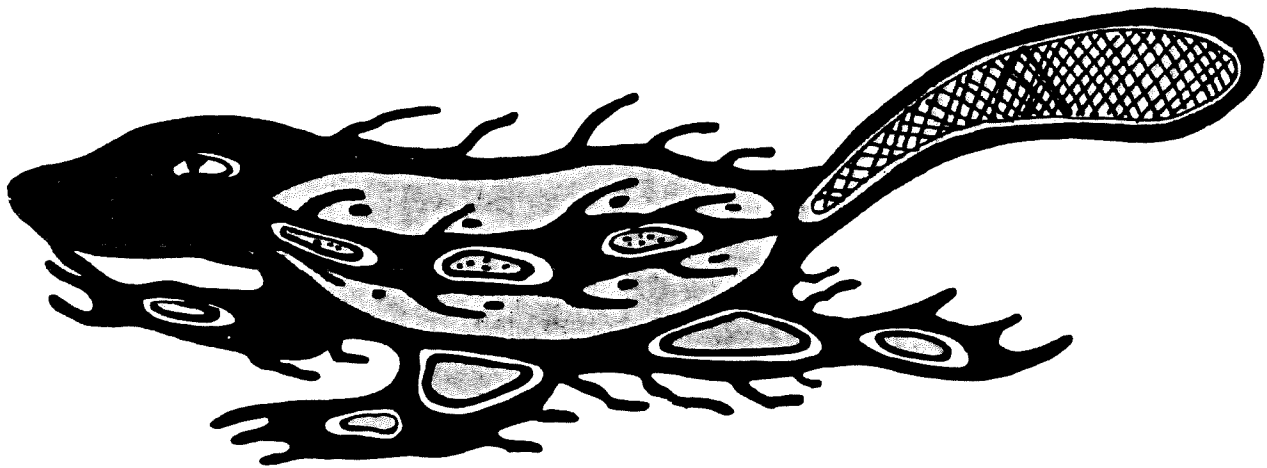


The beaver had a long, thin tail

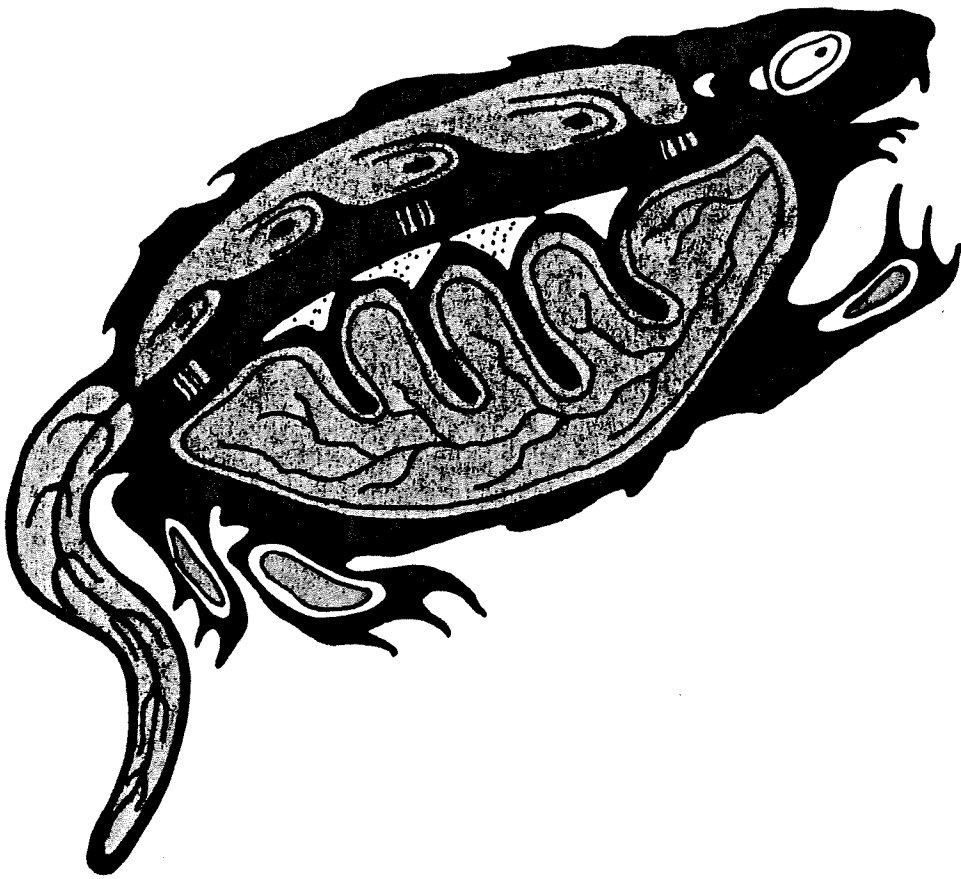
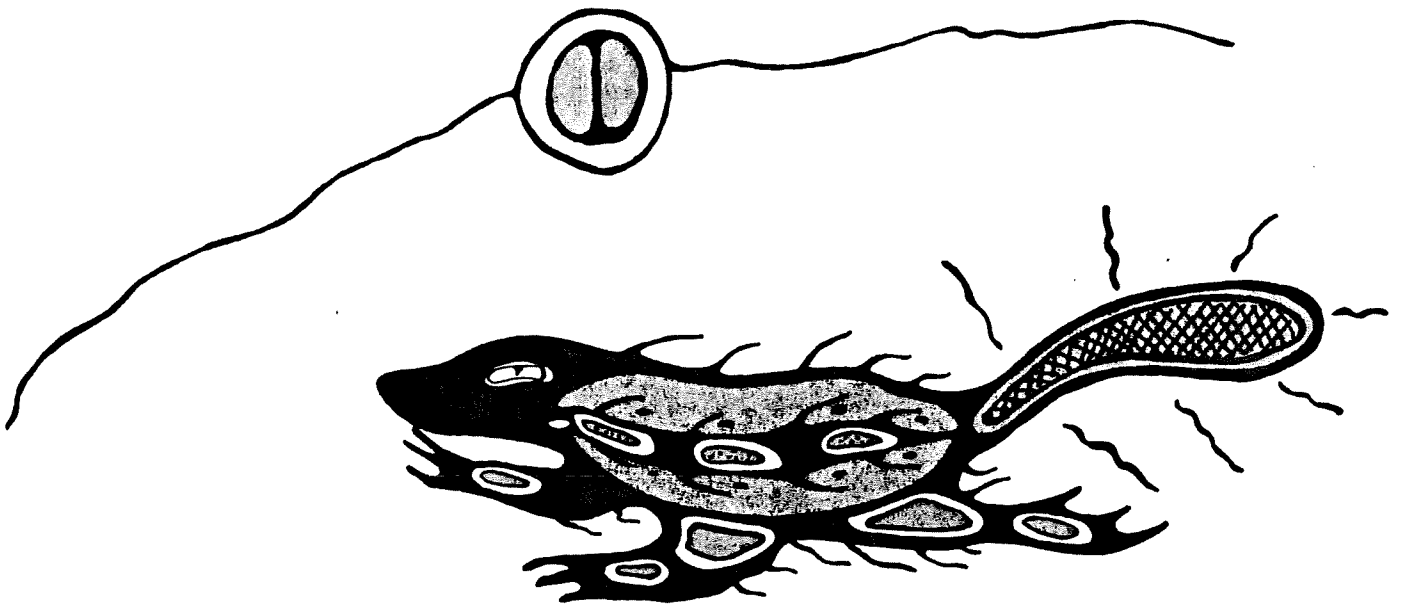


and the muskrat had a big, flat tail.



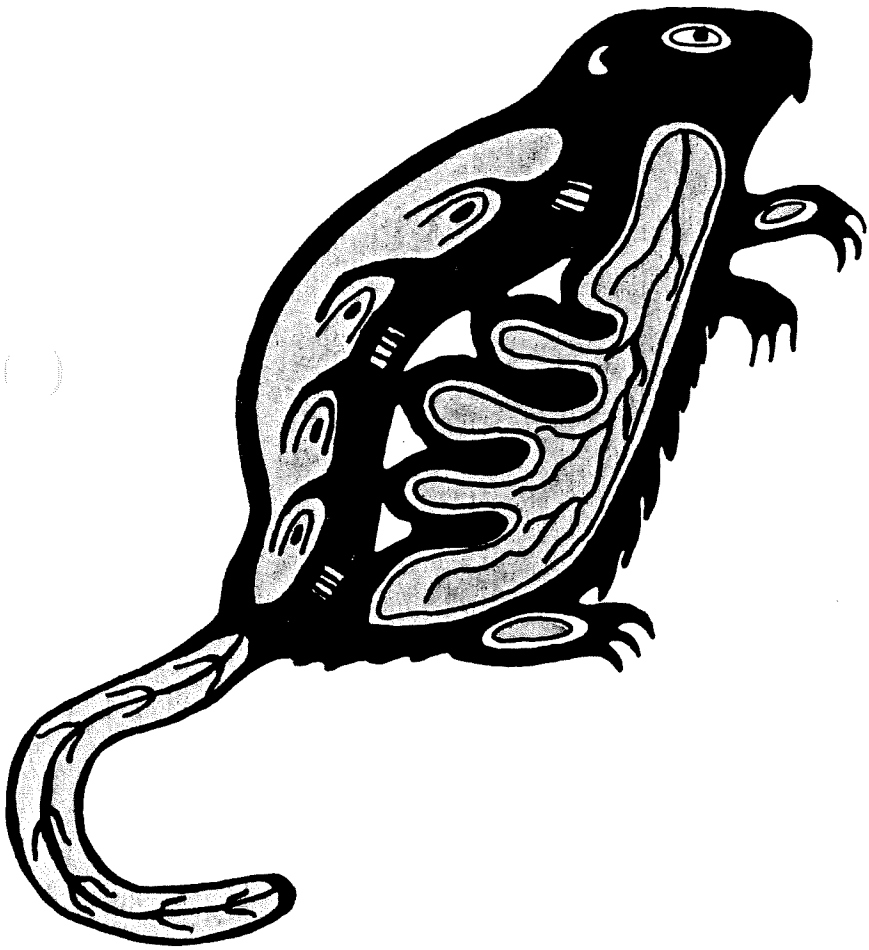
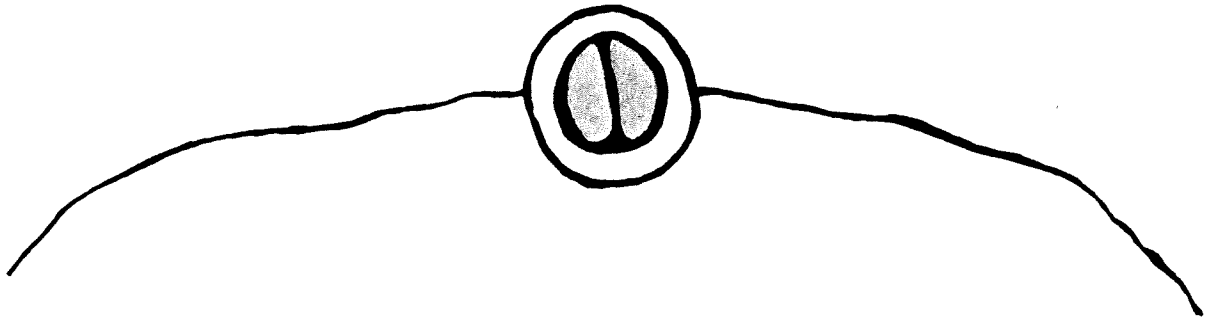


One day a beaver and a muskrat  
were playing happily in the water.  
What fun they had — paddling around  
and diving in and out of the cool,  
clear water.

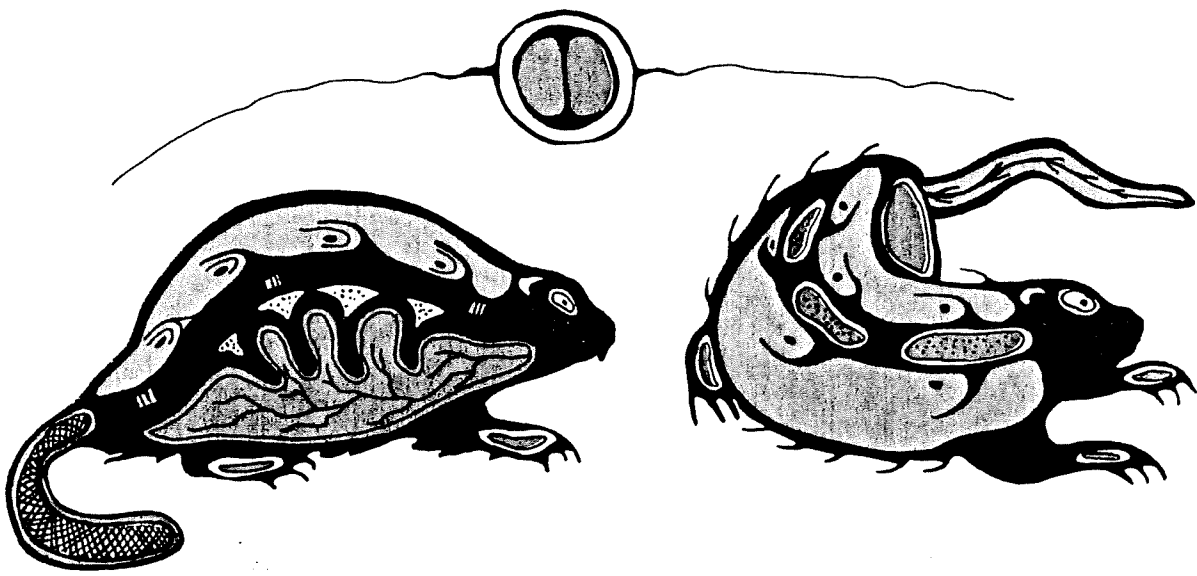


Suddenly the beaver stopped  
and listened for a moment.  
He said to himself, "My, what  
a nice sound the muskrat's tail  
makes when it hits the water!  
How I wish I had a tail like that!  
My tail doesn't make any noise at all."





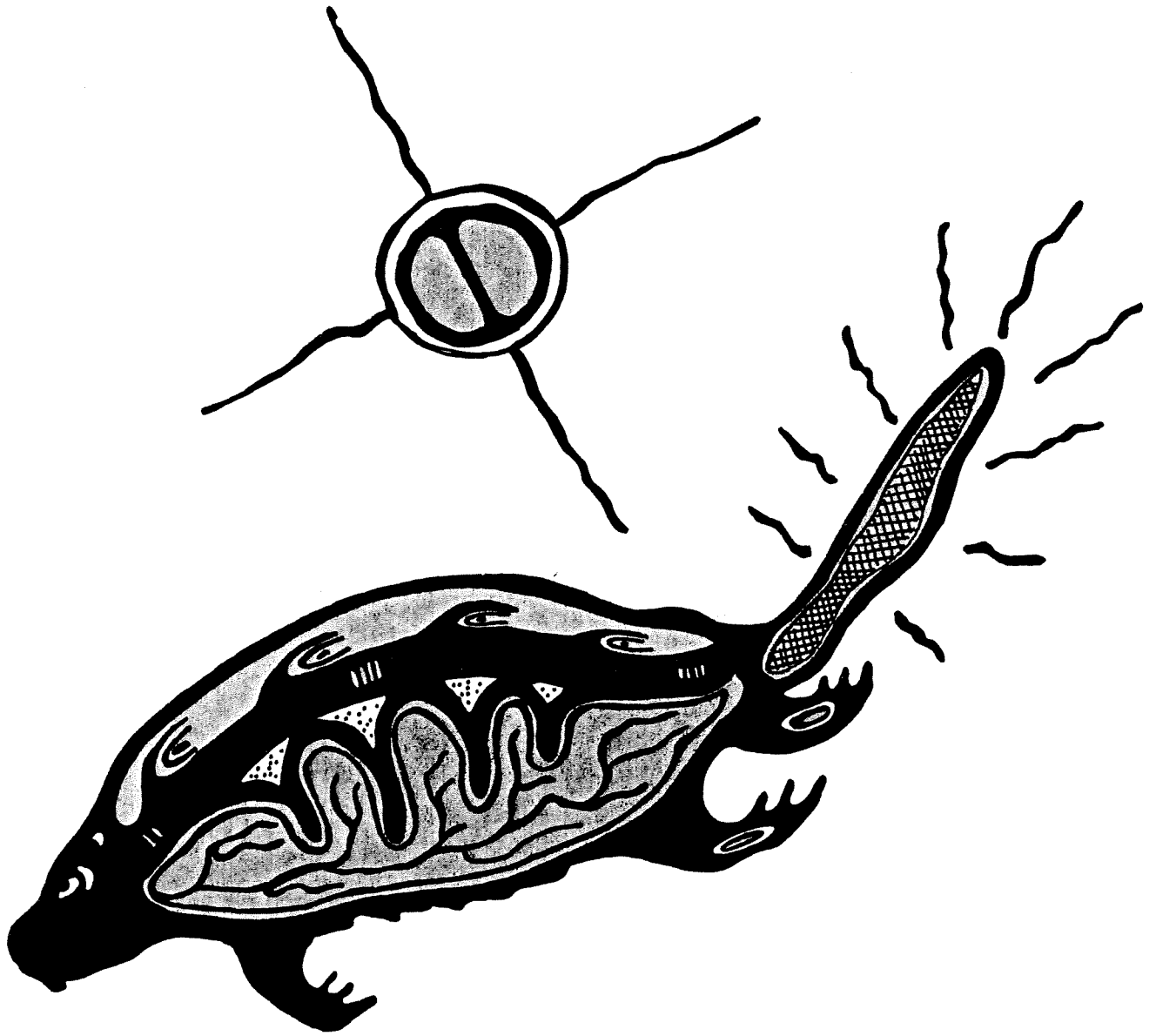
The beaver went over to the muskrat.  
“Hello, Muskrat,” he said.  
“Do I ever like the nice sound  
that your tail makes when it hits  
the water! My, how I wish I had  
a tail like yours. Could we  
trade tails for just a little while?”



The muskrat said, "All right,"  
and so the two animals traded tails.



How excited and happy the beaver was!  
He turned this way and that way,  
looking at his nice tail.

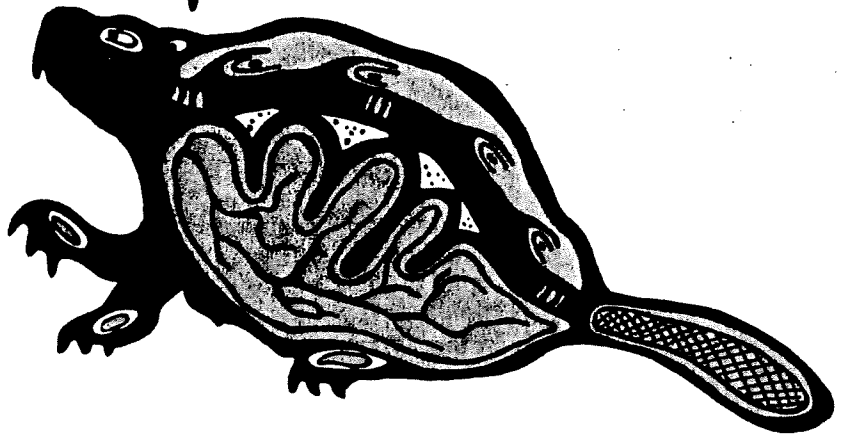
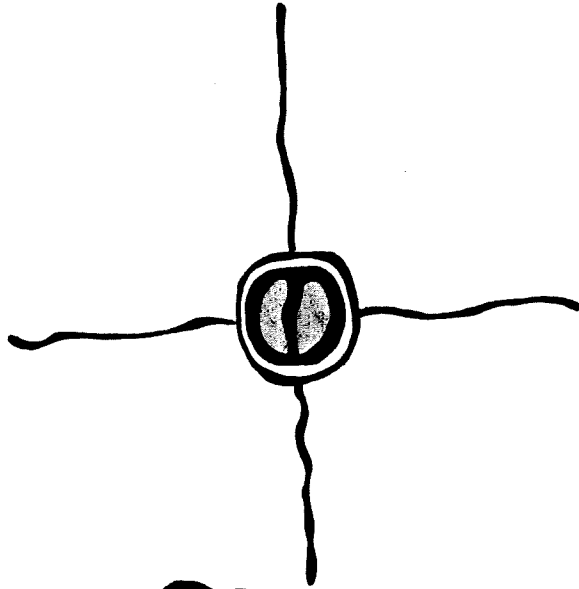
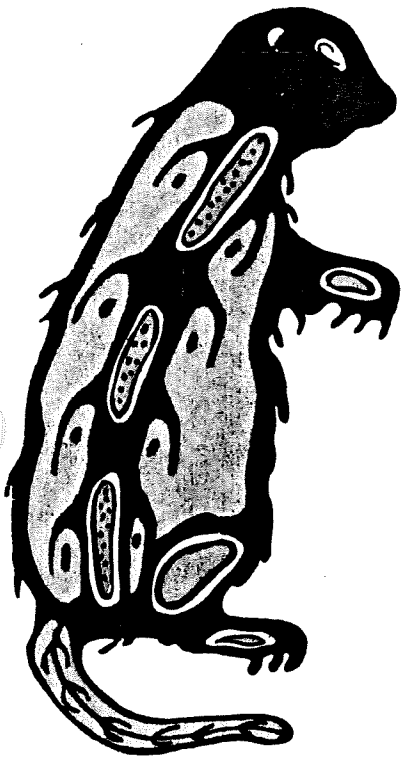


Then the beaver jumped into the water. He smiled happily as his new tail slapped the water. It was a beautiful sound.

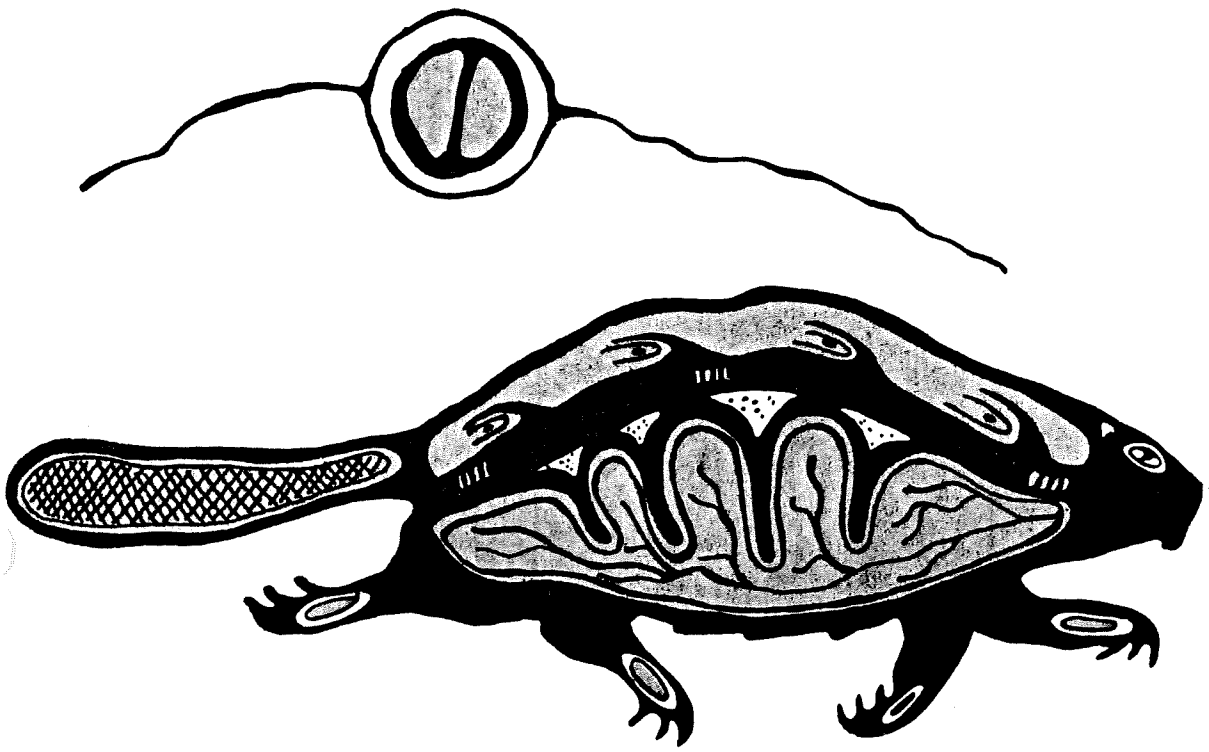




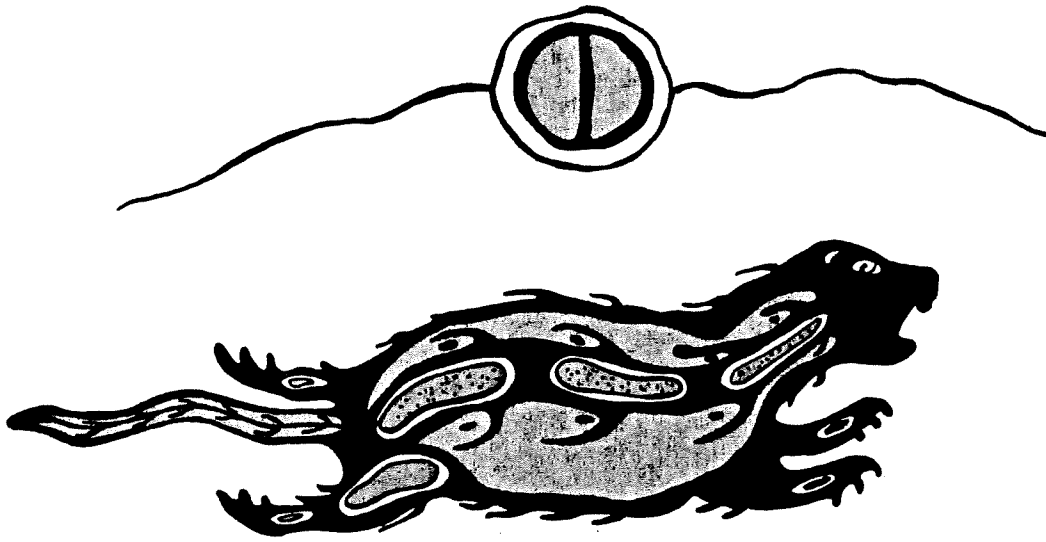
The muskrat stood by the water  
watching the beaver splash and play.  
He began to feel sorry about  
trading his tail. He wanted his  
own tail back again.



So when the beaver came out  
of the water the muskrat said to him,  
“Please give me back my tail now.”  
The muskrat just didn’t want to be  
without it any longer.



But the beaver didn't want to ever  
give the tail back. Quickly he ran  
into the bush. Now the poor muskrat  
knew that the beaver had tricked him.  
Now he knew that the beaver didn't  
want to give him back his tail.  
The muskrat was very, very unhappy.



He chased after the beaver, crying,  
“Beaver, bring that tail back  
so that I can carry it around too.”  
It was no use. The beaver  
would not give back the tail.





So that is how the beaver  
got his flat, wide tail, and  
he still has it to this day.

