

BOSCHBRAND (FOREST FIRE)

by Raden Saleh, 1849



BEWARE! A FIRE RAGES THROUGH THE FOREST, SENDING A HERD OF ANIMALS HURTLING TO THE EDGE.

Can you feel the heat of the blazing fire, smell the acrid smoke, and hear the stampede? What a cliffhanging moment, before they plunge to their fate! Through this gripping picture, the Javanese painter Raden Saleh has vividly depicted the raw power of nature.

The animals and plants in this painting were not simply pulled out of Raden Saleh's imagination – they are native to his home of Java! They include:

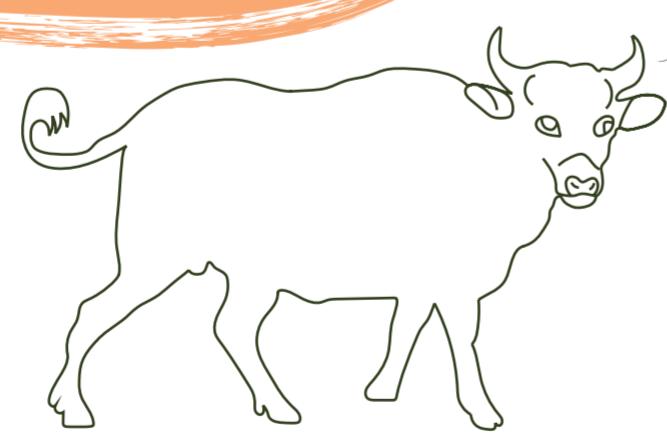
LET'S
LOOK



The Brahminy Kite: A raptor with brown wings and a white head and chest.



The banteng: A species of cattle common to the rainforests of Java.



Alang-alang: Long, pointed blades of grass that have white, fluffy flowers.



Nature was a big source of inspiration to Raden Saleh. As a young man, he ventured to the remote areas of west Java on expeditions, encountering volcanoes, plants and animals that would later feature in his paintings.

