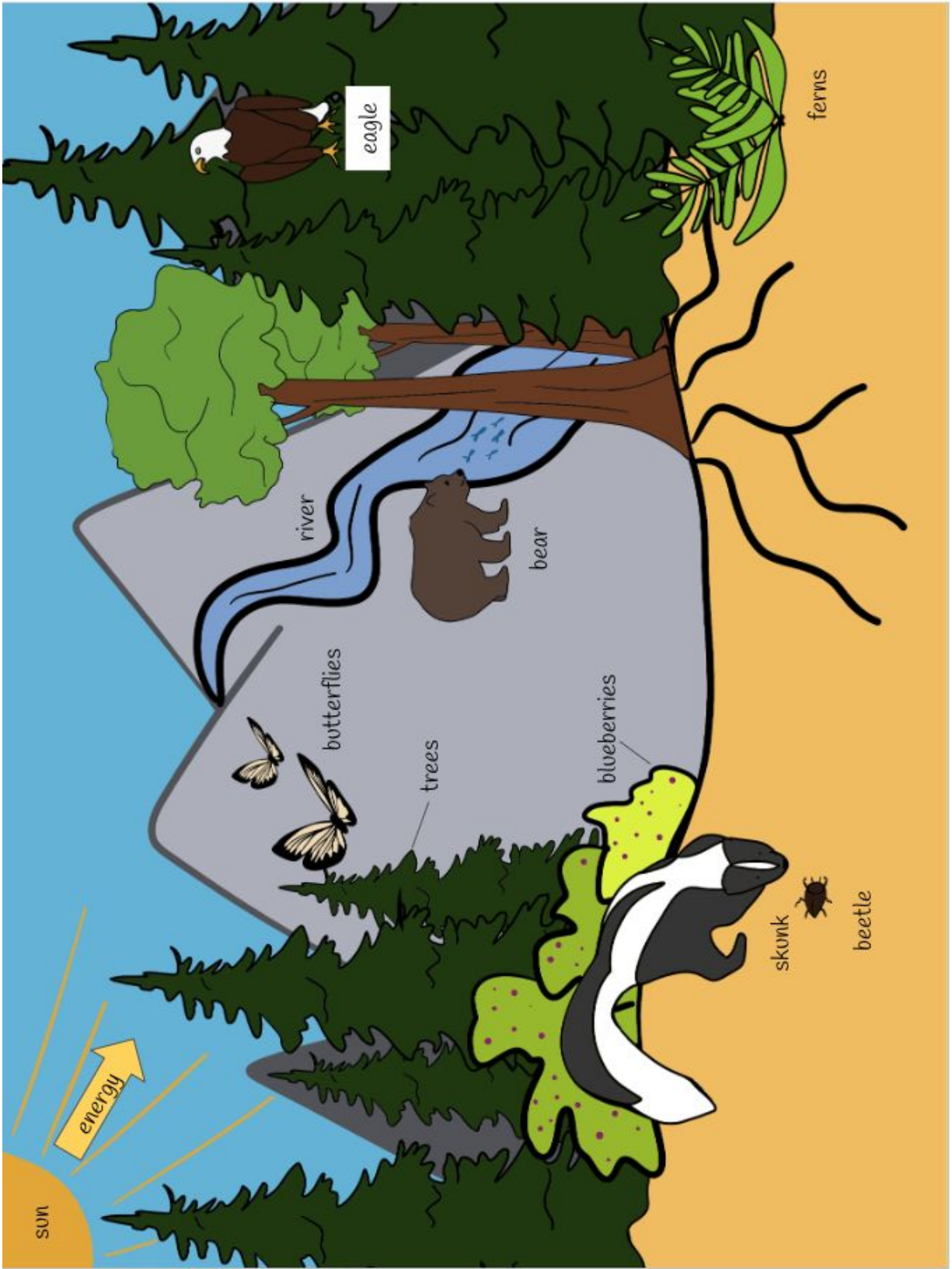


Exploring Habitats

by A. Class

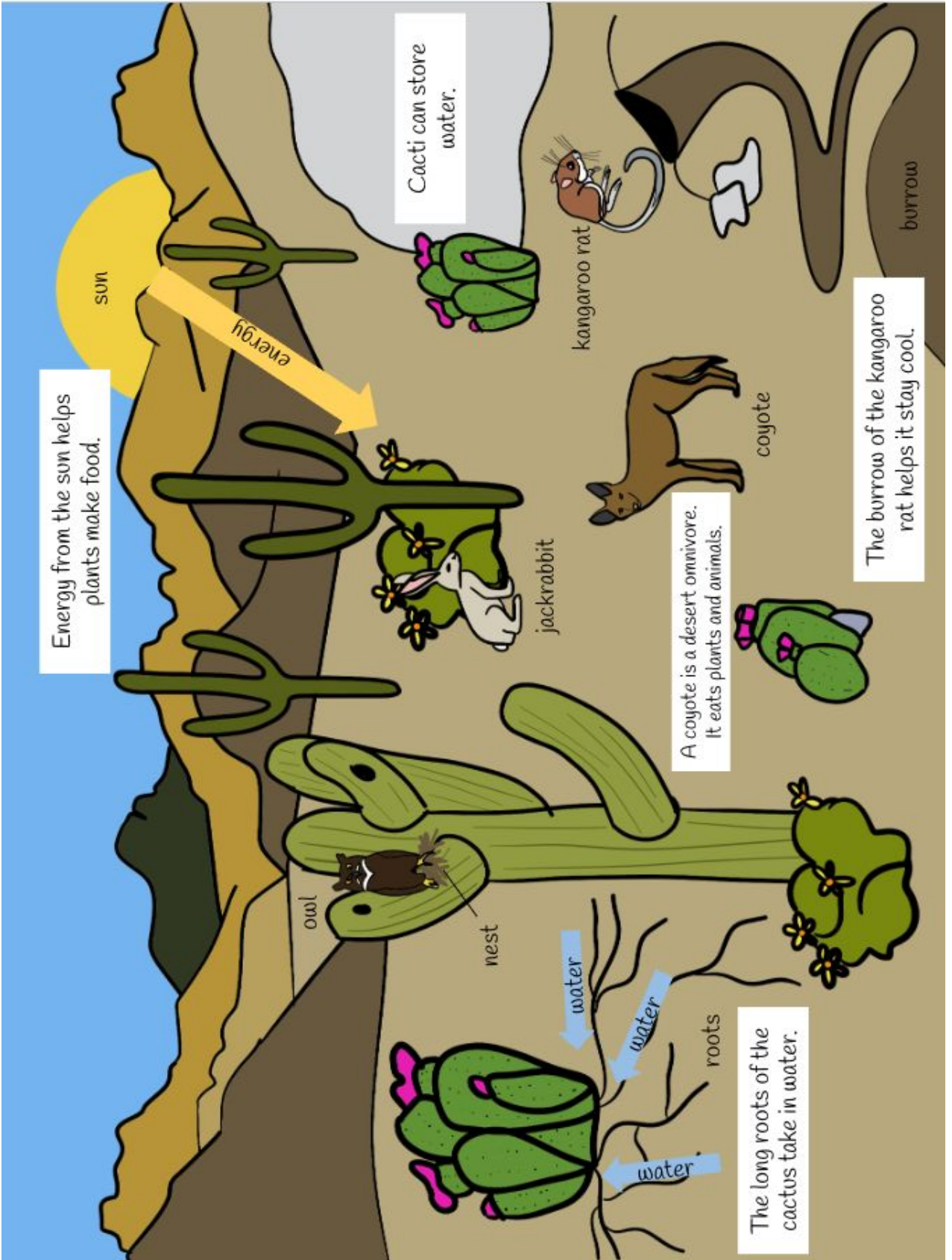
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Forest Relationships

In a forest habitat, plants and animals depend on their surroundings and each other to survive. Trees and plants make their own food using energy from the sun, nutrients from the soil, air, and water. Some animals in the forest are herbivores. Animals like deer eat plants for food. Other animals, like bald eagles, need to hunt other animals to survive. These animals are called carnivores. Omnivores depend on both plants and animals for food! For example, bears eat berries and fish. In a forest, the plants, animals, and their environment all depend on each other to stay alive.



Energy from the sun helps plants make food.

sun

energy

Cacti can store water.

kangaroo rat

burrow

coyote

jackrabbit

A coyote is a desert omnivore. It eats plants and animals.

The burrow of the kangaroo rat helps it stay cool.

owl

nest

water

water

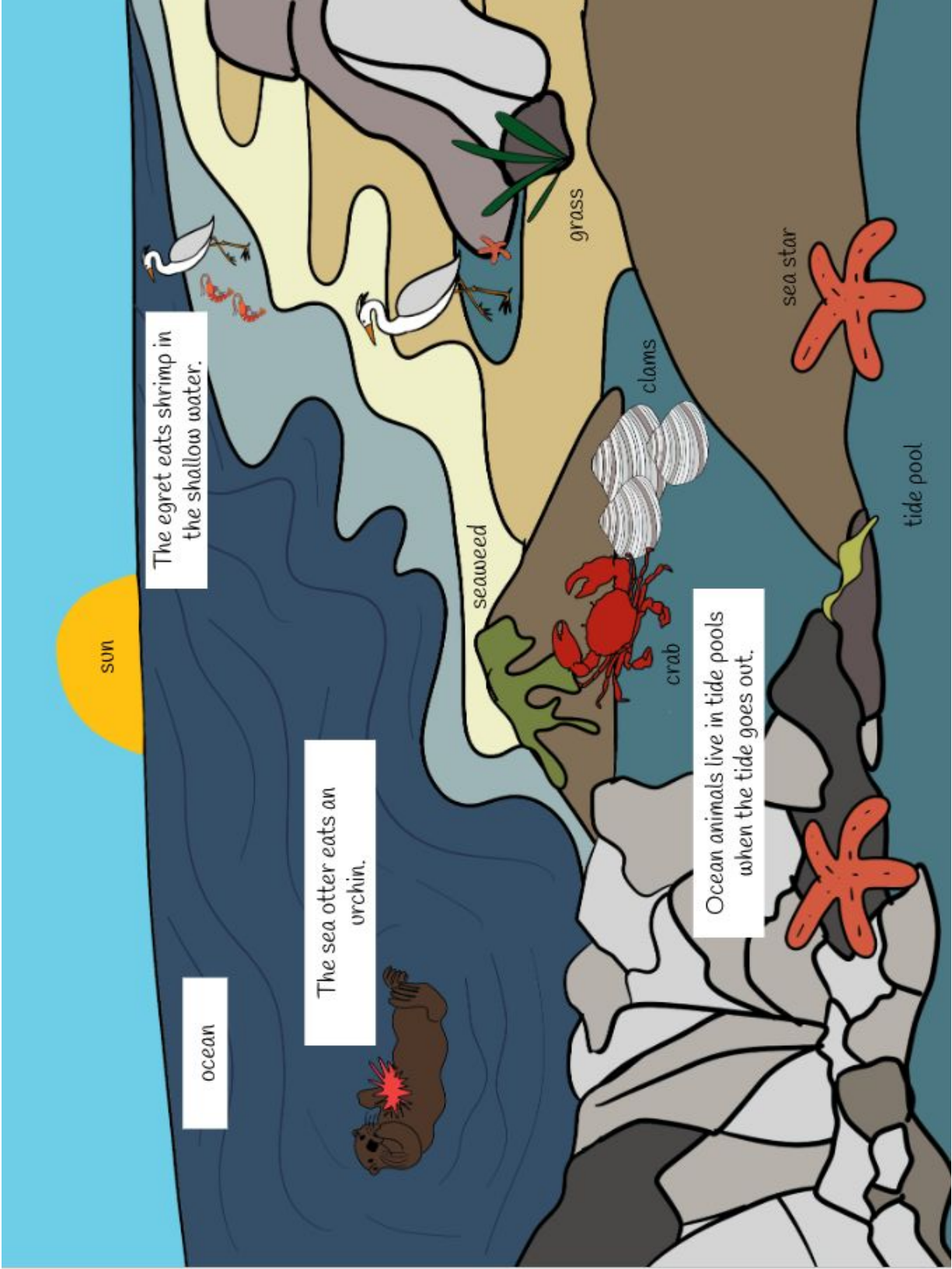
water

roots

The long roots of the cactus take in water.

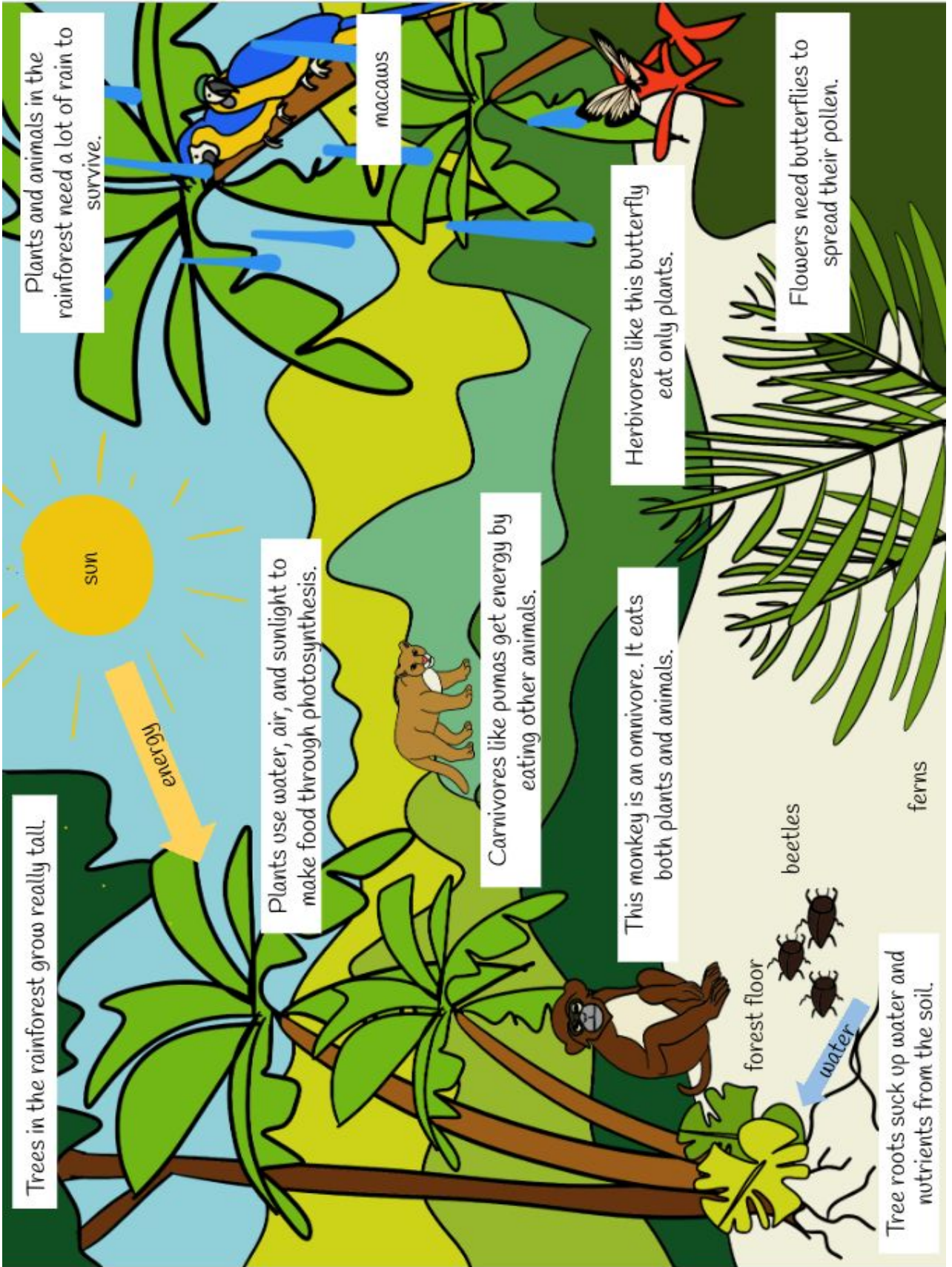
Life in a Desert Habitat

How do plants and animals depend on each other and their surroundings to survive in the harsh desert habitat? Cacti store water in their thick stems because it doesn't rain very much. Other plants have really long roots that drink up water when it does rain. Some animals, like the kangaroo rat, live in underground burrows to stay cool. Other animals depend on tall cactus plants to make their nests off the ground to stay safe. Like a big team, everything in the desert works together to survive a very tough place.



Working Together in the Tide Pool

In a tide pool habitat, plants and animals depend on their surroundings to survive when the tide goes out. Can you believe how much they need each other? For example, sea snails live in the shallow water so they do not get too dry when the tide goes out. Sea stars also need the water in the tide pool to stay wet because they cannot survive without it. Insects thrive among the plants and rocks in the tide pools. Birds, like the egret, need the shallow water to help them catch food. Without the rocks, water, and each other, how would plants and animals survive? All the living things work together to stay alive in the tide pool!



Rainforest Survival

Plants and animals in the rainforest need their surroundings and other living things to survive! Did you know that trees give animals shelter and food? Many animals, like monkeys and birds, live in the trees to stay safe. They also eat nuts and seeds found there. Plants also need animals to help them. Some animals, like the butterfly, spread pollen to help plants grow. Rain is very important too! It gives plants and animals the water they need to stay alive. Isn't the rainforest amazing?