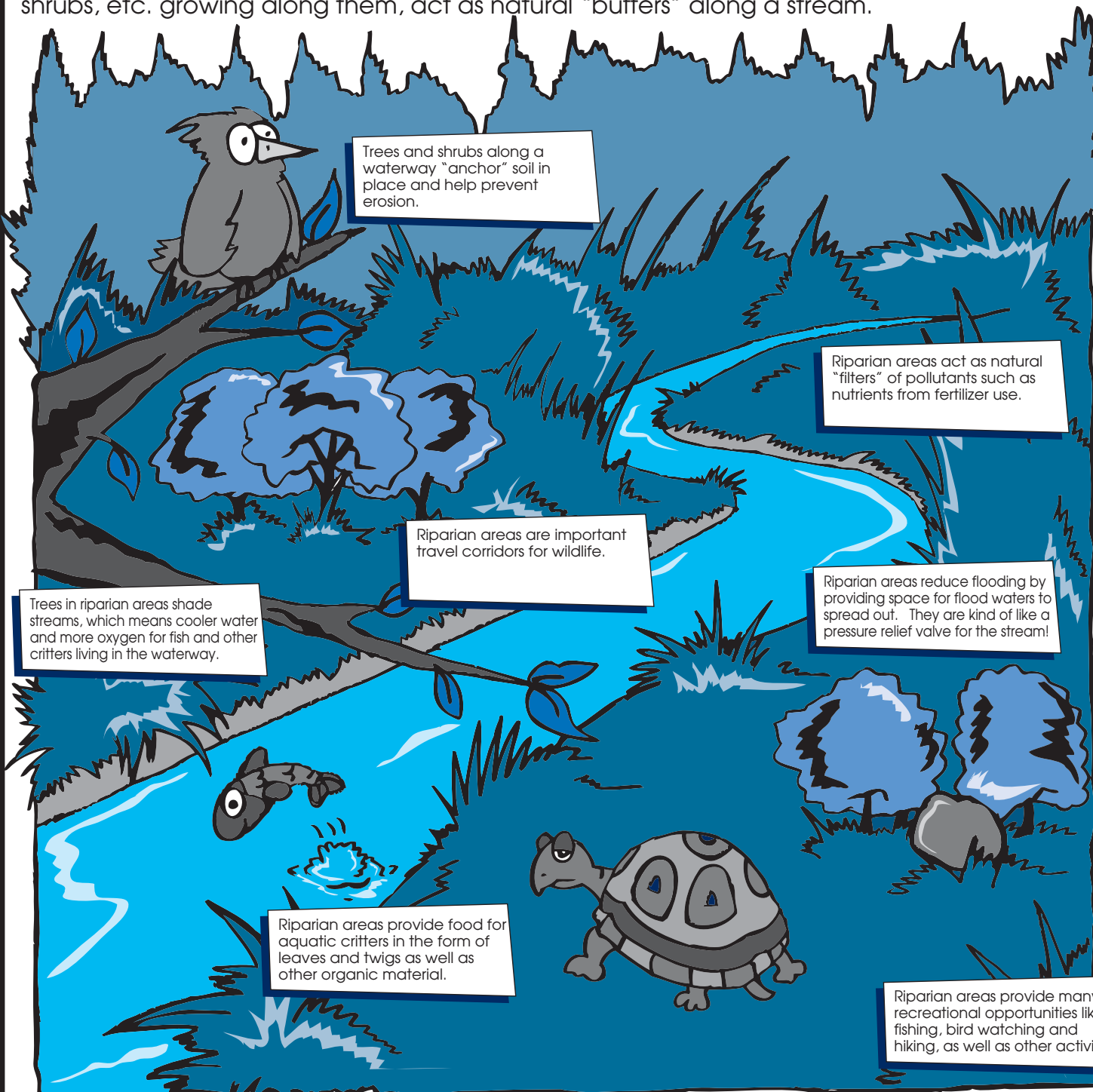


WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH RIPARIAN ZONES?!!!

The better question may be what is a riparian zone? No, it is not a place where reality is skewed and odd beings run around. That's the Twilight Zone!!! A riparian zone is the area along a stream, lake, wetland or other waterway. To simply put it, it is the transition zone between land and water. Riparian zones which are intact, meaning they still have trees and shrubs, etc. growing along them, act as natural "buffers" along a stream.



Trees and shrubs along a waterway "anchor" soil in place and help prevent erosion.

Riparian areas act as natural "filters" of pollutants such as nutrients from fertilizer use.

Riparian areas are important travel corridors for wildlife.

Trees in riparian areas shade streams, which means cooler water and more oxygen for fish and other critters living in the waterway.

Riparian areas reduce flooding by providing space for flood waters to spread out. They are kind of like a pressure relief valve for the stream!

Riparian areas provide food for aquatic critters in the form of leaves and twigs as well as other organic material.

Riparian areas provide many recreational opportunities like fishing, bird watching and hiking, as well as other activities!

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