

The Magic and Mystery of Trees

By Jen Green

Extreme Survivors



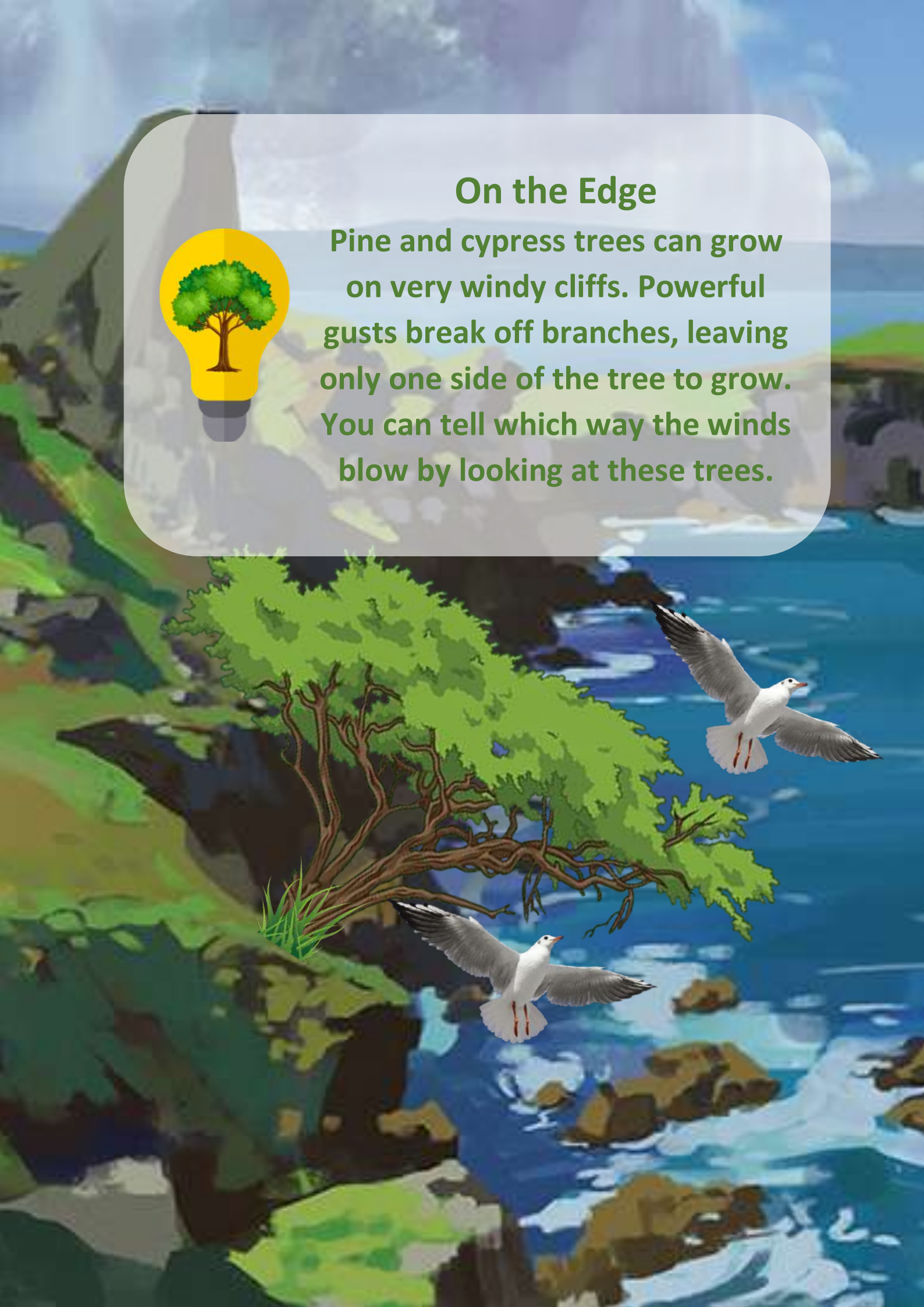
Most trees prefer to live in mild, warm and sunny places. However, some hardy trees can cope with incredibly tough conditions, such as extreme heat or cold, or long, dry periods of drought.



On the Edge



Pine and cypress trees can grow on very windy cliffs. Powerful gusts break off branches, leaving only one side of the tree to grow. You can tell which way the winds blow by looking at these trees.



Dwarf Willow



Beyond the northern taiga lies the frozen Arctic tundra. The shrub-like Arctic willow can cope with the bitter cold and deep snow. It hugs the ground, out of reach of whistling winds, and takes 100 years to grow just 20 cm (8 inches) tall.



Trees love drinking water, but some have adapted to very dry environments. They snatch up every drop they can find.





Koala Home

Tall eucalyptus, or gum, trees grow in dry areas of Australia. Koalas will eat only gum tree leaves.



Koalas don't get much goodness from gum leaves, so they save energy by sleeping for up to 18 hours a day.



Water Tank

Baobab trees grow on the dry, grassy plains of Africa. In the rainy season, baobabs store water in their trunks to survive the dry season.





Fireproof

Ponderosa pine trees can survive fires. They have extra-thick protective bark that can grow up to 10 cm (4 inches) thick.



Trees and Me



Trees help us in a hundred different ways. They provide food, wood and many other useful products. They make the air fresh and healthy by creating oxygen and help keep our planet a clean place to live.



Trees take good care of us and other living things. Yet all the world, people are harming trees. We cut forests down for timber and to make room for farms and cities. We also cause pollution that is hurting trees.



Trees do a lot to keep our world green and healthy. They provide a home for countless plants, animals and millions of people who live in forests around the world. In turn, it's up to each and every one of us to take good care of trees.



Harvest Time



From a piece of juicy fruit to a spicy curry, trees provide us with so many mouth-watering meals. Without trees, there would be no chocolate, mango yoghurt, or avocado toast! They even produce powerful medicines that help us get well when we're feeling ill.



Junk Food

Palm tree oil is used to make pizza, biscuits and ice cream. Rainforests are being destroyed to make space for the trees that create the oil. To protect the rainforests, it's best not to eat too many treats made with palm oil.



Fruit Salad

Fruit trees once grew wild in forests but now they are mainly grown by humans in orchards or plantations. We eat the seeds inside some fruits, such as pomegranates.



Tree Doctor

The headache medicine aspirin originally comes from the bark of the willow tree. Another helpful tree is the cinchona, which creates a medicine called quinine that helps treat malaria.



Spicy Flavours

Without trees, our food would be quite bland. Cinnamon and nutmeg can really spice up a meal. Kola nuts are used to flavour fizzy cola. Beans from the cocoa tree give chocolate its unique taste.



Sweet Syrup

The maple syrup on your pancakes is made from the sap of the sugar maple. It is collected by hammering a metal tap into the tree's trunk and catching the sap that drips out.



Chewing Gum

Sap from the chicle tree is used to make rubbery chewing gum.



Crunchy Nuts

Lots of nuts come from trees, including brazil nuts which come from one of the tallest trees in the Amazon rainforest. Coconut palms produce the largest nuts of any tree.



Made From
Trees



Wood is a super-material. It's strong, beautiful, and can be grown in an eco-friendly way. We use this incredible material to build our houses and to make all sorts of objects.



Wooden World

Take a look around your home. How many objects can you find that are made of wood? From pencils made from cedar to pine furniture, wood is all around the home.



Rubber

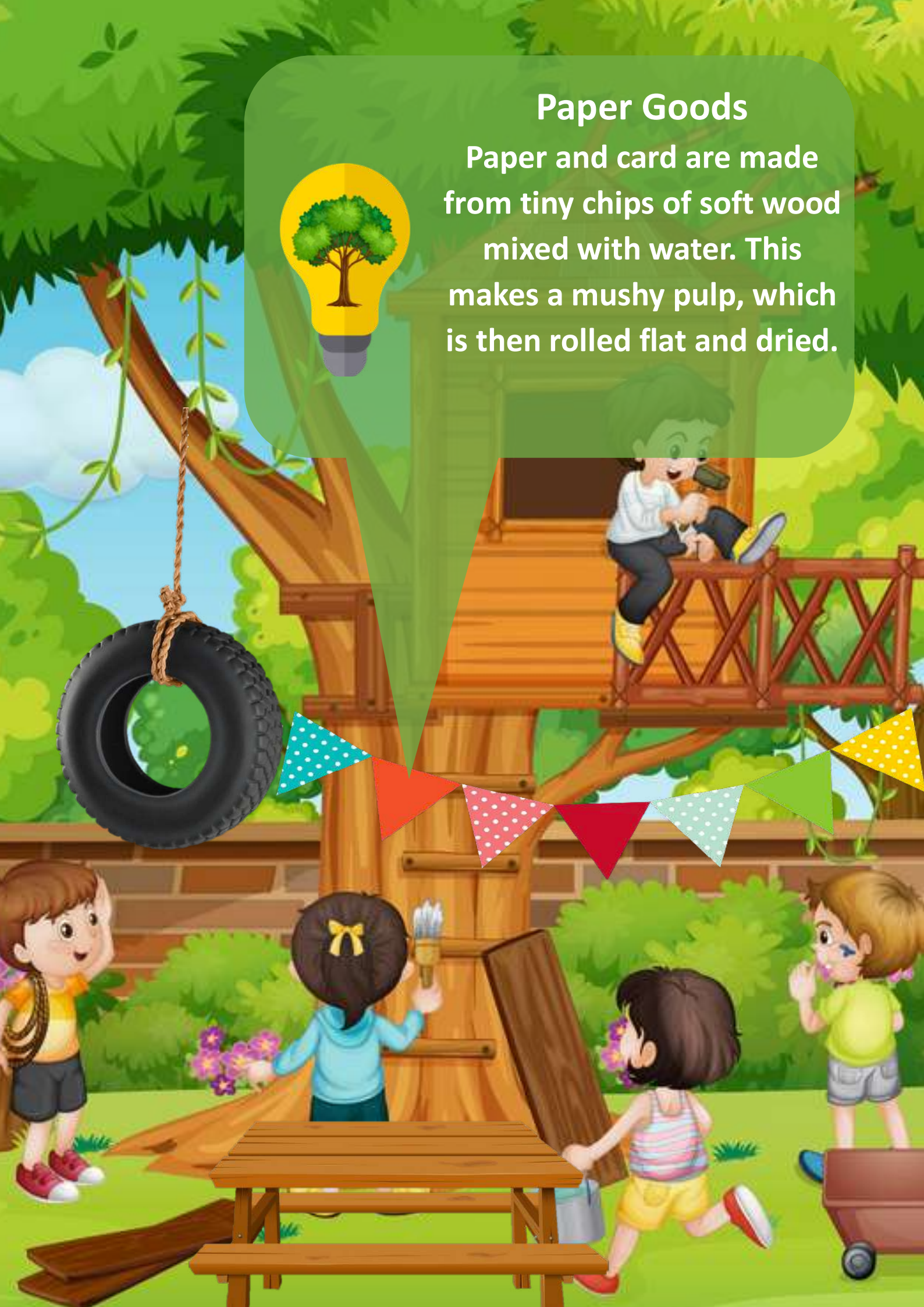


Rubber trees ooze a milky sap, which is turned into car and bicycle tires. Rubber boots, elastic bands, and party balloons are also made from rubber.



Paper Goods

Paper and card are made from tiny chips of soft wood mixed with water. This makes a mushy pulp, which is then rolled flat and dried.





Hard-Wearing Wood

Hard-wearing wood

Trees such as oak and maple make strong hardwood that is used for roof beams and furniture. Hardwood is strong and tough but the trees grow very slowly.





THINK

DIGITAL ACADEMY