All or Nothing

A Mexican tale retold by Julie Ellis

Illustrated by Celeste Goulding



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Title	*All or Nothing*
Levels	21–22/23
Running words	792

Glossary

charro	a Mexican that rides horses and plays the guitar
Matamoros	a place in the country of Mexico
pieces of eight	small pieces of coin
sombrero	a type of hat worn by a charro
Todo o nada	Spanish, meaning 'all or nothing'

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Chapter 1

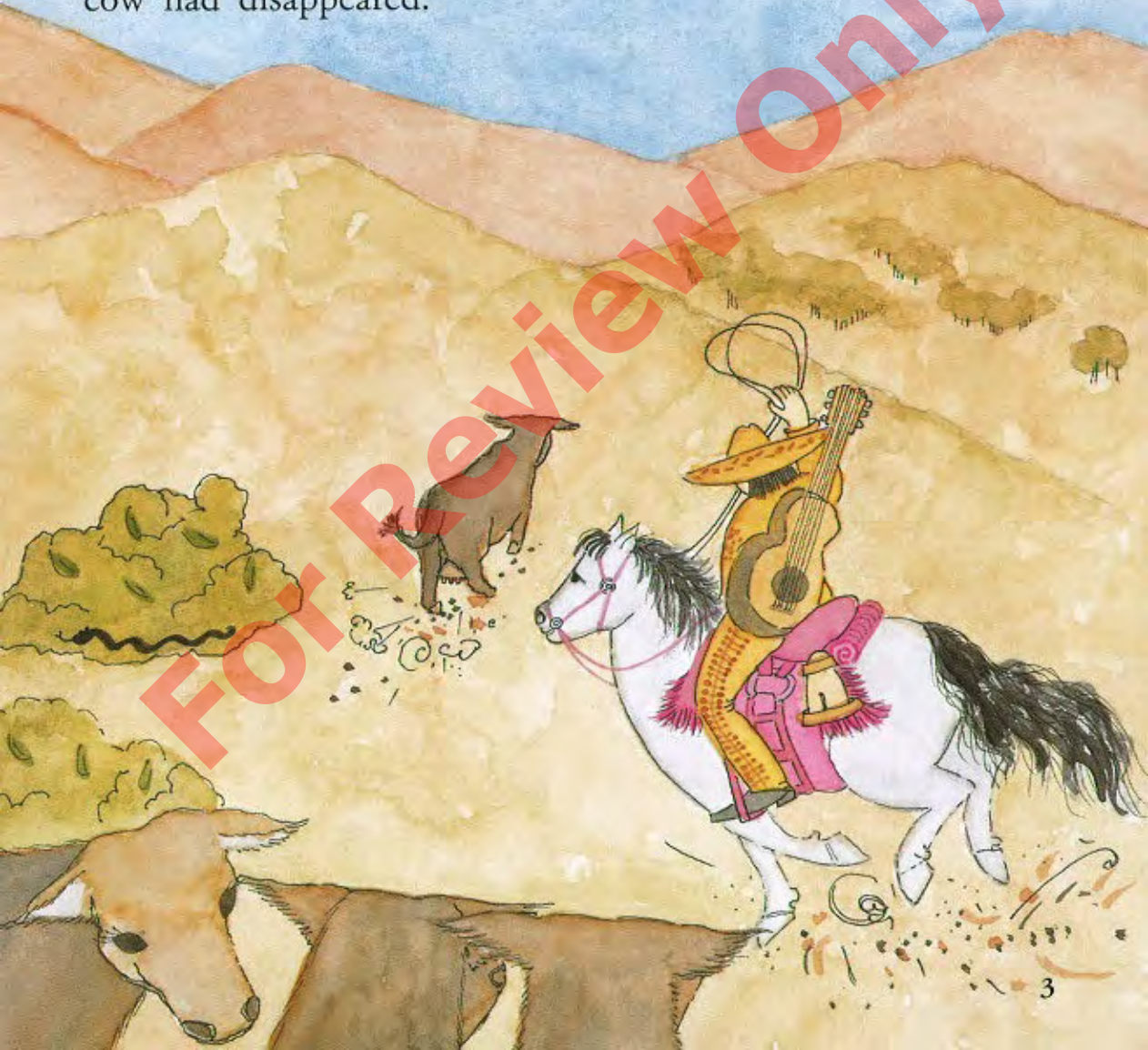
Pedro Finds the Cave

"There's gold hidden in the hills behind ***Matamoros****. Gold that was hidden by pirates a long time ago. I know it's there because my friend Reynaldo told me. His great-grandfather Pedro found it. Pedro found it, then he lost it again. This is the story that Pedro told Reynaldo and Reynaldo told me."*



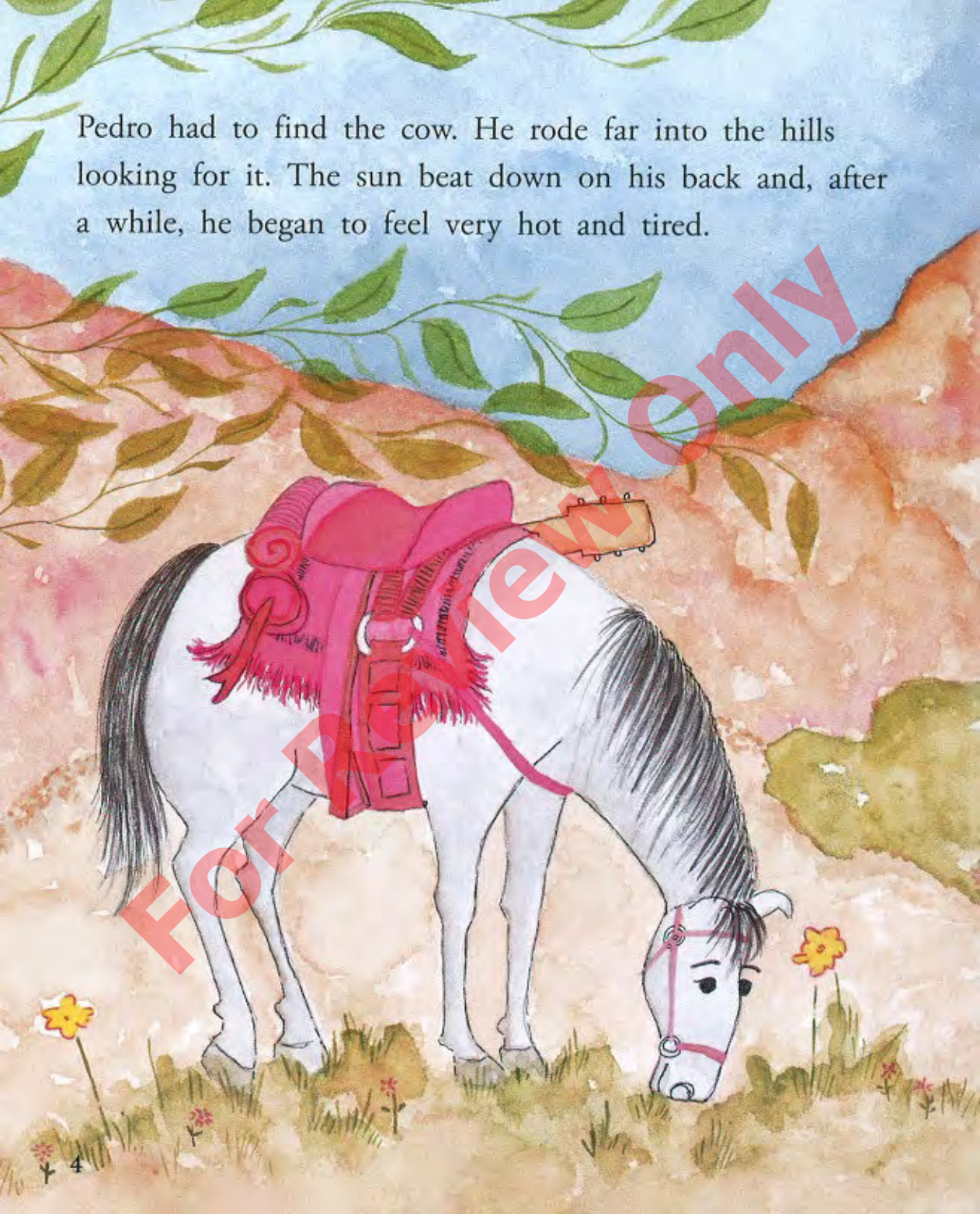
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When Pedro was a young man, he worked on a ranch in Mexico as a **charro** looking after cows. One day, as he was riding along behind the herd, a snake startled a cow. The cow ran off into the hills. Pedro gave chase, but the cow had disappeared.



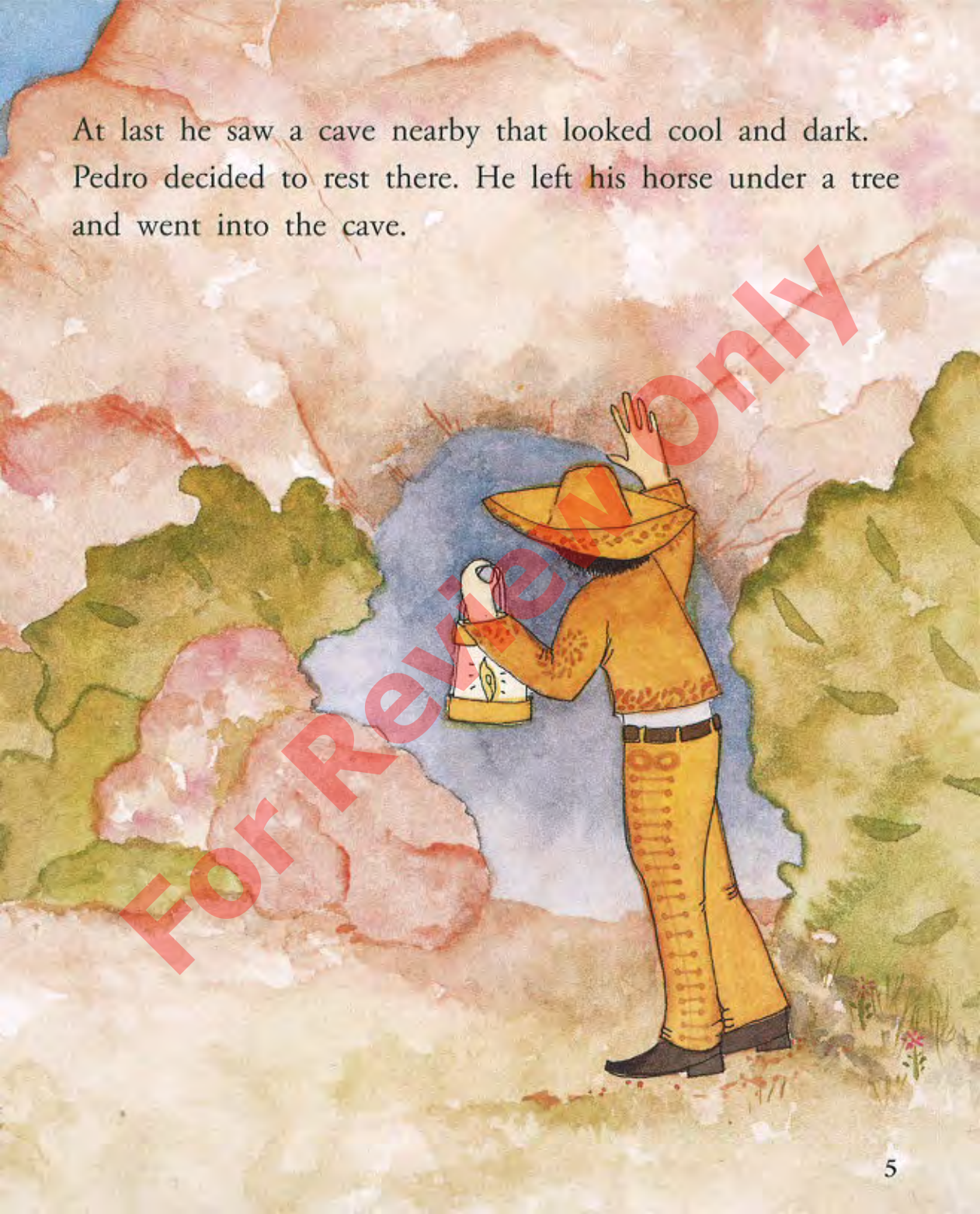
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Pedro had to find the cow. He rode far into the hills looking for it. The sun beat down on his back and, after a while, he began to feel very hot and tired.



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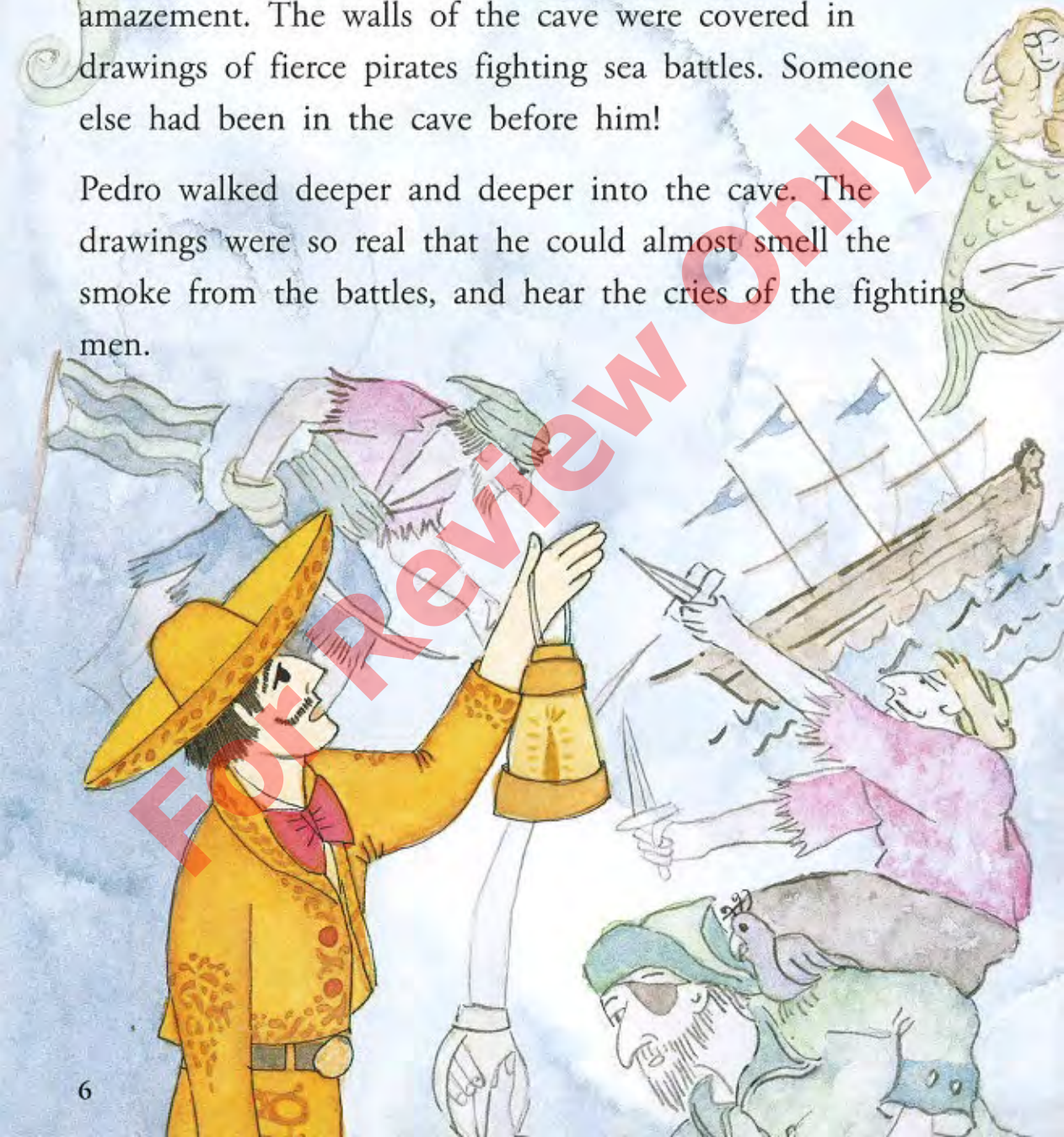
At last he saw a cave nearby that looked cool and dark. Pedro decided to rest there. He left his horse under a tree and went into the cave.



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As his eyes got used to the dark, Pedro stared in amazement. The walls of the cave were covered in drawings of fierce pirates fighting sea battles. Someone else had been in the cave before him!

Pedro walked deeper and deeper into the cave. The drawings were so real that he could almost smell the smoke from the battles, and hear the cries of the fighting men.



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Then Pedro saw something even more strange than the drawings.

In the middle of the cave floor was a huge brown chest.

"What's this?" said Pedro to himself. "And what's it doing here?"

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