A typical medium-sized tree can intercept up to 2,380 gallons of rainfall per year. That's a lot of water!

FUN FACTS

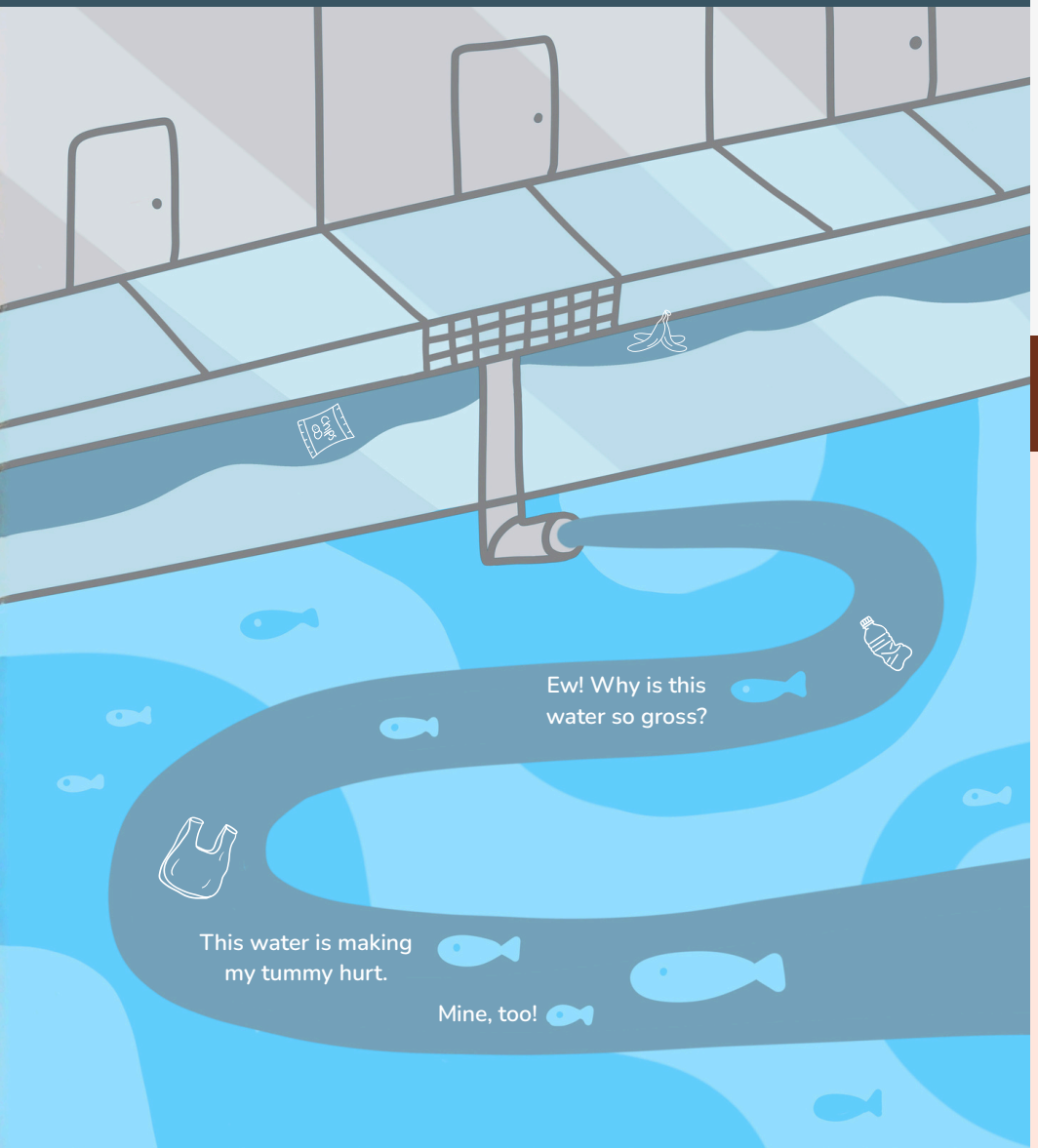
Trees provide shade, make our communities prettier, and the people around them happier!

Planting trees and rain gardens is one of the most afforable ways to clean storm water runoff!

STORM WATER

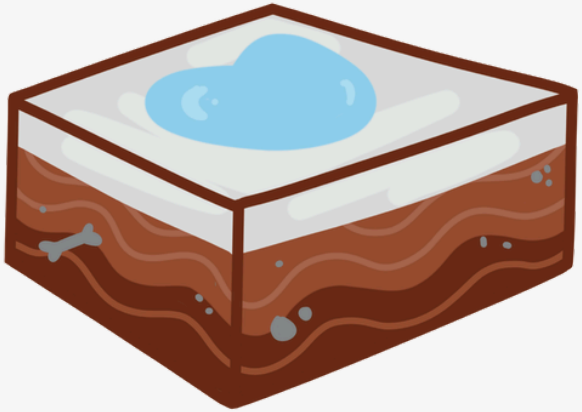
STORM WATER

When it rains, water flows from city streets into storm drains. This water is called stormwater runoff. As it travels, it picks up pollutants like trash, oil, pet waste, fertilizers, and pesticides. This contaminated water then enters our rivers, bays, and oceans, harming the creatures that live there, including fish, seals, whales, and octopuses!

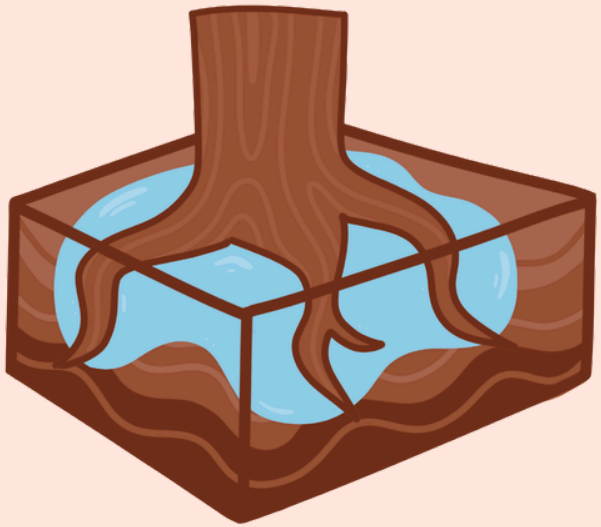


CONCRETE

Concrete is an impermeable (im-per-ME-ah-bl) surface, which means that water cannot pass through or soak into it. That means all the water runs off directly into storm drains, picking up pollutants along the way. This increases stormwater runoff and can lead to pollution in rivers, bays, and oceans.



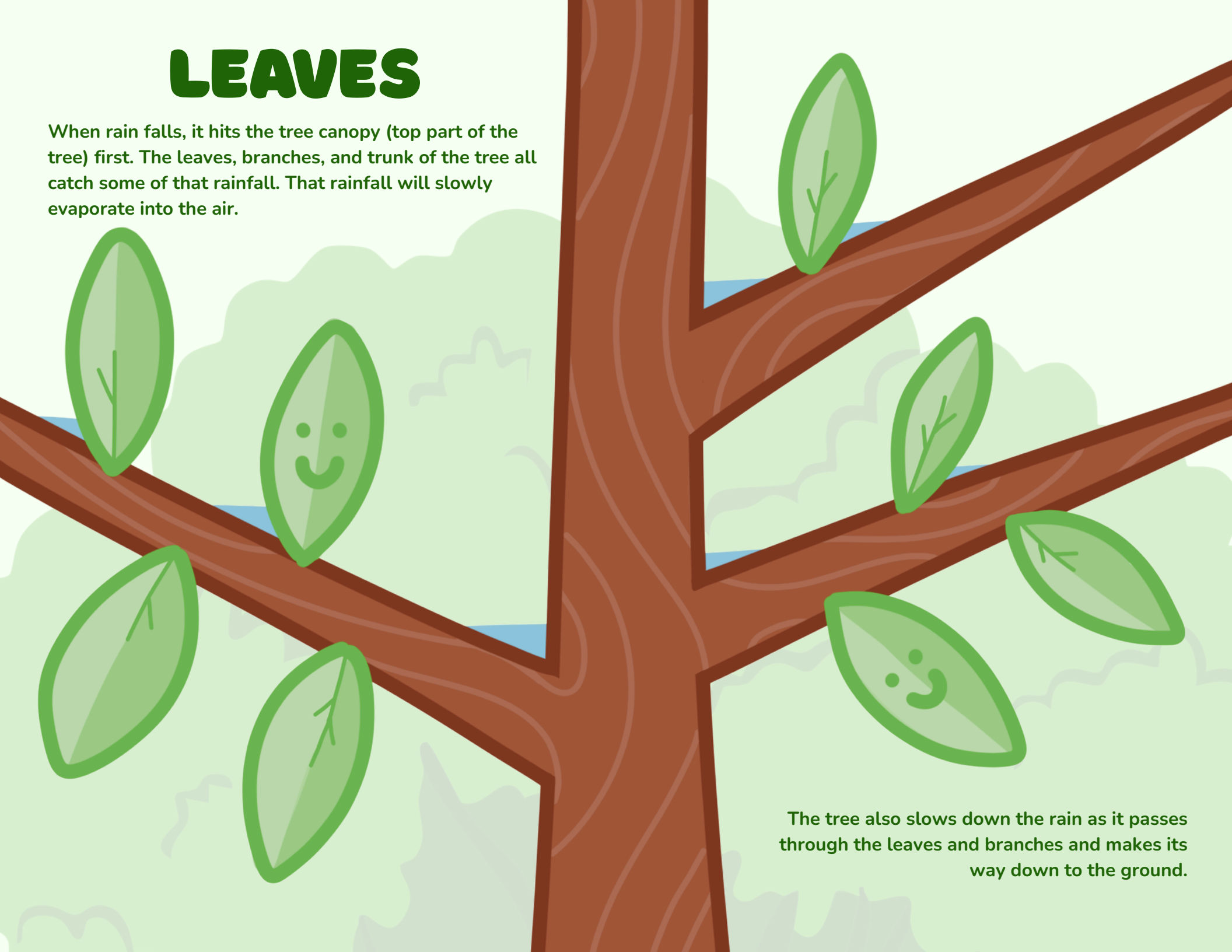
SOIL



Soil is a permeable (per-ME-ah-bl) surface, which means that it allows water to pass through it. When it rains, water soaks into the soil, and trees and plants can drink up some of that water, too. This reduces runoff and filters out pollutants before they hit our local waterways.

LEAVES

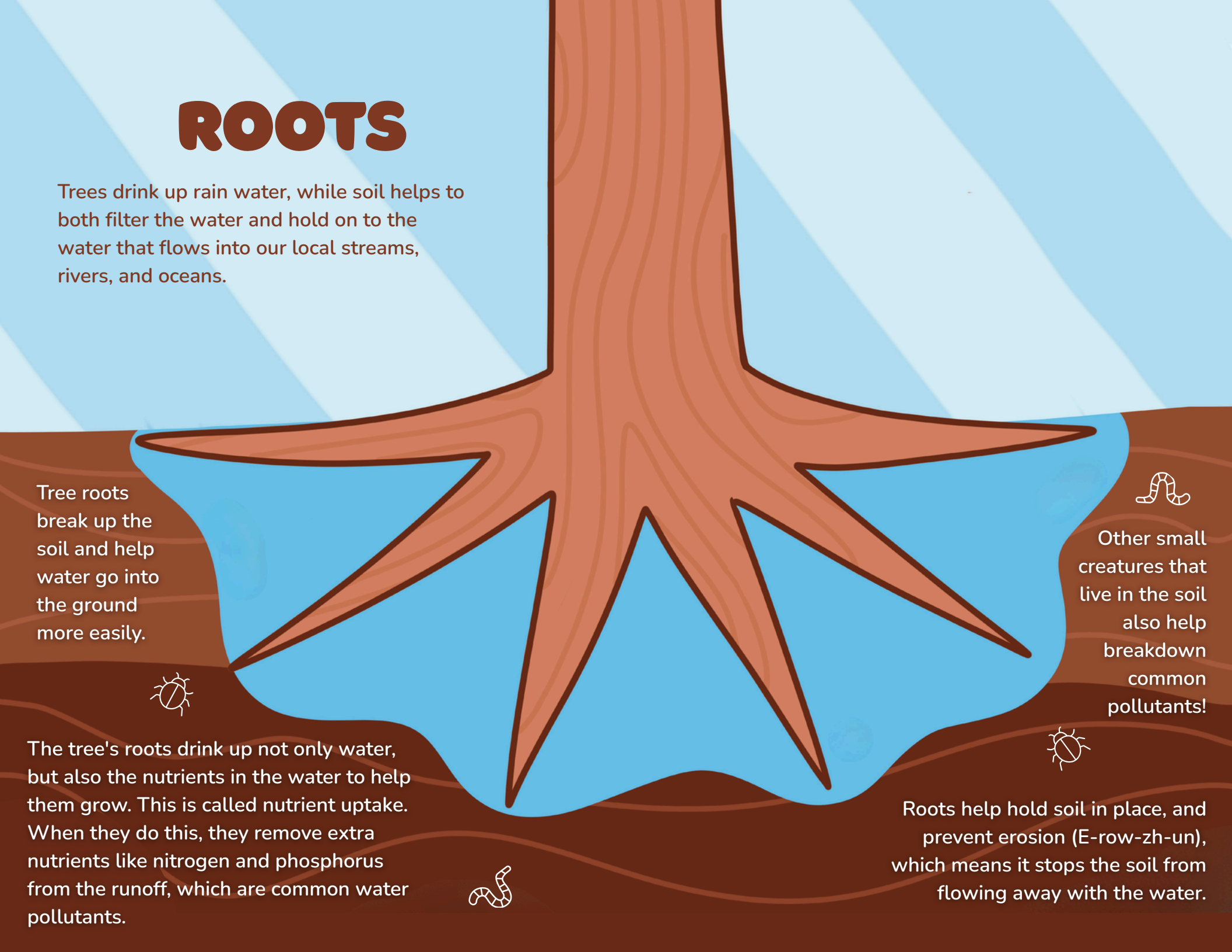
When rain falls, it hits the tree canopy (top part of the tree) first. The leaves, branches, and trunk of the tree all catch some of that rainfall. That rainfall will slowly evaporate into the air.



The tree also slows down the rain as it passes through the leaves and branches and makes its way down to the ground.

ROOTS

Trees drink up rain water, while soil helps to both filter the water and hold on to the water that flows into our local streams, rivers, and oceans.



Tree roots break up the soil and help water go into the ground more easily.

Other small creatures that live in the soil also help breakdown common pollutants!

The tree's roots drink up not only water, but also the nutrients in the water to help them grow. This is called nutrient uptake. When they do this, they remove extra nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus from the runoff, which are common water pollutants.

Roots help hold soil in place, and prevent erosion (E-row-zh-un), which means it stops the soil from flowing away with the water.