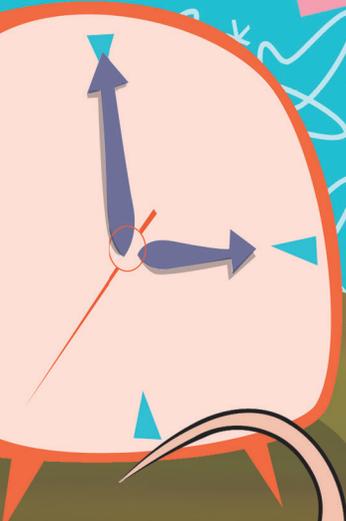
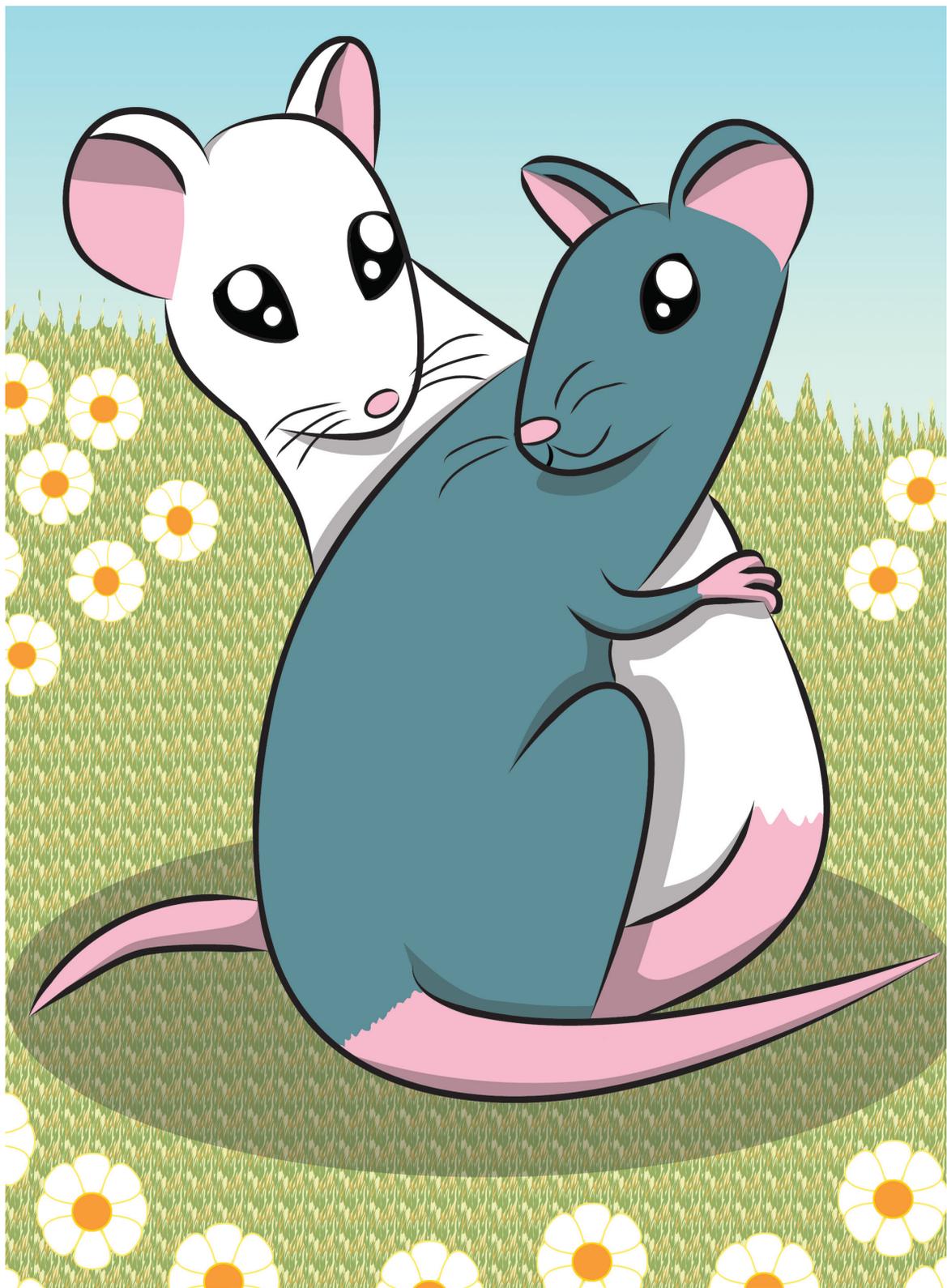


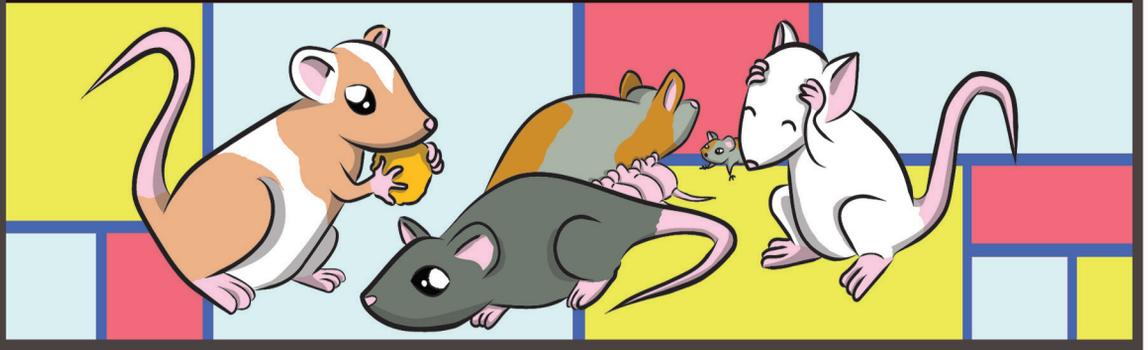
A RAT'S LIFE





RATS ARE FASCINATING! DID YOU KNOW ...

RATS LOVE TO BE CLEAN. PEOPLE OFTEN THINK THEY'RE DIRTY ANIMALS, BUT THAT'S JUST NOT TRUE! WHEN THEY LIVE IN A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT, YOUNG RATS' SKIN SMELLS ALMOST LIKE OATS.



RATS GROW UP HEALTHY AND STRONG WHEN THEY HAVE PLENTY OF FOOD AND CLEAN WATER AND A SAFE PLACE TO LIVE IN.



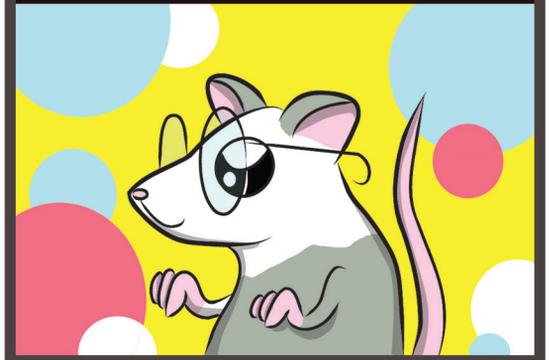
JUST LIKE HUMANS, RATS HAVE BIG PERSONALITIES! THEY CAN BE CURIOUS, SMART, FRIENDLY, GENTLE, AND EVEN OUTGOING.

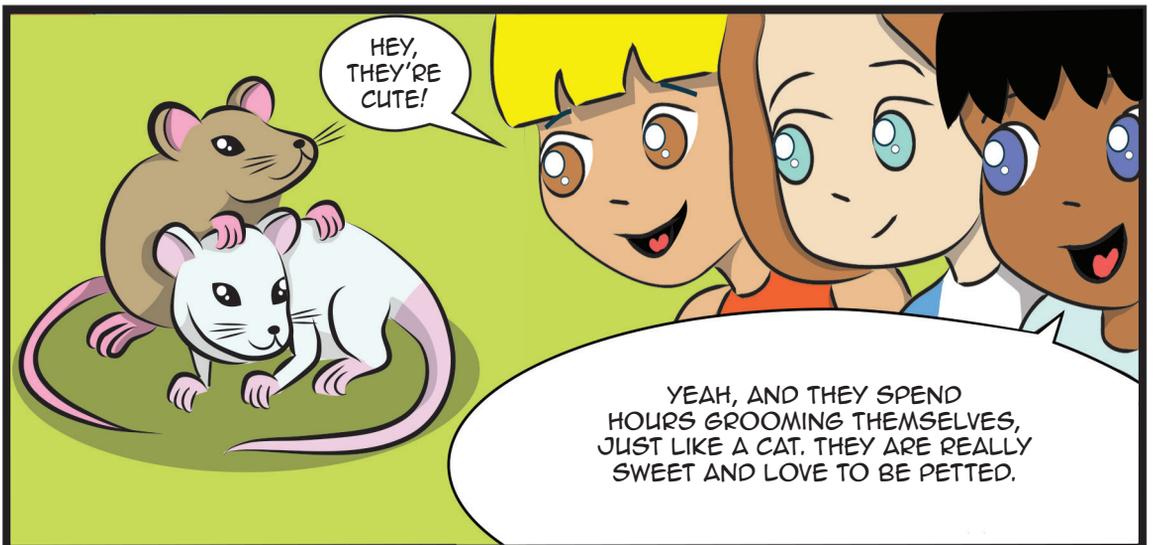
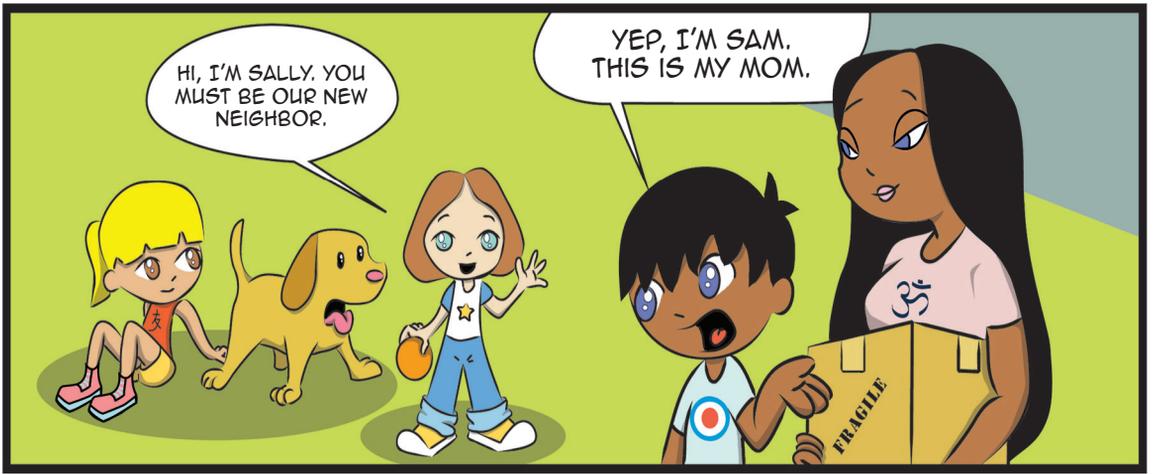


RATS ARE EMOTIONAL, JUST LIKE US. THEY CAN FEEL HAPPY, SAD, AND EXCITED. THEY CAN ALSO FEEL LONELY, ANGRY, AND HURT.



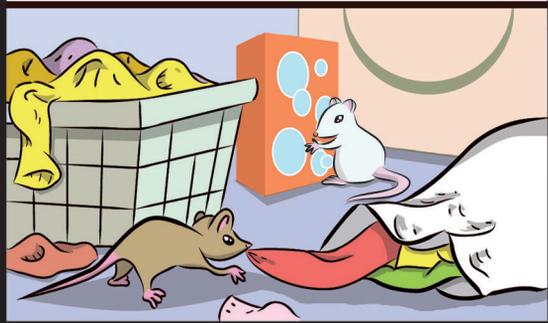
RATS HAVE POOR EYESIGHT BUT EXCELLENT SENSES OF SMELL, TASTE, TOUCH, AND HEARING.



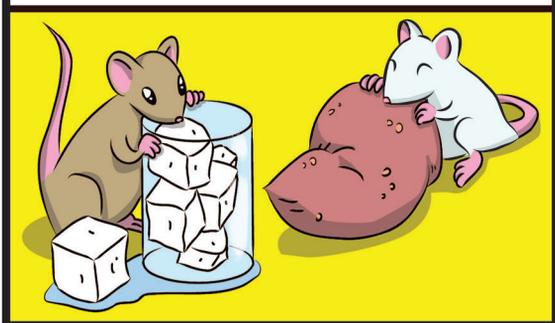




THEY LOVE TO PLAY AND GET INTO THINGS. YESTERDAY, THEY SPENT HOURS PULLING MY DIRTY CLOTHES OUT OF MY HAMPER.

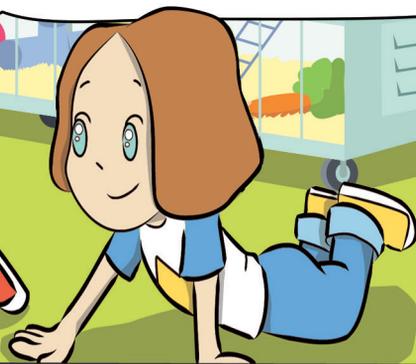


IF I LEAVE A GLASS OF ICE WATER ON THE FLOOR FOR THEM, THEY TAKE OUT EACH ICE CUBE AND CARRY IT AWAY FROM THE GLASS IN THEIR TEETH. THEY ALSO LOVE TREATS—RAINEY'S FAVORITE IS SWEET POTATOES.



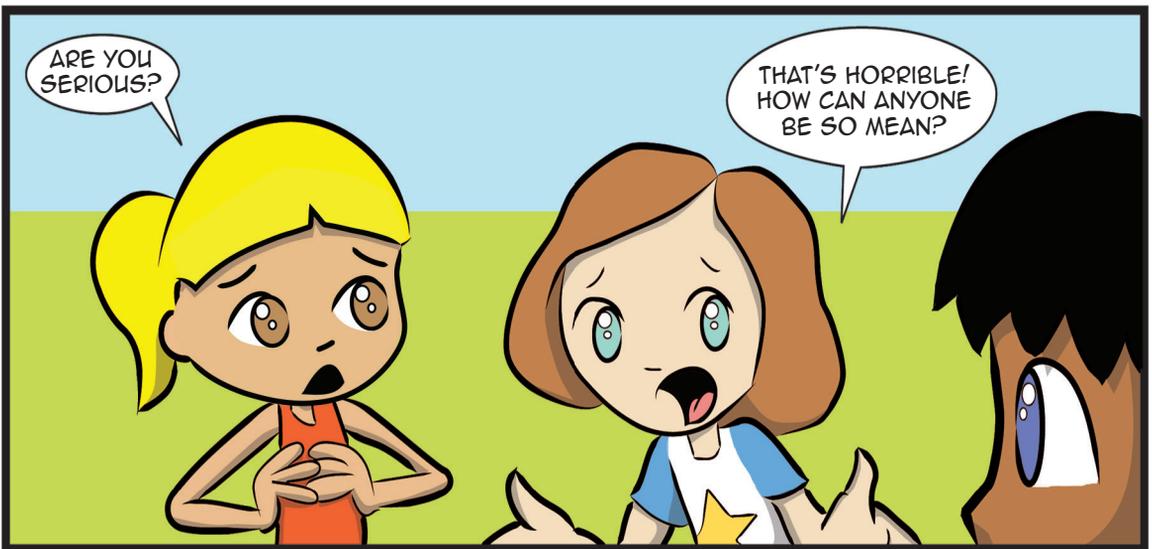
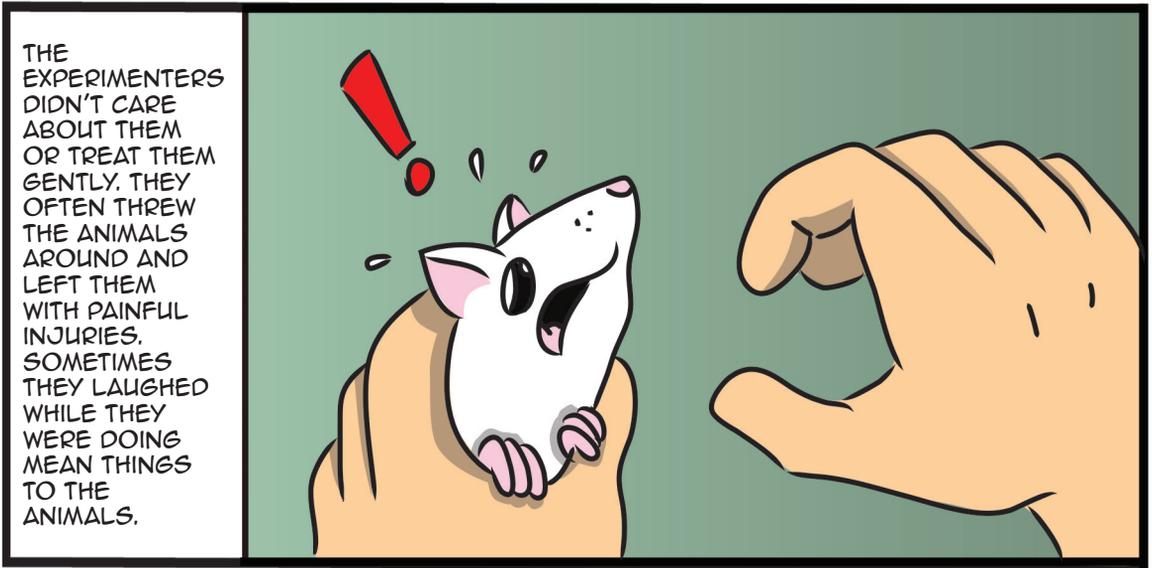
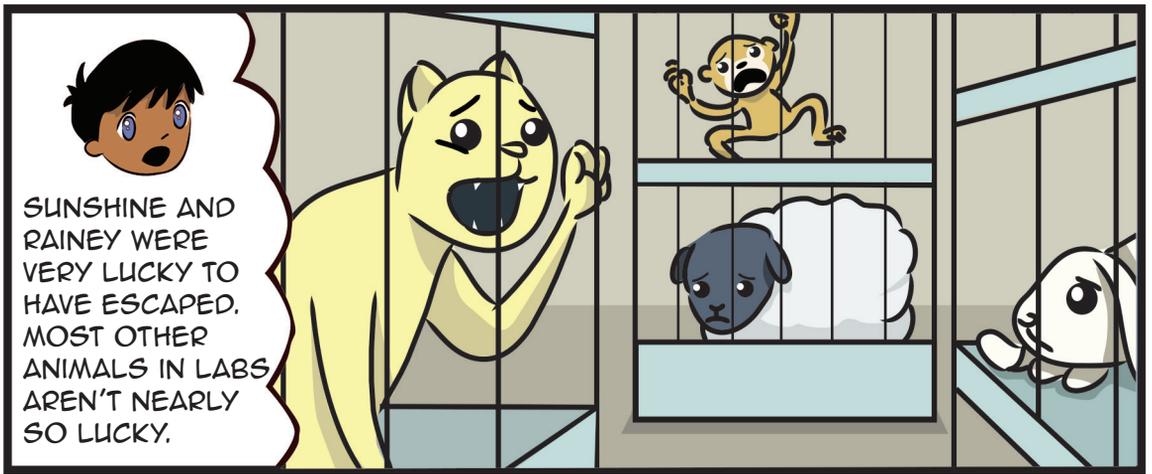
DID YOU GET THEM FROM A PET STORE?

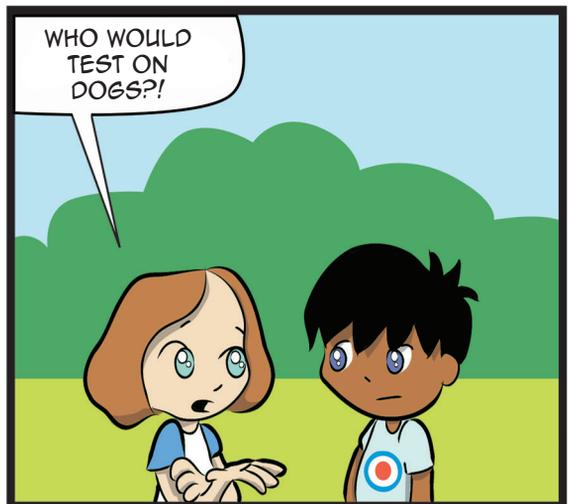
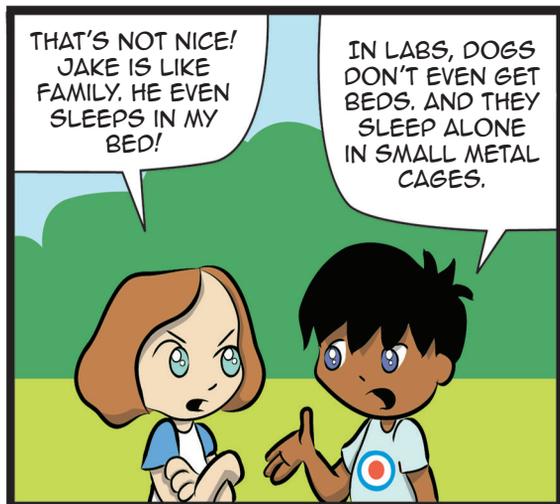
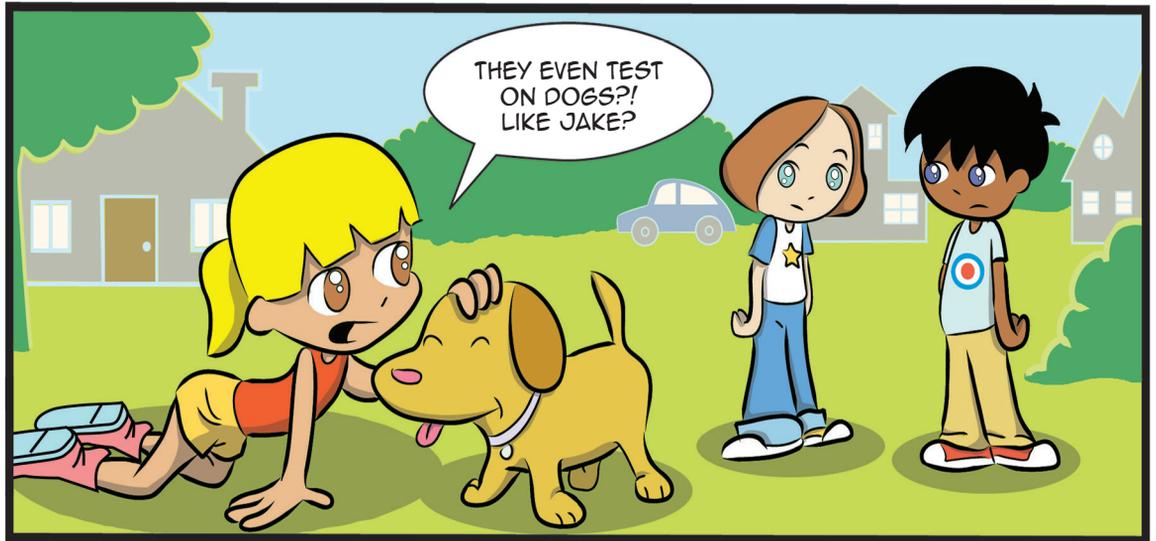
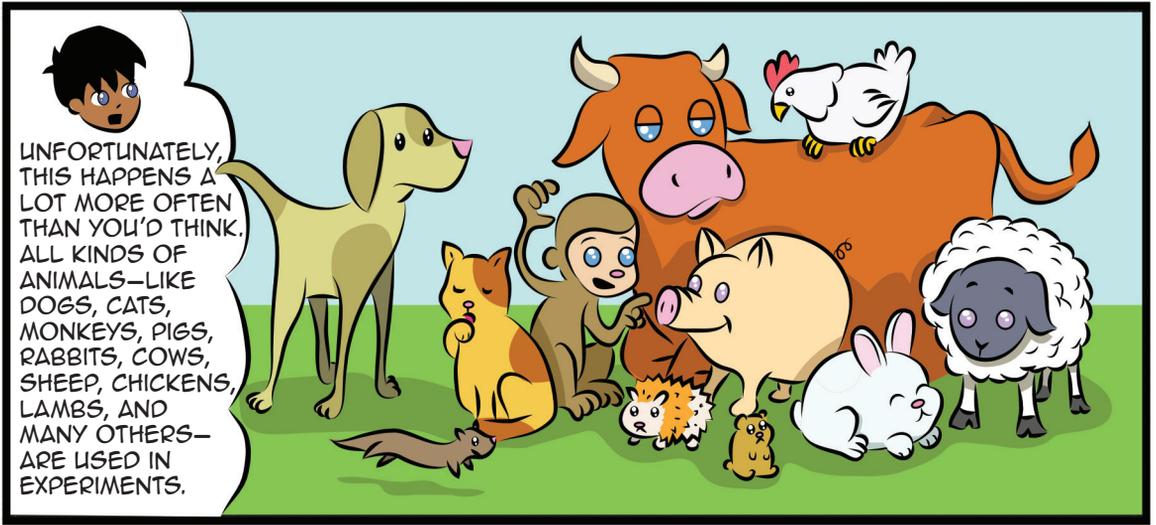
NO! I DON'T THINK PET STORES ARE GOOD PLACES. THE RATS ARE USUALLY KEPT IN SMALL, DIRTY CAGES AND GET VERY BORED BECAUSE THEY CAN'T EXPLORE OR DO OTHER THINGS THAT RATS NATURALLY LIKE TO DO. MY FATHER RESCUED THEM FROM A LAB.



SUNSHINE AND RAINEY AND THOUSANDS OF OTHER RATS AND MICE WERE USED IN CRUEL TESTS AT A COLLEGE IN NORTH CAROLINA. NEITHER OF THEM HAD A NAME THERE—JUST A NUMBER.









EVEN DOG AND CAT FOOD COMPANIES TEST ON ANIMALS. DURING THESE LONG, CRUEL TESTS, THE DOGS AND CATS CAN BE FORCED TO LIVE FOR YEARS IN COLD, EMPTY CAGES WITHOUT ANY TOYS OR ANYTHING TO DO.

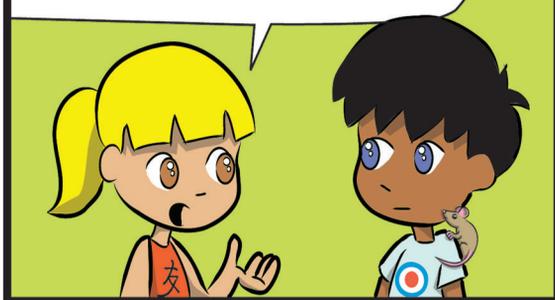


BUT AREN'T THOSE COMPANIES SUPPOSED TO CARE ABOUT ANIMALS?

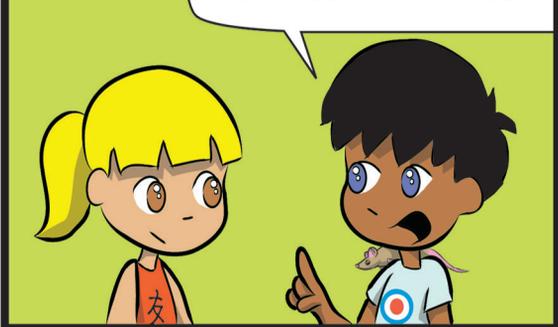
YOU'D THINK SO. BUT A LOT OF EXPERIMENTERS BECOME PRETTY COLD-HEARTED AFTER EXPERIMENTING ON ANIMALS FOR YEARS AND YEARS.

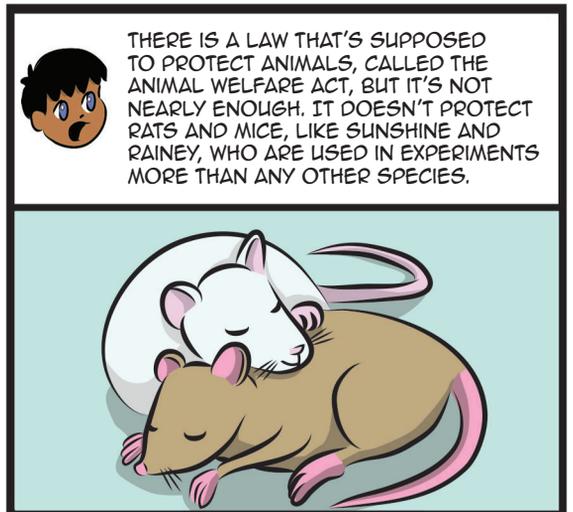
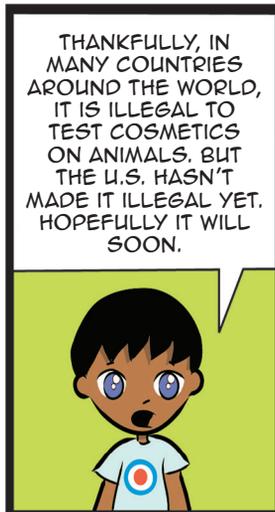
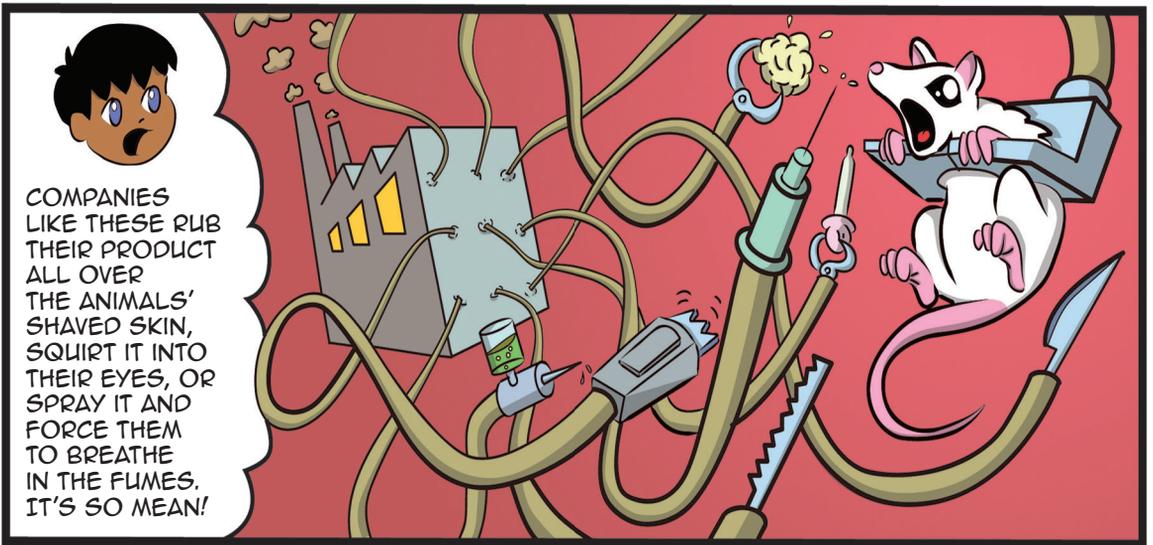
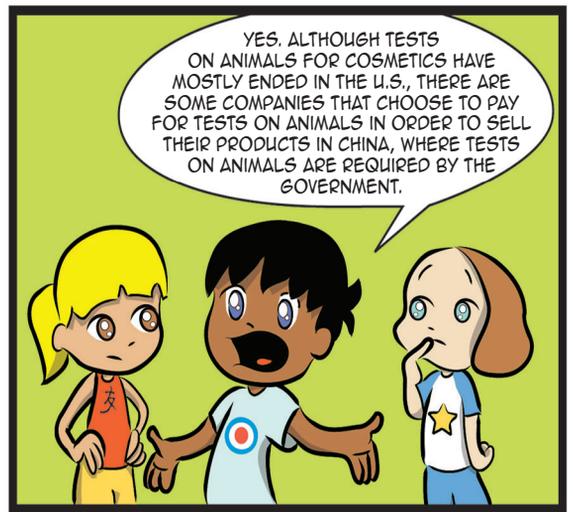
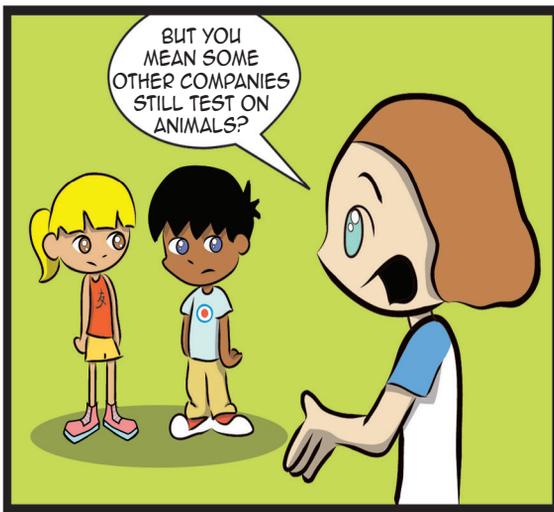


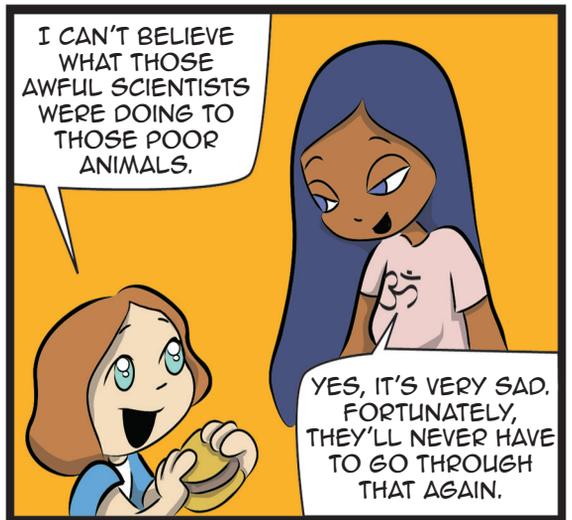
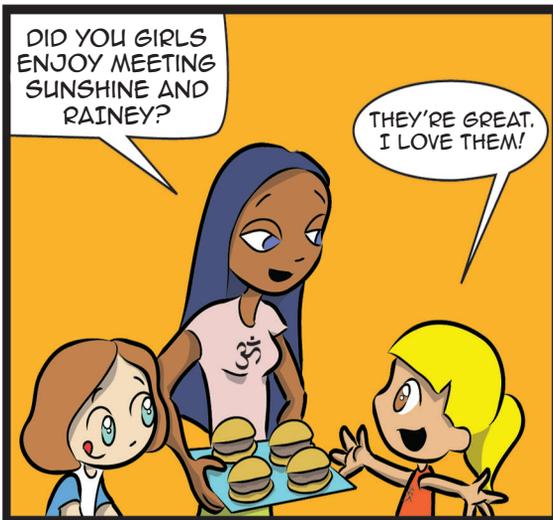
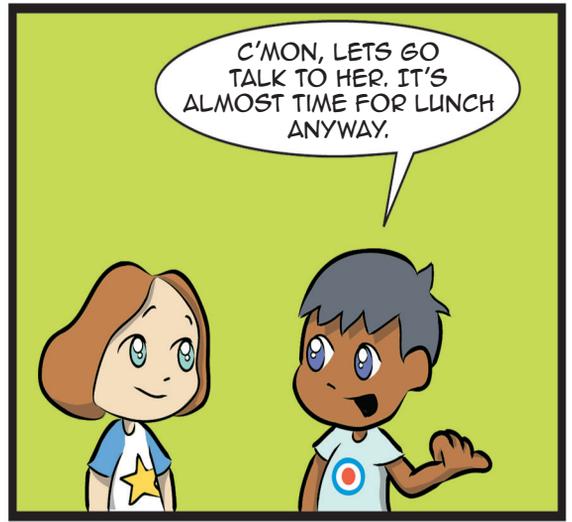
OUR COUSIN WON'T BUY ANY MAKEUP MADE BY COMPANIES THAT TEST ON ANIMALS. SHE SAYS THERE'S NO EXCUSE FOR BUYING THOSE THINGS WHEN THERE ARE SO MANY OTHER COMPANIES THAT DON'T TEST ON ANIMALS.

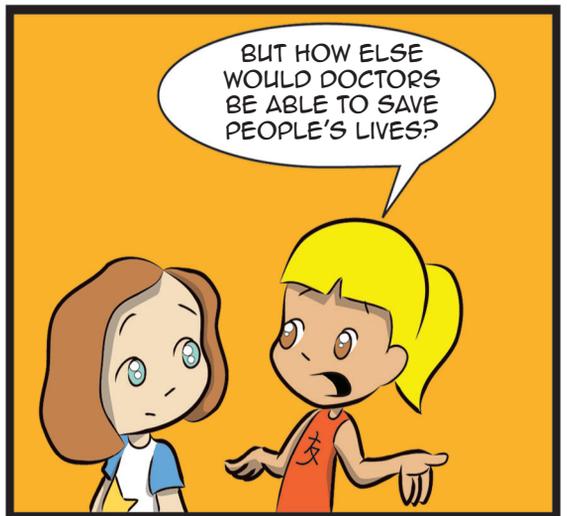
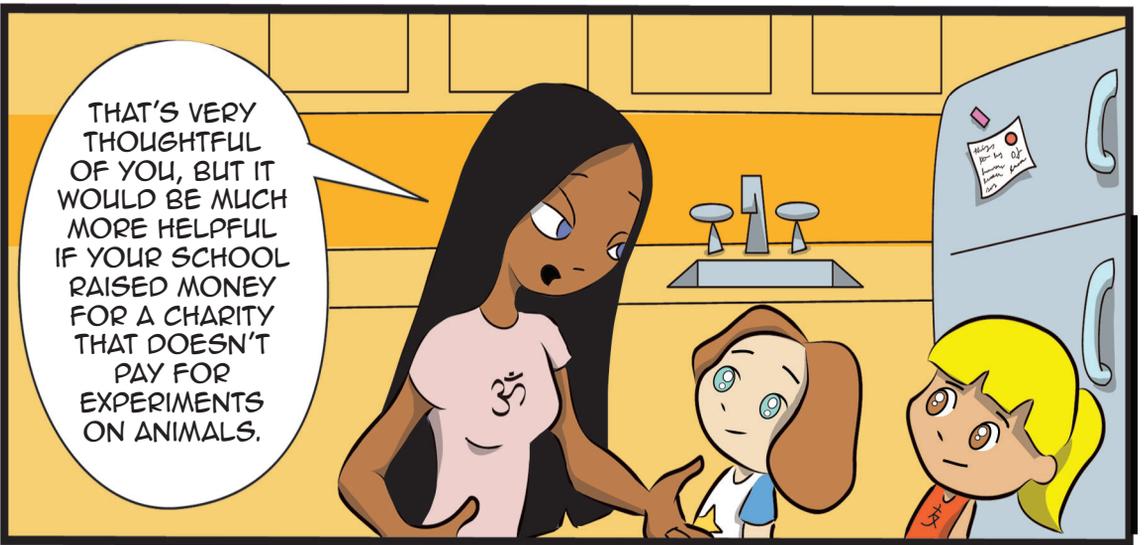
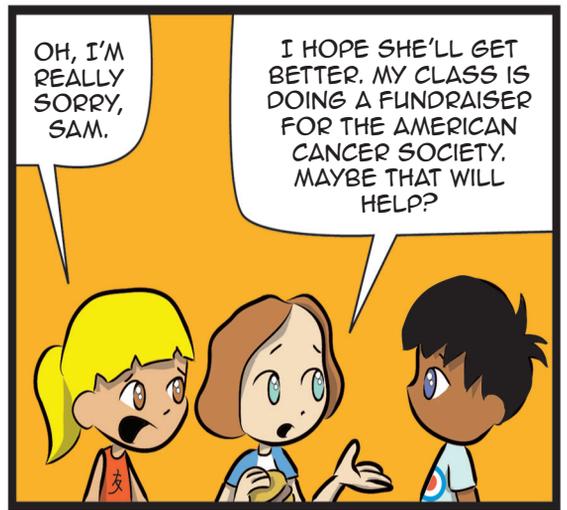
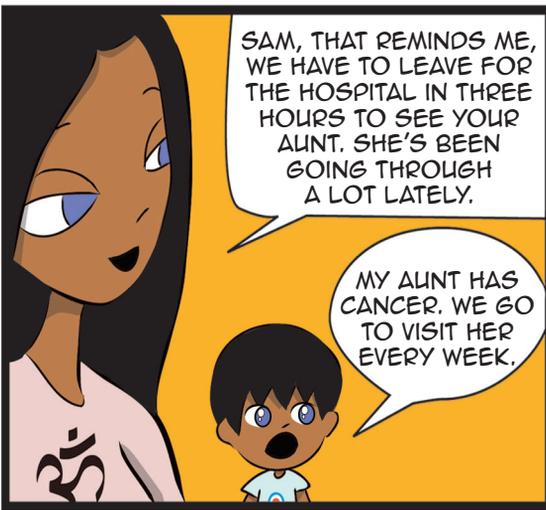


RIGHT. THOUSANDS OF BIG COMPANIES, LIKE THE BODY SHOP, TOM'S OF MAINE, E.L.F., METHOD, WET N WILD, YES TO, AND PACIFICA DON'T TEST ON ANIMALS.









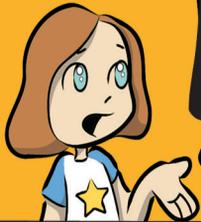
ANIMAL EXPERIMENTS REALLY WON'T HELP SAVE ANYONE'S LIFE. IN FACT, A LOT OF ANIMALS WILL SUFFER AND DIE FOR NOTHING. ANIMAL TESTING JUST USES MONEY THAT COULD BE SPENT HELPING HUMANS, NOT HURTING ANIMALS.



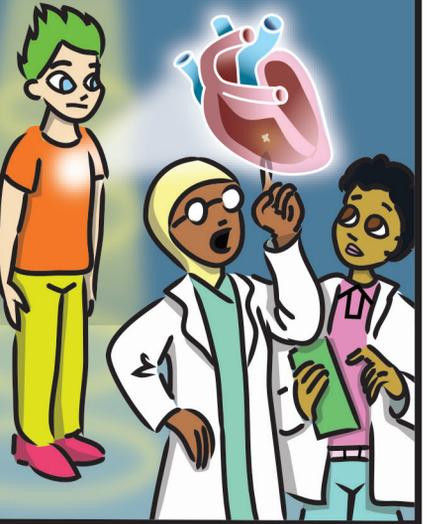
SMART CHARITIES FOCUS ON PREVENTION AND CARE. AND THEY USE MODERN RESEARCH METHODS LIKE OBSERVING HUMANS, USING COMPUTER MODELS, CONDUCTING AUTOPSIES, AND STUDYING HUMAN CELL AND TISSUE SAMPLES.



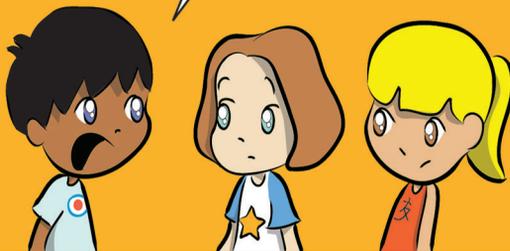
DO THEY REALLY WORK?



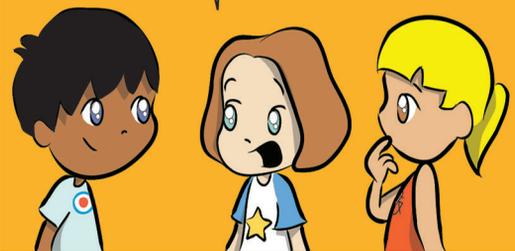
YES, THEY ARE FASTER, MORE RELIABLE, AND LESS EXPENSIVE THAN ANIMAL TESTS. NOWADAYS THERE ARE HIGH-TECH COMPUTER VIRTUAL ORGANS THAT ARE JUST LIKE HUMAN BODY PARTS. IN THIS DAY AND AGE, THERE'S NO REASON TO EXPERIMENT ON ANIMALS.

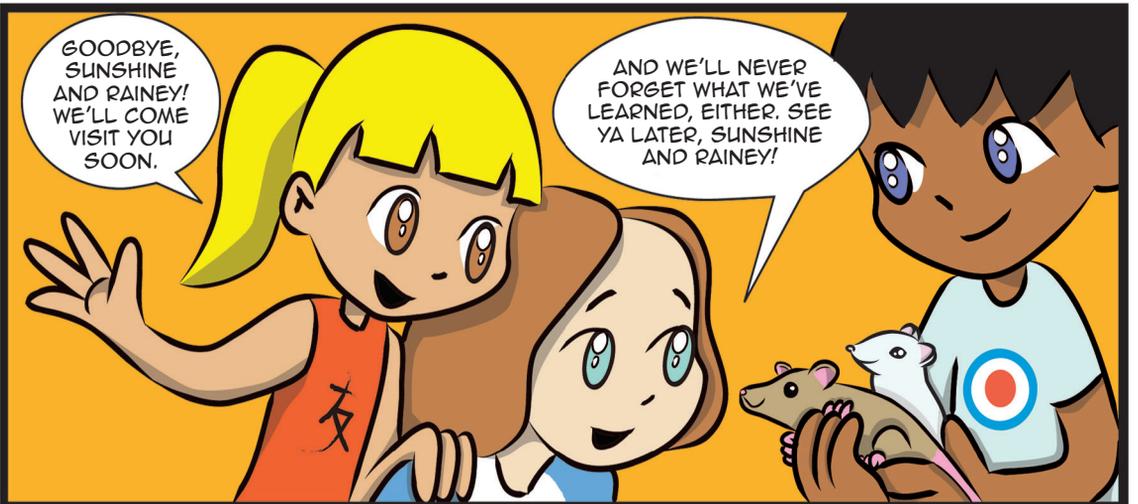
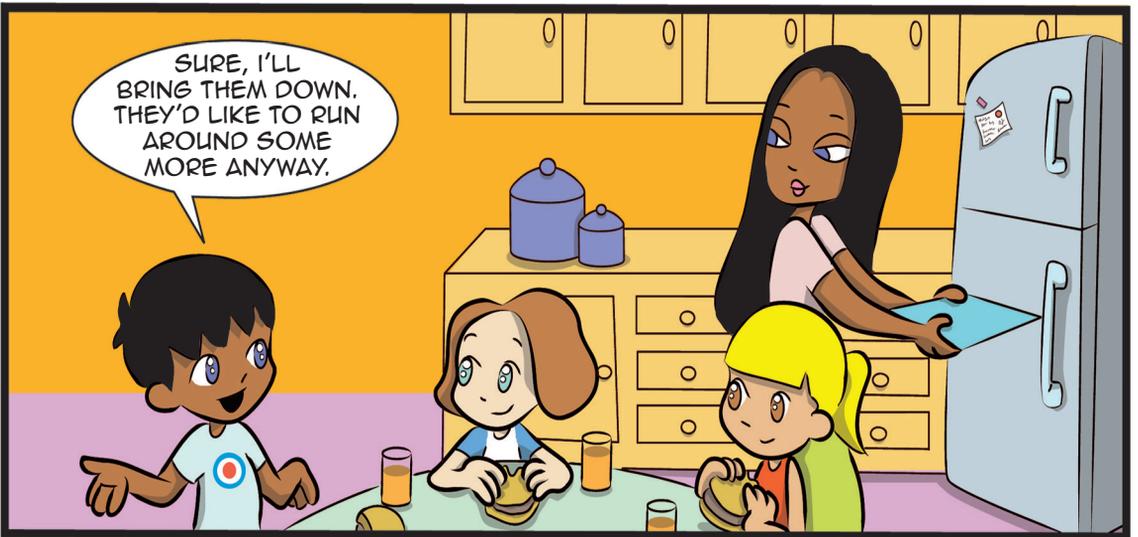
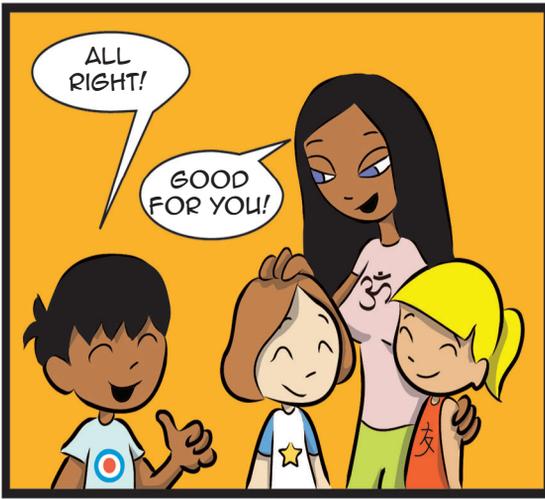


MY MOM'S RIGHT. PLUS, IT'S WRONG TO HURT ANIMALS. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO SUNSHINE AND RAINEY, AND I'D NEVER WANT TO HELP PAY SOMEONE TO DO THAT TO ANOTHER ANIMAL.



YOU'RE RIGHT. I'M GOING TO TALK TO MY TEACHER AND MY CLASSMATES AND TELL THEM THAT WE SHOULD DO A FUNDRAISER FOR A CRUELTY-FREE CHARITY INSTEAD.

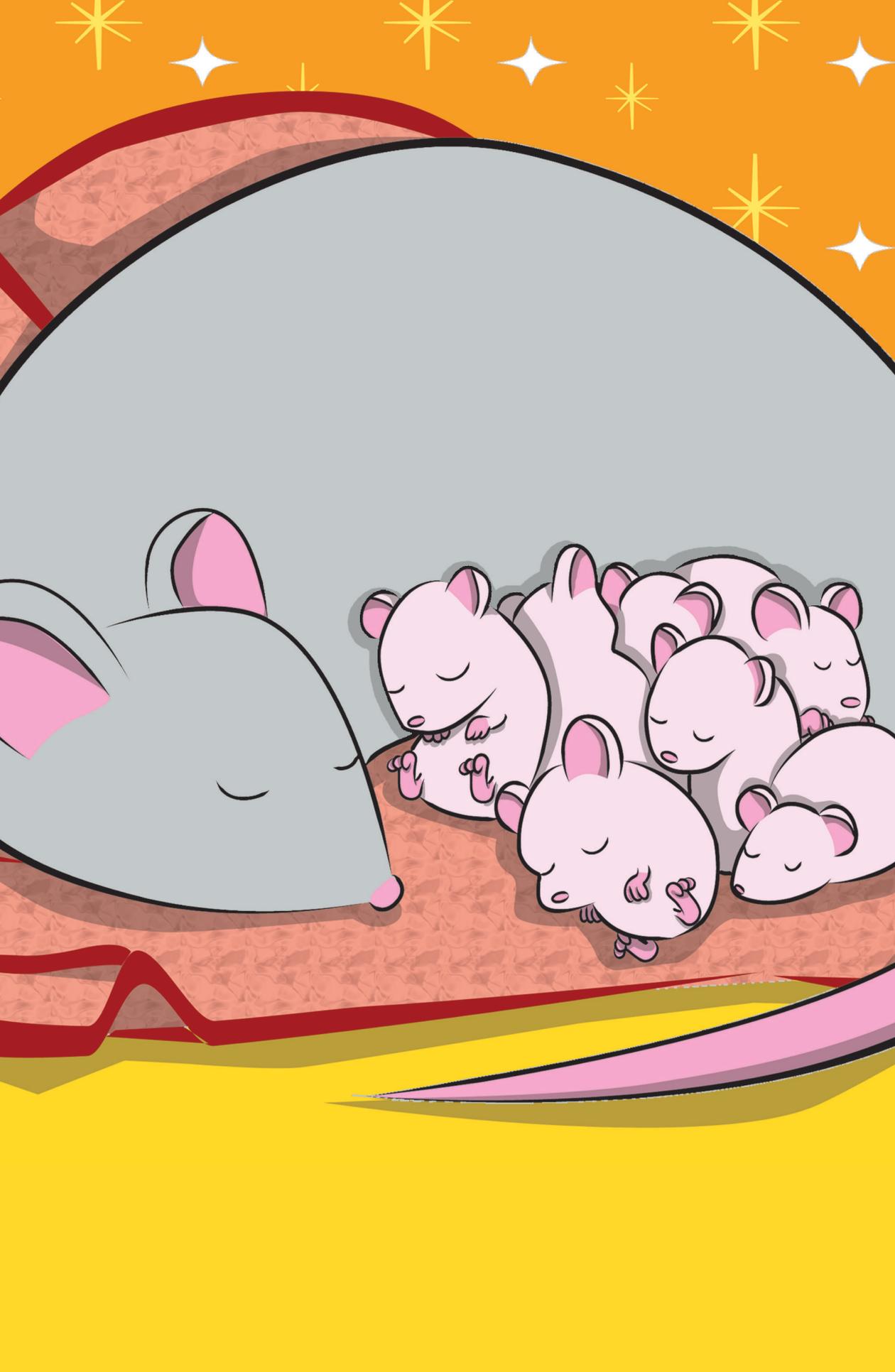




INSTRUCTIONS: RATS BELONG IN NATURE, NOT IN A LAB.
SHOW THAT YOU CARE ABOUT THEM BY COLORING IN THIS
PICTURE OF RATS IN THEIR NATURAL ENVIRONMENT!



VISIT PETAKIDS.COM TO DISCOVER MORE FUN WAYS TO HELP
SAVE RATS AND OTHER ANIMALS USED IN LABS.



DO YOU WANT TO HELP RATS AND OTHER ANIMALS IN LABORATORIES?

CHECK OUT PETAKIDS.COM
TODAY FOR INFORMATION, GAMES,
CONTESTS, AND MORE.

PETA kids

For more free comics, e-mail PETAKids@peta.org.

