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The Great Adventures of Shiro, Kuro, and Aka



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Once upon a time, there were three little kittens.

One was all black and named Kuro.

One was all white and named Shiro.

One was all red and named Aka.

They were three siblings.

Shiro, the white kitten, loved the white hills of Akiyoshidai. He said...

"This place feels so nice with all these white rocks."

It feels so good...

...I think I'll go potty right here!"



Kuro, the black kitten, ran all over the town of Omine.
He said...



Aka, the red kitten, went for a walk in Naganobori Valley.
She said...

"There are so many shiny red rocks in this valley! They're so sparkly and pretty..."

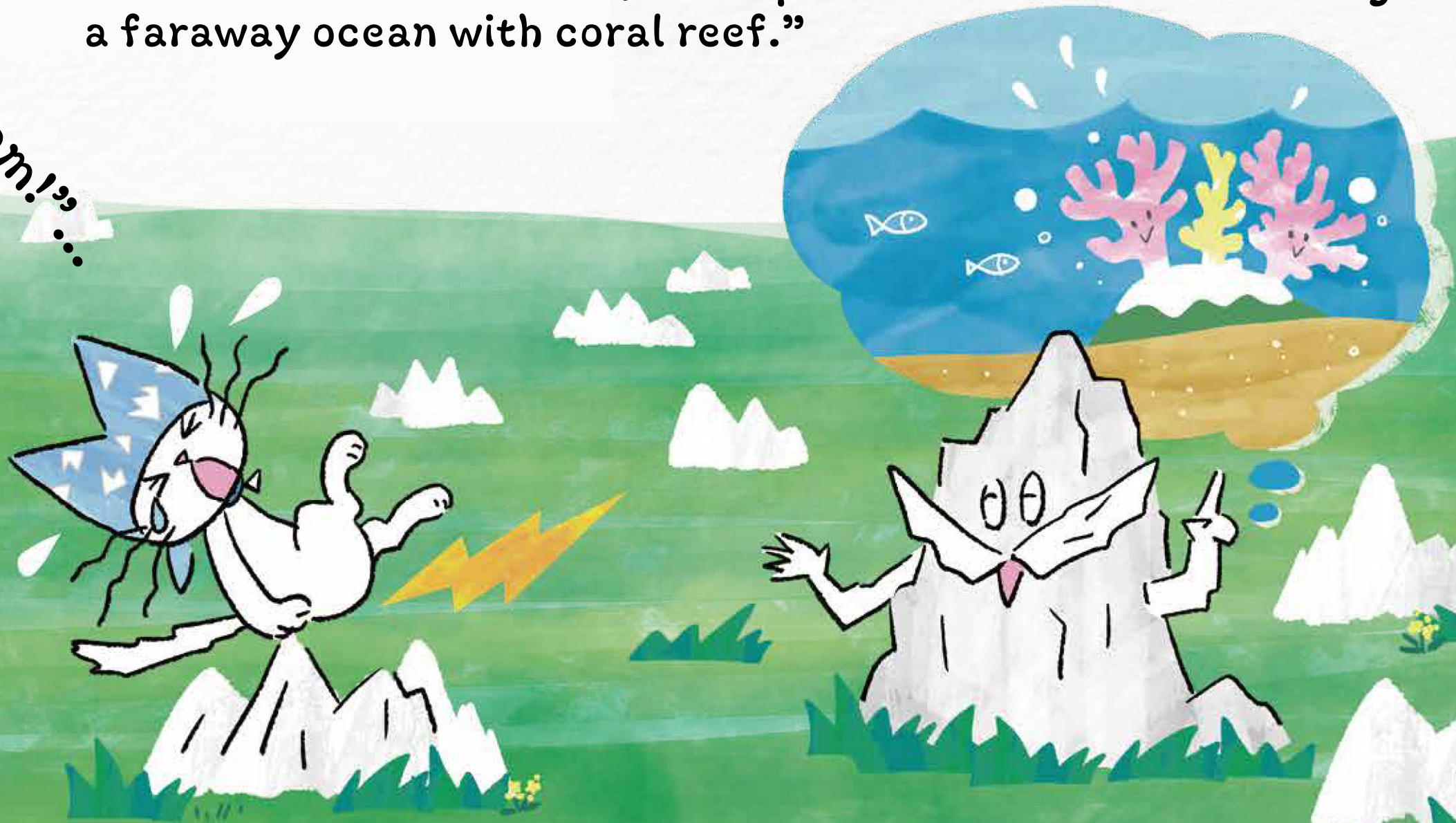
...I couldn't hold my potty!"



Shiro, the white kitten, sat on a sharp white rock in Akiyoshidai.

“Ouch! My bottom!”

...he exclaimed and began to cry. Just then, a spirit of the white rock spoke to him.
“The white rock is limestone,” the spirit said. “It was born a long time ago in a faraway ocean with coral reef.”



Kuro, the black kitten, touched a black rock and noticed that his paws had turned all black! Just then, a spirit of the black rock spoke to him.



“That’s black coal,” the spirit said.
“Long ago, trees and plants turned into this black coal.”



The red kitten, Aka, was walking in Naganobori Valley when she saw a sign that said "Copper Mine". Just then, a spirit of the red rock appeared.



The spirit smiled and said,

☆ "A long time ago, people found a metal called copper in this valley. They used it to make money, and to build the Great Buddha of Nara!"



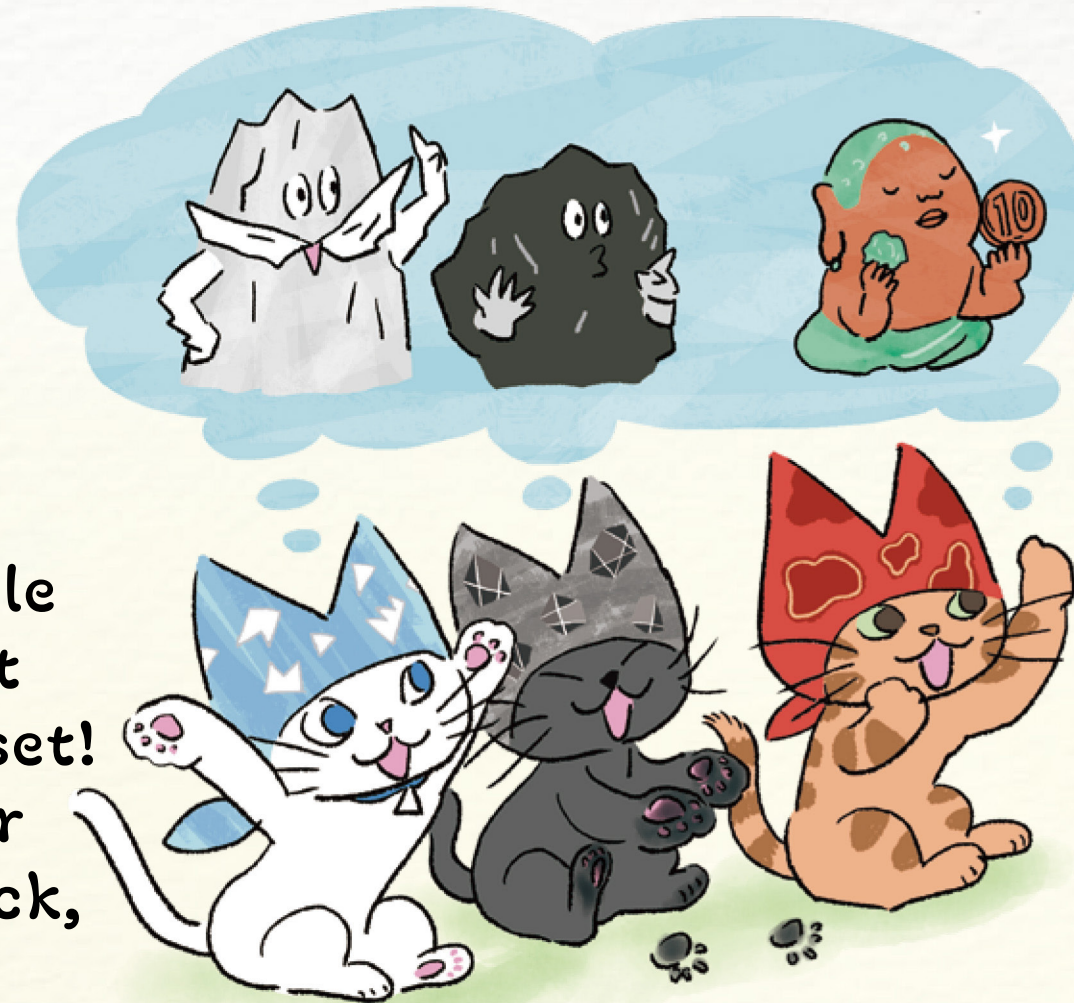
The three little kittens returned home.

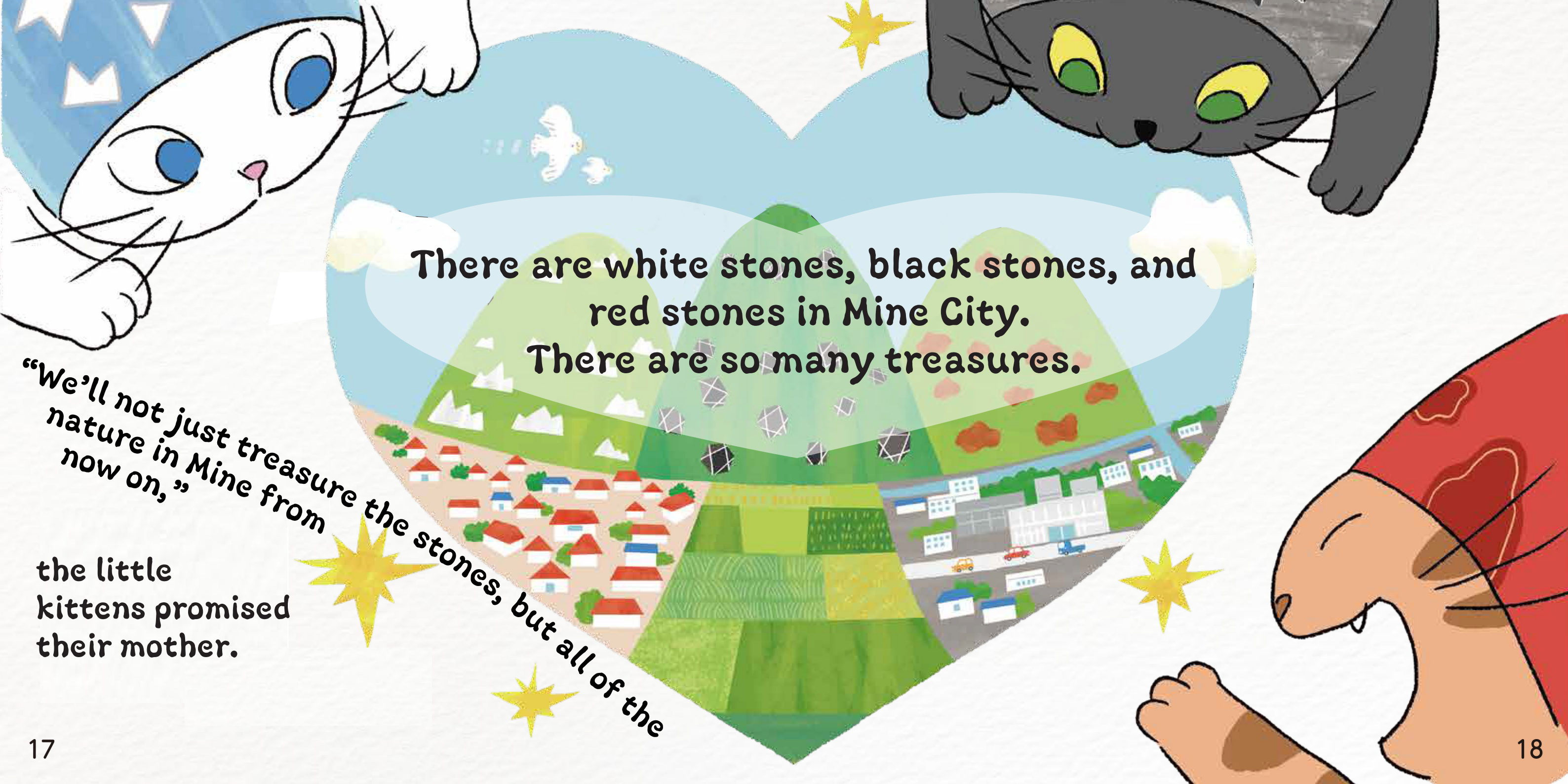
“Mommy, we’re home!” they meowed as they snuggled up to their mother.

“Welcome home, everyone!” replied Mother Cat as she gave the kittens a warm hug.

Each of them excitedly talked about the white stones, the black stones, and the red stones, and the magical stone spirits they had met on their journeys.

Mother Cat frowned a little and said, “That’s nice, but the stone spirits were upset! They said they found your poops near the white, black, and red stones!”





There are white stones, black stones, and
red stones in Mine City.
There are so many treasures.

"We'll not just treasure the stones, but all of the
nature in Mine from
now on,"
the little
kittens promised
their mother.

Mother Cat pulled the kittens close and gave them a big, warm hug.

“That’s right,” she said gently.

“This land is full of natural treasures. But my real treasures...are you three little kittens.

I love you all so much.”



The kittens purred and nuzzled her fur.

“Thank you, Mommy,” they said.

And we’ll take good care of all of nature’s treasures.”

Then one kitten tilted his head and asked, “We won’t poop outside anymore, but can we pee just a little?”

Did you enjoy the story of the three little kittens?

Miné-Akiyoshidai Karst Plateau Geopark is full of wonders to be proud of, such as its history, culture, and local products. But deep underground, there are also precious geological treasures that are one of a kind in the whole world. Akiyoshidai's limestone, Omine's coal, and Naganobori's copper not only form the foundation of this region—they have supported the economy for over 1,600 years!

The white kitten symbolizes limestone; limestone is a white stone made from the fossils of beautiful coral reefs that once grew in a wide warm ocean. The black kitten represents coal; Omine's coal is a high-quality coal that doesn't produce much smoke when burned. It was a precious fuel resource for modern Japan. The copper of Naganobori was used to create the Great Buddha of Nara, a symbol of Japanese politics and culture in the 8th century. It has been a valuable mineral resource in Japan since ancient times, and the red kitten might just be the reincarnation of that special copper!

There are many precious rocks, minerals, and fossils in this region. Miné-Akiyoshidai Karst Plateau Geopark shares about these natural treasures through education and tourism, in order to support the sustainable development of the area. We hope to carefully protect and make good use of the white stones (limestone), black stones (coal), and red stones (copper)—the treasures of this land—to bring new life to our region and our Geopark.

Thank you for choosing and reading this picture book!

