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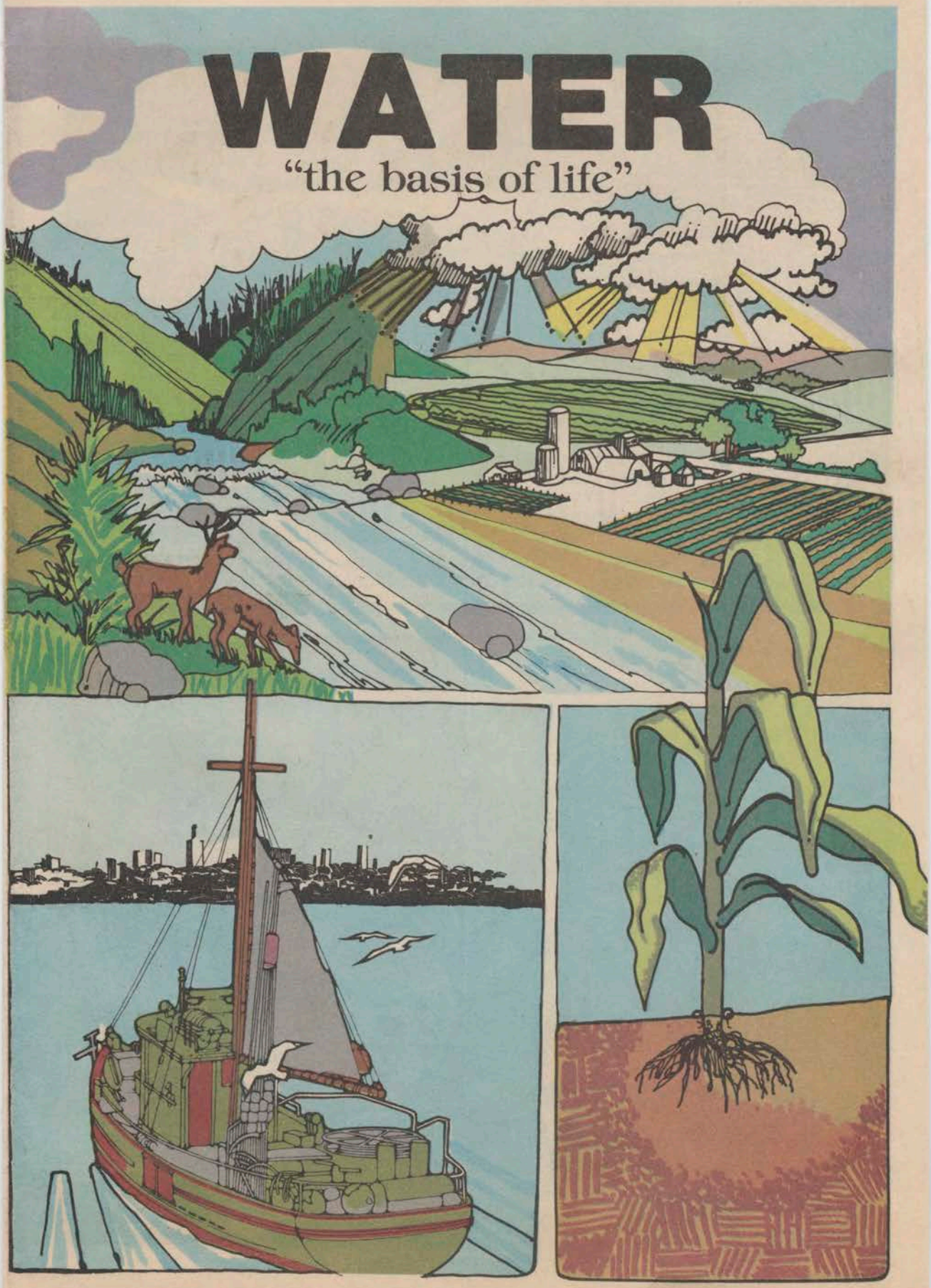
WATER

"the basis of life"



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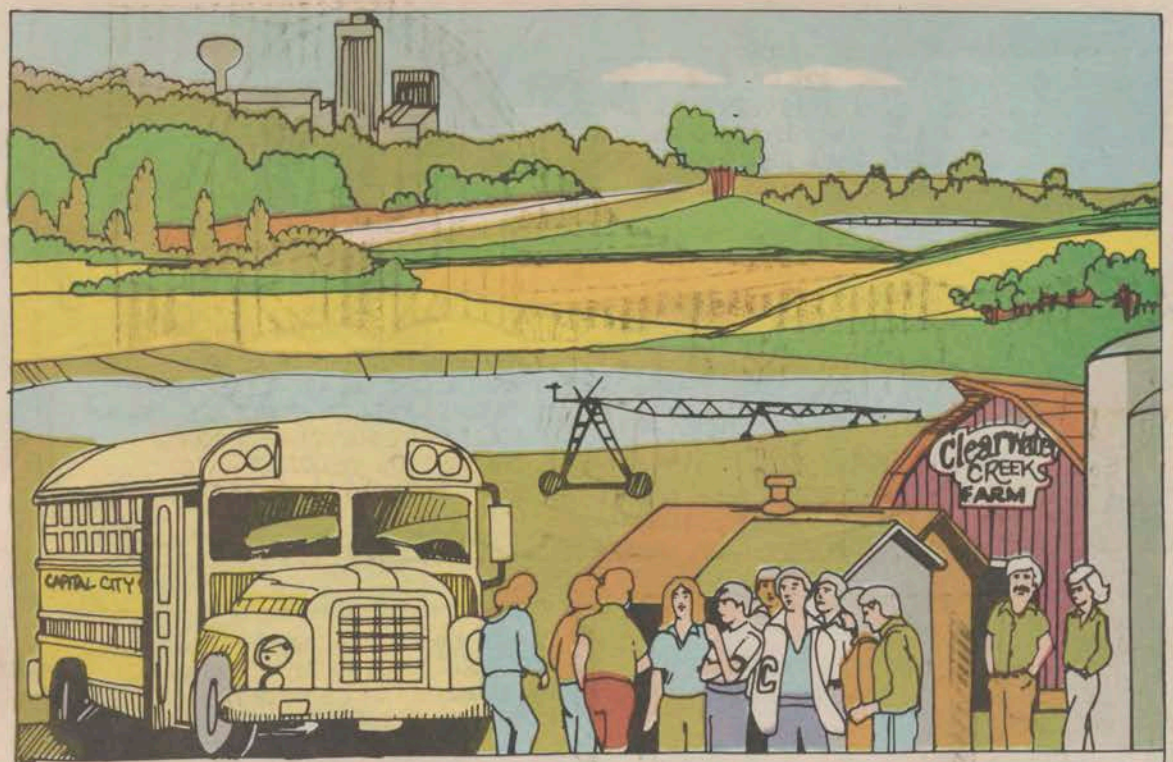
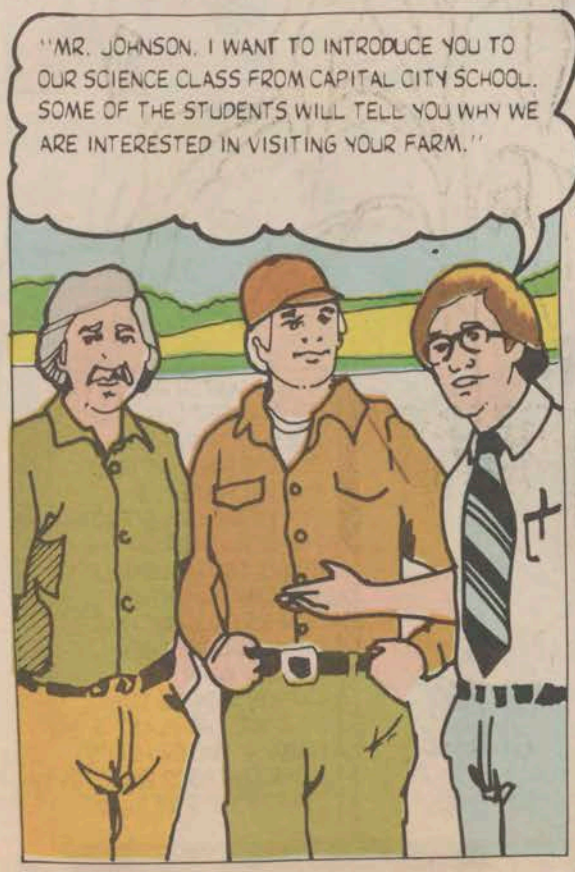
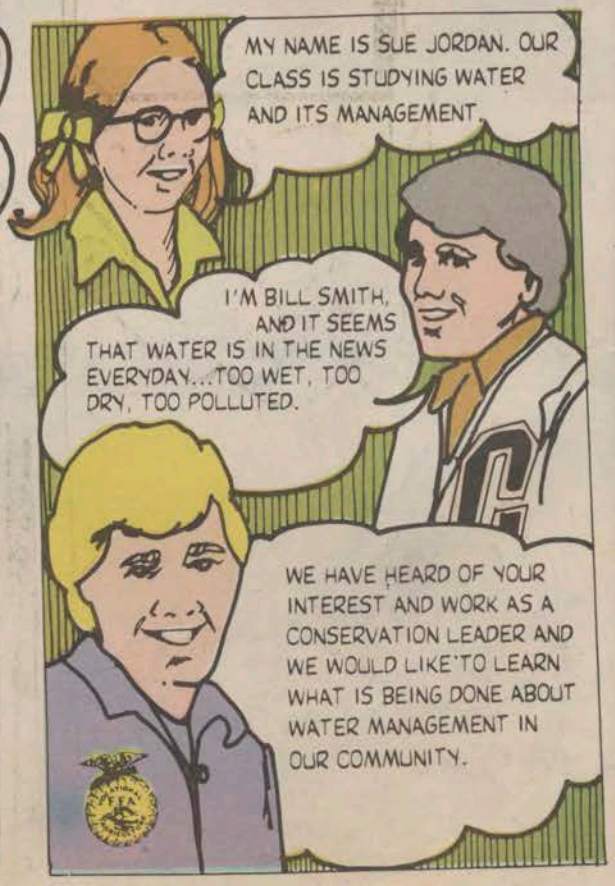


MR. TROXEL'S SCIENCE CLASS FROM CAPITAL CITY SCHOOL IS VISITING THE FARM OF MR. JOHNSON. MR. MILLS, DISTRICT CONSERVATIONIST FOR THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE, IS ALSO ON HAND FOR THE VISIT.





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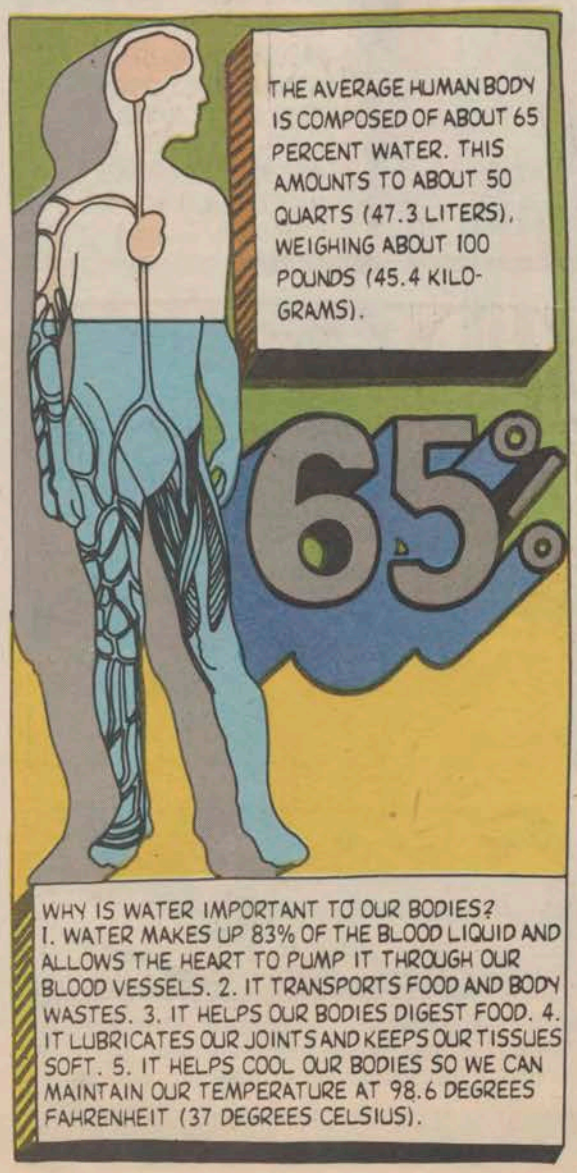

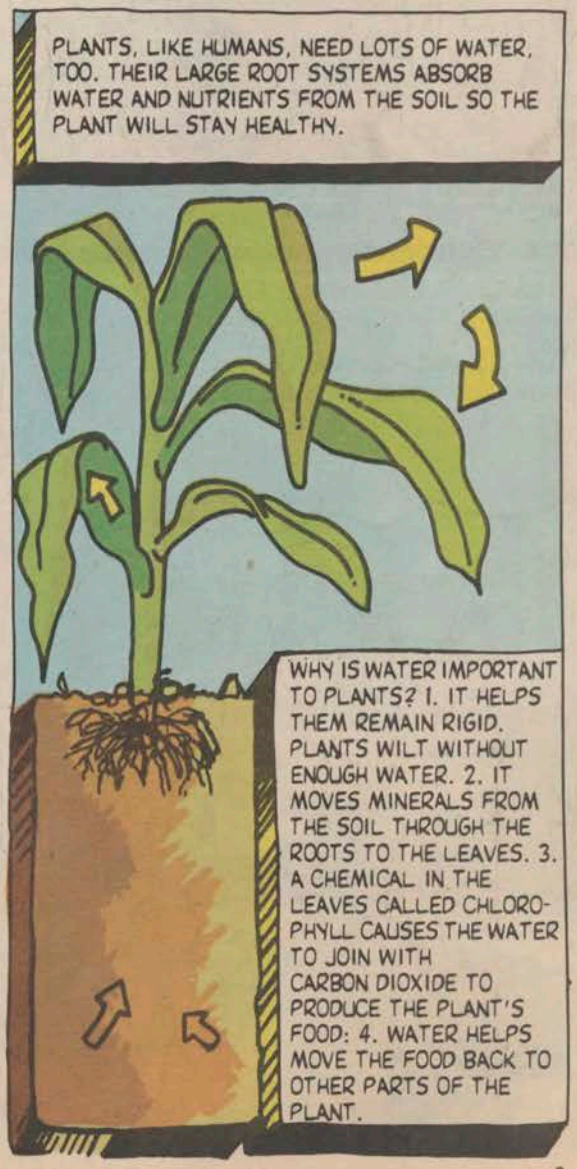

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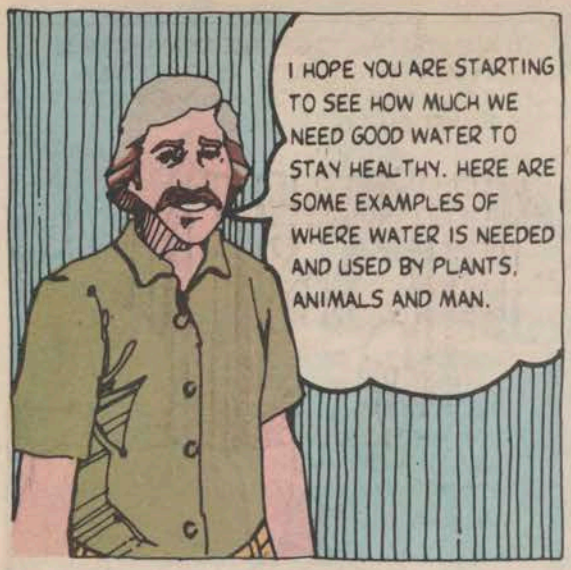

PEOPLE CAN LIVE WITHOUT FOOD FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BUT WOULD PROBABLY DIE IN A FEW DAYS WITHOUT WATER. WE OBTAIN WATER BY DRINKING AND THROUGH THE FOOD WE EAT.

LIVESTOCK NEEDS LOTS OF WATER. A DAIRY COW PRODUCING 12 GALLONS (45.4 LITERS) OF MILK PER DAY REQUIRES 36 GALLONS (136.5 LITERS) OF WATER.

THE GENERAL SHERMAN REDWOOD TREE MEASURES 32 FEET (9.8 METERS) IN DIAMETER AT THE BASE, IS 272 FEET (83 METERS) TALL AND WEIGHS AN ESTIMATED 2,150 TONS (1950 METRIC TONS), OF WHICH 70 PERCENT IS WATER. THAT EQUALS 516,206 GALLONS (1,953,840 LITERS) OF WATER.

WILDLIFE AND FISH NEED A CONSTANT SUPPLY OF GOOD WATER. MANY PEOPLE PROVIDE DRINKING WATER FOR BIRDS NEAR THEIR HOME.

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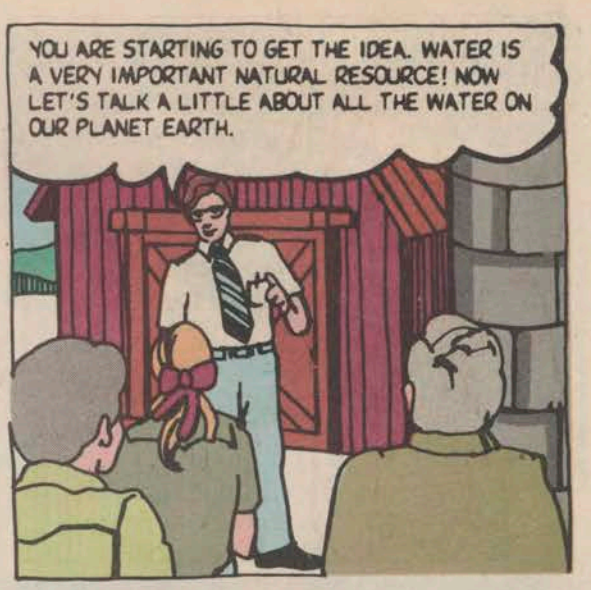

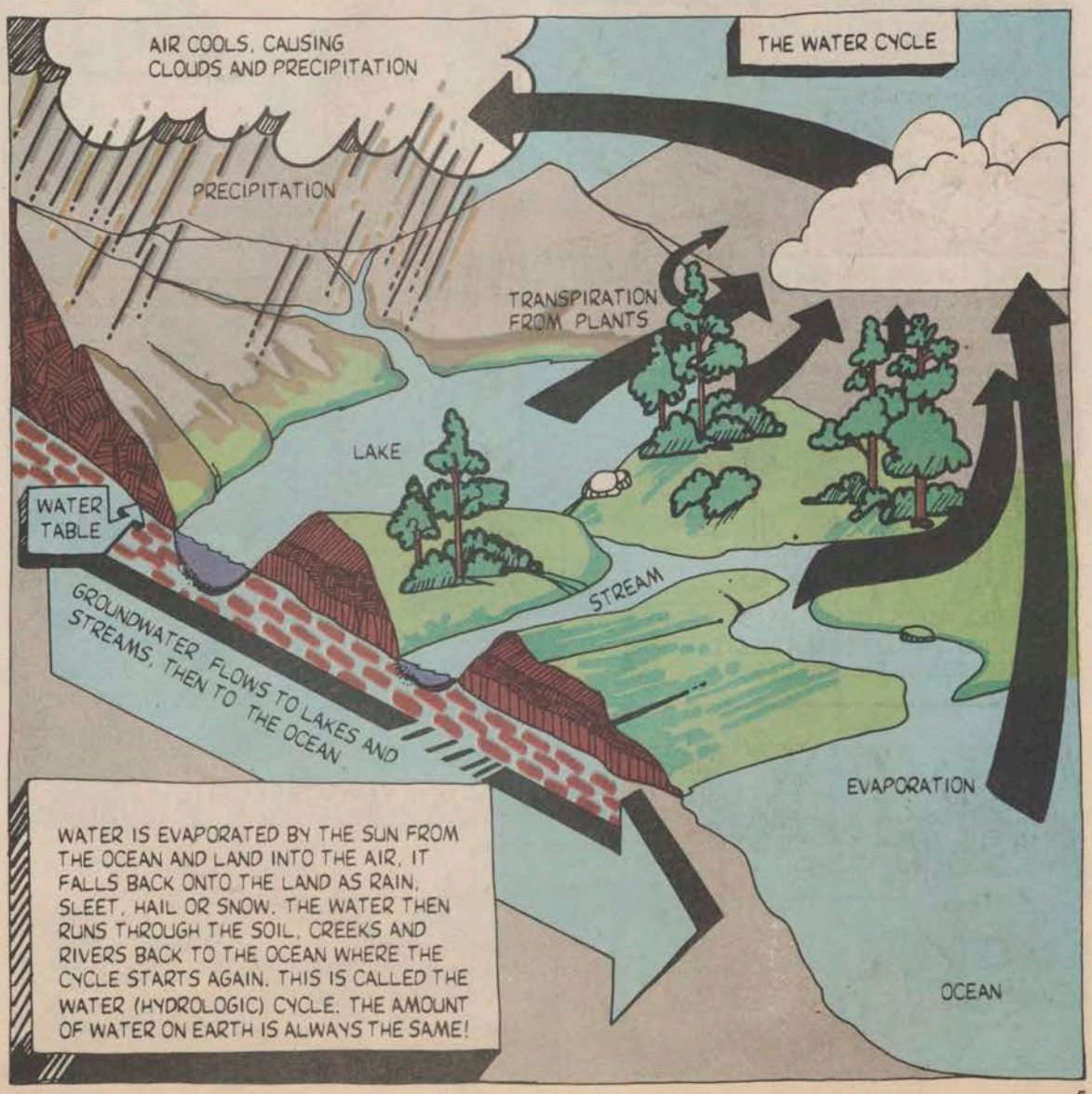

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THE HYDROLOGIC CYCLE SHOWED US THAT THE EARTH'S WATER CAN BE FOUND IN MANY DIFFERENT PLACES.

GLACIERS

OCEANS

SUBSURFACE WATER

ALTHOUGH MOST OF THE WORLD'S WATER IS FOUND IN THE OCEANS, WE ARE MOST CONCERNED WITH THE RELATIVELY SMALL QUANTITIES OF GROUNDWATER, SURFACE WATER AND ATMOSPHERIC WATER FROM WHICH WE GET OUR WATER SUPPLIES.

SURFACE WATER

ATMOSPHERIC WATER

OCEANS 97.2% LARGE BODIES OF SALT WATER THAT COVER ABOUT 71% OF THE EARTH, SUCH AS THE ATLANTIC AND PACIFIC.

GLACIERS & ICE CAPS 2.15% FRESH WATER FROZEN INTO ICE, FOUND IN THE ARCTIC AND ANTARCTICA OCEANS.

SUBSURFACE WATER .63% FRESH WATER FOUND BENEATH THE GROUND, USUALLY BROUGHT UP BY PUMPS.

SURFACE WATER .02% FRESH WATER FOUND IN LAKES, RIVERS, AND RESERVOIRS.

ATMOSPHERE .001% WATER HELD IN THE AIR AS WATER VAPOR.

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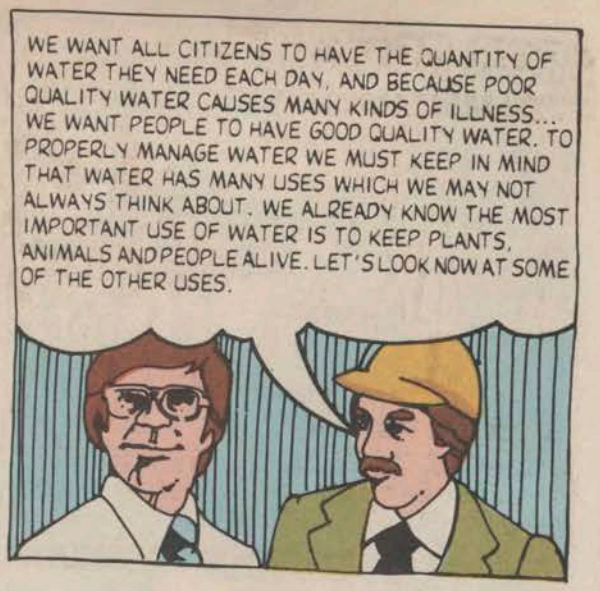

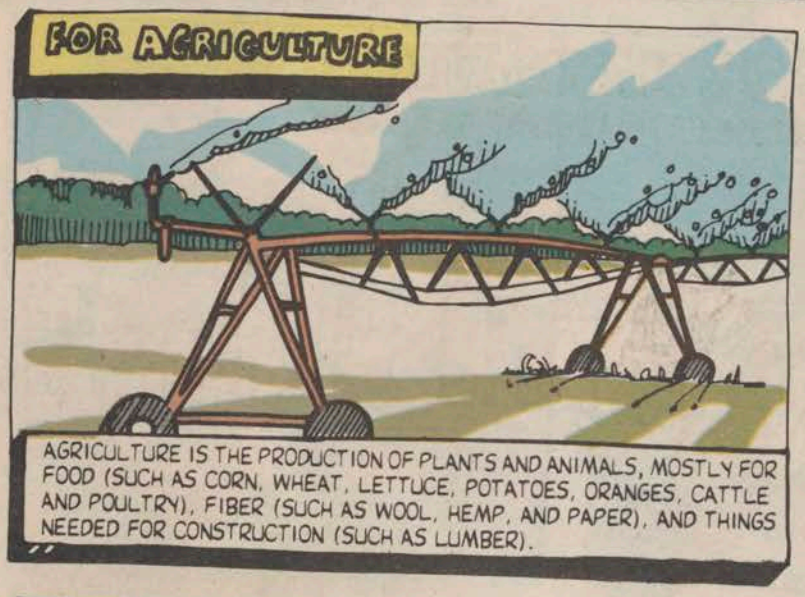

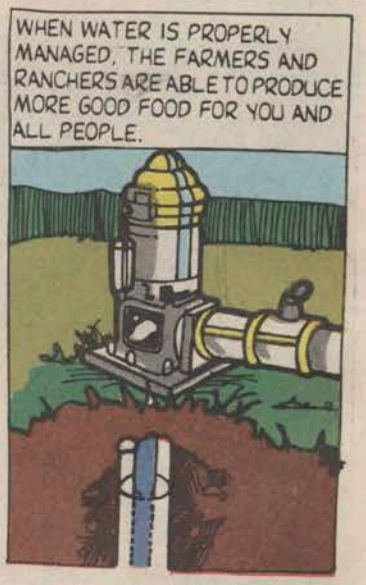

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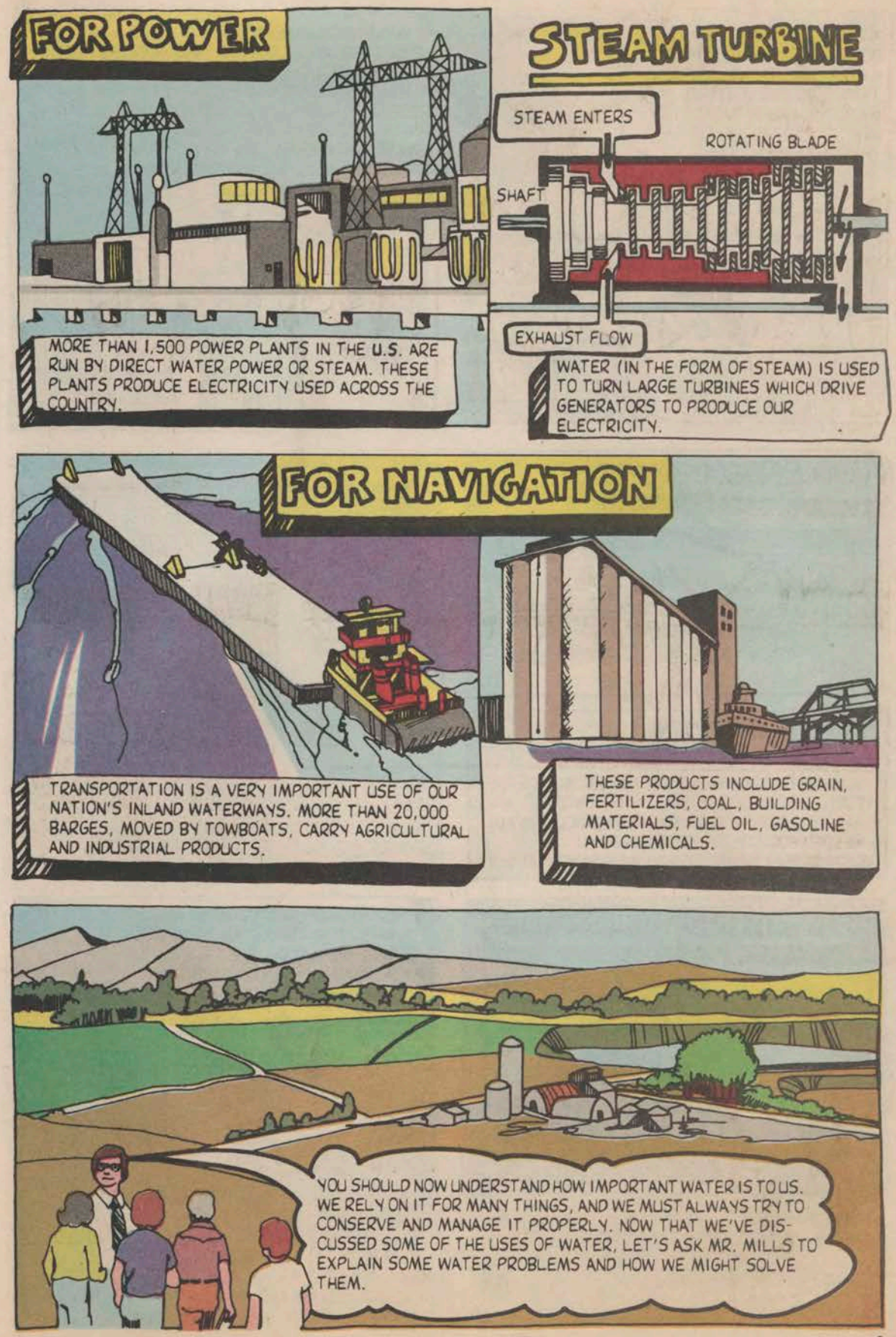

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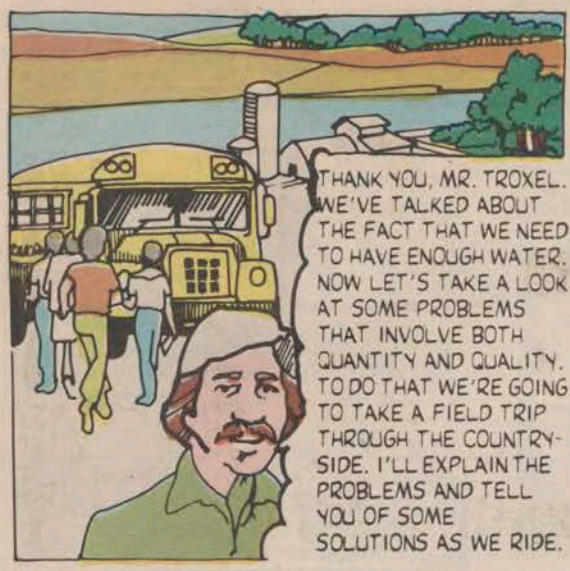
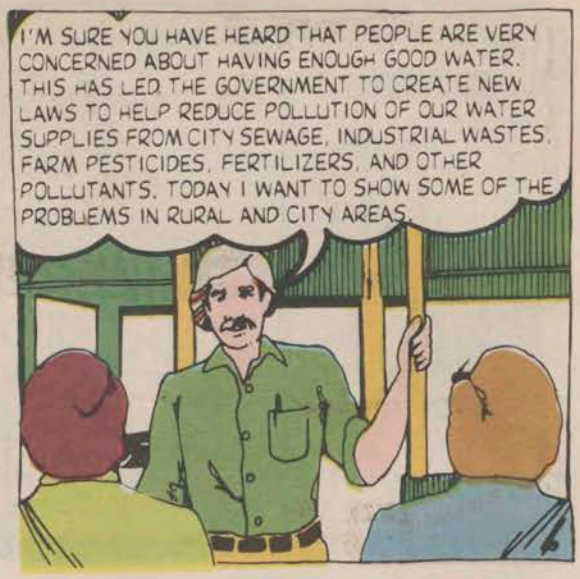




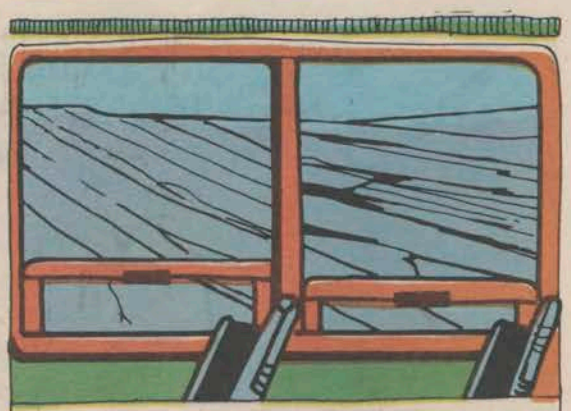
THERE ARE TWO BASIC KINDS OF WATER POLLUTION—ONE IS CALLED POINT AND THE OTHER NON-POINT.

POINT

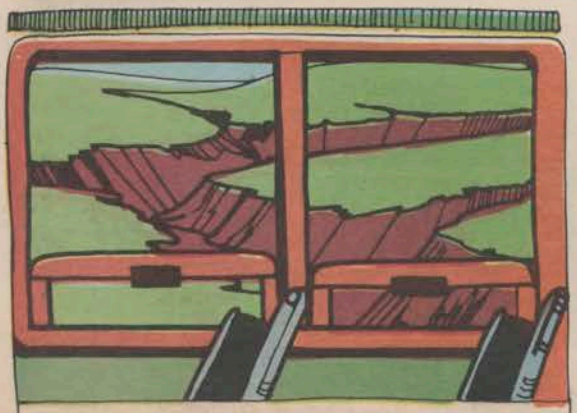
POINT POLLUTION IS A SPECIFIC SOURCE OF POLLUTION, SUCH AS A SEWAGE DISCHARGE PIPE, THAT DUMPS POLLUTANTS INTO OUR LAKES AND STREAMS.

NON-POINT

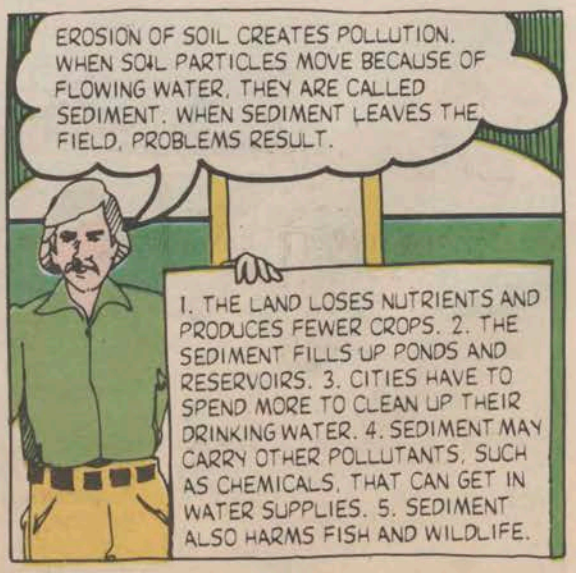
NON-POINT POLLUTION IS THE TYPE OF SOURCE THAT CANNOT GENERALLY BE PINPOINTED, SUCH AS POLLUTION CAUSED BY RUNOFF, WHICH CARRIES CHEMICALS FROM LARGE AGRICULTURAL AND URBAN AREAS INTO OUR LAKES AND STREAMS.



IF YOU LOOK OUT THE WINDOW, YOU WILL SEE ONE OF THE MAJOR NON-POINT POLLUTION PROBLEMS - SOIL EROSION. THIS FIELD IS AN EXAMPLE OF SHEET AND RILL EROSION WHERE SOIL IS WASHED AWAY BY WATER MOVING OVER THE ENTIRE SURFACE.



THE NEXT FIELD IS AN EXAMPLE OF SERIOUS GULLEY EROSION, WHERE THE CONCENTRATION OF WATER WASHES OUT DEEP CHANNELS THAT MAKE IT ALMOST IMPOSSIBLE TO FARM THE LAND.



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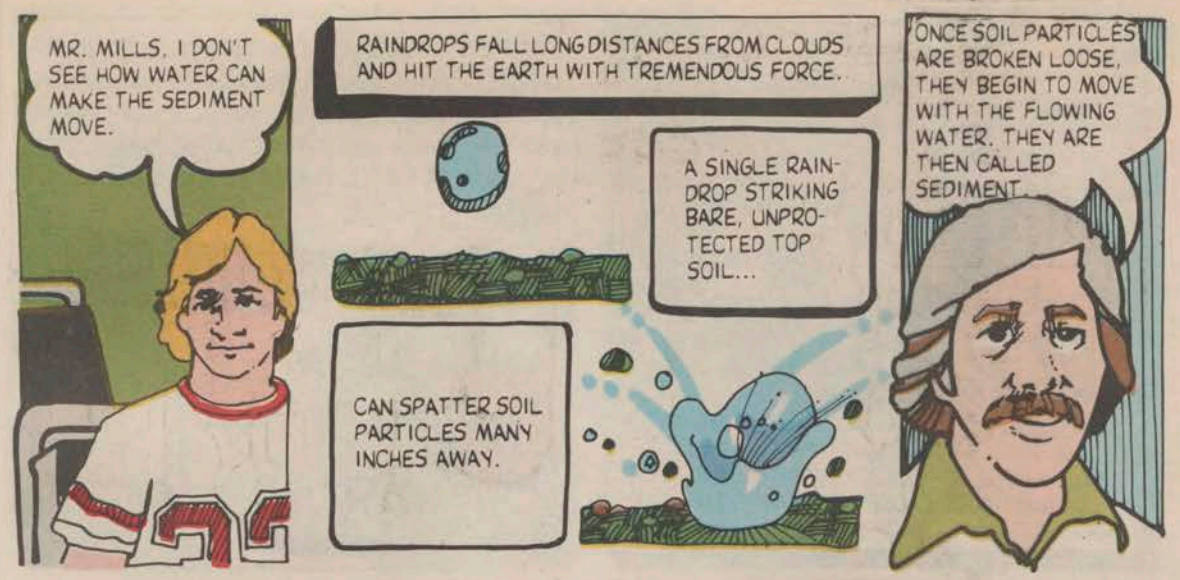

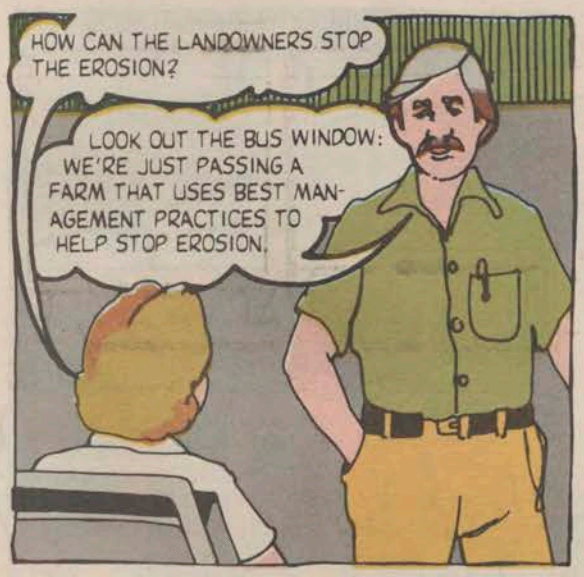

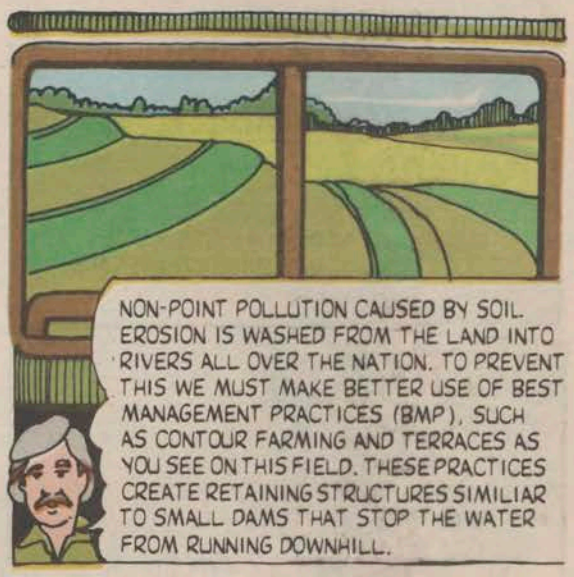

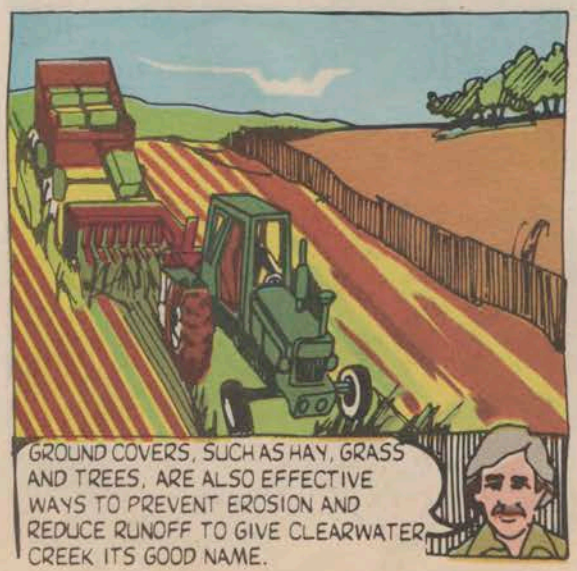

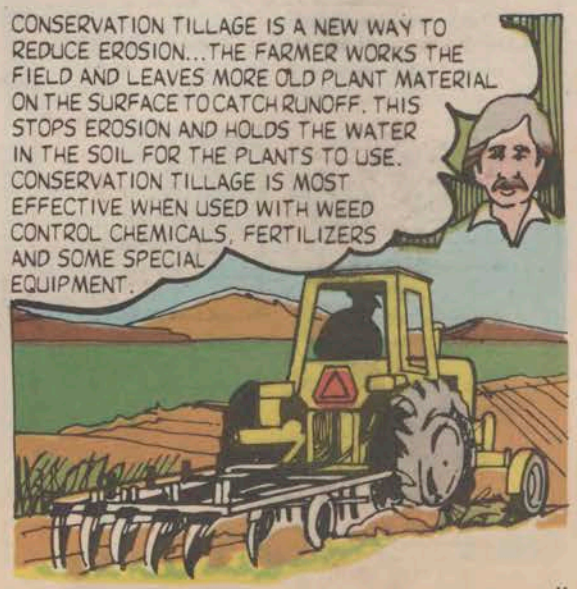

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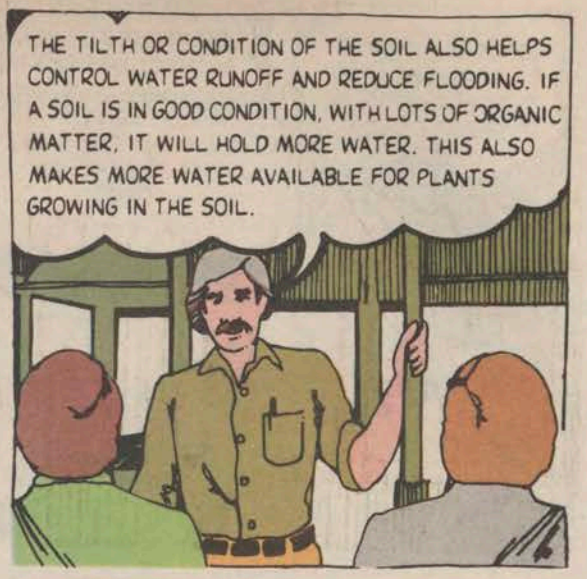

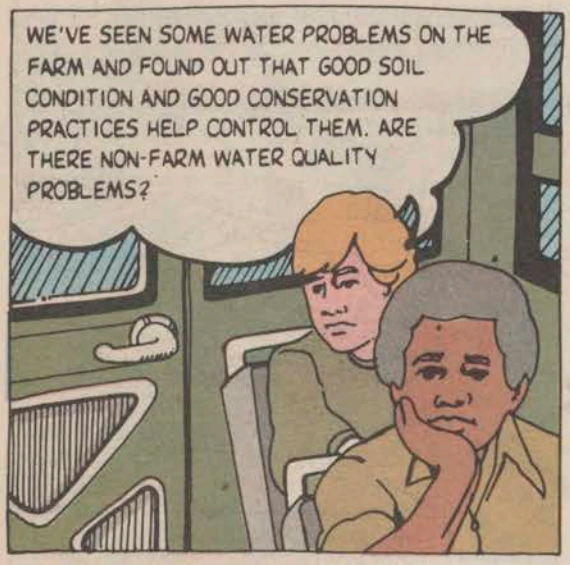

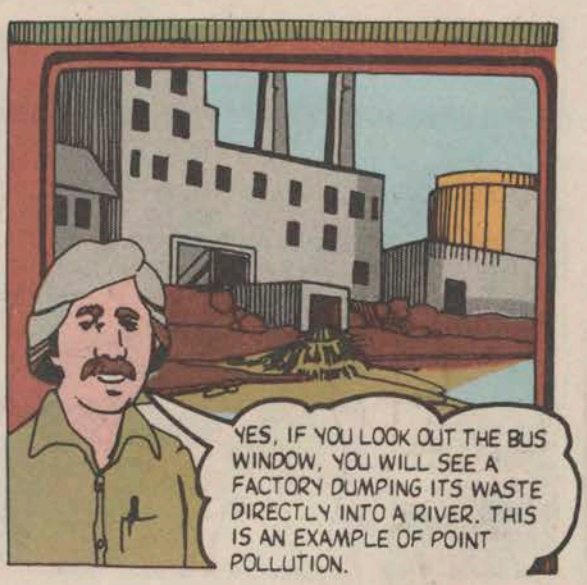

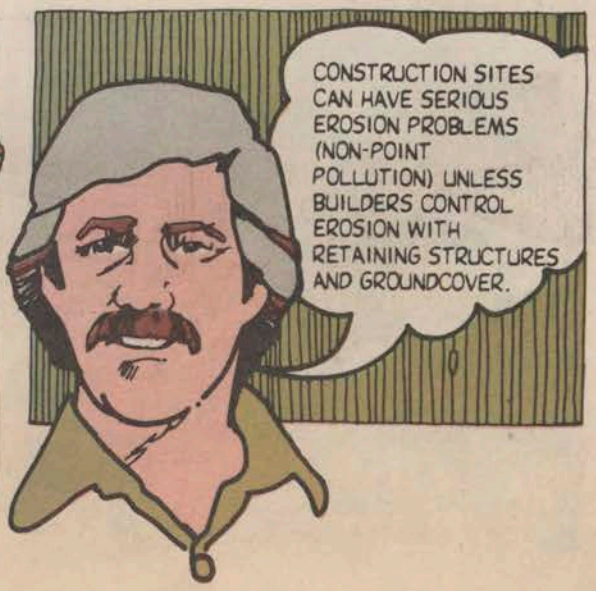

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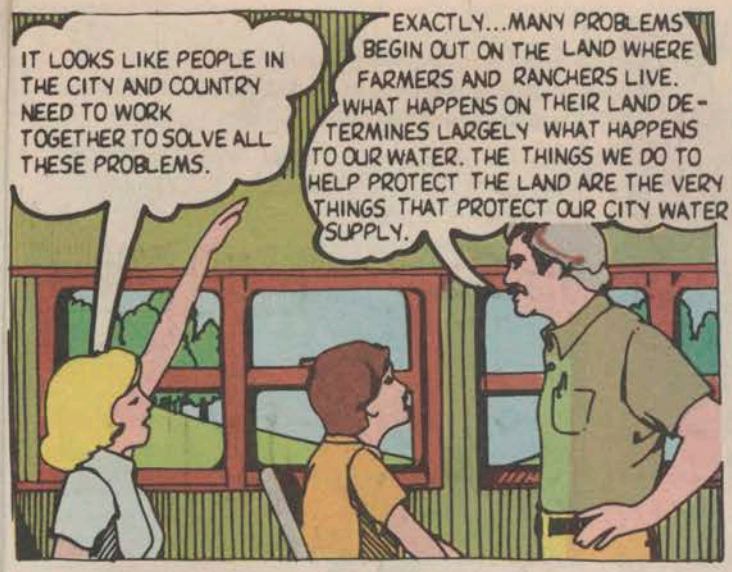

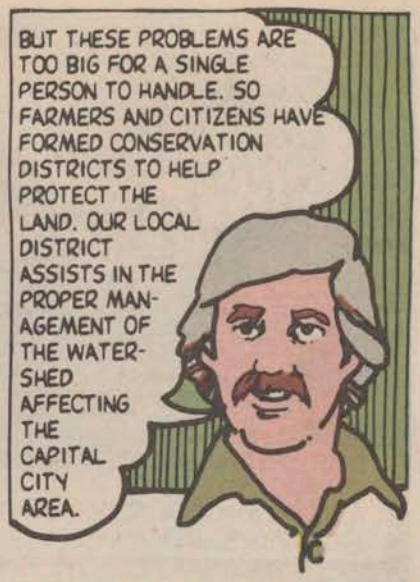

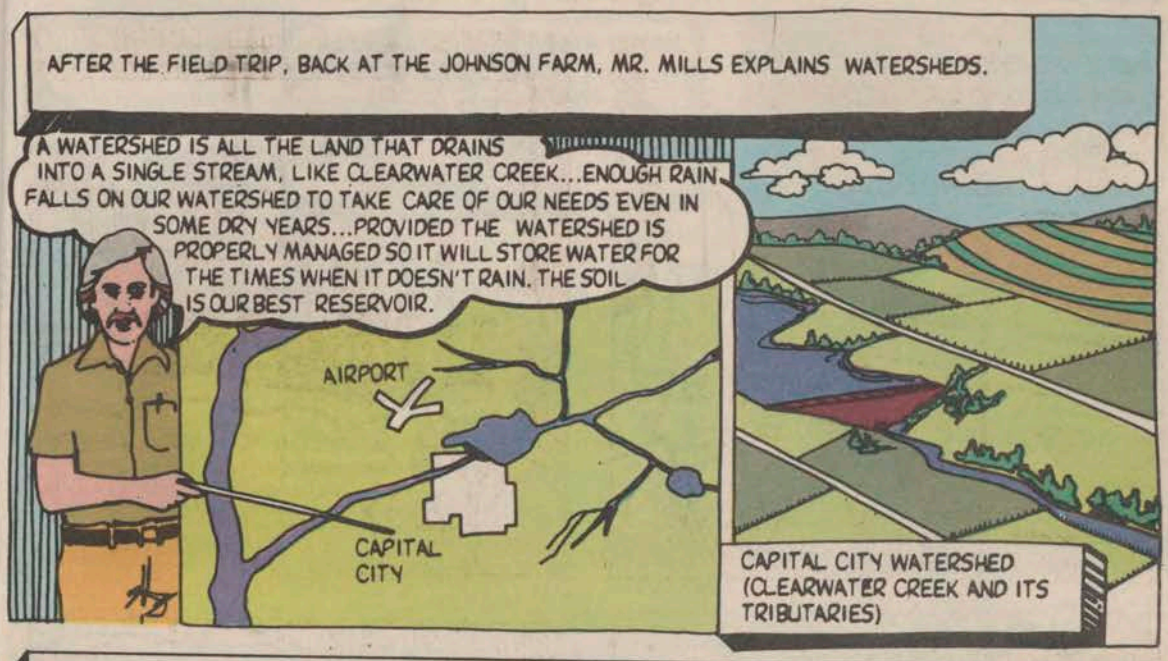

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Words To Help You Understand Water!

BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICES (BMP)
CONSERVATION PRACTICES THAT REDUCE NONPOINT WATER POLLUTION

CONSERVATION TILLAGE
A SPECIAL WAY OF TILLING THE SOIL THAT REDUCES SOIL EROSION AND CONSERVES WATER

EROSION
THE WEARING AWAY OF THE EARTH'S SURFACE BY WATER, WIND OR ICE

EVAPORATION
CHANGE IN WATER FROM A LIQUID TO A VAPOR

FLOODING
OVERFLOW OF A STREAM OR OTHER BODY OF WATER

GROUNDCOVER
PLANTS GROWN TO PROTECT SOIL FROM EROSION

HYDROLOGIC CYCLE
THE PATHWAY WATER FOLLOWS IN MOVING FROM THE ATMOSPHERE TO THE EARTH AND BACK TO THE ATMOSPHERE

IRRIGATION
PUTTING WATER ON AGRICULTURAL LAND TO HELP CROPS GROW

ORGANIC MATTER
DECAYED PLANTS AND ANIMALS THAT HELP SUPPLY THE SOIL WITH NUTRIENTS AND IMPROVE ITS TILTH

PRECIPITATION
MOISTURE FALLING FROM THE ATMOSPHERE AS RAIN, SNOW, SLEET OR HAIL

RESERVOIR
A MAN-MADE LAKE TO COLLECT AND STORE WATER

SEDIMENT
SOIL PARTICLES MOVED FROM ONE PLACE TO ANOTHER BY WATER AS A RESULT OF EROSION

SUBSURFACE WATER
ALL WATER BELOW THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH—GROUNDWATER

SURFACE WATER
ALL WATER ON THE SURFACE OF THE EARTH—IN OCEANS, LAKES AND STREAMS

TILTH
PHYSICAL CONDITION OF THE SOIL

TRANSPIRATION
RELEASE OF MOISTURE FROM PLANTS INTO THE AIR

WATER CONSERVATION
PROTECTION AND WISE USE OF WATER

WATER MANAGEMENT
METHODS USED TO GET ADDED BENEFITS FROM WATER

WATER POLLUTION
ADDITION OF MATERIAL THAT MAKES SURFACE OR SUBSURFACE WATER UNCLEAN

WATERSHED
ALL THE LAND THAT DRAINS INTO A SINGLE STREAM

WATER TABLE
LEVEL IN THE EARTH BELOW WHICH THE SOIL IS SATURATED WITH WATER

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