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DO
Wesley

SMOKY BEAR'S

STORY OF THE FOREST



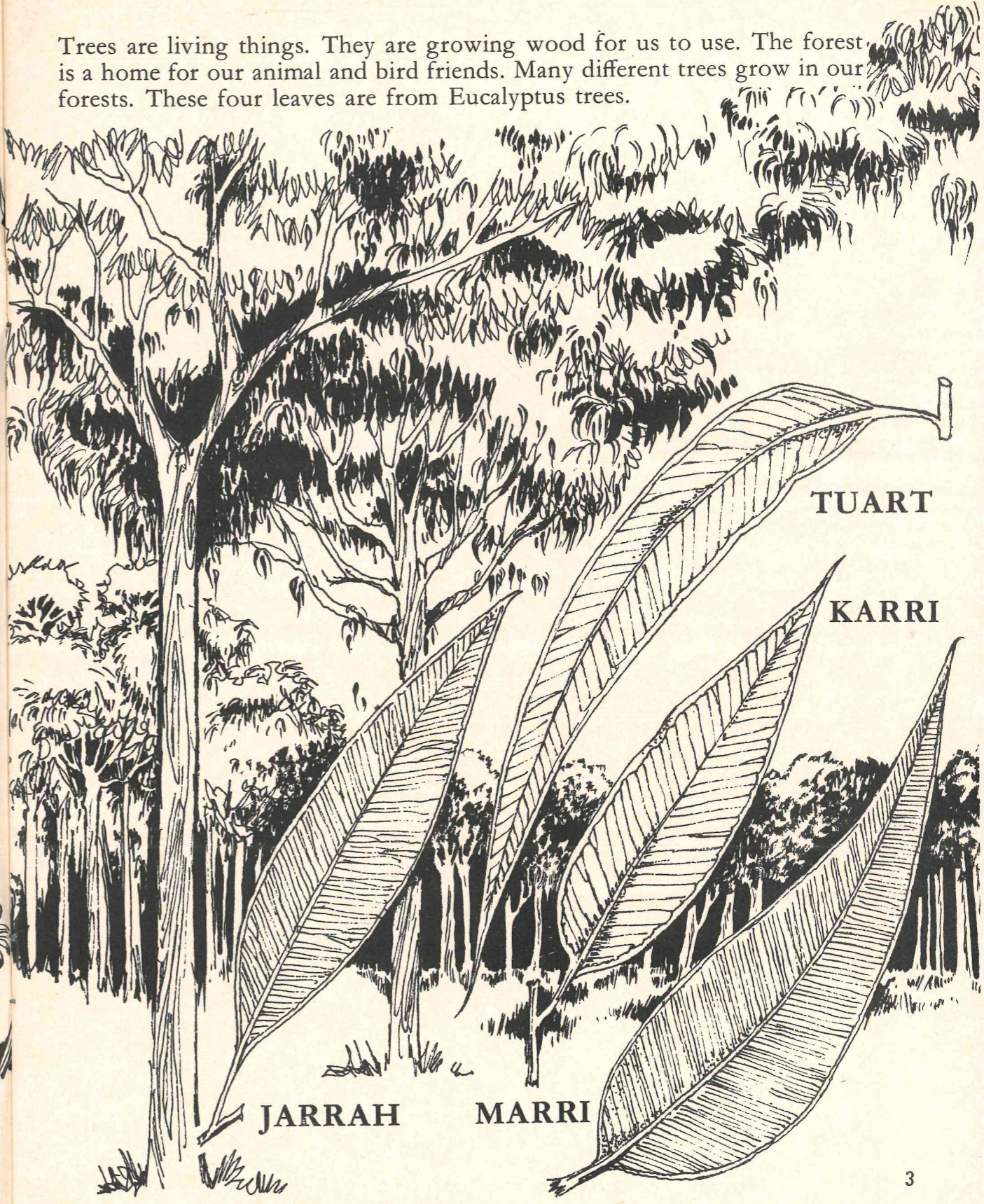
KEEP OUR FORESTS GREEN

J.B.



A Forests Department
of Western Australia
Publication.

Trees are living things. They are growing wood for us to use. The forest is a home for our animal and bird friends. Many different trees grow in our forests. These four leaves are from Eucalyptus trees.



TUART

KARRI

JARRAH

MARRI

These leaves are from other trees in our forests. All our native trees are evergreens. Evergreen trees do not lose their leaves like deciduous trees.

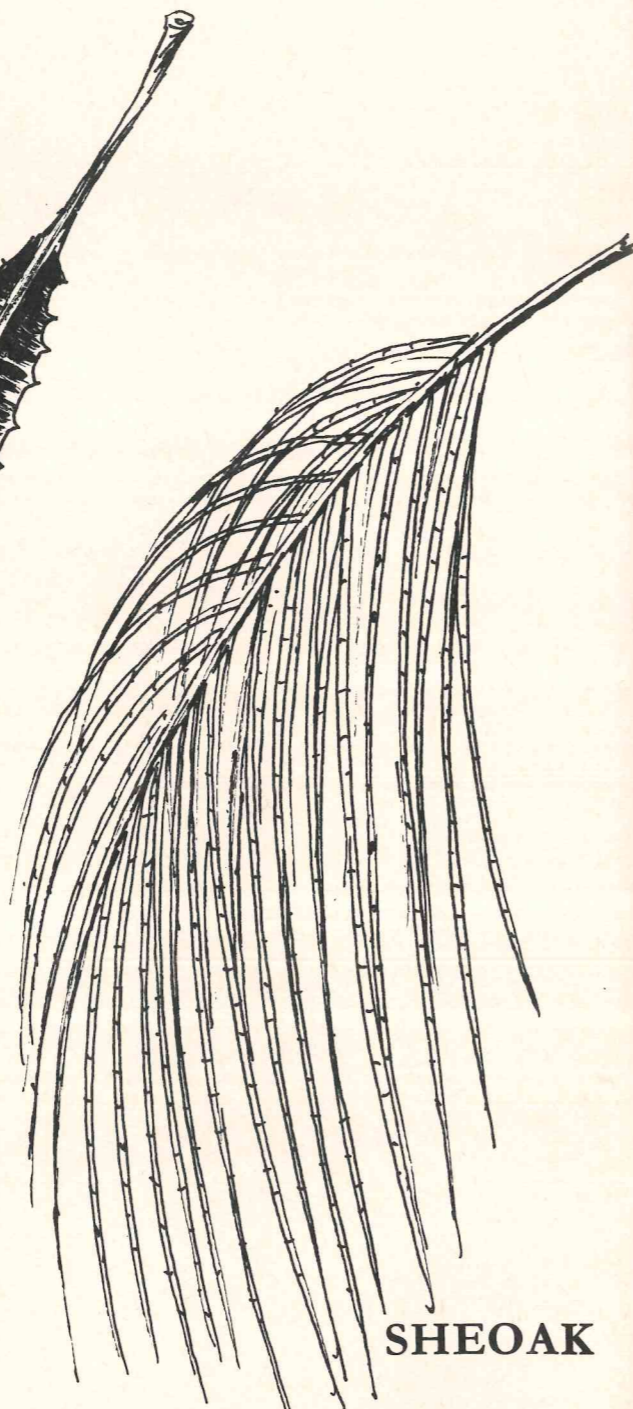
PEPPERMINT



BANKSIA



SHEOAK



Bring some leaves to school and learn their names.

Seeds fall to the ground and grow into new little trees.

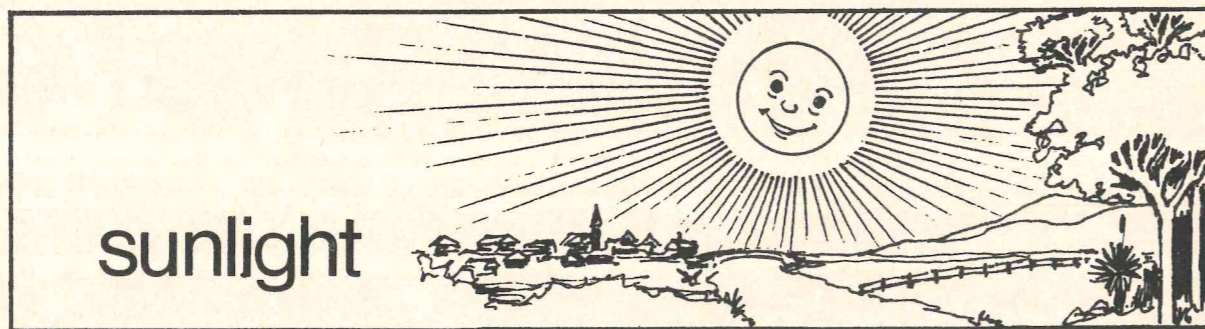
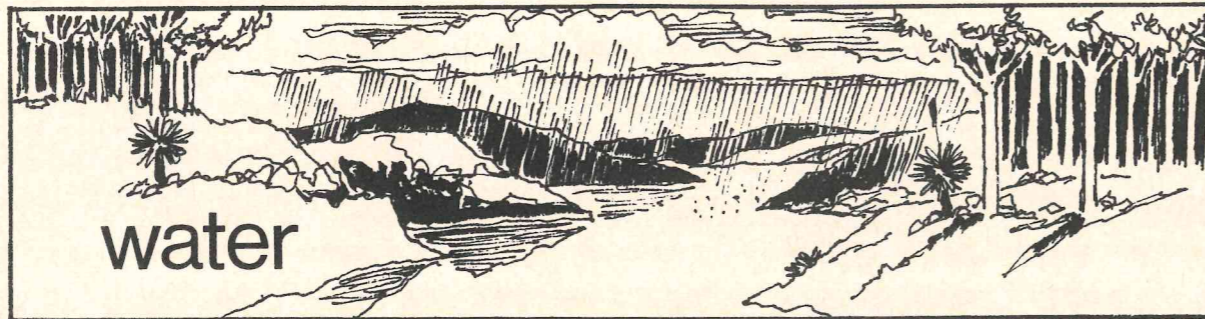
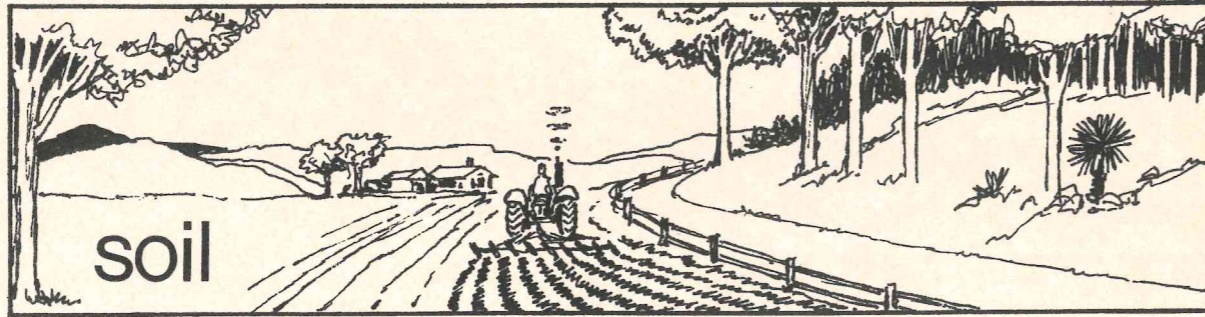
What would happen to seedlings in a bushfire?



What tree seeds have you seen? Bring some to school and plant them in a flower pot in the classroom. Measure the plant growth from time to time.

Why do people need trees? How many reasons can you think of?

What are three things trees need?



Learn how soil, water and sunlight help a seedling grow. Find out how a tree protects the soil, purifies the air and makes oxygen for us to breathe.

The forest is the home of many native animals. Which ones do you know?

Where do they find their food?



Ringtail Possum



Brushtail Possum



Numbat



Grey Kangaroo

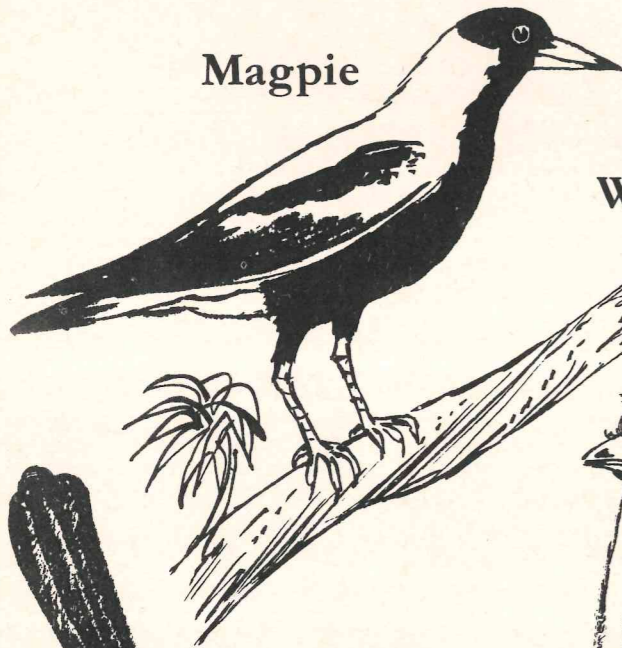
Which of these animals live in a tree and which live on the ground?

What happens to these animals when bushfires destroy the forest?

Many birds have their homes in the forest, too.

How many birds can you name?

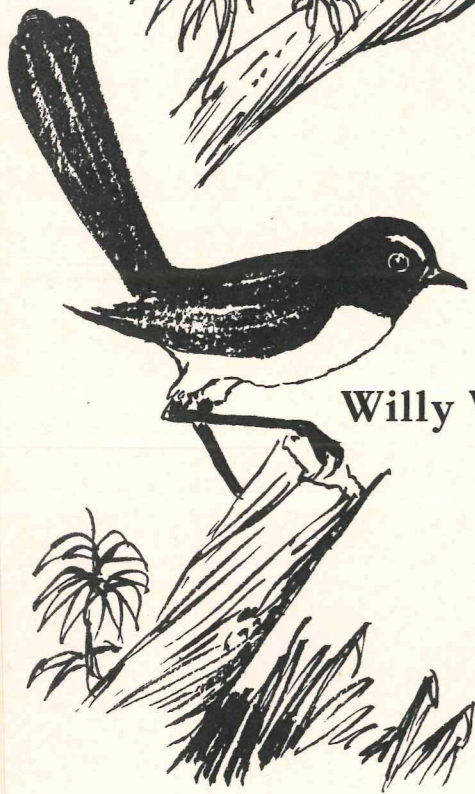
What do you think these birds eat?



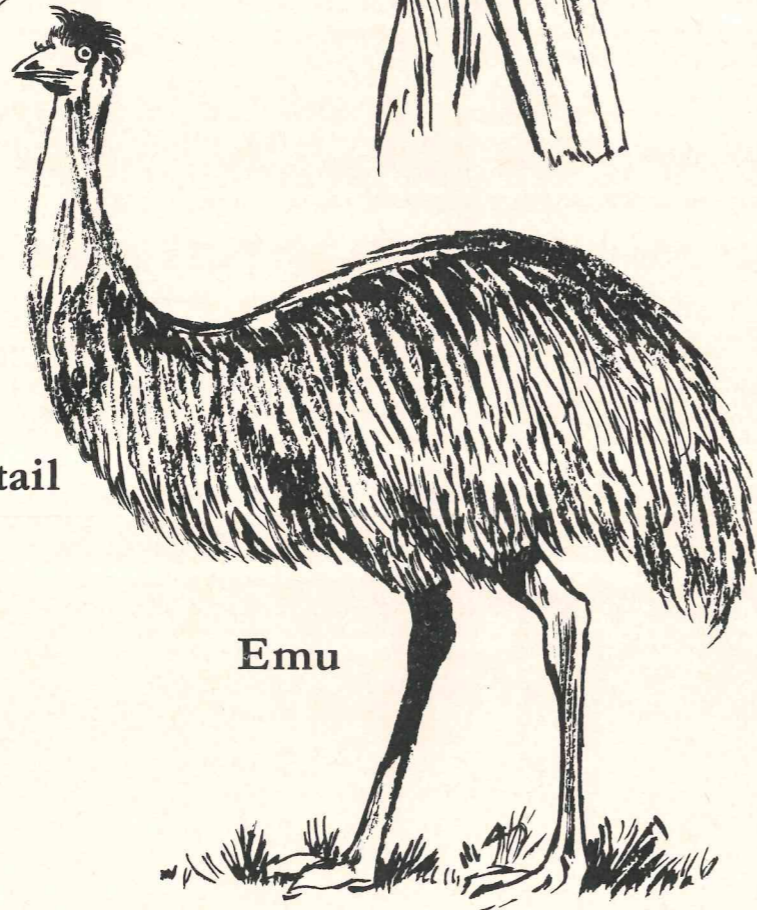
Magpie



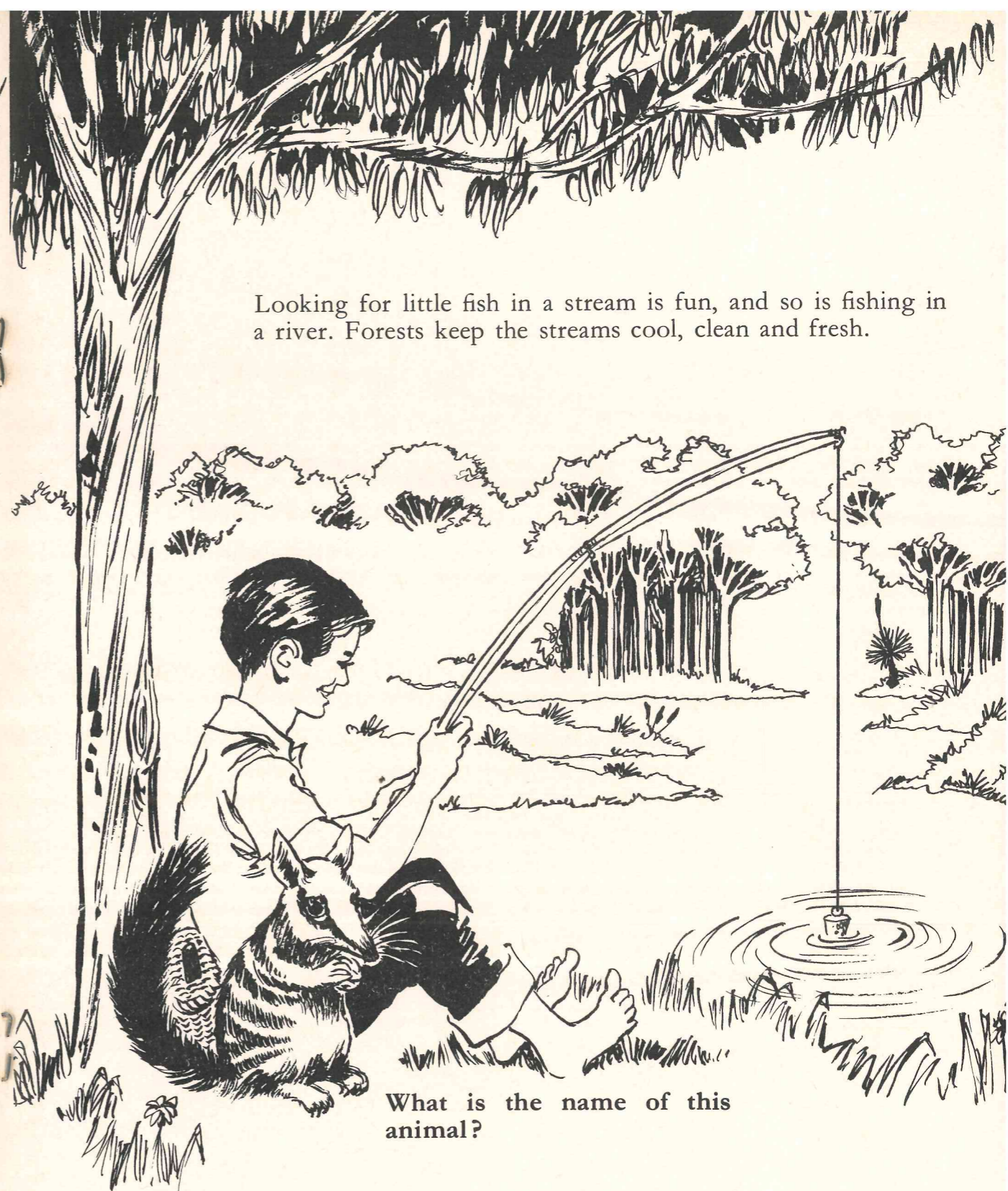
Western Rosella



Willy Wagtail



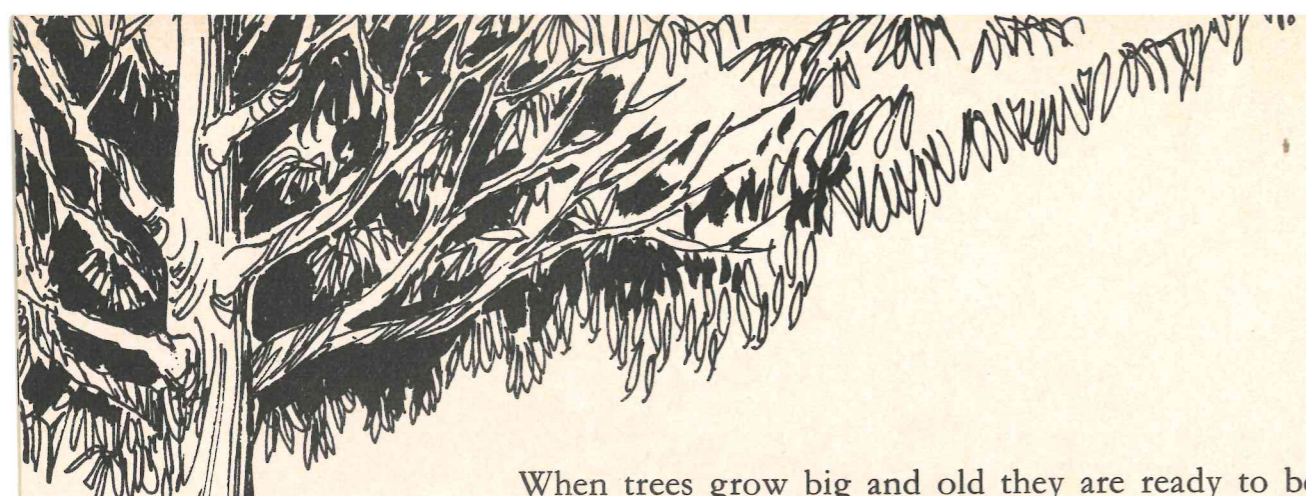
Emu



Looking for little fish in a stream is fun, and so is fishing in a river. Forests keep the streams cool, clean and fresh.

What is the name of this animal?

When bushfires destroy the forest, the water in streams sometimes becomes dirty. Little fish like clean, fresh water.



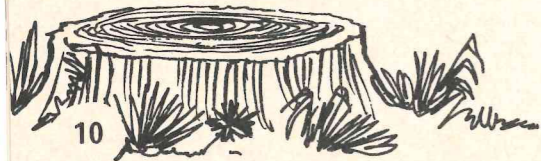
When trees grow big and old they are ready to be used. Before they grow too old they are marked by foresters and then timbermen cut them down. Removal of older trees gives young trees more room to grow.

These are seed trees which were left when all other trees were cut down. See the seedlings around them?

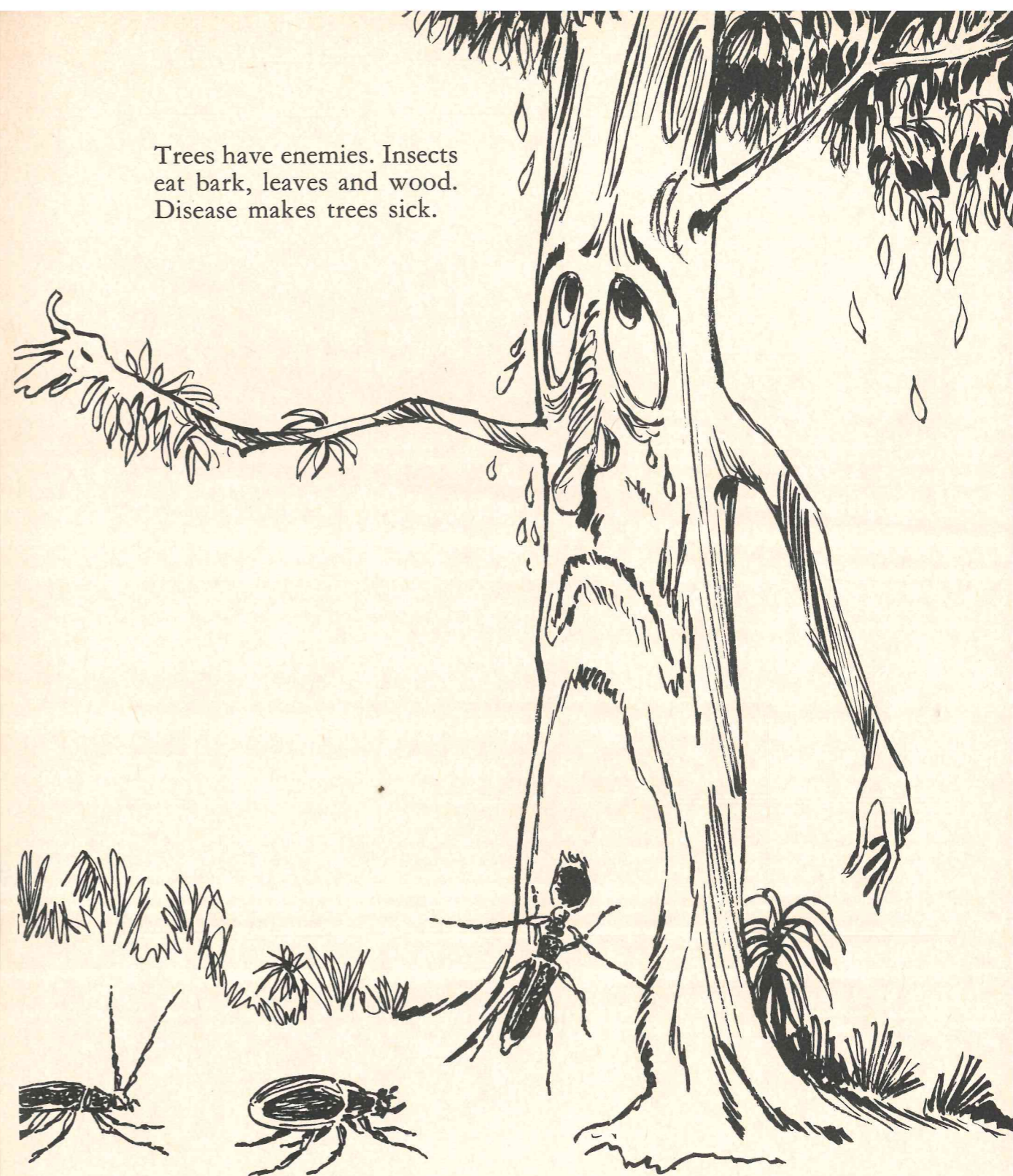


You can tell how old a tree is by counting the growth rings. **How old is this tree?**

Foresters save some trees for seed so a new crop of seedlings will grow and one day become big enough to cut for timber.



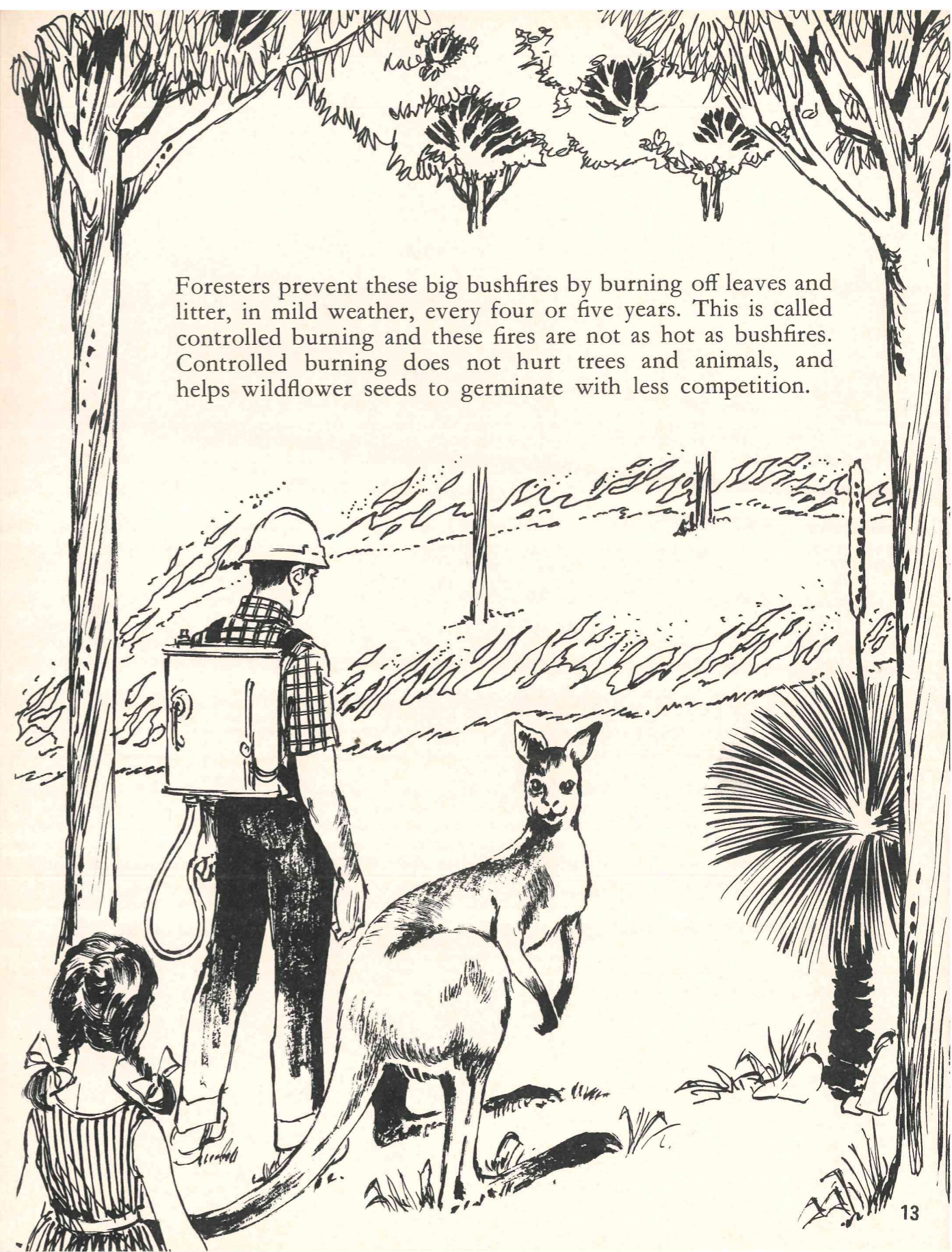
Trees have enemies. Insects eat bark, leaves and wood. Disease makes trees sick.



Bad bushfires make trees weak, then insects and disease sometimes kill the trees. These bushfires sometimes kill animals and birds that live in the forest.



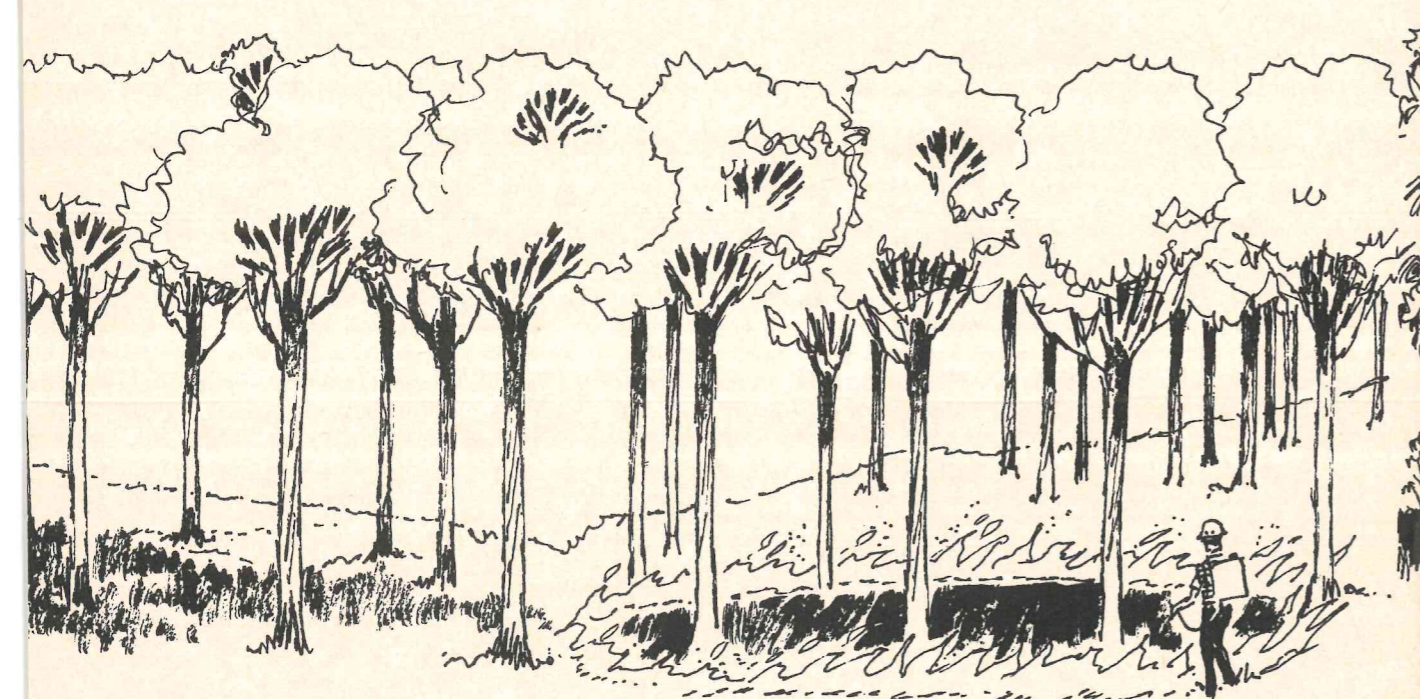
You can run away from bushfires, but the tree cannot. Sometimes people and animals are caught in bushfires too. **Tell the story of a kangaroo or numbat trapped by fire.** Remember that these two animals do not climb trees.



Foresters prevent these big bushfires by burning off leaves and litter, in mild weather, every four or five years. This is called controlled burning and these fires are not as hot as bushfires. Controlled burning does not hurt trees and animals, and helps wildflower seeds to germinate with less competition.

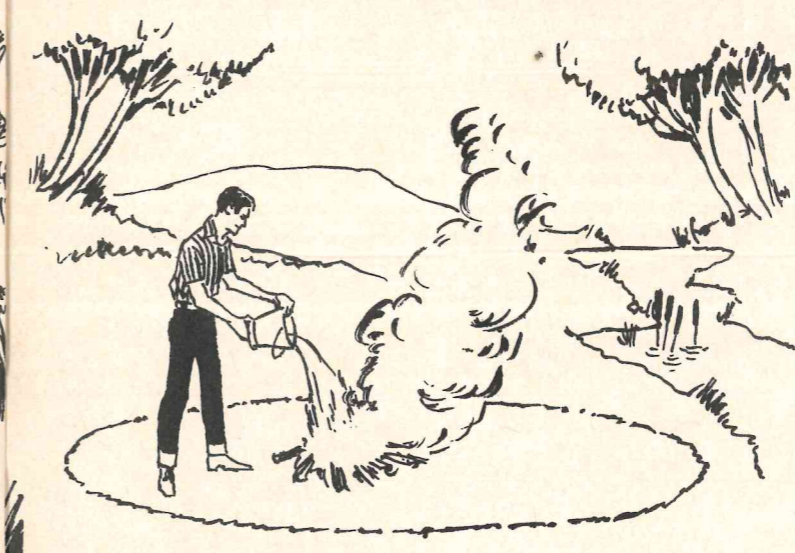


Bad bushfires are called wildfires, and they destroy the forest trees and kill our native animals and birds.



Controlled burning makes the forest a safer home for our native animals to live in and for us to walk through.

SUGGESTED ART ACTIVITY: Draw a picture of a forest fire.



Easy ways YOU can prevent forest fires

Home rubbish fires

- * Use a proper incinerator or burn only between 6 p.m. and 11 p.m. during summer "prohibited" periods.
- * Remove grass, leaves and litter from a strip 15 feet wide around rubbish fires.
- * Have a bucket of water handy.
- * Stay with the fire until it is right out.
- * Always wear shoes to avoid burnt feet.


Picnic fires

- * Always use a picnic fire-place if available.
- * Remove all inflammable litter from a circle 10 feet around the fire and stay at least 10 feet from overhanging trees.
- * Make sure the fire is out before you leave. Use water or sand to put it out.
- * Do not light picnic fires on "dangerous fire weather" days.

SUGGESTED ART ACTIVITY: Draw a picnic scene in the forest. Show several animals and birds.

If we keep fire out the forest and let young healthy trees keep growing, it will help us to have beautiful green forests, nice clear streams, timber for our homes and food for our animal friends.

Here is what **you** can do to preserve our forest resources:

- 
- A black and white illustration of a koala sitting on the ground, holding a stick. To its left is a large, fan-shaped plant. To its right is a wooden sign on two posts. The sign contains a list of four instructions. Below the sign, the word 'SMOKY' is written in a bold, stylized font, followed by a paw print icon. The background shows some grass and small flowers.
- 1 Be careful with matches and fire.
 - 2 If you see a forest fire, tell someone about it at once.
 - 3 Do not damage forest trees and flowers.
 - 4 Protect our native animals.

SMOKY

