

Wild Families

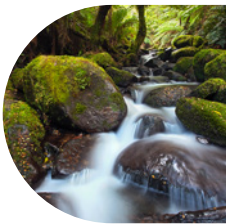


Wild waterways

VNPA ACTIVITY SHEET

Explore our wonderful waterways!

Waterways are an important part of our web of life. They're also amazing places for exploring nature with your family.



Rivers, creeks, lakes and wetlands are all types of waterways.



Waterways are home to birds, fish 🐟, frogs 🐸, insects 🐛 and mammals.



Victoria has over 17,000 wetlands and more than 180 rivers.



One quarter of threatened native wildlife in Victoria depend on waterways to survive 🐸



Some waterways are always full, and some are ephemeral, which means they only fill with water when there's lots of rain ☁️



Pollution, weeds and invasive species, habitat destruction, development and climate change are all hurting our waterways.



Lake Tyrell/Direl is Victoria's largest lake even though most of the year it's completely dry! In winter the water is only 5cm deep and very salty.

What you can do...

The best way to care for waterways is to keep the water that runs down stormwater drains clean. Here are some tips on how your family can keep stormwater and our waterways clean and healthy:



Pick up any rubbish you find and pop it in the bin. That way it won't wash down the drain and into a waterway. You can even join or start a local rubbish clean up group!



Don't wash paints or chemicals into drains or onto the ground. Check local council guidelines for the best way to get rid of them.

Clean up after your dog, by putting poo 🐾 in the bin.



Join a local Landcare or Friends group to help care for waterways by planting native plants and removing weeds and rubbish.

Make sure cars aren't leaking oil in your driveway. And wash your car at a car wash or on the lawn to keep soap from washing into rivers.



Inspire your friends and family about how we can look after our waterways.



Take photos of native plants and animals you find on your waterway walks. Upload them to the iNaturalist App to help scientists learn more about them!

Waterway spotto

VISIT A WATERWAY & COLOUR IN THE THINGS YOU SEE OR HEAR

Do this 'spotto' activity on your next trip to the river. Colour in the animals, plants or micro-habitats (like fallen logs) by your river, creek or wetland when you spot them. You may need to sit quietly for a while.

You might see all or just some of them along your waterway. What could it mean if all of them are there or some of them are missing?

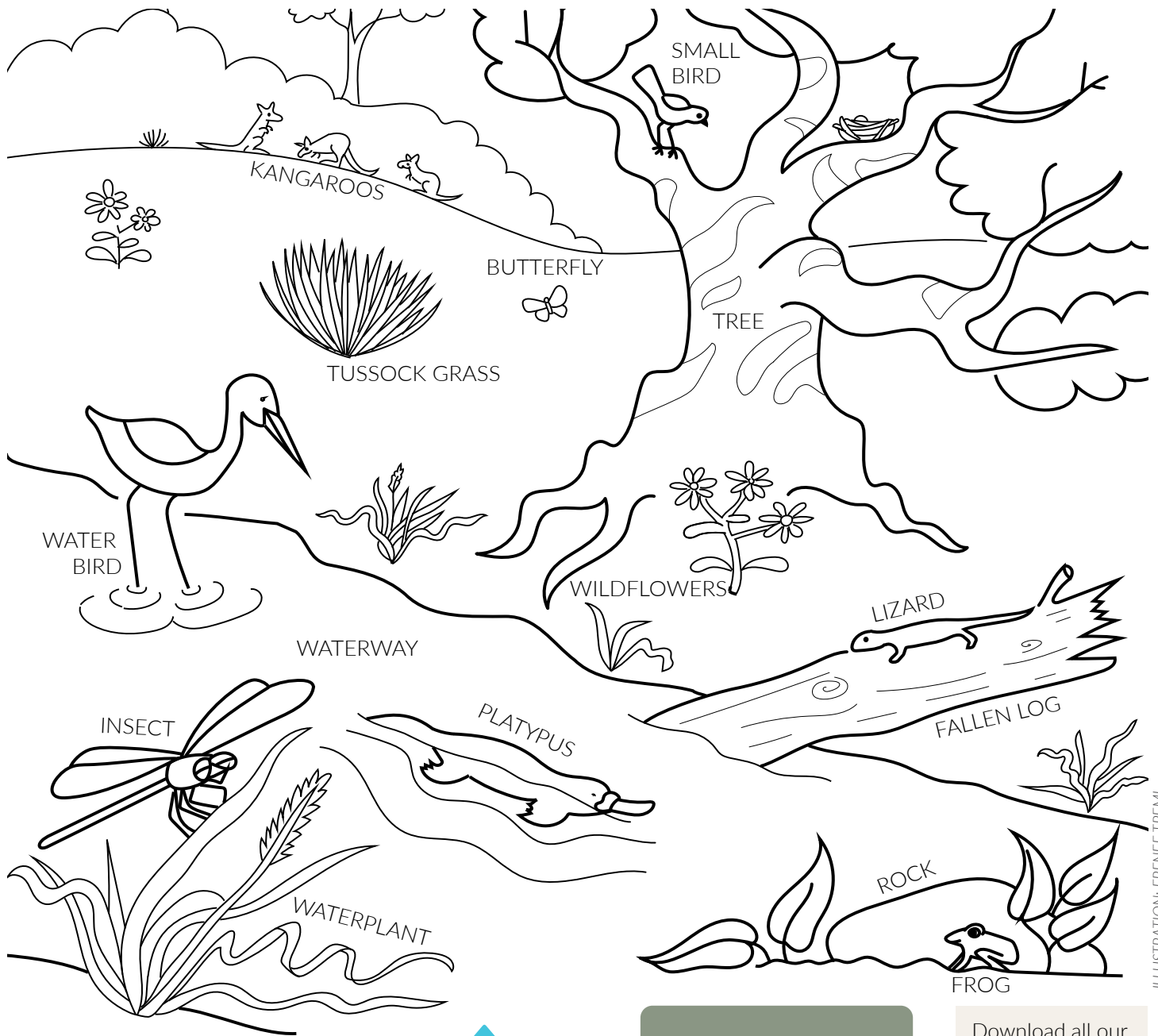


ILLUSTRATION: FREENEE TREML

Explore your waterways

Do you think the water level will be the same, higher or lower over the next few days? Think about recent and forecast weather.

How fast is the water flowing?

Where has the water come from and where is it going? (Look at a map to find out)

What sounds can you hear?

Is the water clear or murky? Why might that be?

Safety tip

Always consider safety on outdoor adventures and remember to supervise children around water.

What am I?

I have a mouth but never speak.
I have a bed but never sleep.
I run smoother than any rhyme.
I love to fall but cannot climb.

Download all our Wild Families activity sheets
vnpa.org.au/wild-families



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