

HOW TREES HELP CLEAN OUR AIR



Leaves have small pores on them called stomata that act like tiny mouths and **inhale** carbon dioxide (CO₂) and harmful particles that are in the air.

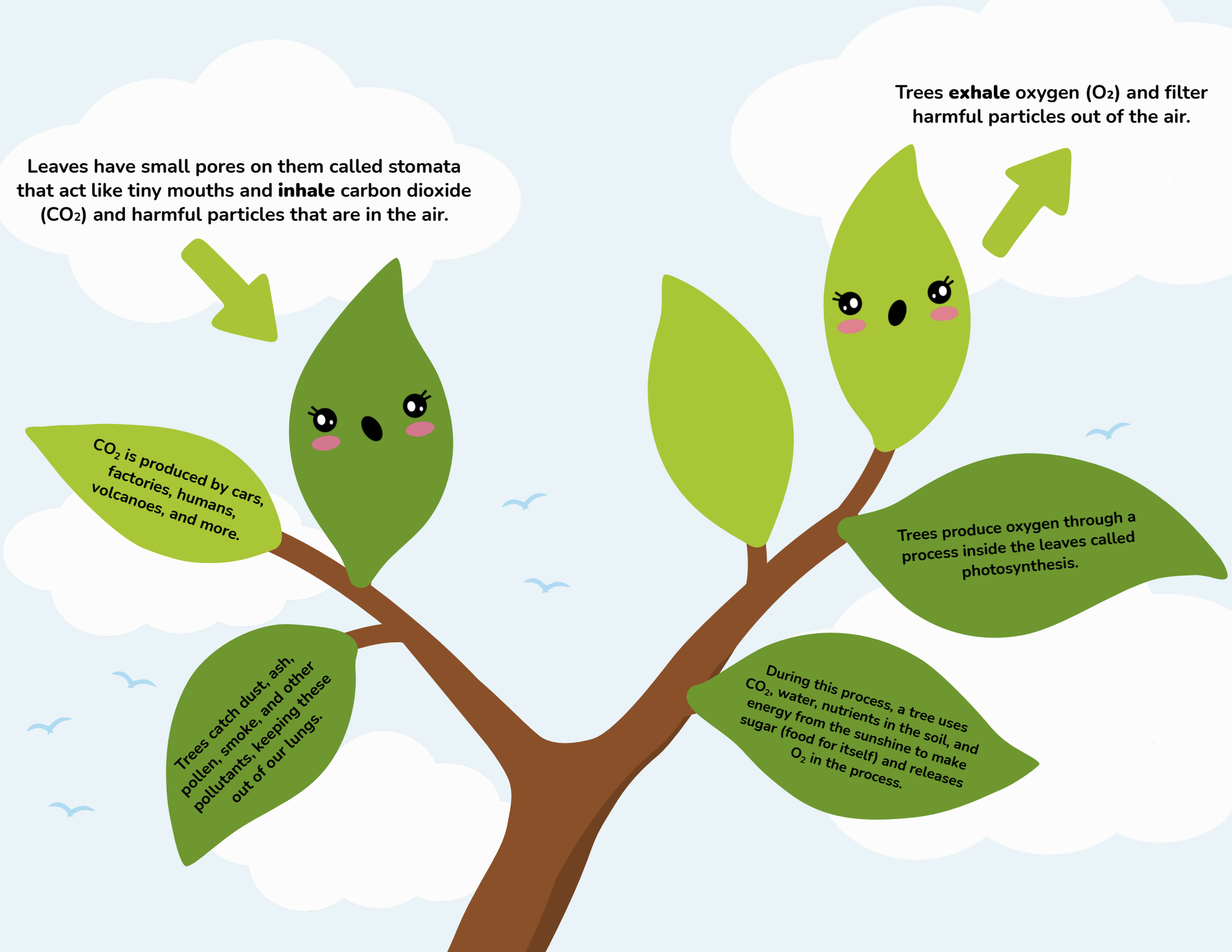
Trees **exhale** oxygen (O₂) and filter harmful particles out of the air.


CO₂ is produced by cars, factories, humans, volcanoes, and more.

Trees catch dust, ash, pollen, smoke, and other pollutants, keeping these out of our lungs.

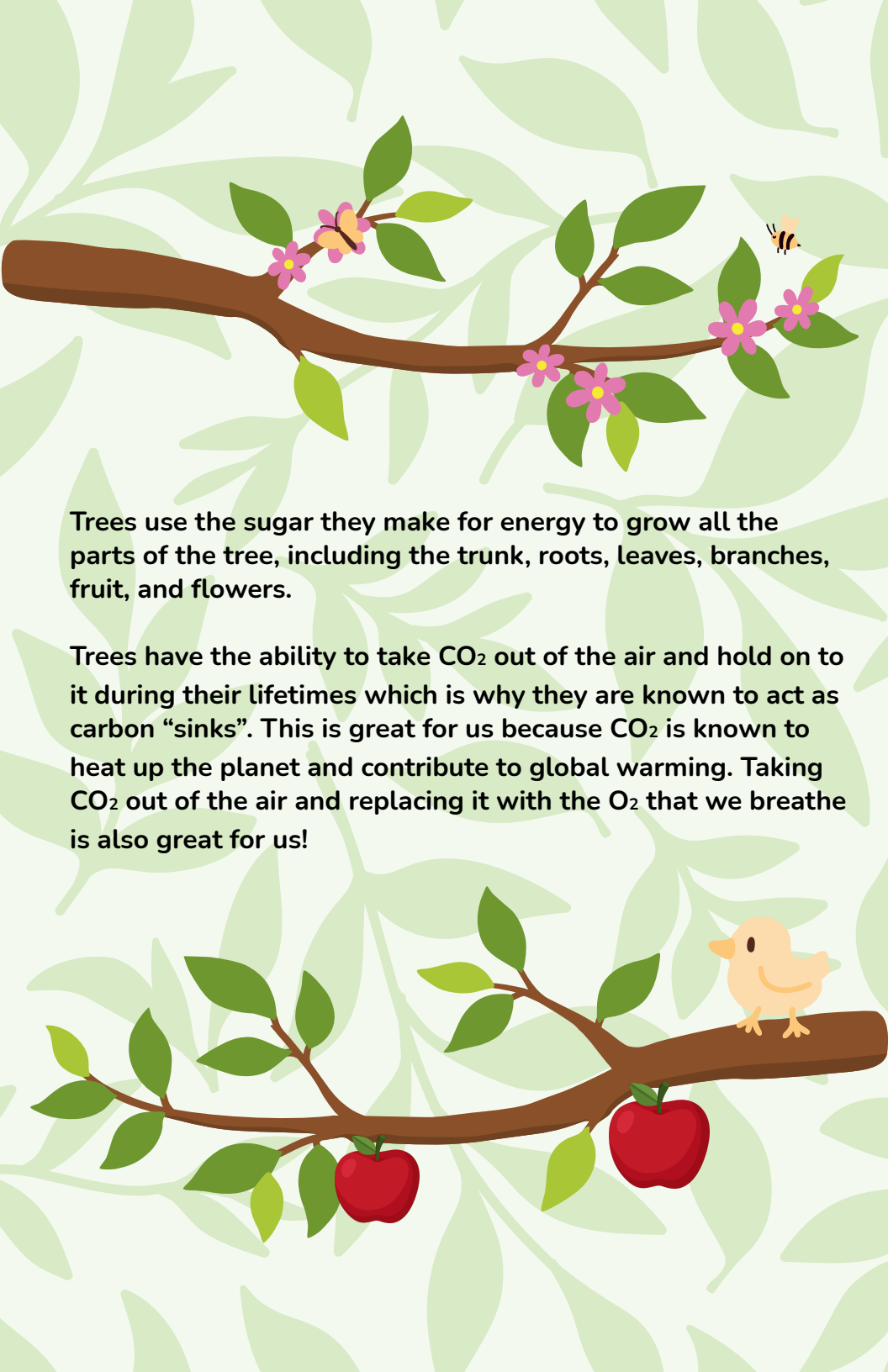
During this process, a tree uses CO₂, water, nutrients in the soil, and energy from the sunshine to make sugar (food for itself) and releases O₂ in the process.

Trees produce oxygen through a process inside the leaves called photosynthesis.

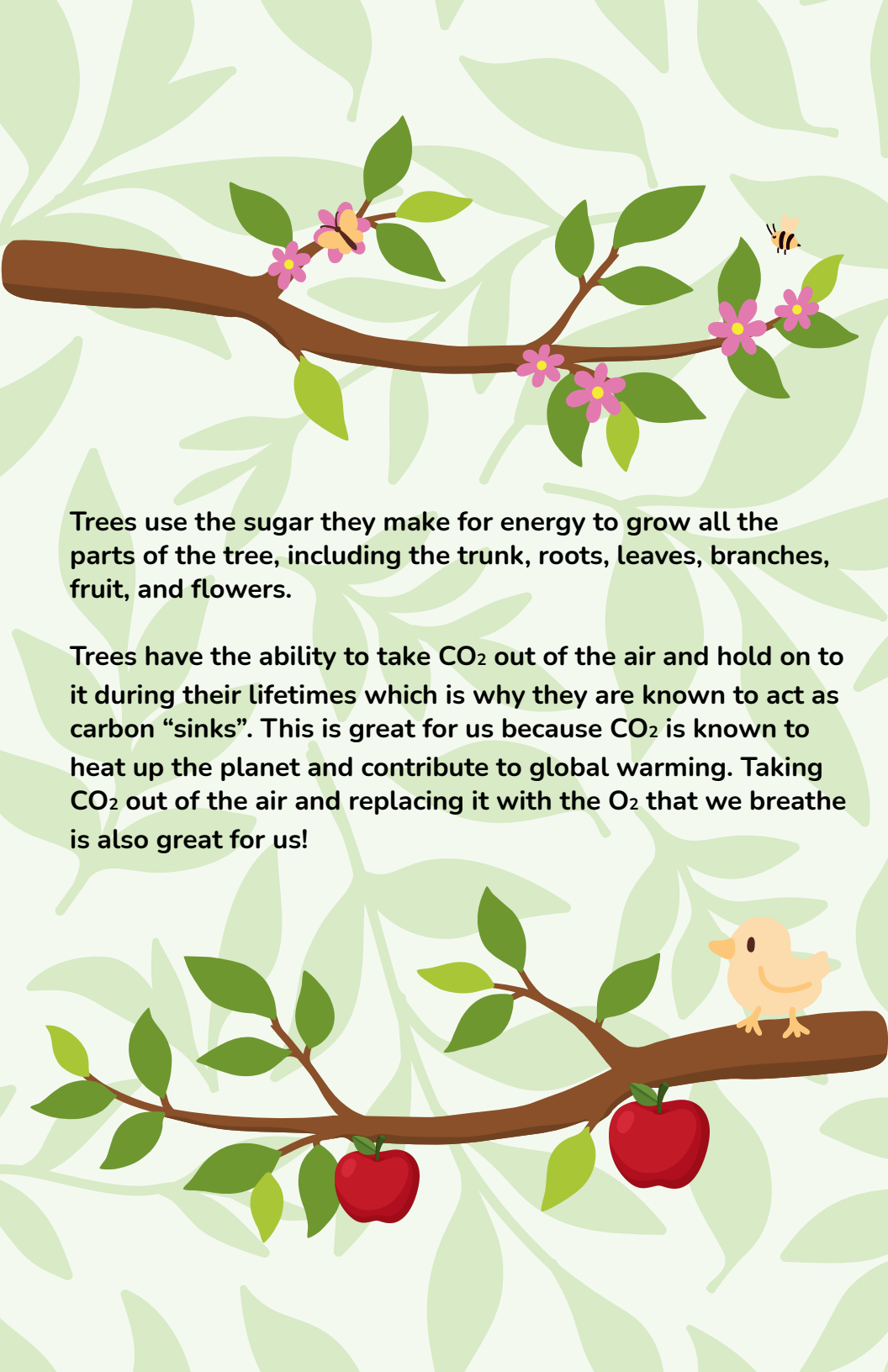




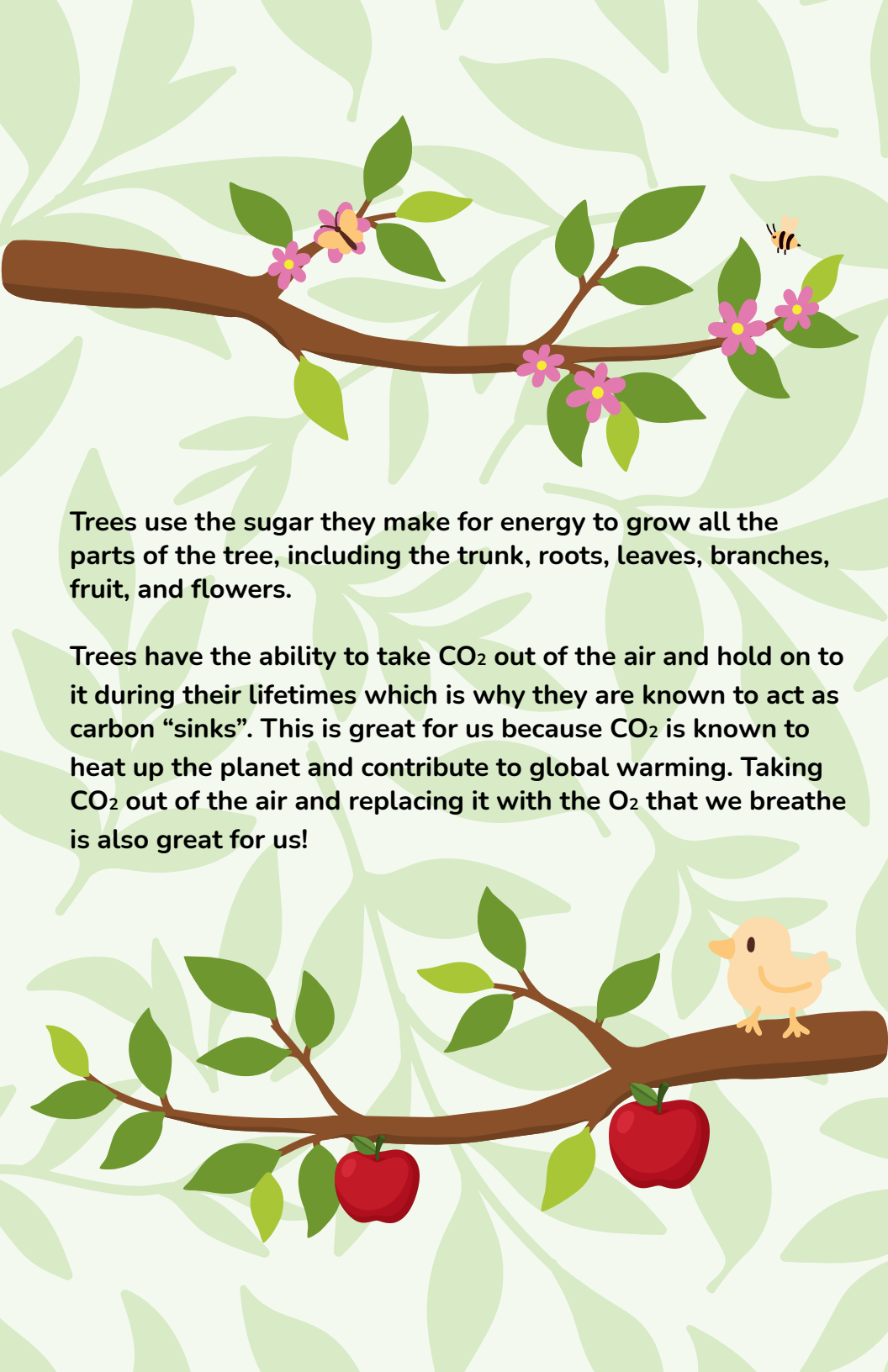
As trees breathe, they release water into the atmosphere through their leaves and cool the surrounding air. This process is called transpiration.



Trees cool the air through transpiration, removing CO₂, providing shade, and reflecting light and heat. All this cooling means that, on hot days, we spend less energy on air conditioners and fans when trees are around!



Trees use the sugar they make for energy to grow all the parts of the tree, including the trunk, roots, leaves, branches, fruit, and flowers.



Trees have the ability to take CO₂ out of the air and hold on to it during their lifetimes which is why they are known to act as carbon “sinks”. This is great for us because CO₂ is known to heat up the planet and contribute to global warming. Taking CO₂ out of the air and replacing it with the O₂ that we breathe is also great for us!

Trees help make our communities healthier by making, cleaning,
and cooling the air we breathe. Thank you trees!

What would you like to see in your community?
Does it involve trees, flowers, butterflies, parks, and friends?
Color in and draw the community space where you'd like all
of us to live healthy!

