Writing from an animal's perspective

Lesson 3



The fox watched it all from the beach.



Here is the Fox of Chiloe watching Darwin and some of the crew of HMS Beagle coming ashore.

The fox has seen neither men nor boats before.



Here is the Fox of Chiloe watching Darwin and some of the crew of HMS Beagle coming ashore.
The fox has seen neither men nor boats before.

We asked you to think about how the fox might describe this scene…



Here is one of your accounts of the scene. Stop the slideshow and jot down what you think has been done well.

As the blazing ball of fire rose overhead, I saw what must have been magic. Gliding across the water like a bird, a log was racing to shore. As it got closer I saw these strange creatures on it, they were like none that I'd seen before.

They brought ashore lot of strange objects. They used a tree branch to steer the log to shore like the log had suddenly grown legs.



This person has done a great job.
They have described this unfamiliar scene using things that would be familiar to the fox.

As the blazing ball of fire rose overhead, I saw what must have been magic. Gliding across the water like a bird, a log was racing to shore. As it got closer I saw these strange creatures on it, they were like none that I'd seen before.

They brought ashore lot of strange objects. They used a tree branch to steer the log to shore like the log had suddenly grown legs.



A great description of the sun … without using the word.

As the blazing ball of fire rose overhead, I saw what must have been magic. Gliding across the water like a bird, a log was racing to shore. As it got closer I saw these strange creatures on it, they were like none that I'd seen before.

They brought ashore lot of strange objects. They used a tree branch to steer the log to shore like the log had suddenly grown legs.



The fox describes the boat as a log – not *like* a log.

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They brought ashore lot of strange objects. They used a tree branch to steer the log to shore like the log had suddenly grown legs.



Great phrasing to describe these unusual creatures.

As the blazing ball of fire rose overhead, I saw what must have been magic. Gliding across the water like a bird, a log was racing to shore. As it got closer I saw these strange creatures on it, they were like none that I'd seen before.

They brought ashore lot of strange objects. They used a tree branch to steer the log to shore like the log had suddenly grown legs.



A clever way to describe the oars.
She has not given too much away and has drawn the reader in by dropping clues, but not giving too much away.

As the blazing ball of fire rose overhead, I saw what must have been magic. Gliding across the water like a bird, a log was racing to shore. As it got closer I saw these strange creatures on it, they were like none that I'd seen before.

They brought ashore lot of strange objects. They used a tree branch to steer the log to shore like the log had suddenly grown legs.



They seem to be stirring the water with a long wooden branch.

Here are some other interesting descriptions of the scene that were sent to us…



As the sun rose on the horizon I was drawn in by a large hollowed out log floating towards the shore. As it neared, I made out some creatures upon it, the like of which I had never seen before.

Great phrasing to describe the mysterious creatures.



Questions are a very good way of showing the bemusement and puzzlement that the fox would have felt.

What is that? A tree? Some sort of animal? No. There are strange creatures on it. What are they? Big monkeys? No. They came from the water. Walking whales? No. They are too small. I have never seen them before. Will they hurt me? Are they hungry? What is that noise they are making?



This person has referred to the strange noises.
The fox would never have heard human ‘noises’ before.

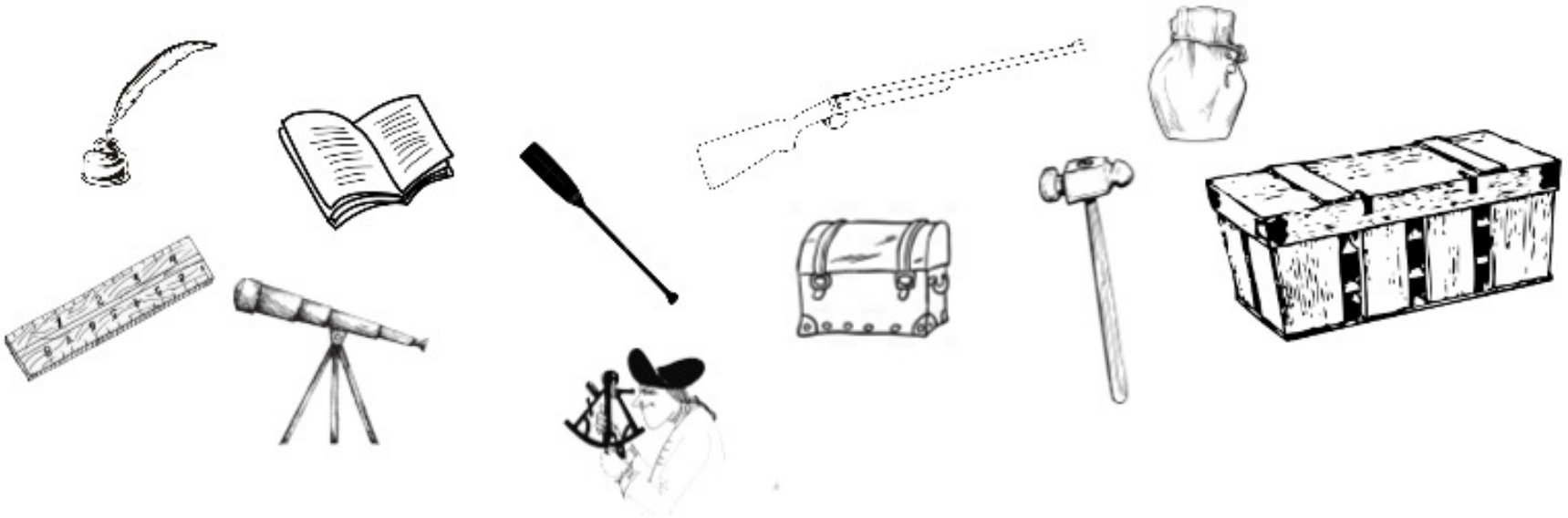
As the sun rose, I went to look at the sea and noticed a floating log drifting closer to the shore. On the log were strange looking animals that I didn’t recognise, they were making a weird call that I didn’t understand.

Go back and read your description of the boat coming ashore.
Having seen the work of others, what will you do differently when you write it again.
Don't rewrite sentences at this point – just a few notes.
For example:

- *Describe the sounds*
- *What is the ocean like?*
- *Ask questions*
- *Make the fox seem more puzzled*
- *Vary sentence openings*

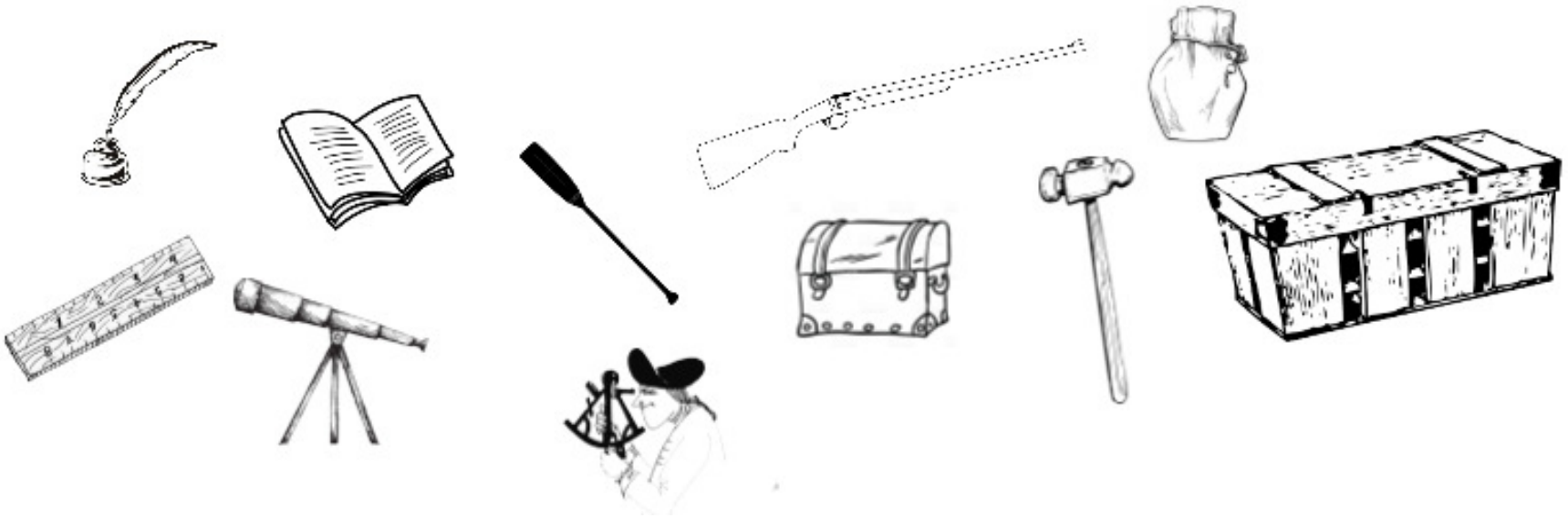


Darwin and the crew brought a lot of strange equipment onto the beach. Darwin was there to study the plants and wildlife, everybody else was there to survey, map and take measurements of the island.



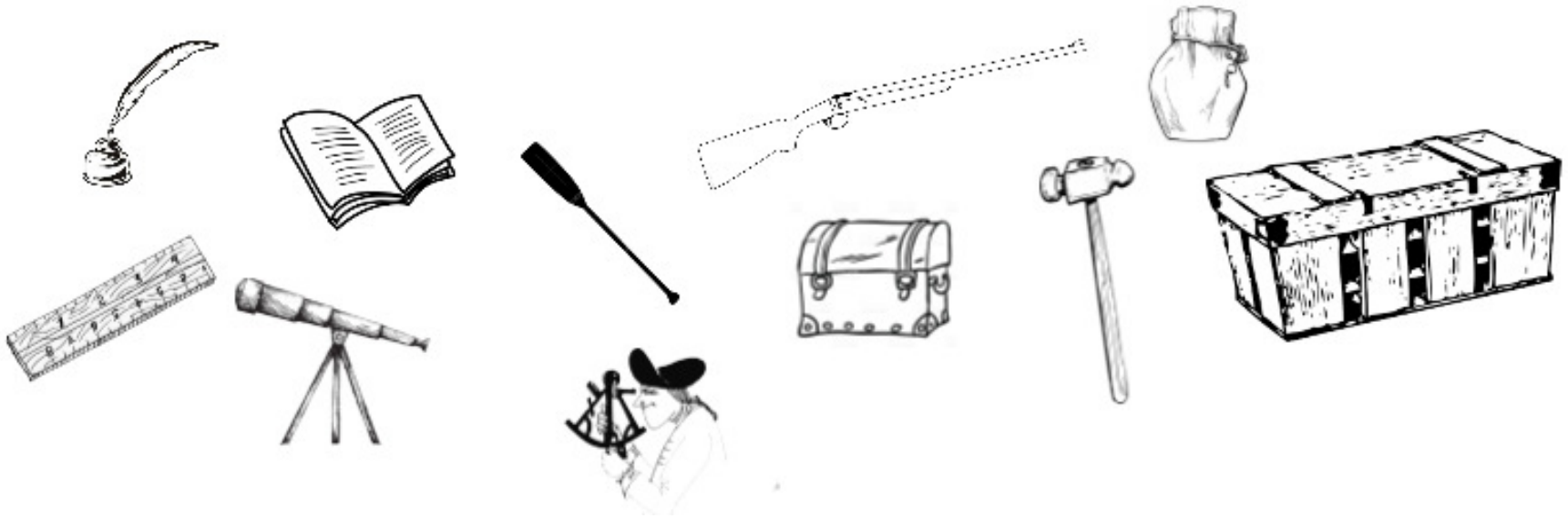
We asked you to describe these strange items from the perspective of the fox.





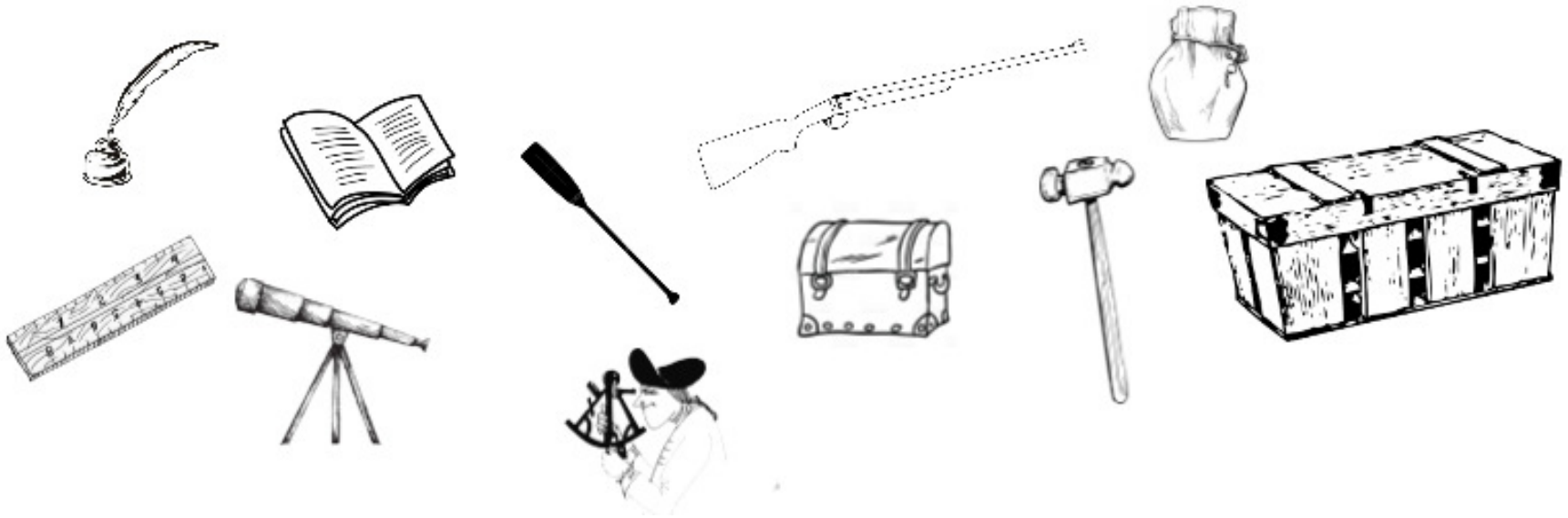
Here are some of your descriptions. Can you work out what is being described?



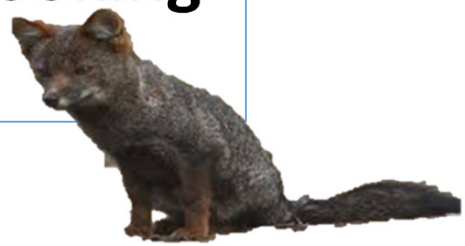


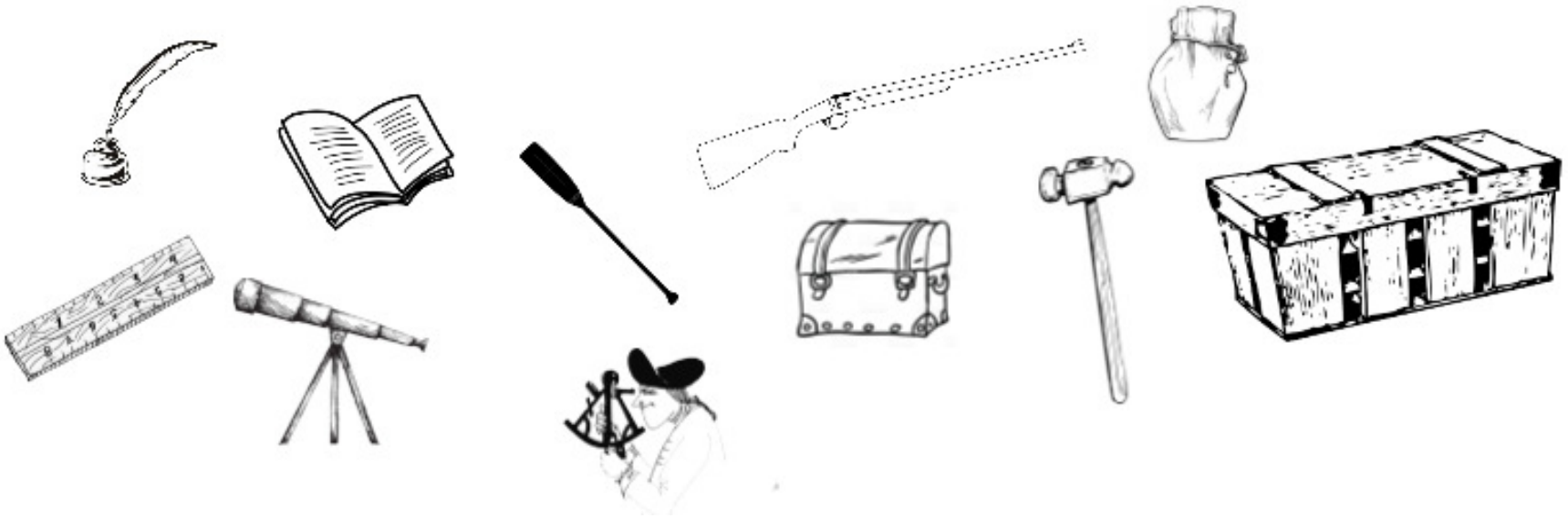
a big leaf with squiggly black marks on it





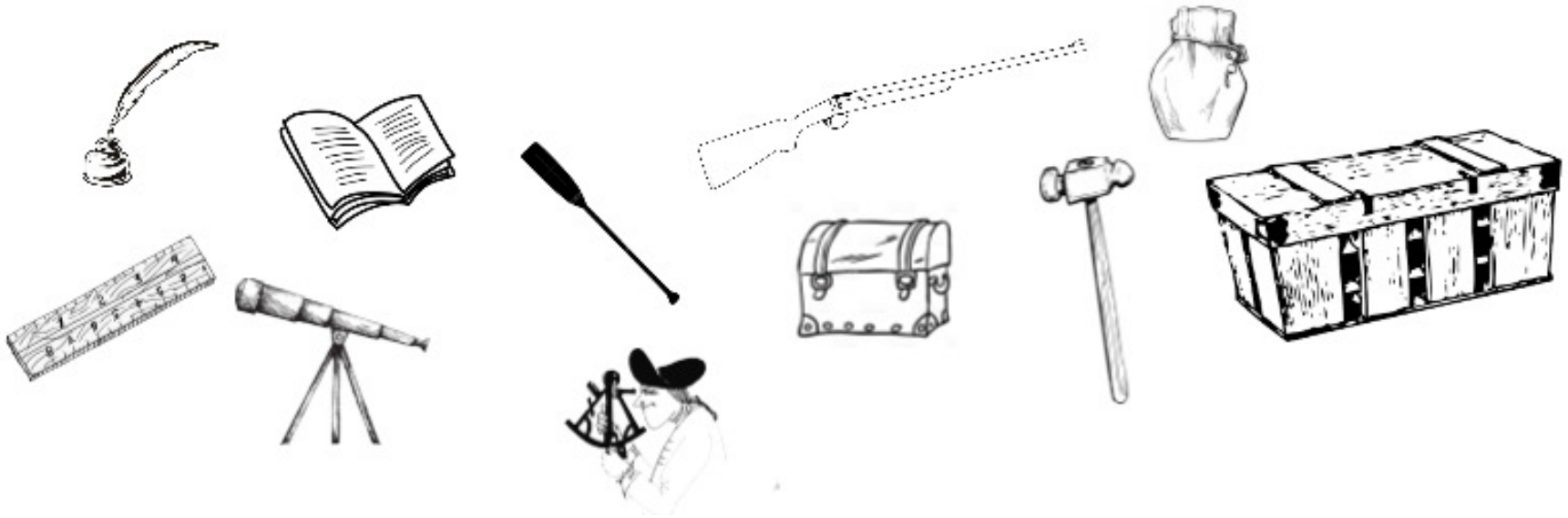
They took out a three legged creature with one big eye and one small eye and put their eye to it like they were looking inside its body!





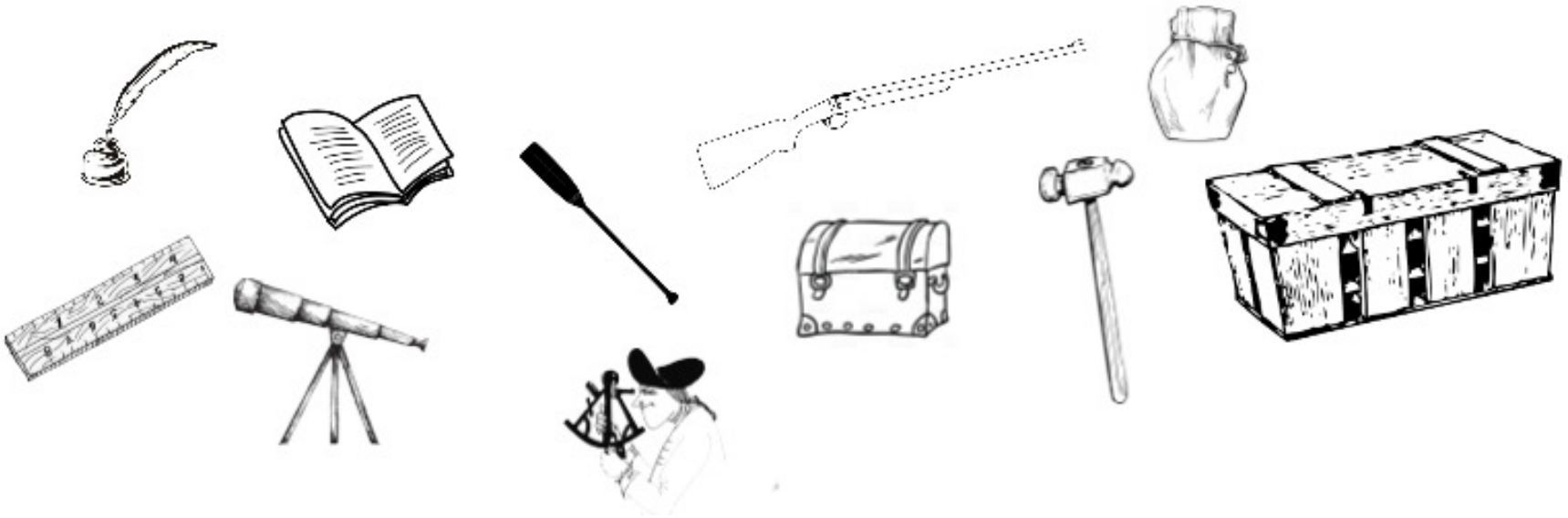
The strange creatures seem to have been able to stab a stick inside a stone.





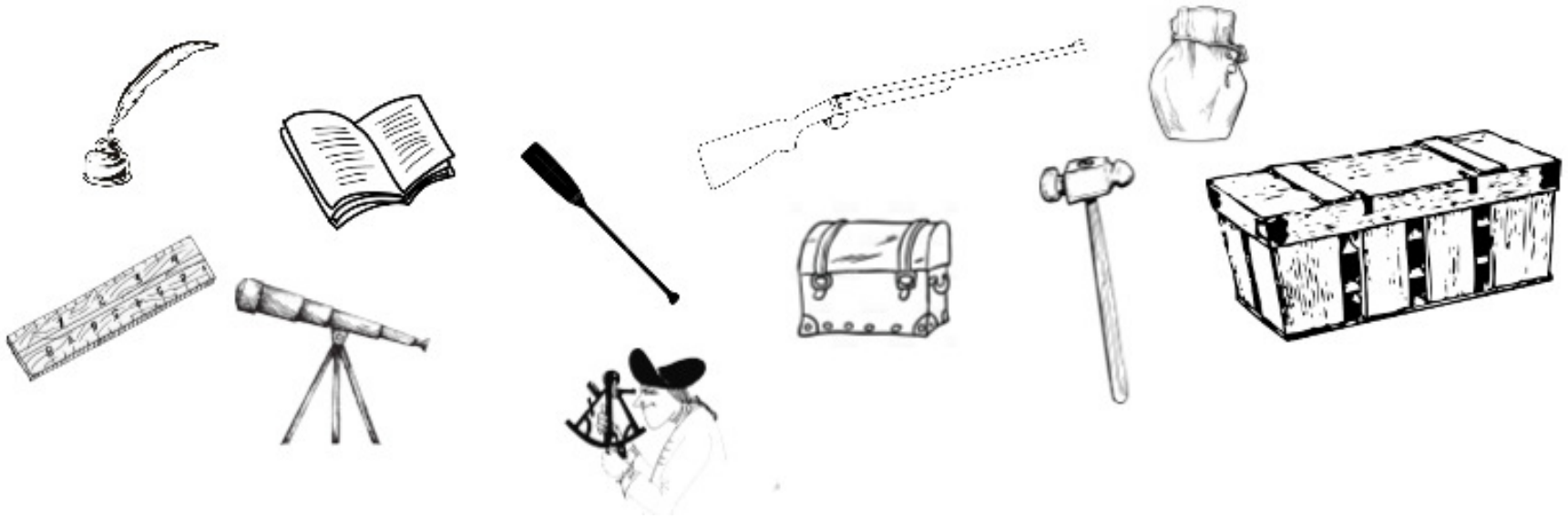
I saw a long thing that made a loud bang – it was black and shining in the sun. It looked heavy.





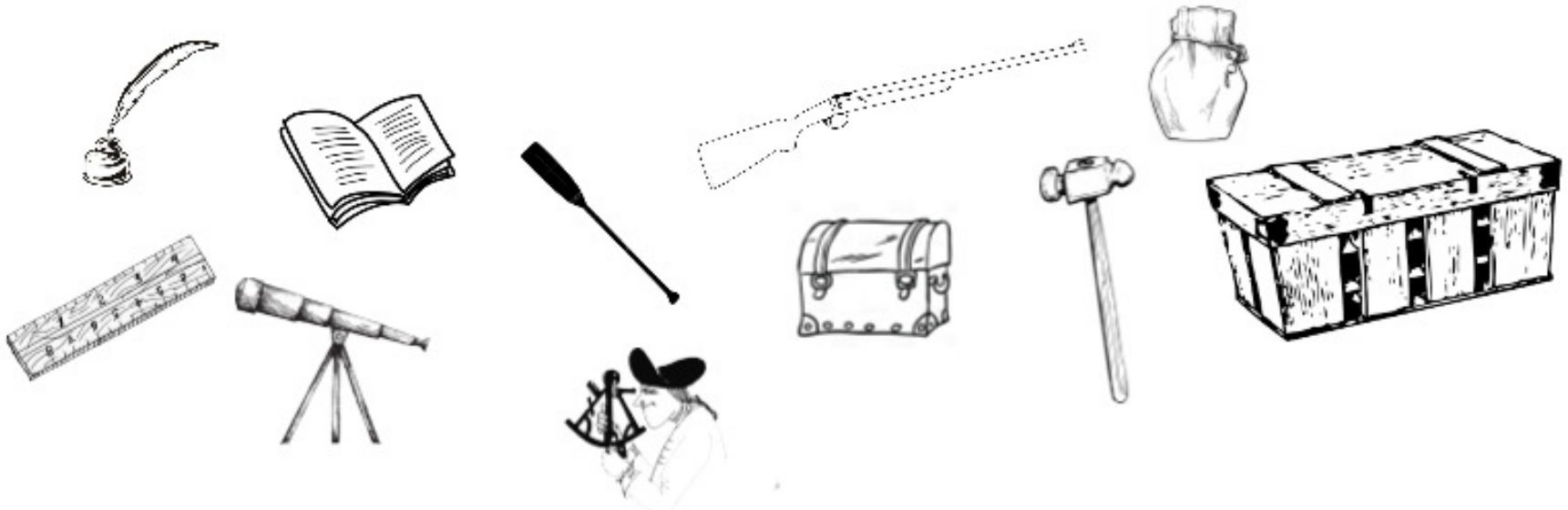
Some skin of a poor animal which was tied up with a brown vine that the creatures dipped their paws into.



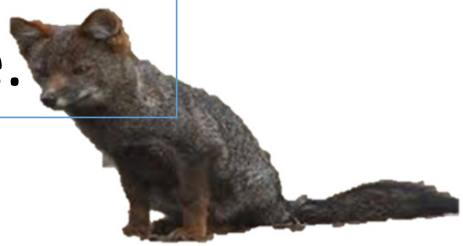


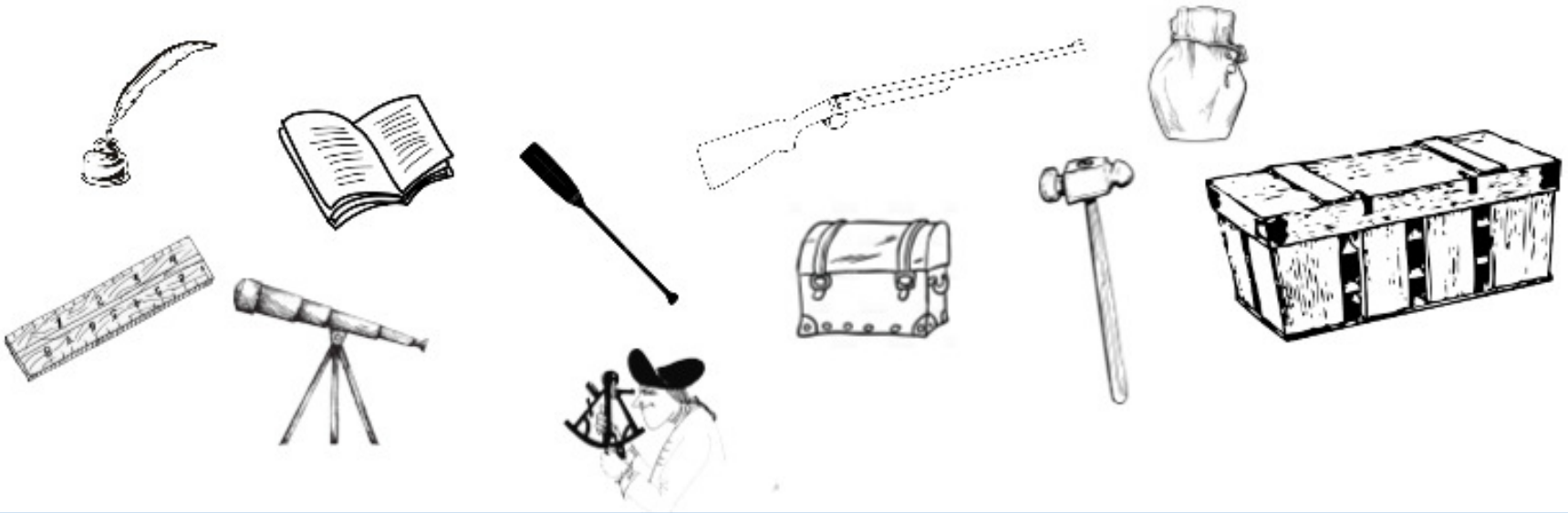
…then a puff of smoke came out the end of the branch with a shiny end. It made me jump up into the air, and I tried to stay away from it.





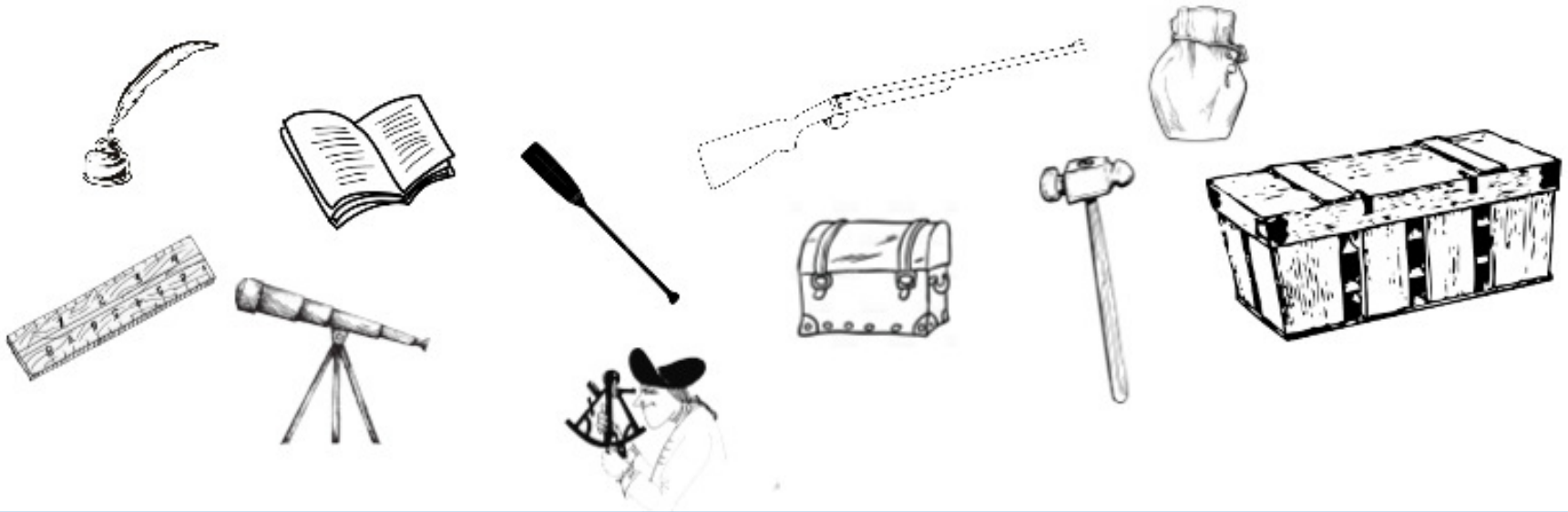
The short and wide end was hard like a tree but it shone like the sun reflecting on the sea so didn’t look like any tree I’d seen before. The other end was long and thin and felt more like a cold stone and it sometimes made a clicking noise.





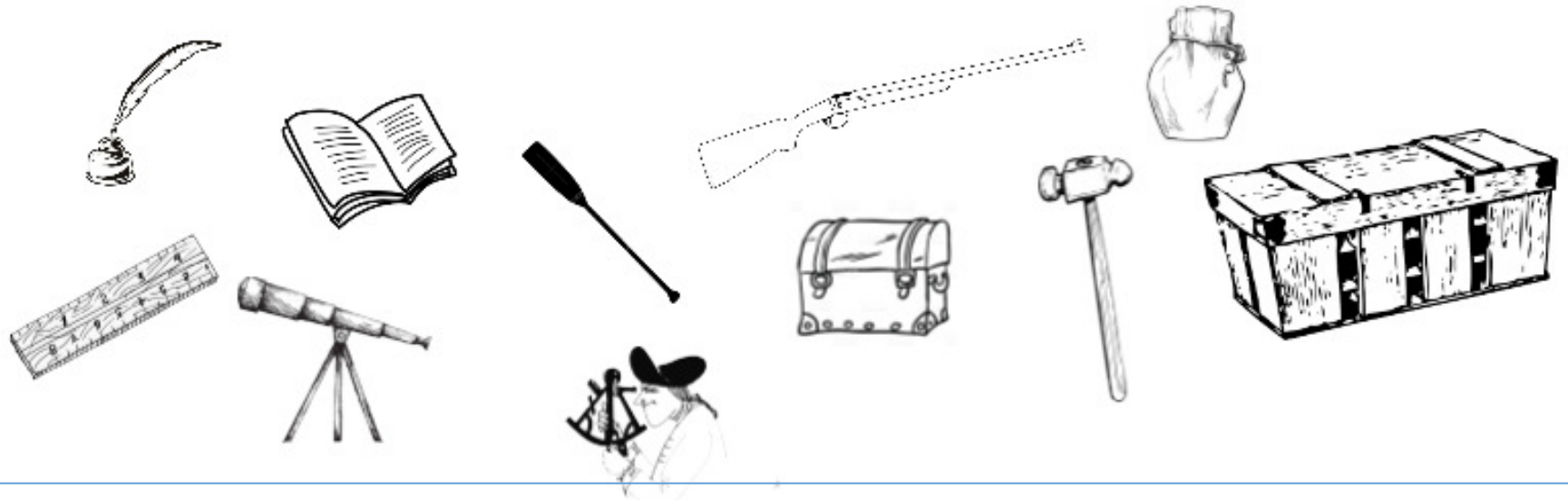
The group were looking at a object and pointing to the trees on the island, they seemed to be searching for something.



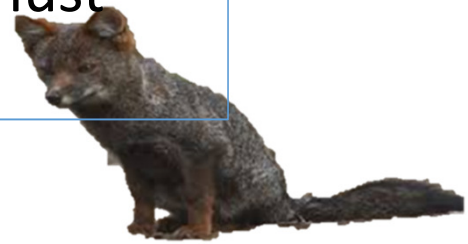


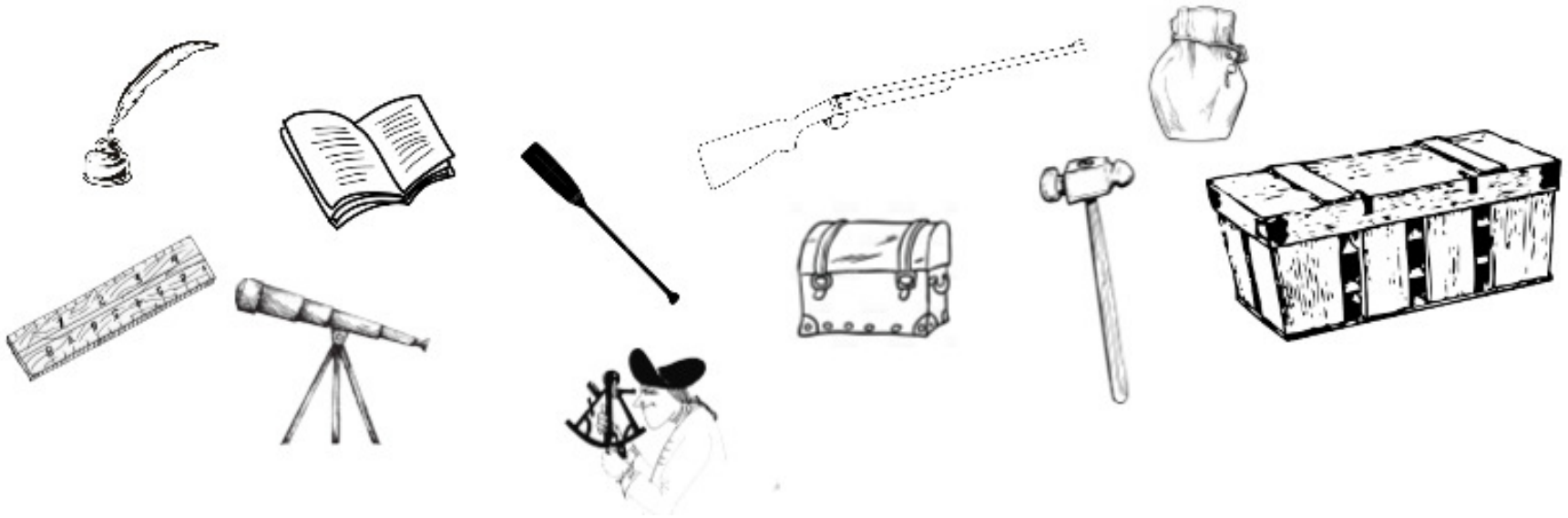
One creature was carrying a long thin stick with a sharp end, it looked scary and I could see blood on the tip of it.





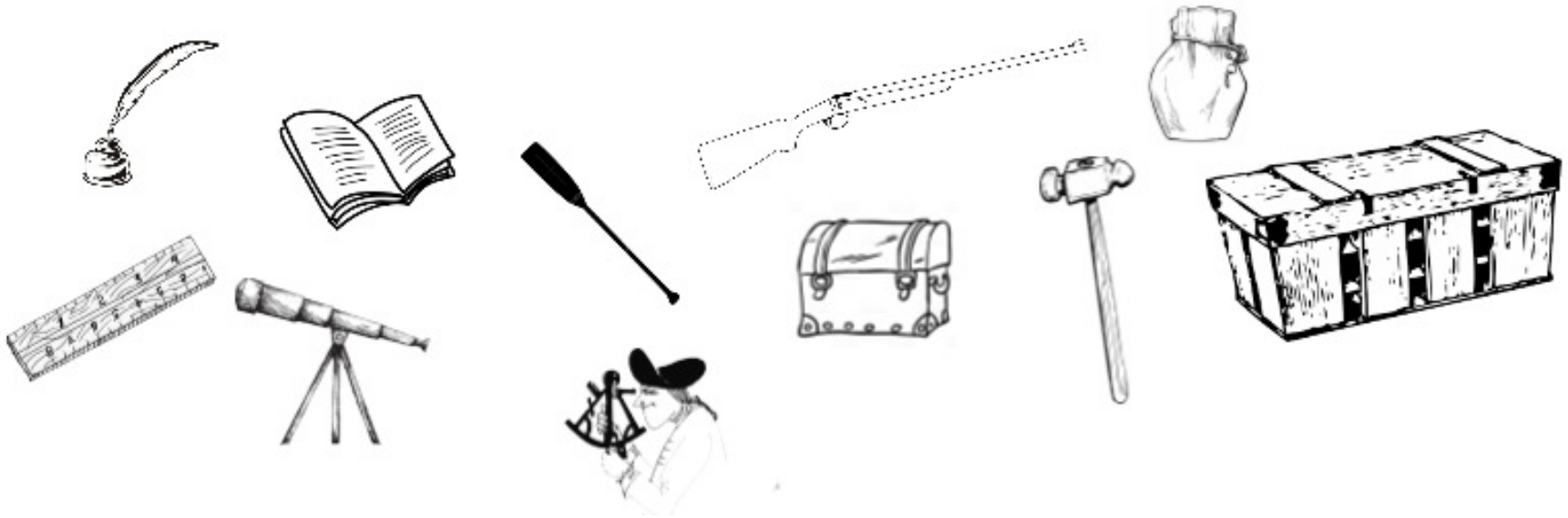
It appeared to be a tree stump with dead vines twisted around it. Somehow, the most beautiful pebbles had become embedded in it and they glistened as it was moved. As the creatures moved towards it, they changed its shape and revealed it to be hollow. They must have been searching for insects to feed themselves.





This strange creature stands on three skinny legs which supports its long, thin body. It doesn't have any fur; it's skin lets the sunlight bounce off it which dazzles me. At both ends of its body are single eyes, one bigger than the other which seems to help it to see.

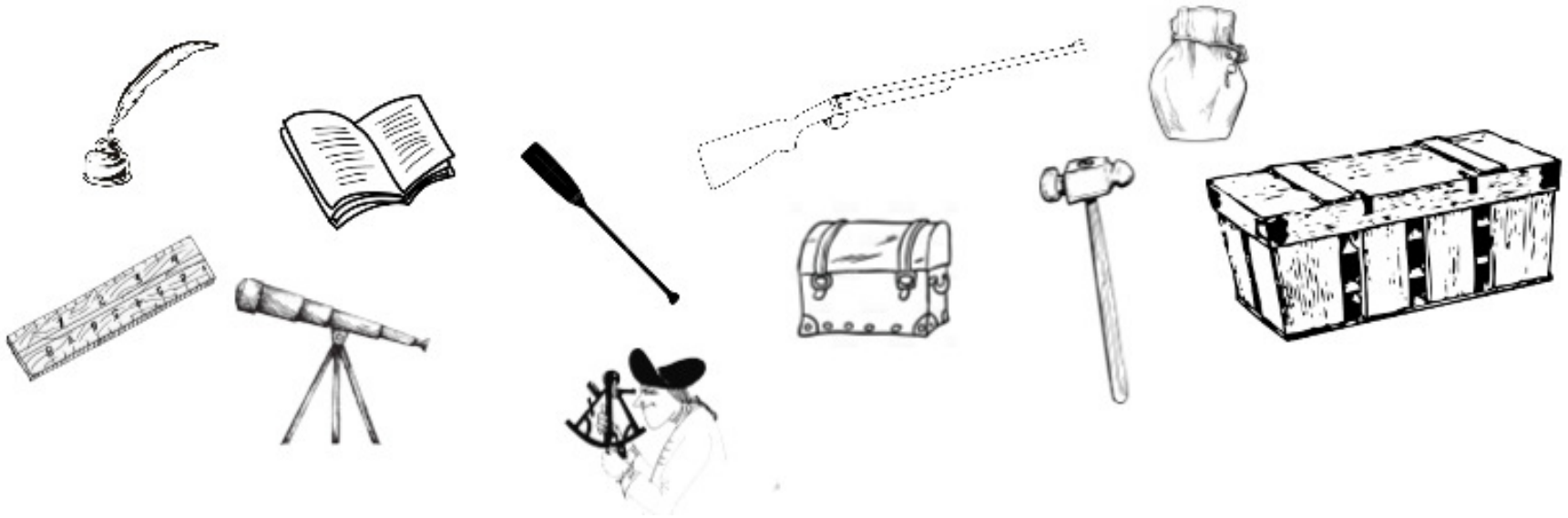




The snake was coiled around the sack, but was passive and unmoving.

I really like the description of the snake, but there is something wrong with this description. Can you spot it?

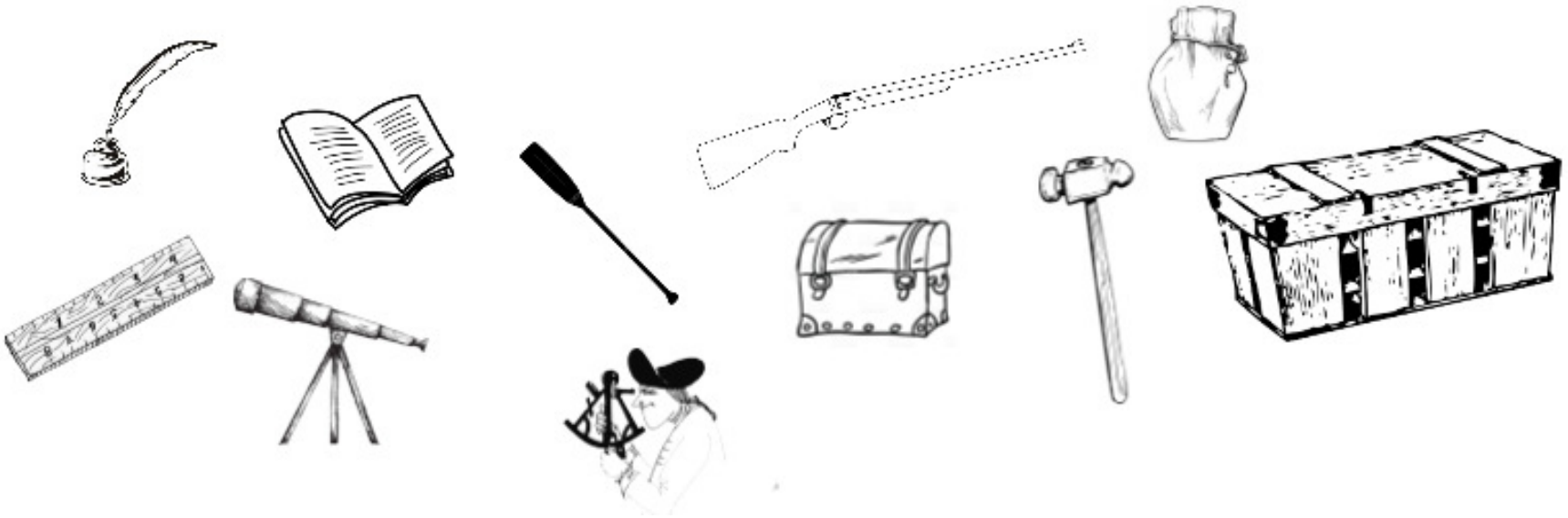




The snake was coiled around the sack, but was passive and unmoving.

The fox would not have known what a sack was!

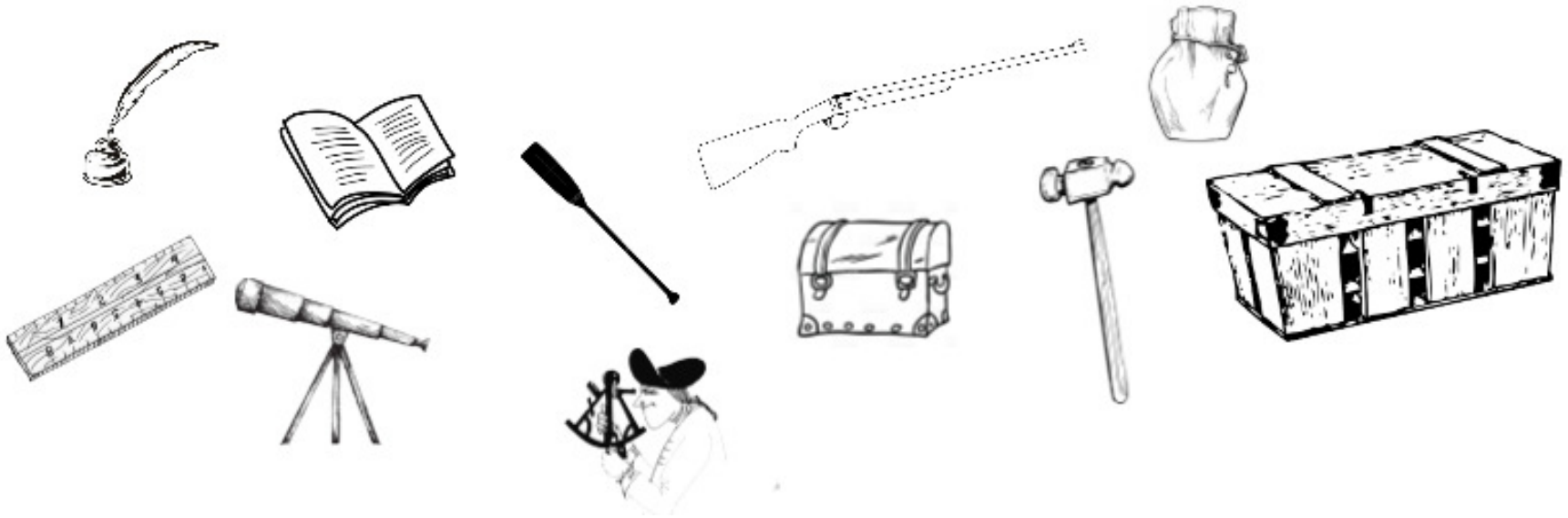




The snake was coiled around the sack, but was passive and unmoving.

What could have been written instead of ‘the sack’?





The snake was coiled around the sack, but was passive and unmoving.

Read through your sentences from yesterday. Have you used any words that refer to objects that the fox would never have seen?



The men from HMS Beagle would have looked and dressed very much like these Victorian sailors.





Everything about these creatures would have appeared strange to the fox.





Everything about these creatures would have appeared strange to the fox.



They are without tails!



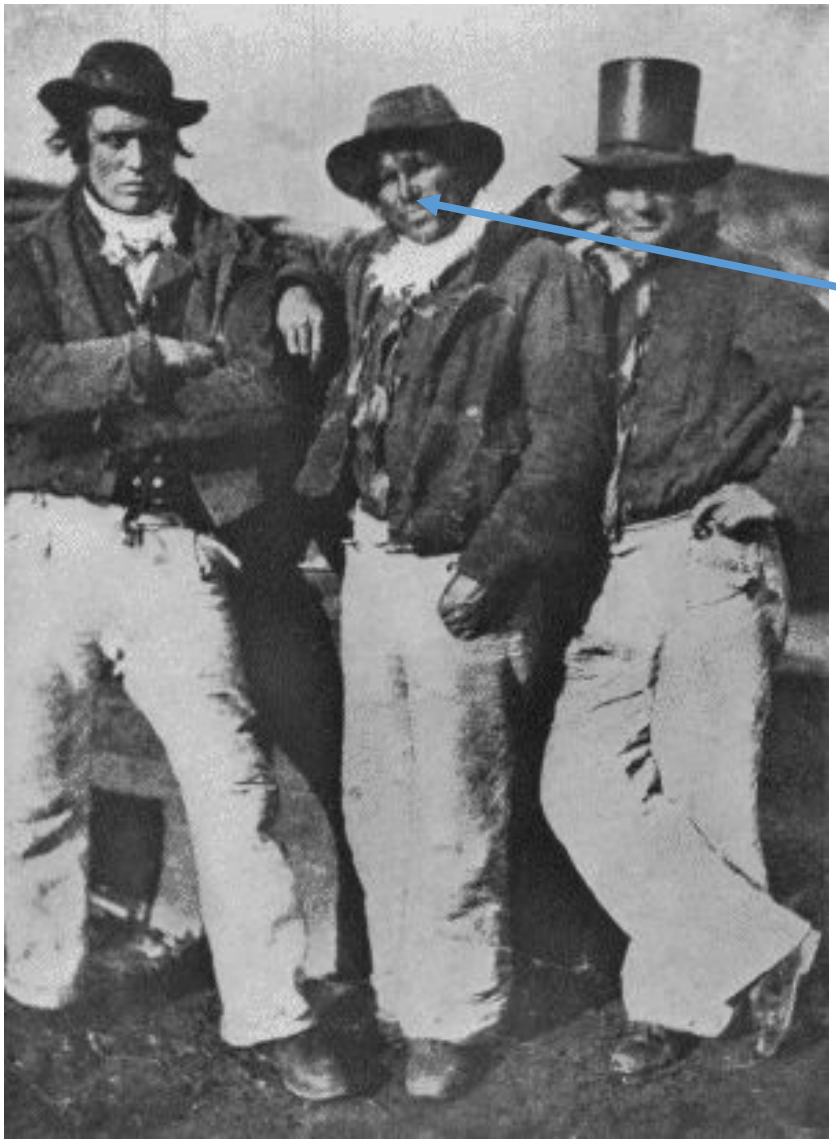
Everything about these creatures would have appeared strange to the fox.



One appeared to have seaweed stuck to its head.



Everything about these creatures would have appeared strange to the fox.



No whiskers on its snout.



Everything about these creatures would have appeared strange to the fox.

Your job is to list as many things about these creatures that the fox would find strange.





Everything about these creatures would have appeared strange to the fox.

Your job is to list as many things about these creatures that the fox would find strange.



Don’t worry about writing perfect sentences. Concentrate on trying to list as many features as possible.

