

little, brown Nut

This story starts with a large, round fruit falling from the tallest tree in the rainforest. Safe inside is a little, brown Brazil nut, a seed that needs a special animal to free it.

Read about their relationship and how the little nut and the small furry animal have a giant impact on the forest and the world.

This story ends with a fold-out map.

Are you ready to think big?



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START SMALL,
THINK BIG

Unfold a world of discovery
with this series that takes
readers from the small and
familiar to new areas of
knowledge where you
really have to think big.



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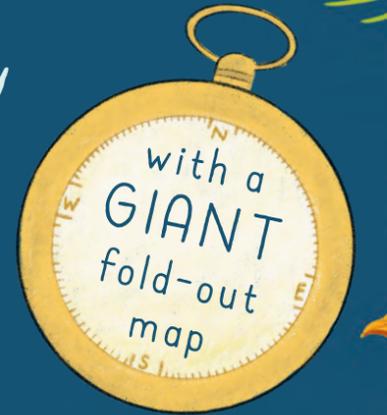
Auld • Cooper

LITTLE, BROWN NUT



START SMALL, THINK BIG

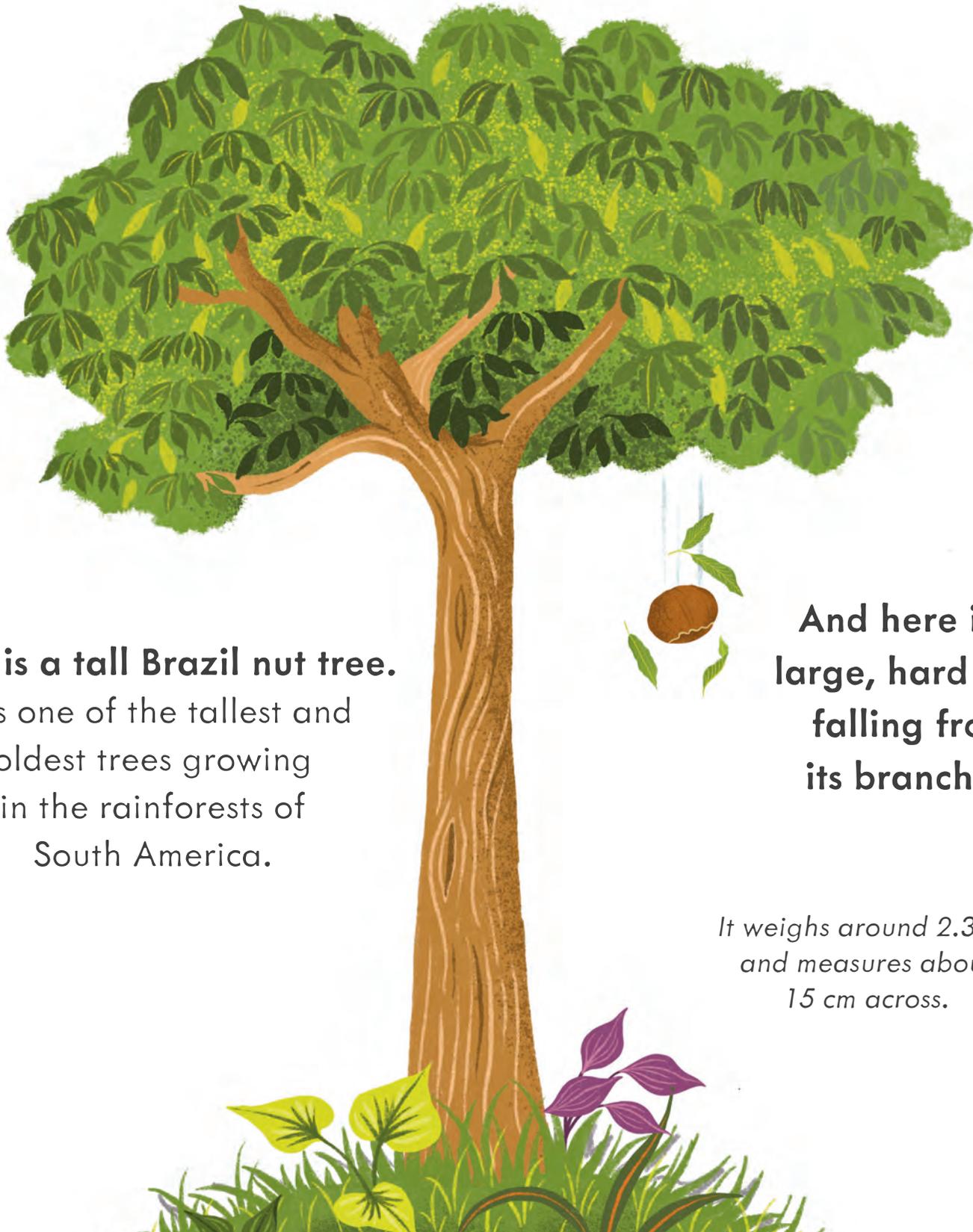
little, brown Nut



by
Mary Auld

illustrations by Dawn Cooper





Here is a tall Brazil nut tree.

It is one of the tallest and oldest trees growing in the rainforests of South America.

And here is a large, hard fruit falling from its branches.

It weighs around 2.3 kg and measures about 15 cm across.



Here is the fruit on the forest floor.

Safe inside are 20 wedge-shaped nuts. They fit together snugly, like orange segments.

These little, brown nuts are Brazil nuts. And one of them is me.

Here is the agouti that opened the hard fruit.

It's just about the only animal that can!



The agouti is a rodent, like a guinea pig but with longer legs. It lives and feeds on the rainforest floor.

Brazil nuts are full of energy. They make a good meal for an agouti.

The agouti uses its strong, sharp teeth to open the hard fruit and the Brazil nuts inside. There could be eight to 24 nuts.

The agouti feasts on the tasty nuts, but can't eat them all.

It buries some under the ground for later.



An agouti sits on its hind legs to eat. It holds the nut in its front paws to gnaw on it.

Like a squirrel, it makes stores of nuts to eat later.

Here I am under the ground, covered with leaves.

The agouti has forgotten where I am. It is the perfect place for me to wait... and grow...

A Brazil nut is a seed. It grows into a tree if it is buried away from its parent plant or other big trees.

Leaves fall from rainforest trees all the time. The leaf litter rots into the soil and its goodness helps seeds grow.

It may take a year for a seed to germinate (begin to grow). It waits for the right moment, when the soil is damp and there is enough sunlight.

Above me, an empty Brazil nut fruit has filled with rainwater.

It has become a home for tadpoles.

The Brazil nut poison frog is only 2 cm long. It is a tree frog and lives among the leaves.

The female lays two to six eggs on the ground and the male guards them.

When a tadpole hatches, its father carries it to the Brazil nut case pond. Here the tadpole feeds in safety and grows into a frog.



START SMALL...

This is the life cycle that begins with a little, brown nut and leads to a mature Brazil nut tree. A Brazil nut tree can live for over 500 years.



Brazil nut trees grow in all nine countries in which the Amazon rainforest lies. Brazil, Bolivia and Peru harvest and export the most Brazil nuts to the rest of the world.

Rainforests cover only 6% of the Earth's surface but they are home to more than half of the world's animal and plant species.

AMAZON I-SPY

Find these rainforest animals somewhere in the book. Which layer of the forest do they live in?



THINK BIG!

OLD GIANTS OF THE RAINFOREST
Some Brazil nut trees are thought to be over a thousand years old. That means they may have produced around 6,000,000 nuts in their lifetime!

RAINFORESTS HELP THE CLIMATE
Our Earth needs rainforests. They help to keep the balance in the air of oxygen and carbon dioxide, which causes climate change. They are important to the Earth's water cycle, too, storing water and bringing rain to dry areas.

HEALTHY IN SMALL AMOUNTS
Brazil nuts are packed with energy and nutrients that help us fight disease and keep our hearts healthy. They are so full of goodness you should only eat one or two a day.

SUPERSTAR TREE
The Brazil nut tree is a rainforest superstar. It gives a home and food to all sorts of life, from agoutis to bees – and people. It is a reason to protect the rainforest and not cut it down.

RAINFORESTS OF THE WORLD



There are rainforests all round the world, in hot regions where there is lots of rain. The Amazon rainforest is by far the largest. It is home to over three million different animals, plants and fungi, some found nowhere else on Earth.