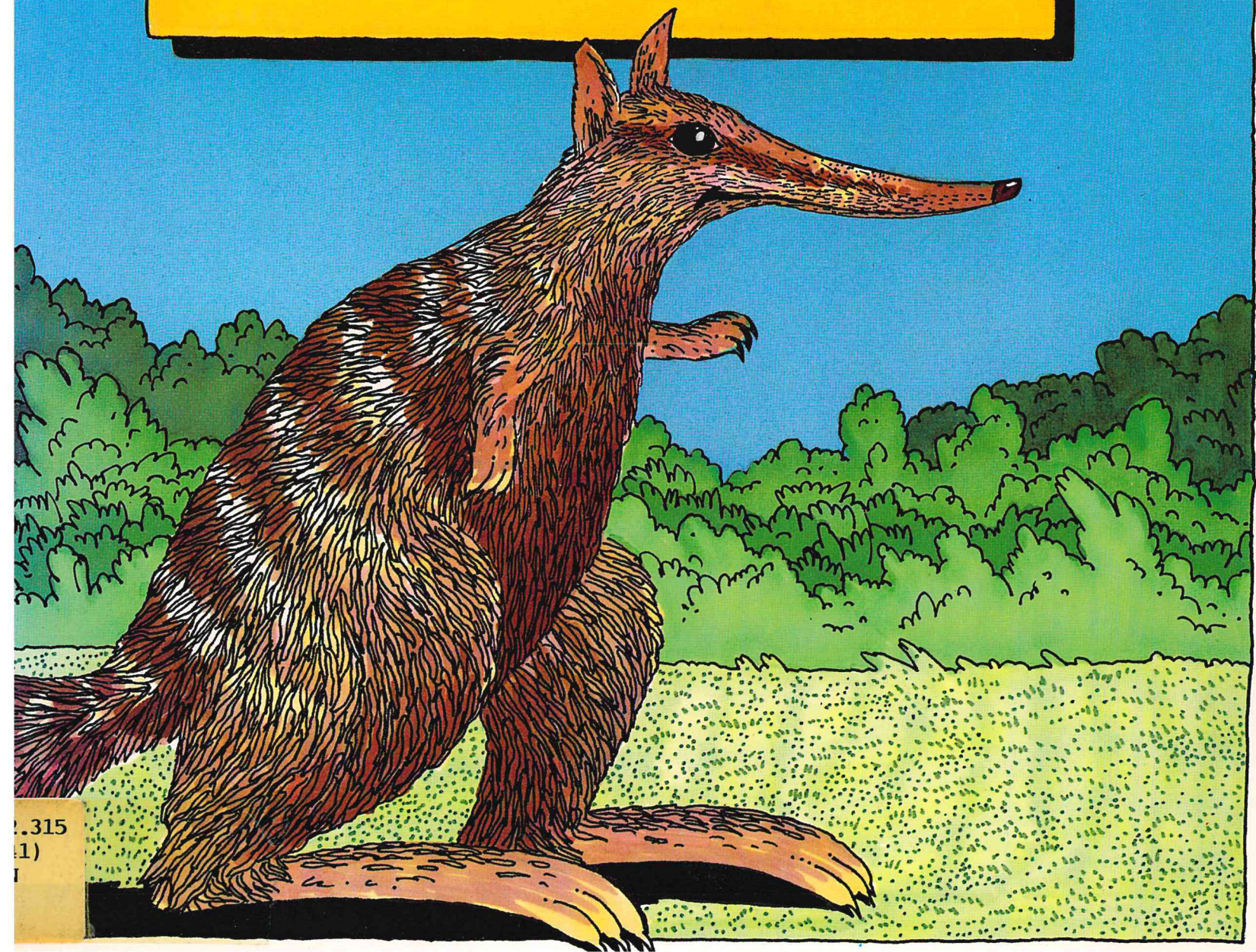


NIFTY NUMBAT'S WALK THROUGH THE FOREST



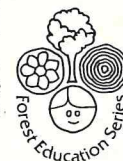
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NIFTY NUMBAT'S WALK THROUGH THE FOREST

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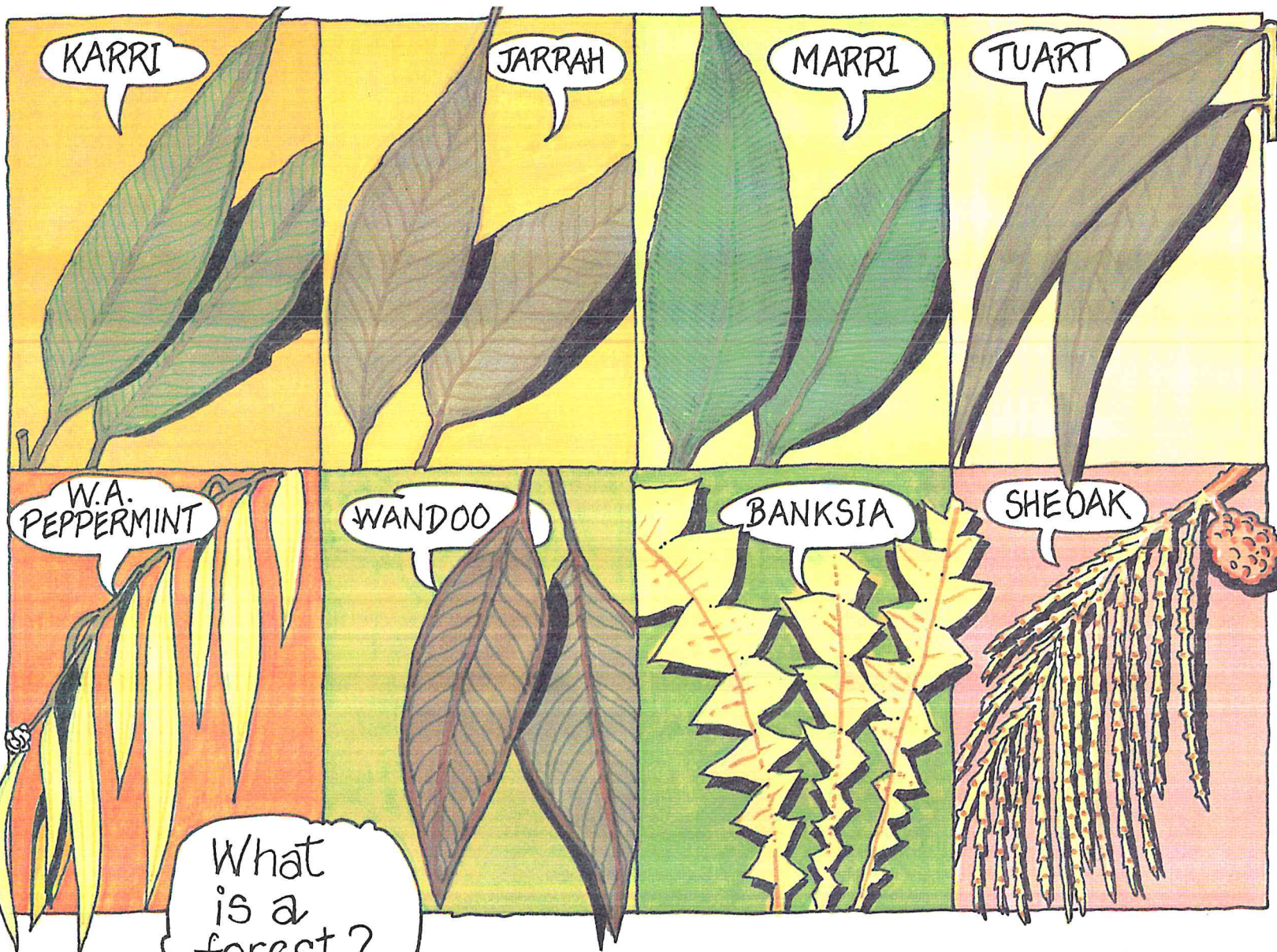
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What
is a
forest?

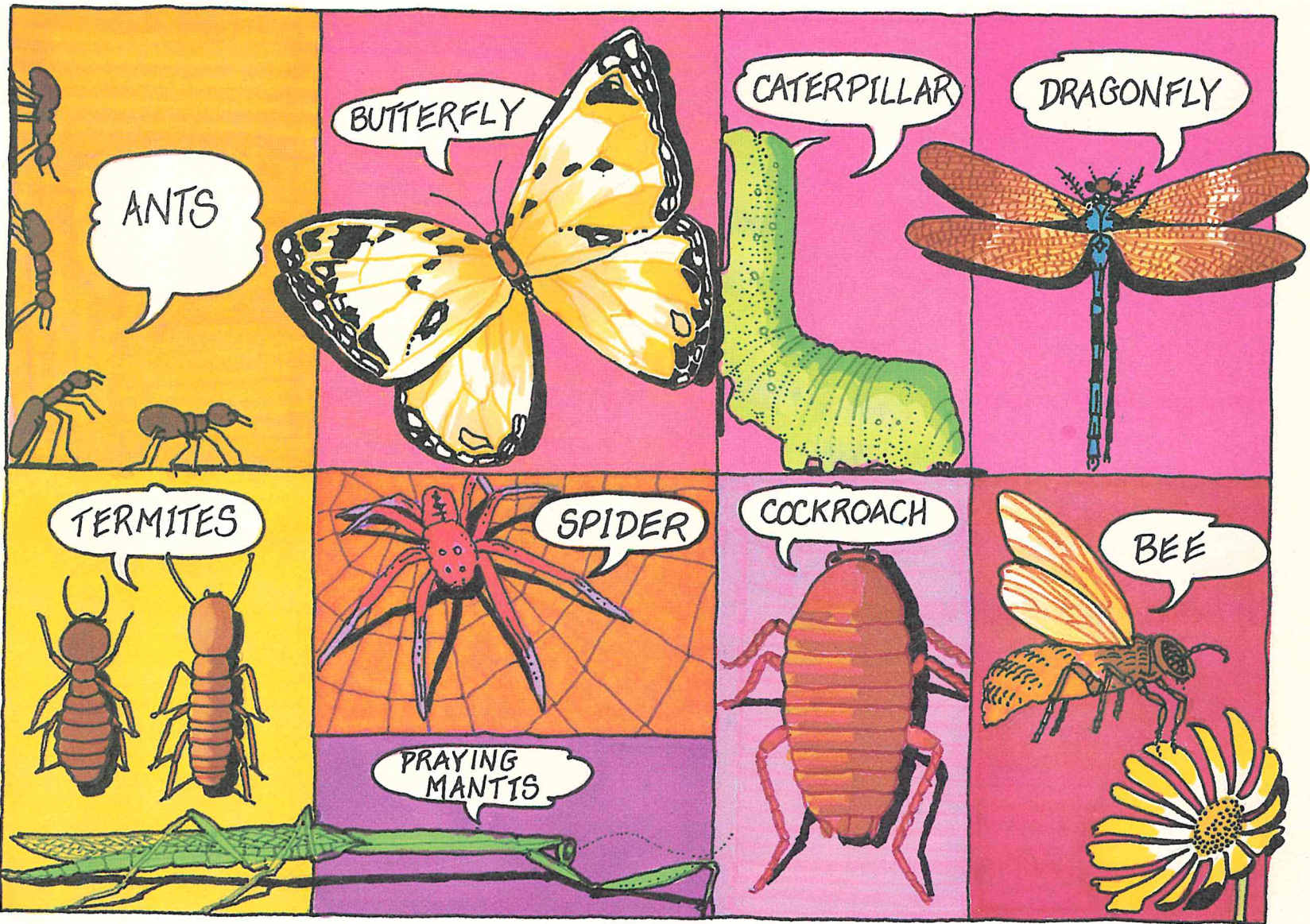


A forest is more than just a big group of trees, it is like a very large family. The trees provide shelter and food for small plants, animals and other forms of life.

The southwest of Australia has six common large forest trees, and some smaller

“understorey” trees.

Trees can be identified by leaf shapes.

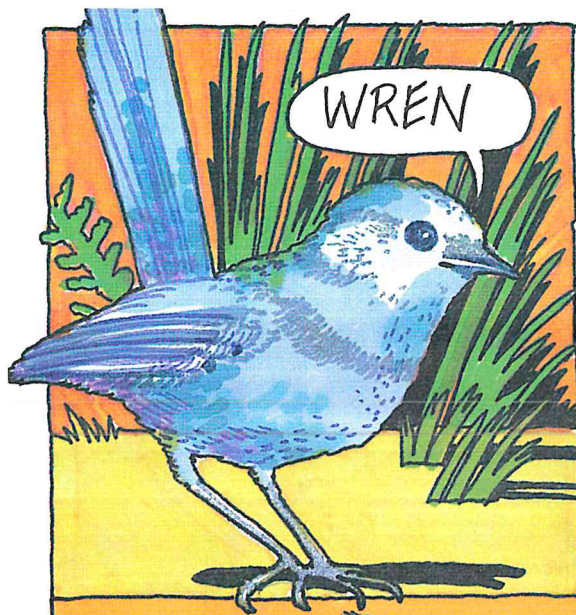


Who lives
in the
forest?

There are many different inhabitants of the forest; insects, birds and animals.

Forests are home for thousands of insects. They play an important part in the growth of forests by distributing pollen and seed, helping to decay the

fallen leaves and branches (known as leaf litter) on the forest floor, and as a source of food for other creatures.



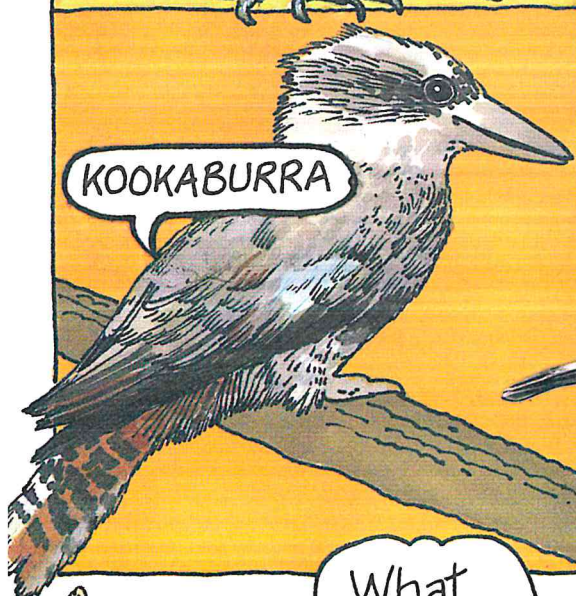
WREN



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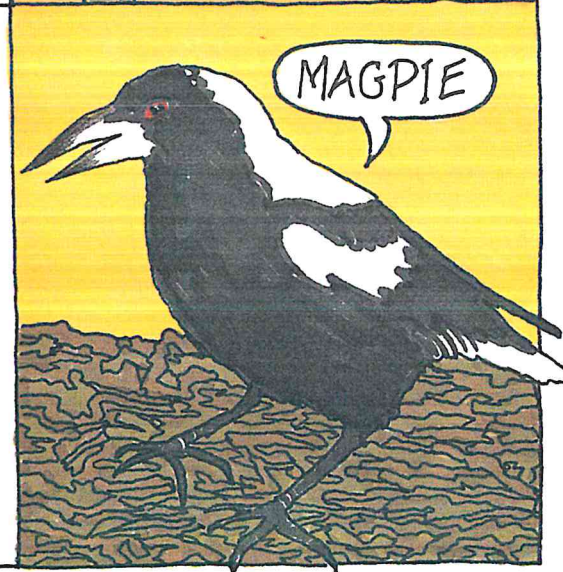
COCKATOO



KOOKABURRA



GOLDEN WHISTLER



MAGPIE

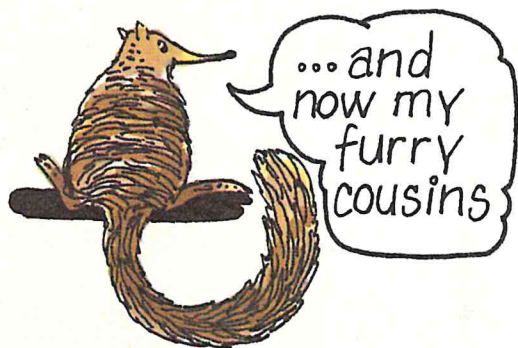
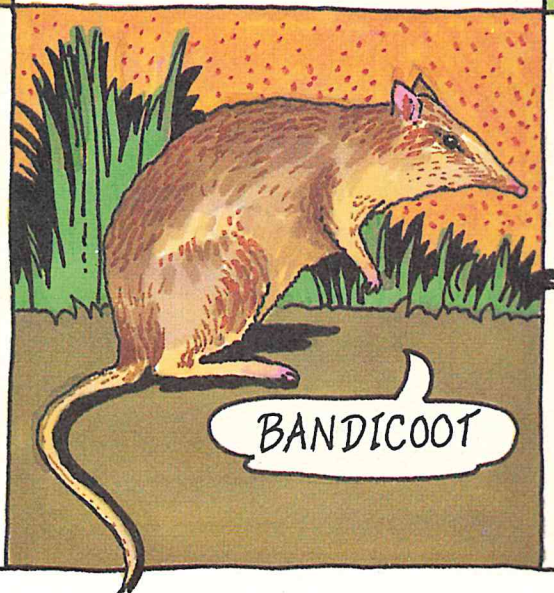
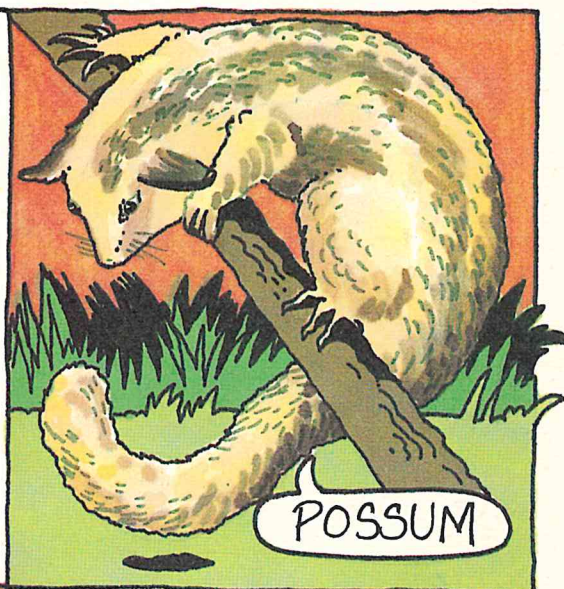
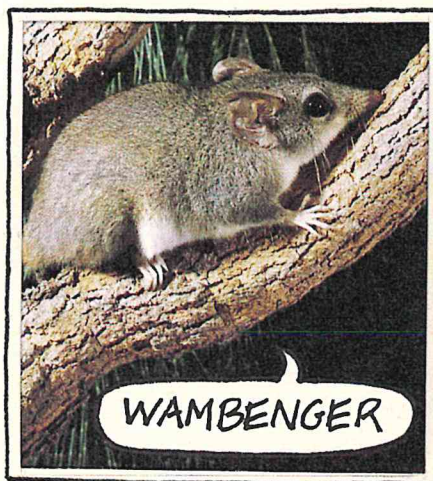


What about our feathered friends?

The forest offers a multi-storey home for a variety of birds. Some hunt for insects on the ground, in the low shrubs and on the bark and leaves of the trees. Others seek nectar from the flowers.

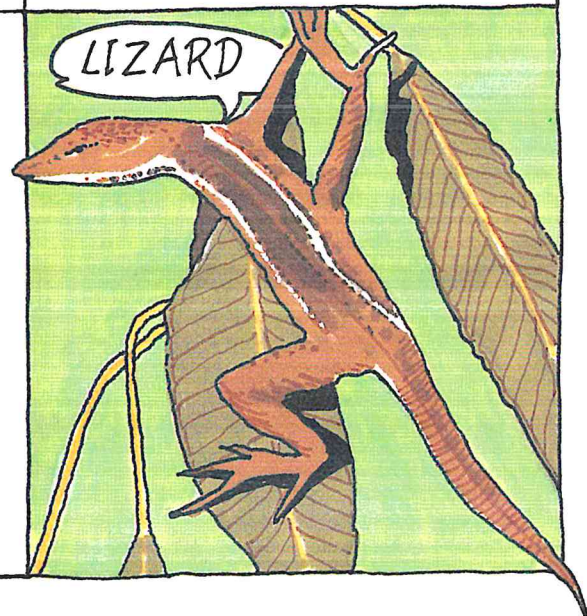
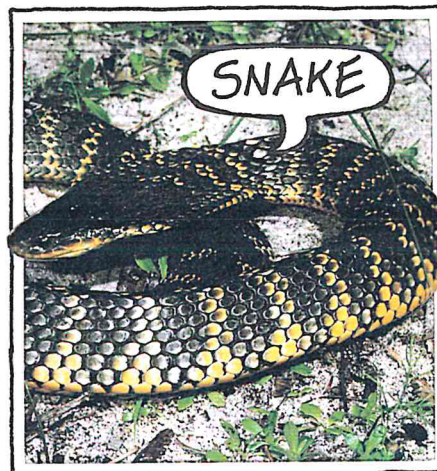
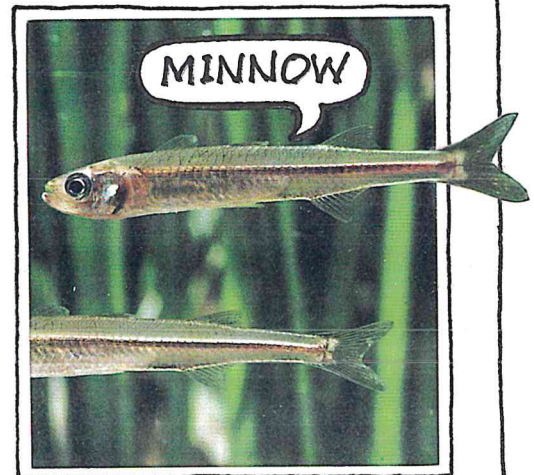
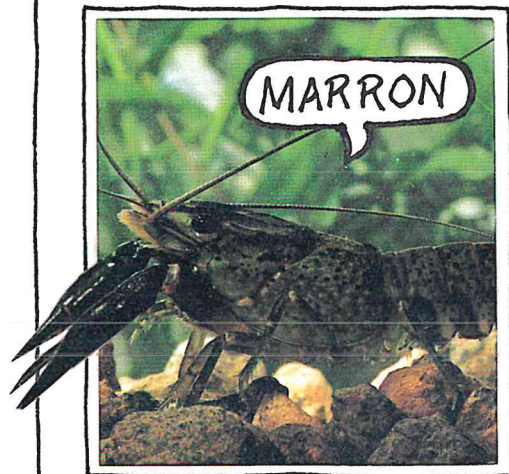
The larger birds may hunt

small animals in the high branches. Almost all of the birds use trees as nesting places.



Possums, bandicoots, echidnas, bats, kangaroos and many other animals live in our forests. Some help to keep nature's balance by feeding on insects which might otherwise become so numerous that they would damage the forest;

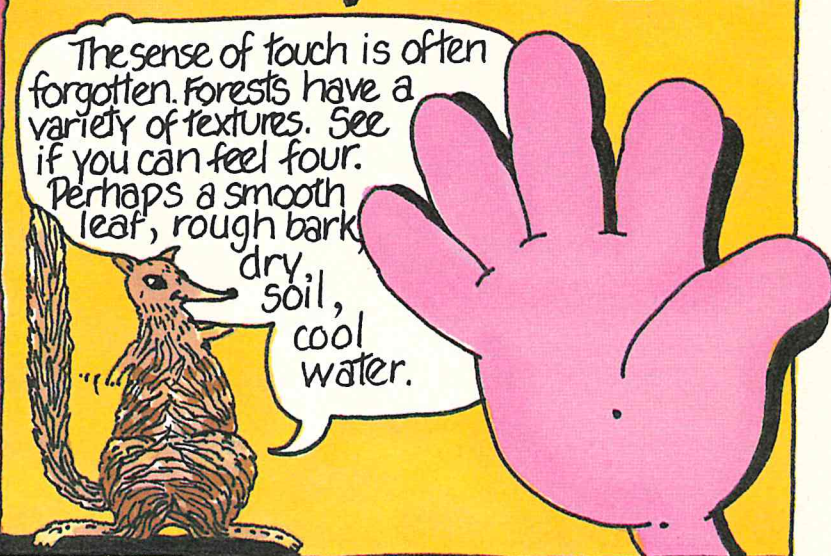
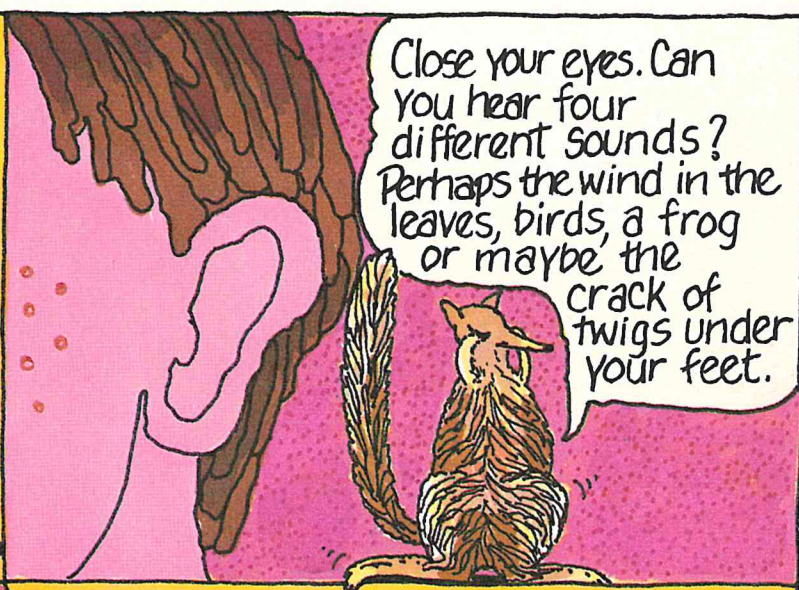
others act as gardeners by grazing on young green shoots.



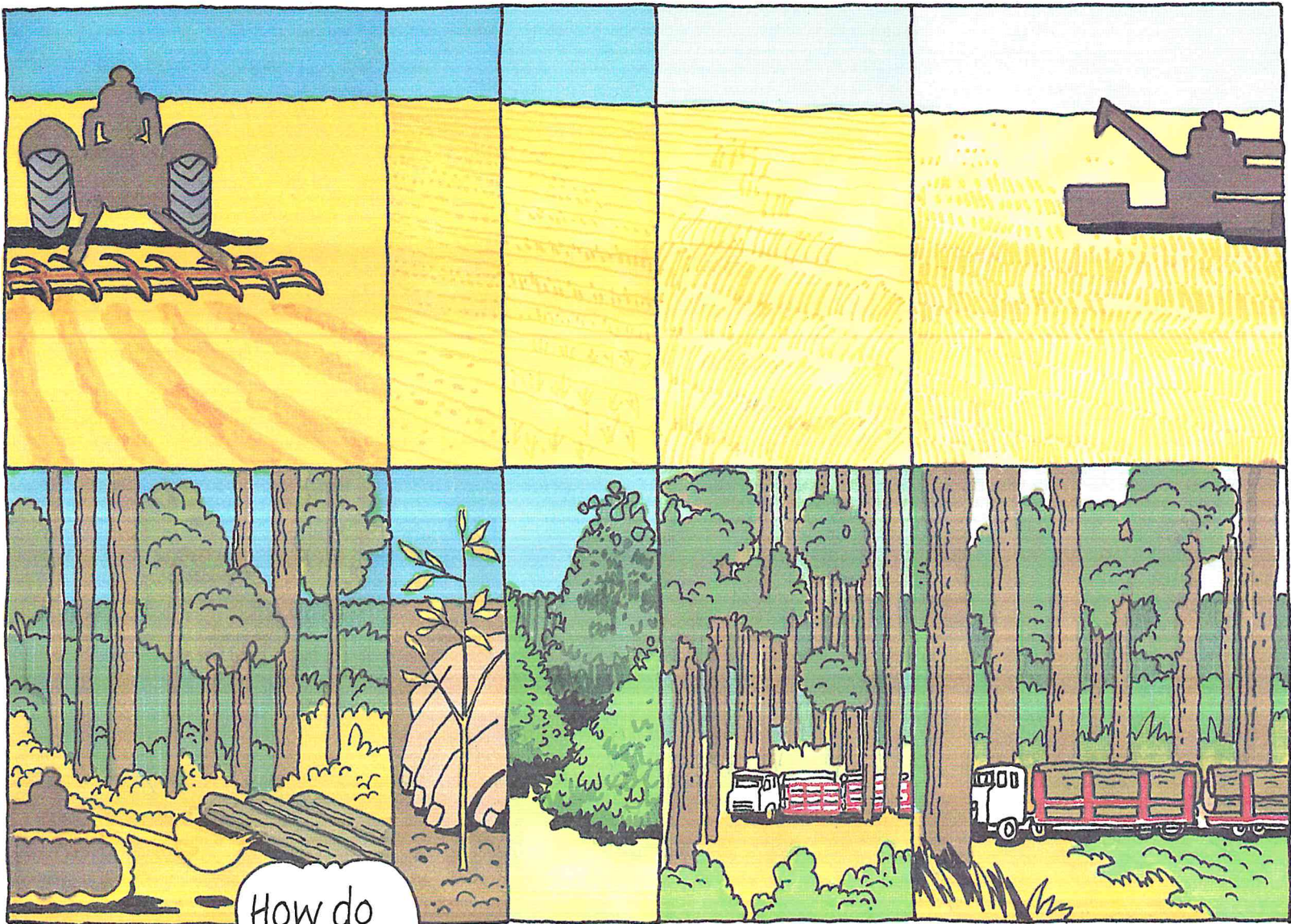
Who else
lives in
the forest?

The streams in the forest harbour many different life forms. They are like under-water forests within a forest.

On land you can see lots of reptiles, such as snakes, geckos and lizards.



The forest is continually changing: winter gives way to sunshine, shadows and light change. The old gives way to the young. Our four main senses — sight, smell, touch and hearing — can all be used to help us appreciate the forest.



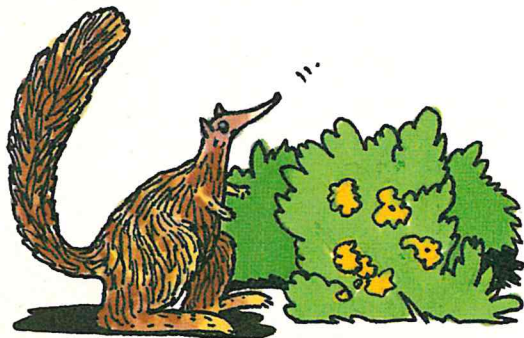
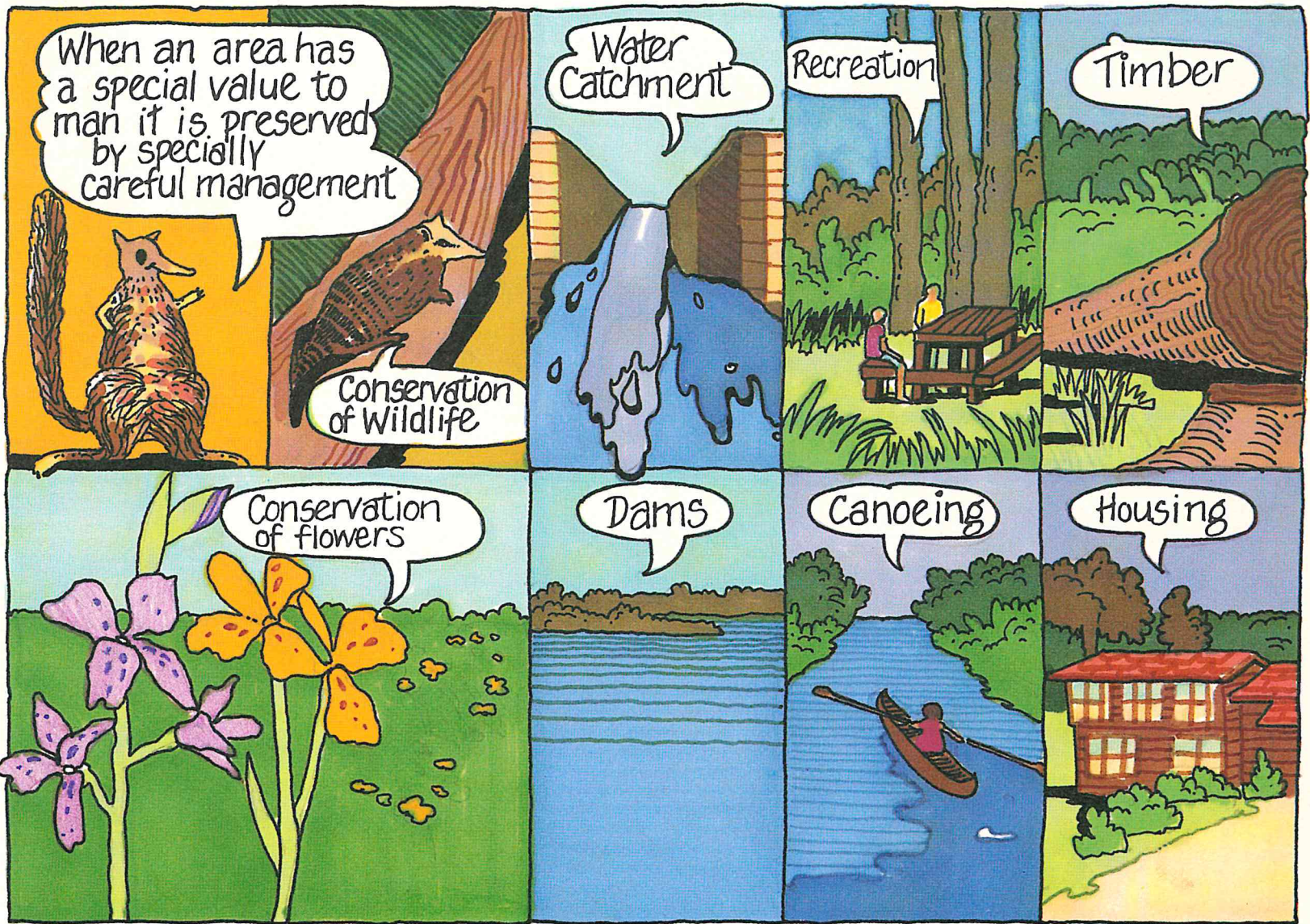
How do
we
manage
our
forests?



Growing trees for timber production is much the same as growing wheat except that a crop of wheat is grown and harvested in one year, whereas trees take many years to mature.

In production forest, as one area is cut and replanted (or

“regenerated”) another becomes ready to harvest. Forests require careful tending so that they can be used over and over forever.



The different resources provided by forests may sometimes lead to conflict of uses. When this happens the area is given a priority use, and management plans are designed around that use. Examples of priorities are:

conservation of flora and fauna, timber production, and recreation.

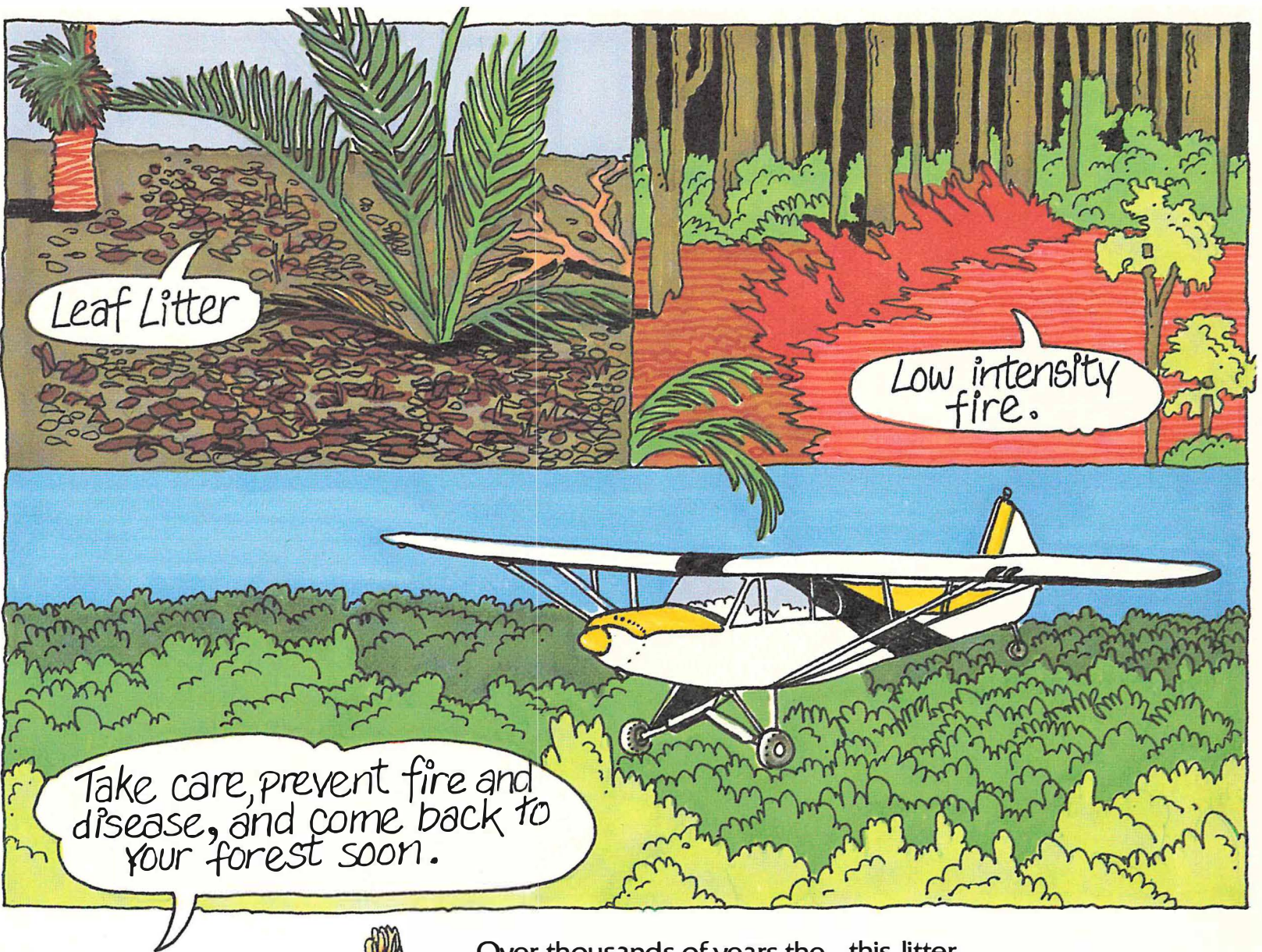


What can
harm the
forest?



“Jarrah dieback” can kill jarrah forests if allowed to spread. The disease is a microscopic fungus which attacks the roots of the jarrah, banksia and some forest shrubs. It is mainly spread by moving soil from affected forest into

clean areas. That is why you are prevented from driving through quarantined forests — if you have passed through a dieback area, you may spread the disease. Always obey quarantine signs — for the forest’s sake.

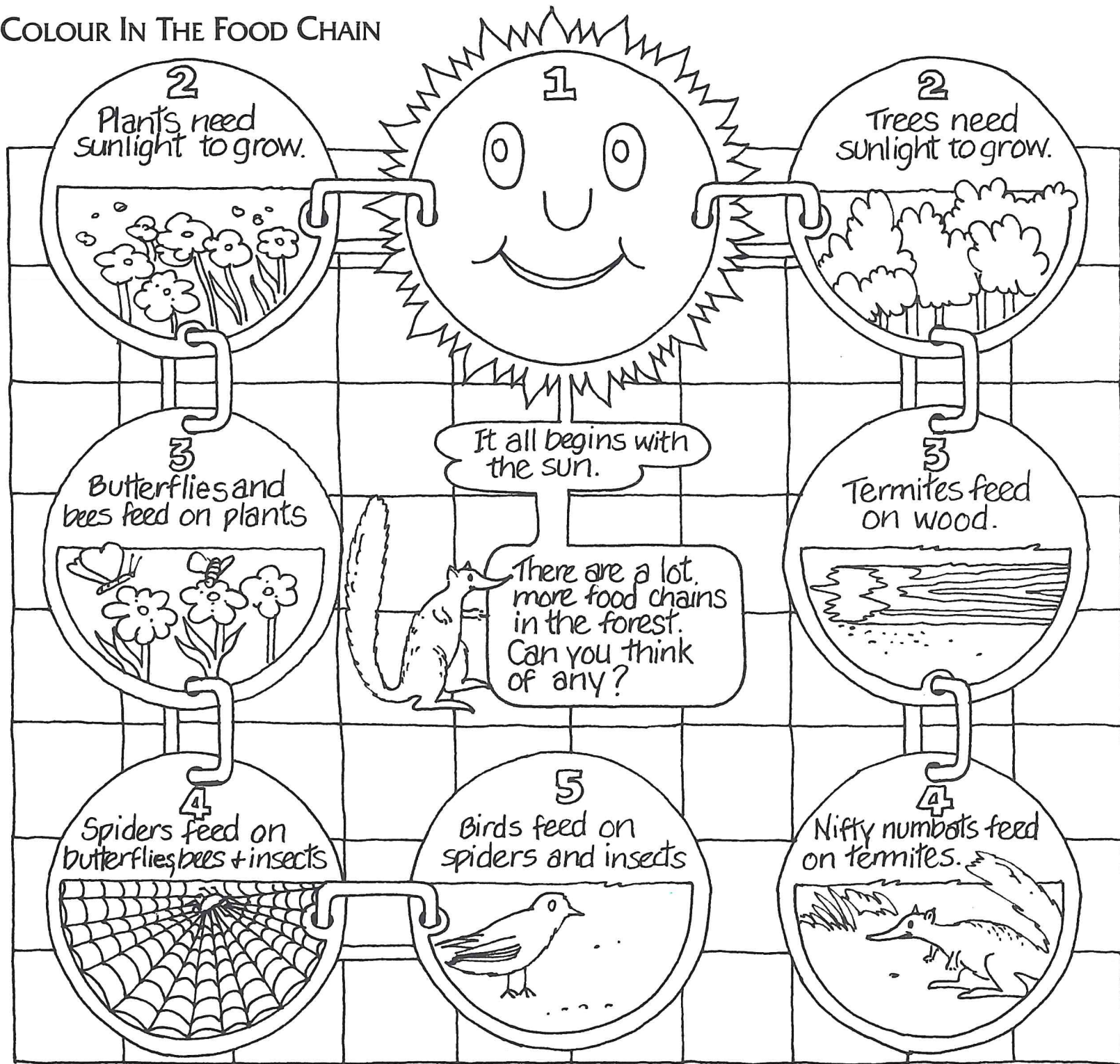


Over thousands of years the trees, plants and wildlife have adapted to survive moderate fires. However, if the forest is not burnt for many years, a deep layer of highly flammable leaf litter builds up. To protect forests, townships, and farms from wildfire, controlled fires are lit every few years, to reduce

this litter.

On hot days in summer when even a small amount of litter may burn quickly and dangerously, spotter planes fly over the forest to make sure that no-one starts a wildfire by being careless with matches or lighting campfires.

COLOUR IN THE FOOD CHAIN





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