

THE GREAT ROLLERS OF THE MILKY WAY

Humans have found meaning and direction in celestial bodies for thousands of years,



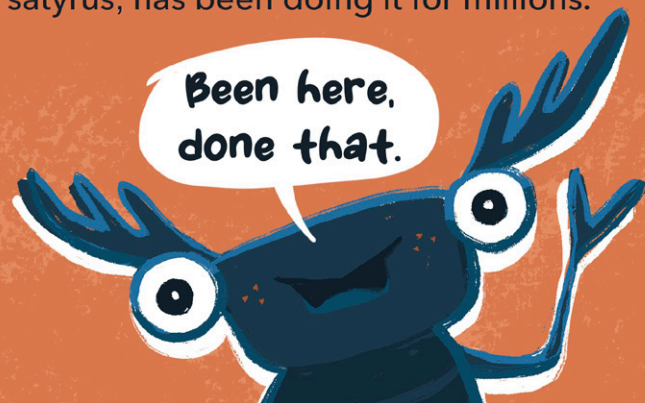
So they took the most reasonable action possible: They gathered dung beetles and took them on a field trip to a planetarium.



Then, they messed around with the sky above and watched the beetles roll those beautiful BM balls.



but one famous gutter dweller, the African ball-rolling dung beetle *Scarabaeus satyrus*, has been doing it for millions.



Dung beetles gather up little spheres of animal feces from dung piles.



Wheee!



The beetles kept their eyes trained to the Milky Way, that disc of light made by our galaxy's arrangement of stars.



Then they roll their nutribuns home as food for their babies in underground nests.



That's a lot of getting from one place to another in the dark of night. Scientists were puzzled over how the beetles could make the journey on moonless, dark nights.



**"WE ARE ALL IN THE GUTTER."
AS OSCAR WILDE WROTE, "BUT SOME
OF US ARE LOOKING AT THE STARS."**

