

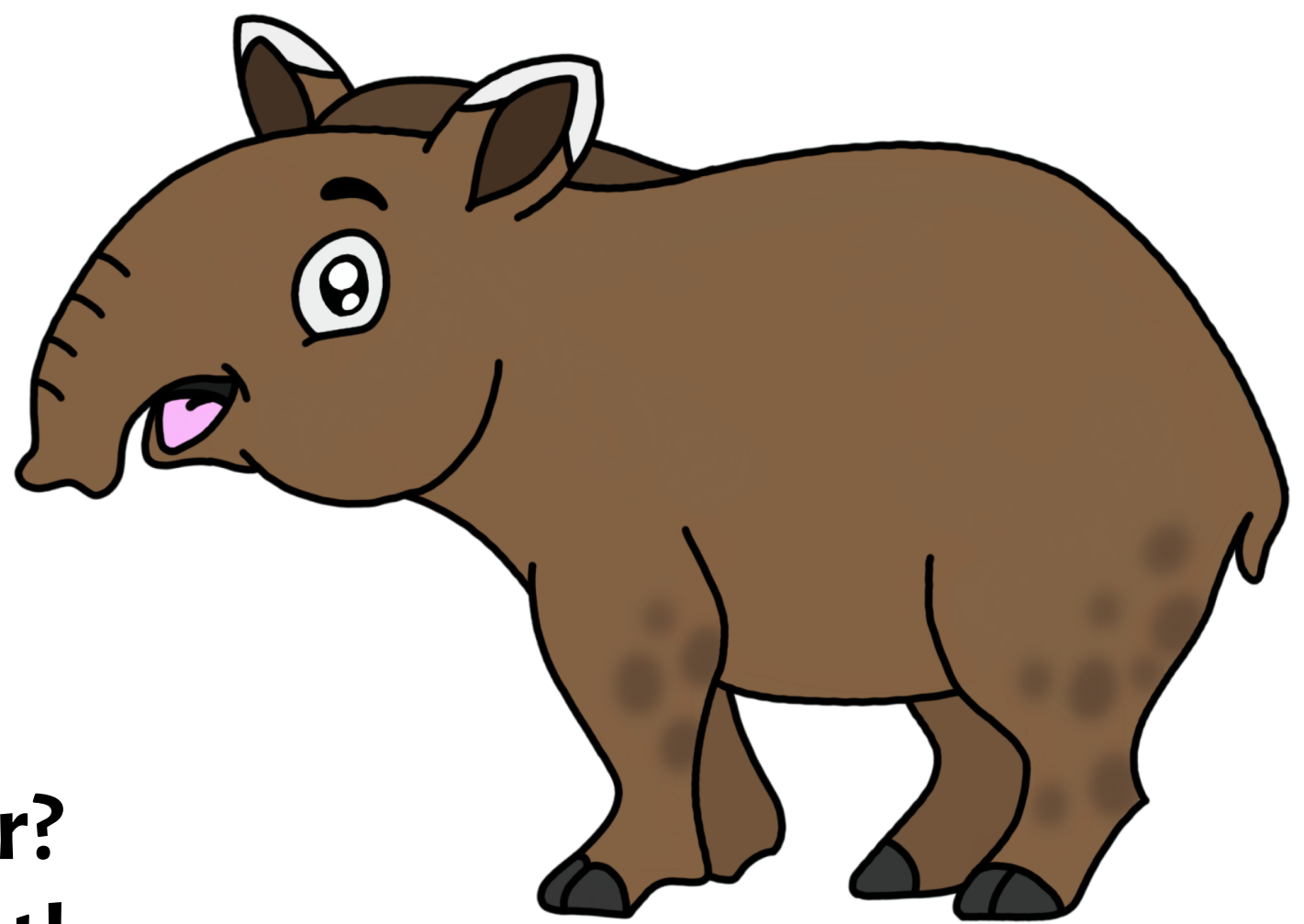
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## Strange Changes!

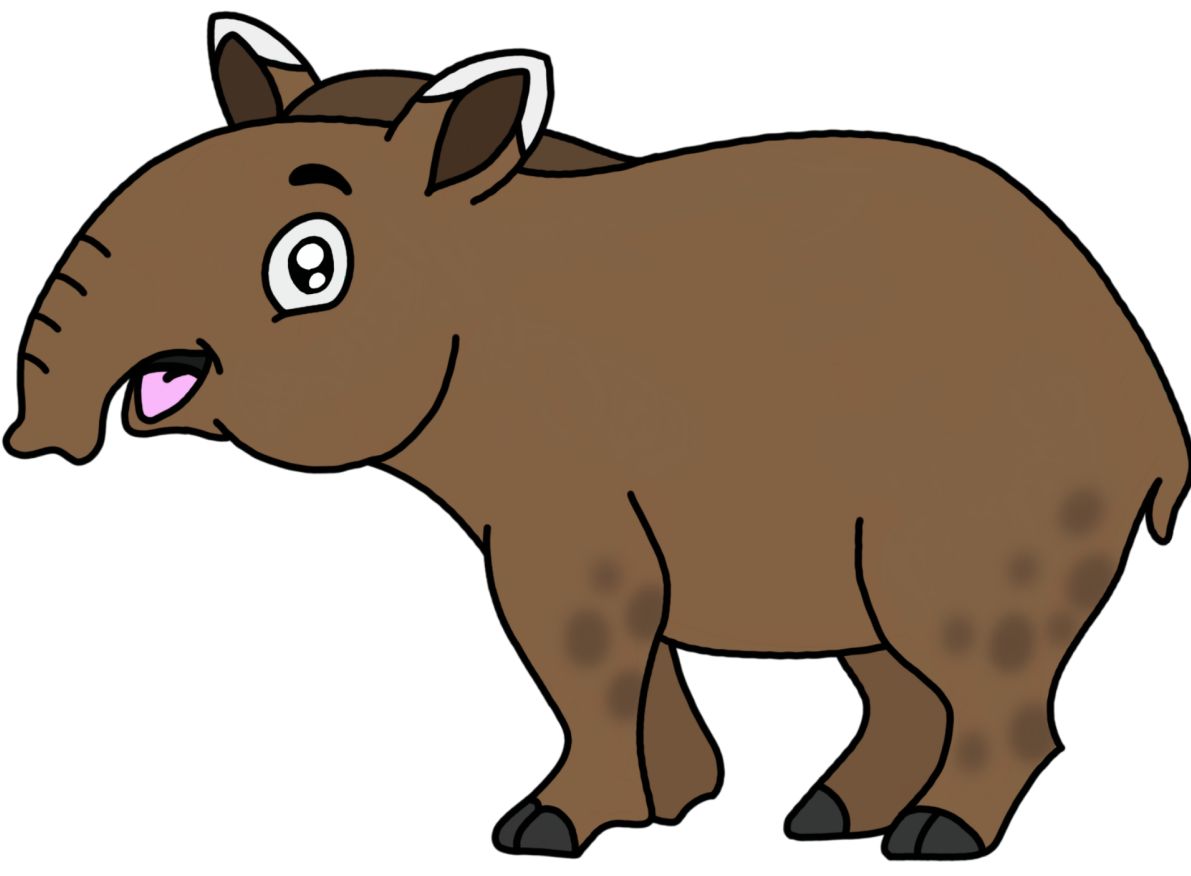

Tapirs live in the rainforest, where their features help them survive. Sometimes, when a habitat changes, little differences between individual animals allow some to survive while others do not. Over many many years, they can change or *evolve* to be better suited to the new habitat.

This is Alf the tapir. He has a trunk like an elephant for grabbing leaves to eat and a dark brown body to hide from predators in the gloom of the forest floor.



But what if the trees grew taller? Then tapirs who couldn't reach the leaves would go hungry and not survive.

Tapirs better able to reach leaves would survive. Draw how tapirs might evolve over time if they had to reach for higher leaves.

<i>Tapirs now</i>	<i>Tapirs in the future</i>
	

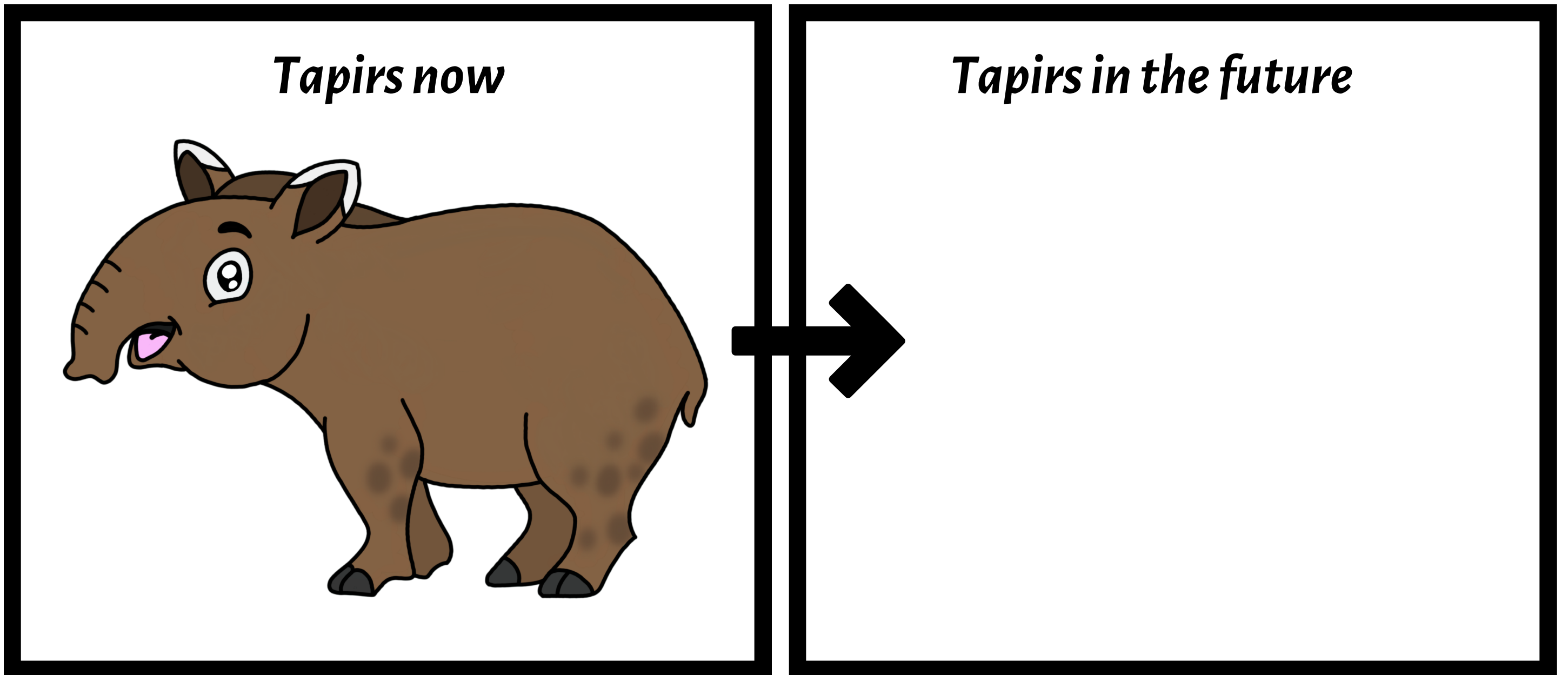
The diagram consists of two rectangular boxes side-by-side, separated by a vertical line. The left box is labeled "Tapirs now" and contains a drawing of Alf the tapir. A large black arrow points from the right side of the left box to the right side of the right box, which is labeled "Tapirs in the future". The right box is currently empty, intended for a drawing of how tapirs might evolve to reach higher leaves.

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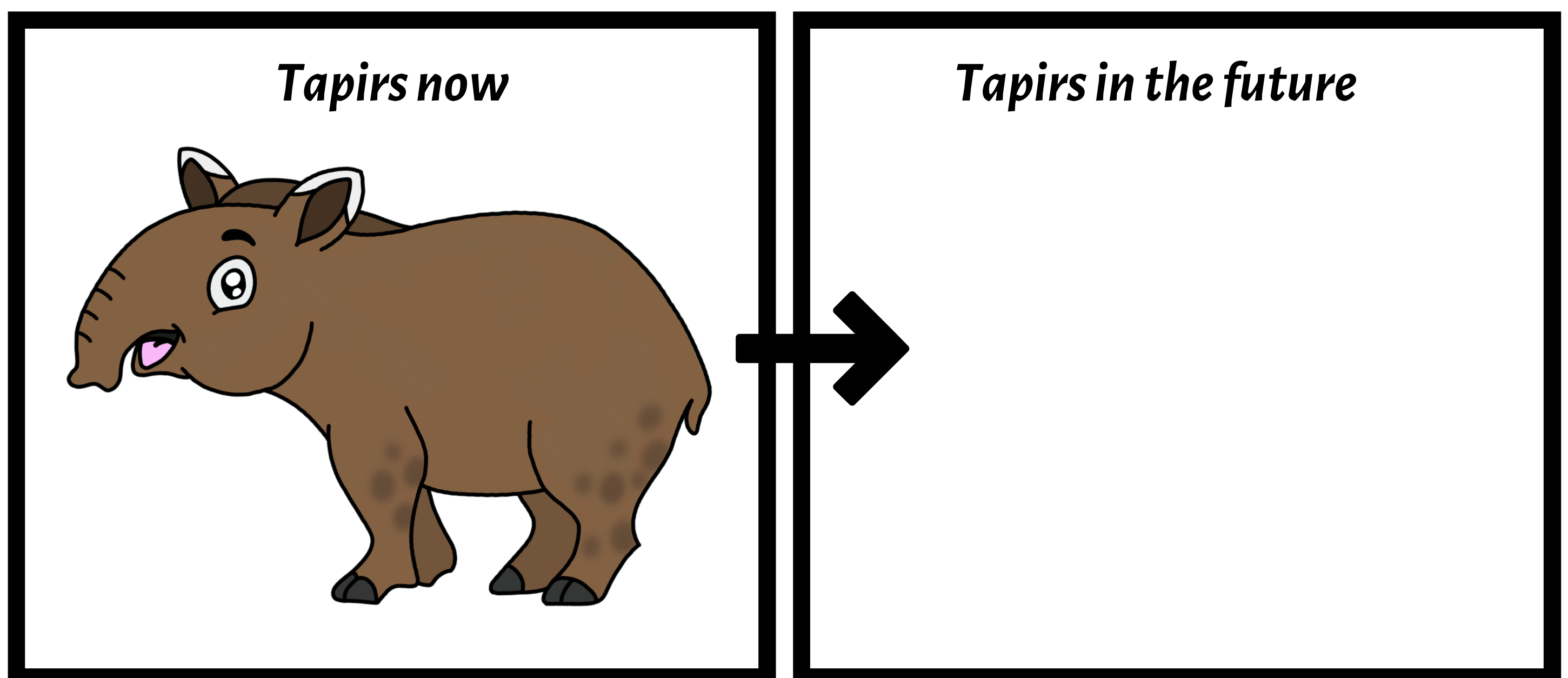
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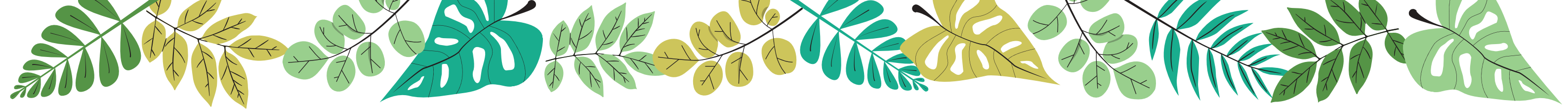
## Strange Changes!

Tapirs use their trunks as a snorkel to swim in the Amazon river. What if, instead of living onto land most of the time, they changed to live underwater all the time? What would they look like then?



There aren't many leaves to eat in deep water! How could they change if they started eating fish instead? Think about animals like crocodiles or sharks to give you ideas.



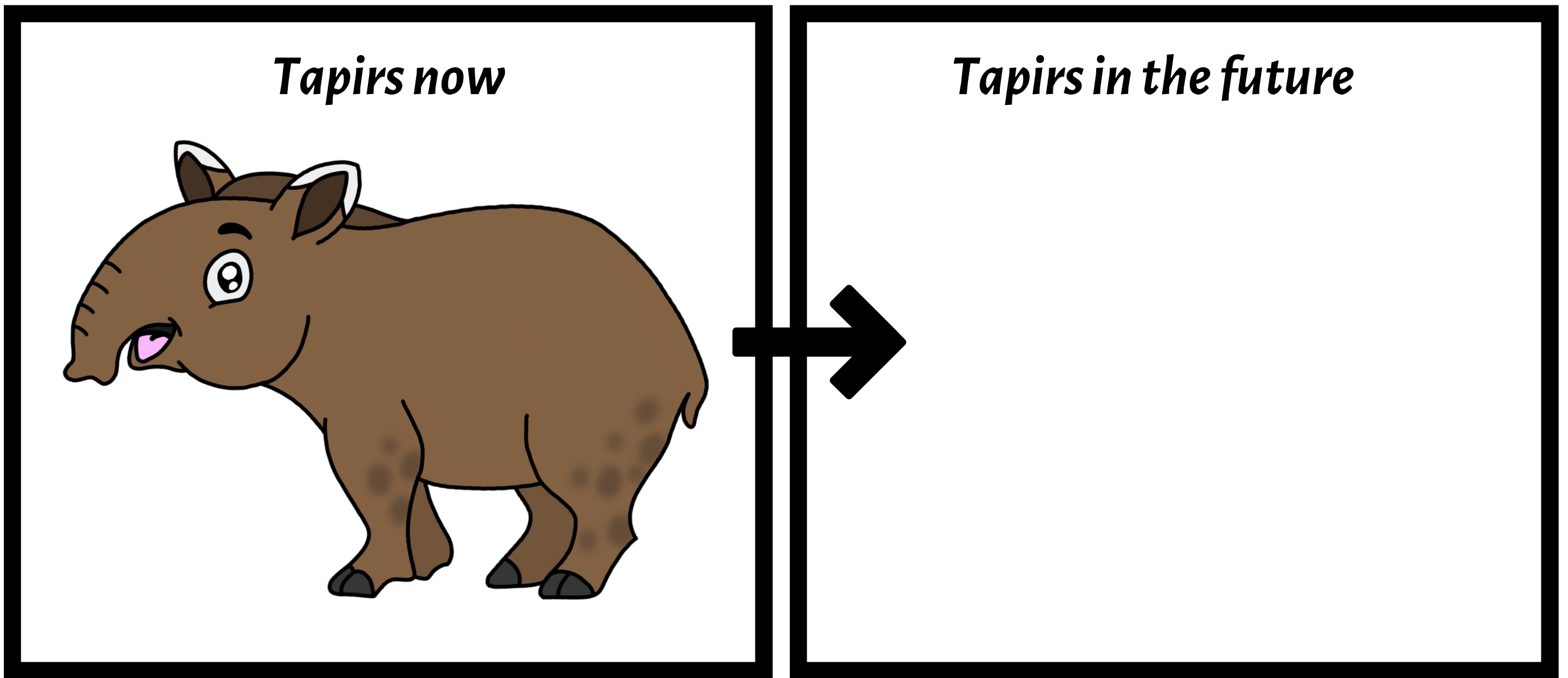


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## Strange Changes!

What if the rainforest vanished and was replaced with grassland? The brown tapir would stand out. How might a tapir look then?



## Thinking time

Humans are changing habitats faster than animals are evolving. Can you think of a way humans have changed the environment?

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**Suggested answers:** Taller trees - a long giraffe-like neck, or a longer trunk. Living underwater - fins or a tail like a whale, a long trunk like a long snorkel or gills like a fish. Eating fish - a long snout or sharp, pointed teeth. Grassland - a lighter body. Humans change the environment in many ways such as through pollution, deforestation or climate change amongst others.

