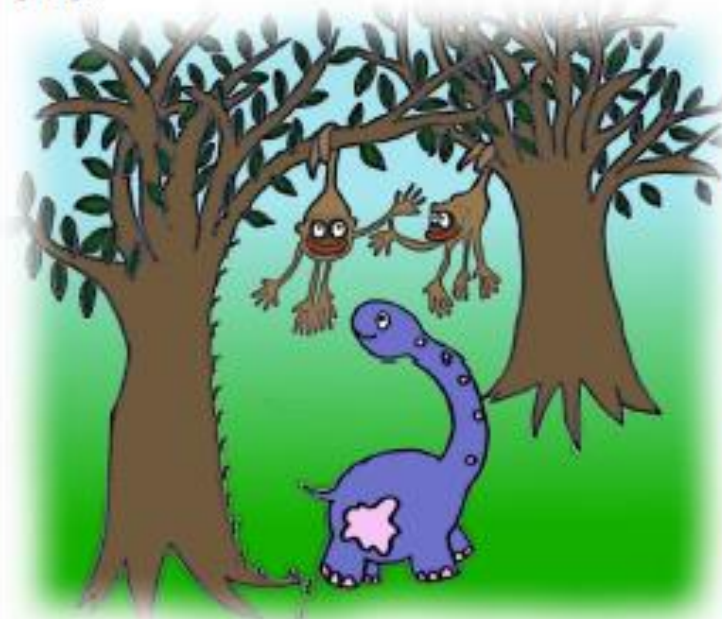


Darwin's Surprise

A very long time ago on a large sunny island lived a little dinosaur called Darwin. Darwin slept with his mother next to a cave in the green, leafy forest. Darwin's mother warned him of giant dinosaurs that may be hiding in the forest, so it was dangerous for Darwin to leave their home without his mother by his side.

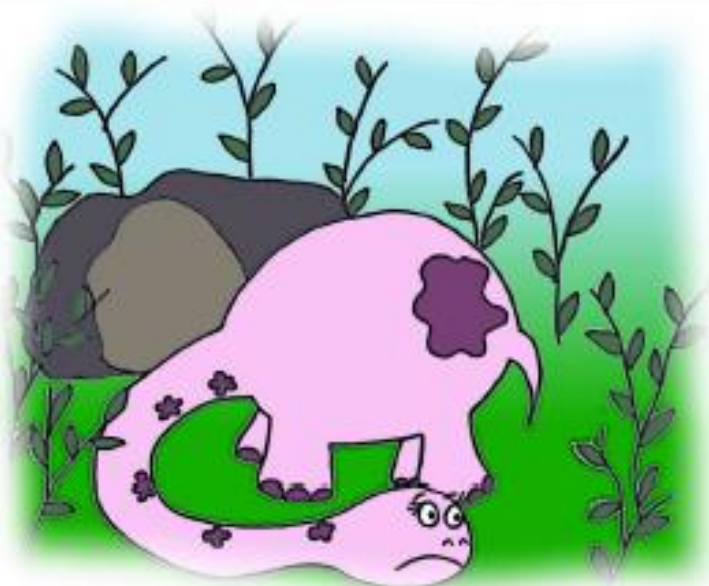


One morning, after the sun came up, Darwin's mother left the cave to collect some food. Darwin spotted a clearing in the trees and sat on a sunny patch. He watched as the monkeys swung from branch to branch and a swarm of little ants **scurried** up a tree. "Oh I wish I could go explore" moaned Darwin, "but Mother said that I should stay near the cave." He hurried back home just in time for breakfast.

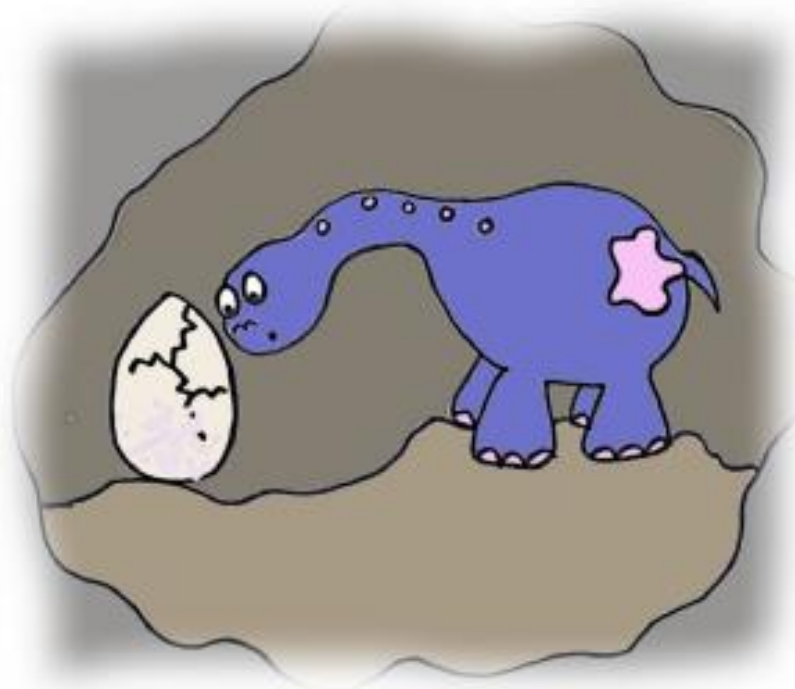
The next afternoon, Darwin sat down on a rock and sighed. "I'm bored" he whined. "I've chased my tail, I've leaped over some logs and I've even counted my toes. There's nothing to do at home. The forest is much more interesting." Naughty Darwin waited until his Mother was napping before skipping back to the same sunny spot he found the day before. As he arrived, a red and blue parrot caught his **attention**. He was very **curious** to find out where it was going. Following the bird as it flapped its way through the tall trees, Darwin was soon out of sight.



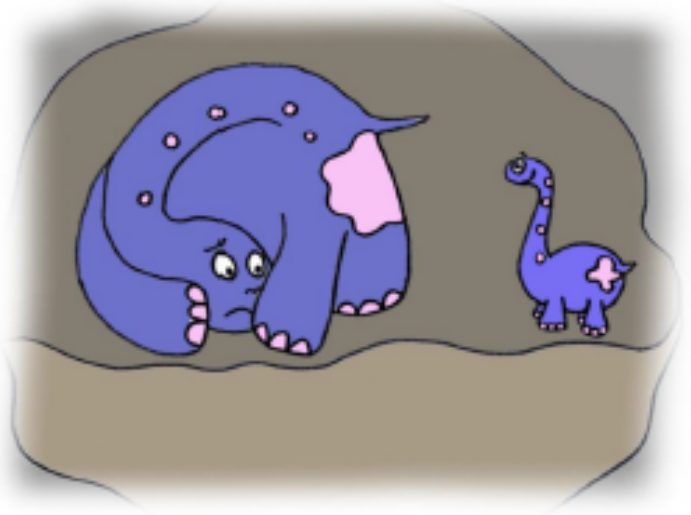
When Darwin's mother woke from her nap she was startled! "Oh where is my little Darwin?!" She gasped. She ran into the forest in a panic, careful not to shout his name too loudly. The forest had giant dinosaurs living there and if they knew Darwin was lost they would find him and eat him up for dinner!



Darwin's parrot settled on a branch and went to sleep. Suddenly Darwin heard some **rustling** in the trees and was **frightened**. He remembered what his mother had warned about the dangerous dinosaurs and ran back home as fast as he could. Luckily, Darwin returned home safe and sound, but when he peered into the cave his mother was nowhere to be seen. He searched all the cracks and corners and crept into the dark shadows of the cave. Then he noticed a small, green, spotty egg. Just as Darwin leaned in to give the egg a sniff it began to roll around. He jumped back in surprise as a great big crack appeared. "Oh no!" cried Darwin, "The egg is broken!" What will Mother think when she returns?



Darwin shook his head. Just as Darwin began sulking, out popped a little head! The little creature wriggled and wriggled until its arms and legs were free. It saw Darwin and **squeaked** with happiness! Soon the little pest followed him around everywhere he went, licking his face and squealing with delight. This is terrible, thought Darwin. The egg is broken and now it is very dark. Where is my Mother? Darwin put his head in his hands and he began to cry.



Then suddenly, with a big gust of wind Darwin's mother rushed into the cave, panting. "Oh Darwin thank goodness you are here, I've just escaped from a fierce dinosaur! You are very naughty running away Darwin!" A tiny dinosaur quickly leaped out of the shadows and ran towards Darwin's mother and **squealed**! "Hello little one!" cried Darwin's mother. "Welcome to the world!" She introduced the baby to Darwin. "This is your little sister, Blossom. You have been very brave looking after her for me whilst I was gone. She could have escaped into the forest and been seen by a giant dinosaur." Darwin gave a little smile of relief and hugged his mother and new little sister tight, and promised never to run away again.



By Emily Bradley

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