

INTERDEPENDENCY IN A FOREST

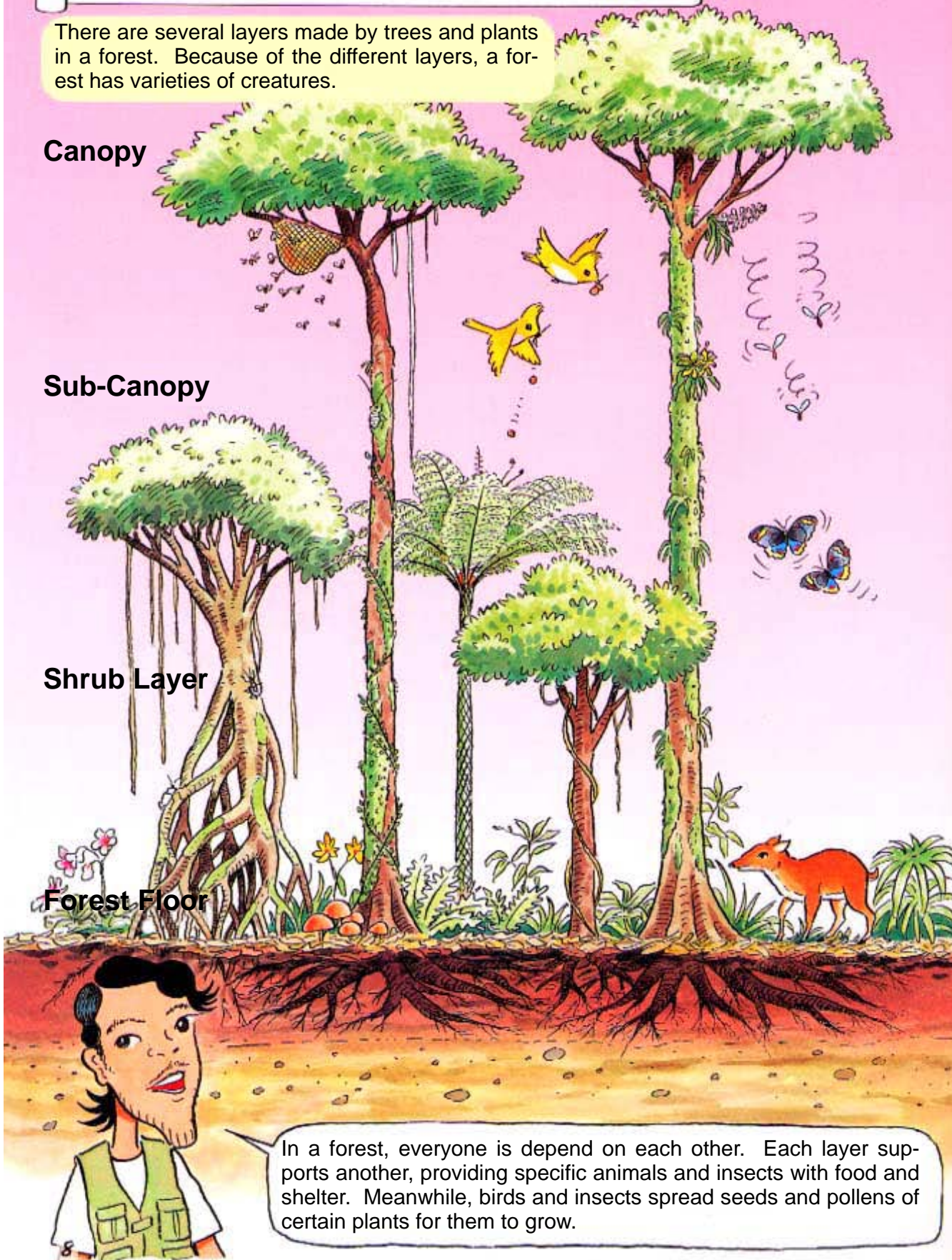
There are several layers made by trees and plants in a forest. Because of the different layers, a forest has varieties of creatures.

Canopy

Sub-Canopy

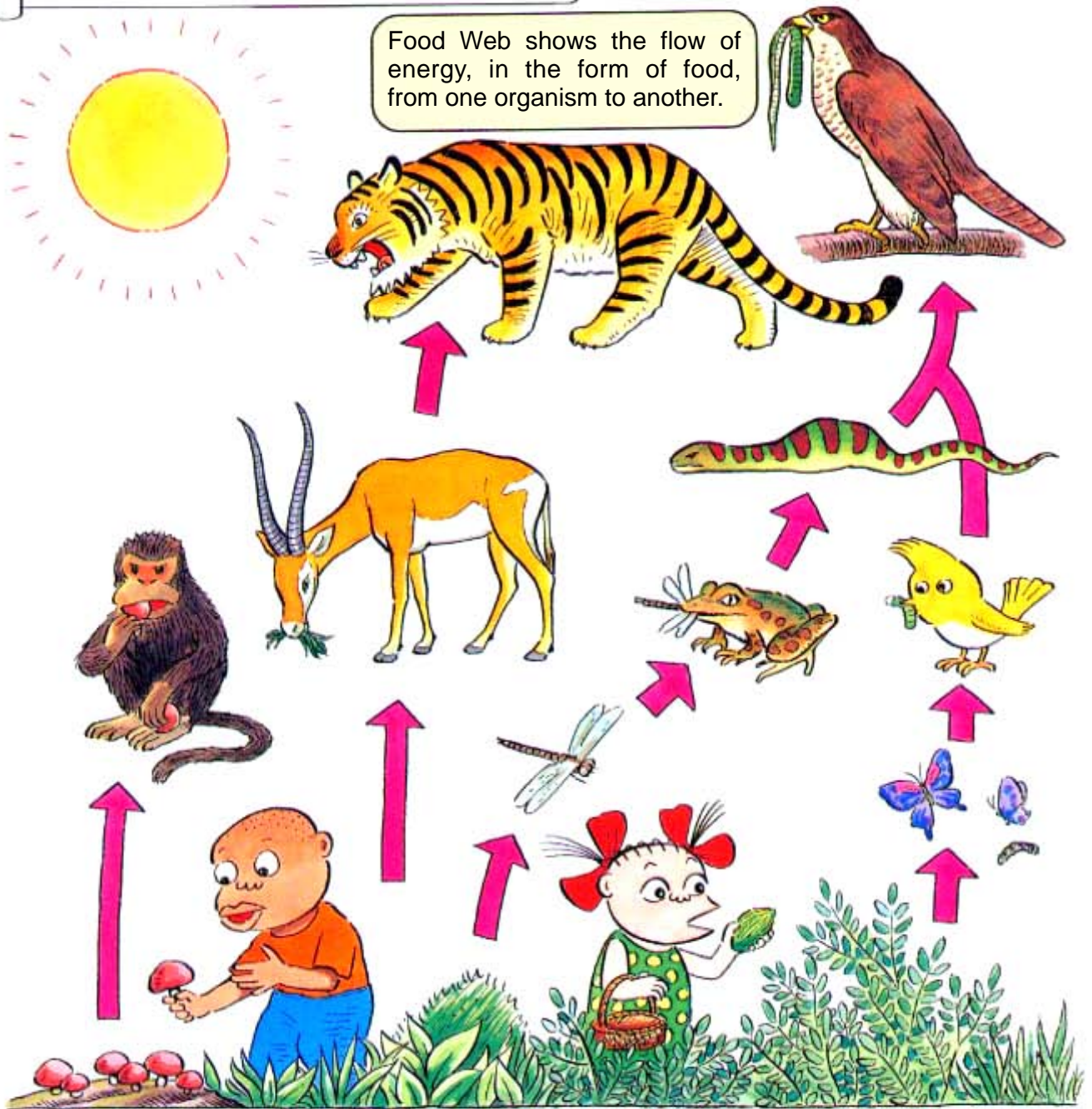
Shrub Layer

Forest Floor



FOOD WEB IN A FOREST

Food Web shows the flow of energy, in the form of food, from one organism to another.



Just like us, all animals and insects need food to live. Some eat other animals and insects, and others just eat plants. Plants are at the very bottom, and are called "producers", because they create food for people and other animals who are called "consumers". Can you imagine what will happen if any single species in the forest disappears? Well, all other creatures can be directly or indirectly affected.

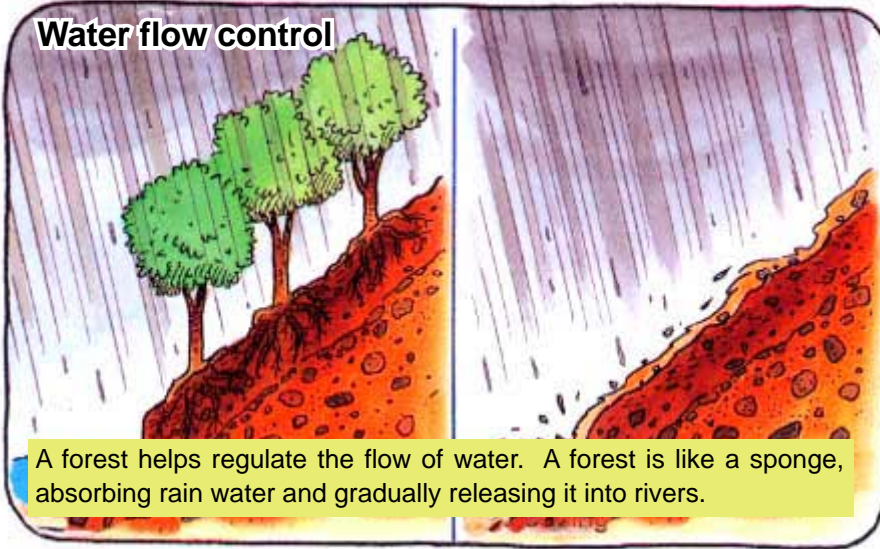


FUNCTIONS OF A FOREST

We learned many interesting activities going on in a forest. Now, let's see what a forest can provide us, and other living creatures.



Water flow control



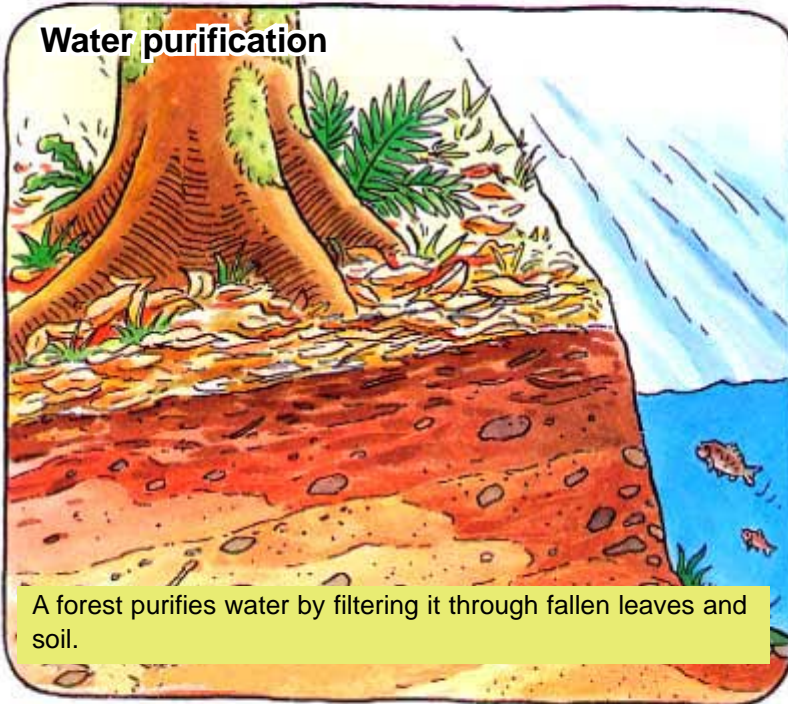
A forest helps regulate the flow of water. A forest is like a sponge, absorbing rain water and gradually releasing it into rivers.

Soil protection and enrichment



A forest builds, protects and enriches the soil. Tree roots hold soil stable, keeping it from

Water purification



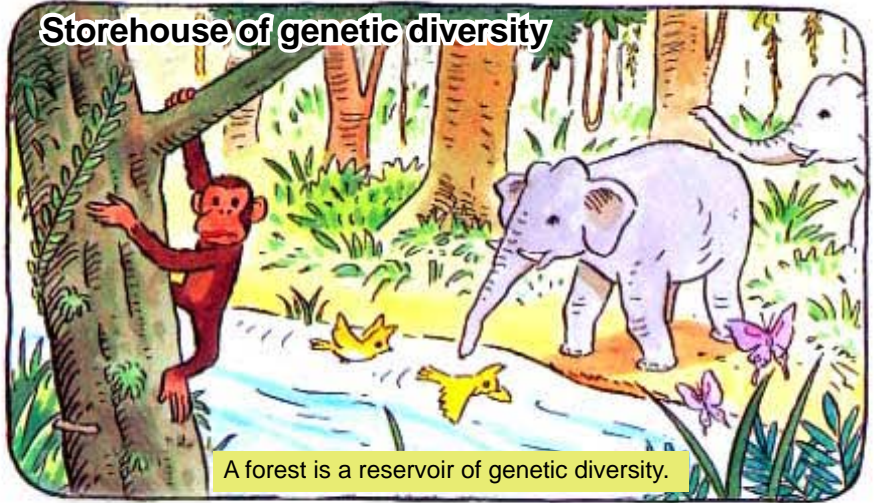
A forest purifies water by filtering it through fallen leaves and soil.

Climate control

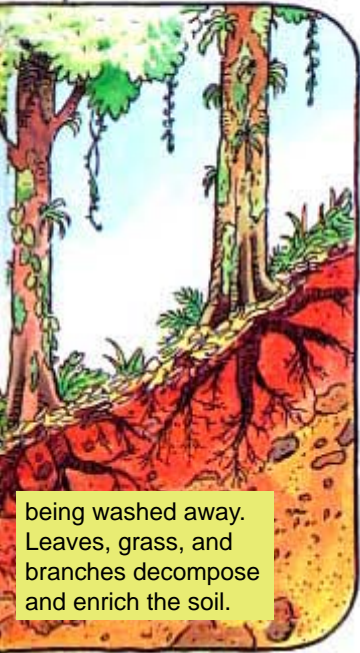


A forest controls climate through the release of moisture with drawn from the soil

Storehouse of genetic diversity

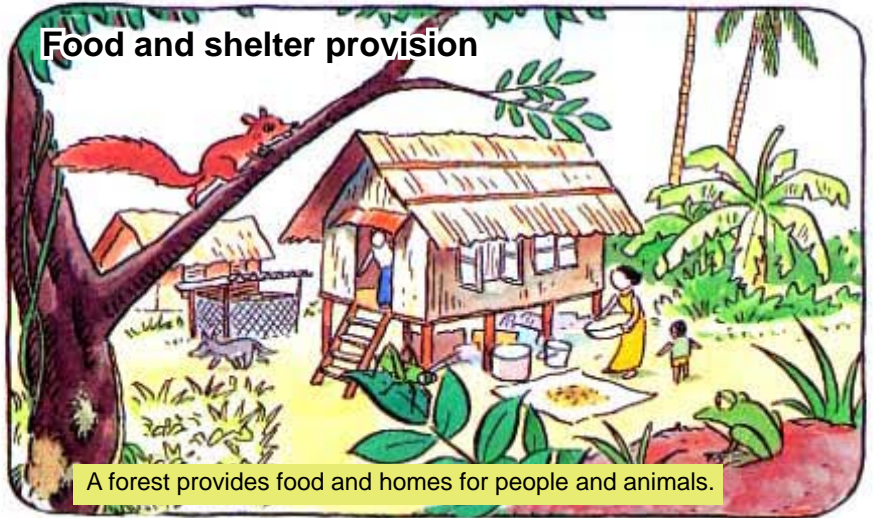


A forest is a reservoir of genetic diversity.



being washed away. Leaves, grass, and branches decompose and enrich the soil.

Food and shelter provision

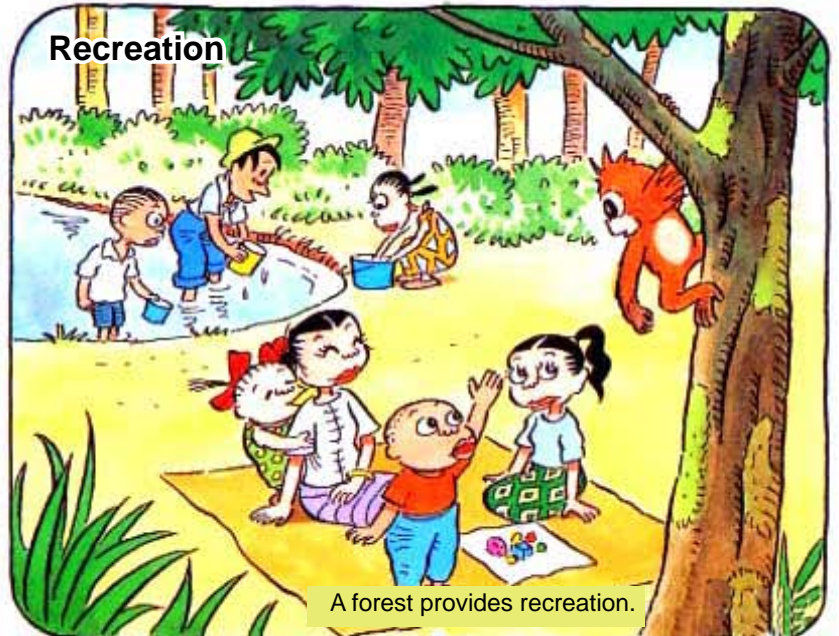


A forest provides food and homes for people and animals.



by plant roots and allowed to evaporate through leaves.

Recreation



A forest provides recreation.