



How am I going to Science?

APRIL 26 (POST 263)

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FUNGUY

Apr 10

Looove this series! Keep it rolling!

HAMMERTHyme

Apr 10

Cool! Always wondered what being an RA actually looked like...

CHLOErPhyll

Apr 11



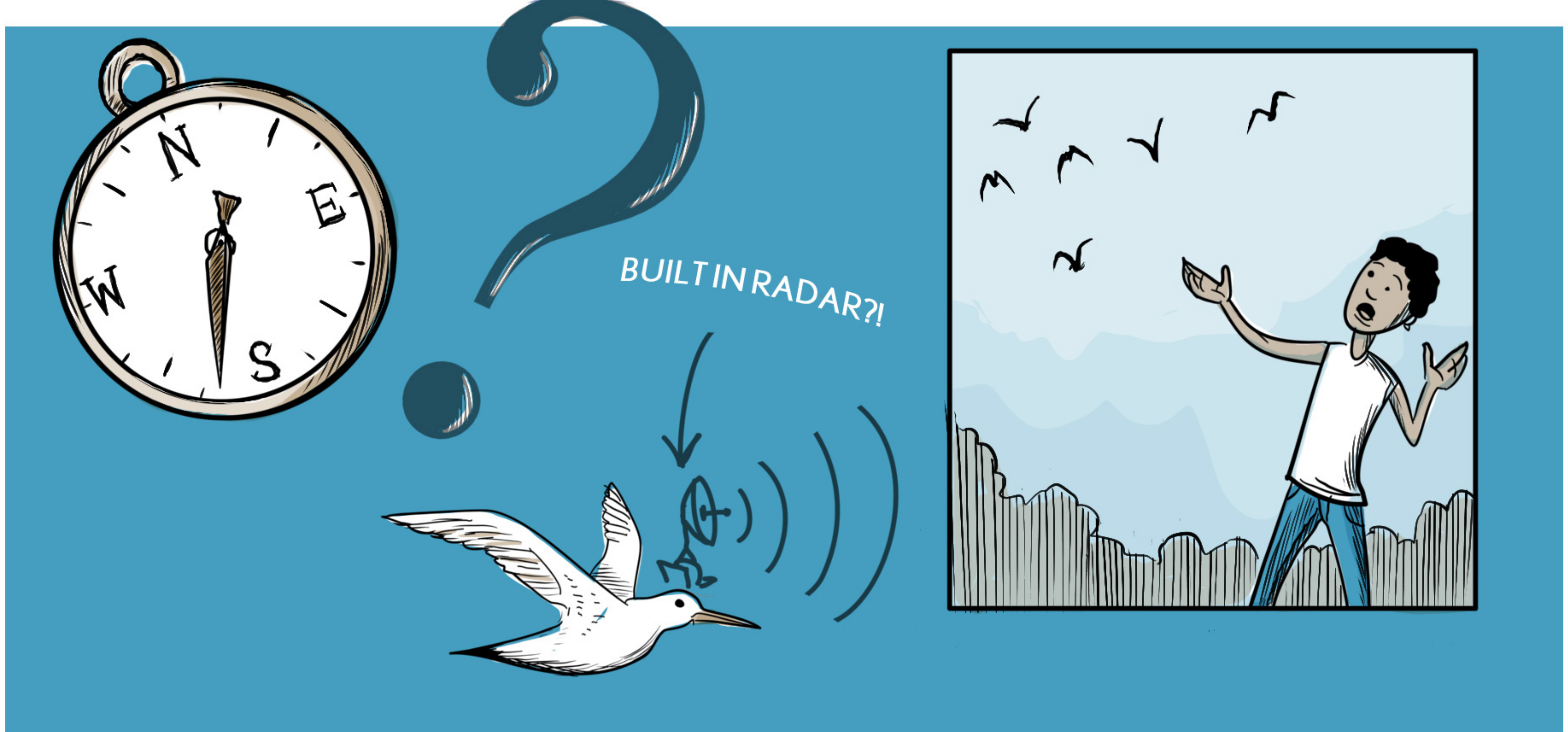
It's safe to say I've always been **CURIOUS**.



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ACORNYGIRL Apr 10
I had that book when I was a kid too!

SPRUCESPRINGSTEEN Apr 10
Haha my parents totally get sick of all my questions!



Everything I saw got me asking questions,
like "How do birds know which way is *South*?"

My Dad and I used to play "Name that tree" when we were in the park



Look, he used to have hair!

My dad and I walking through the park the summer before 4th grade



Red Oak



Birch (easy)



Cottonwood



When I didn't know one, he'd make me look it up

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SpiderPlantMan Apr 10

Got a go-to field guide?

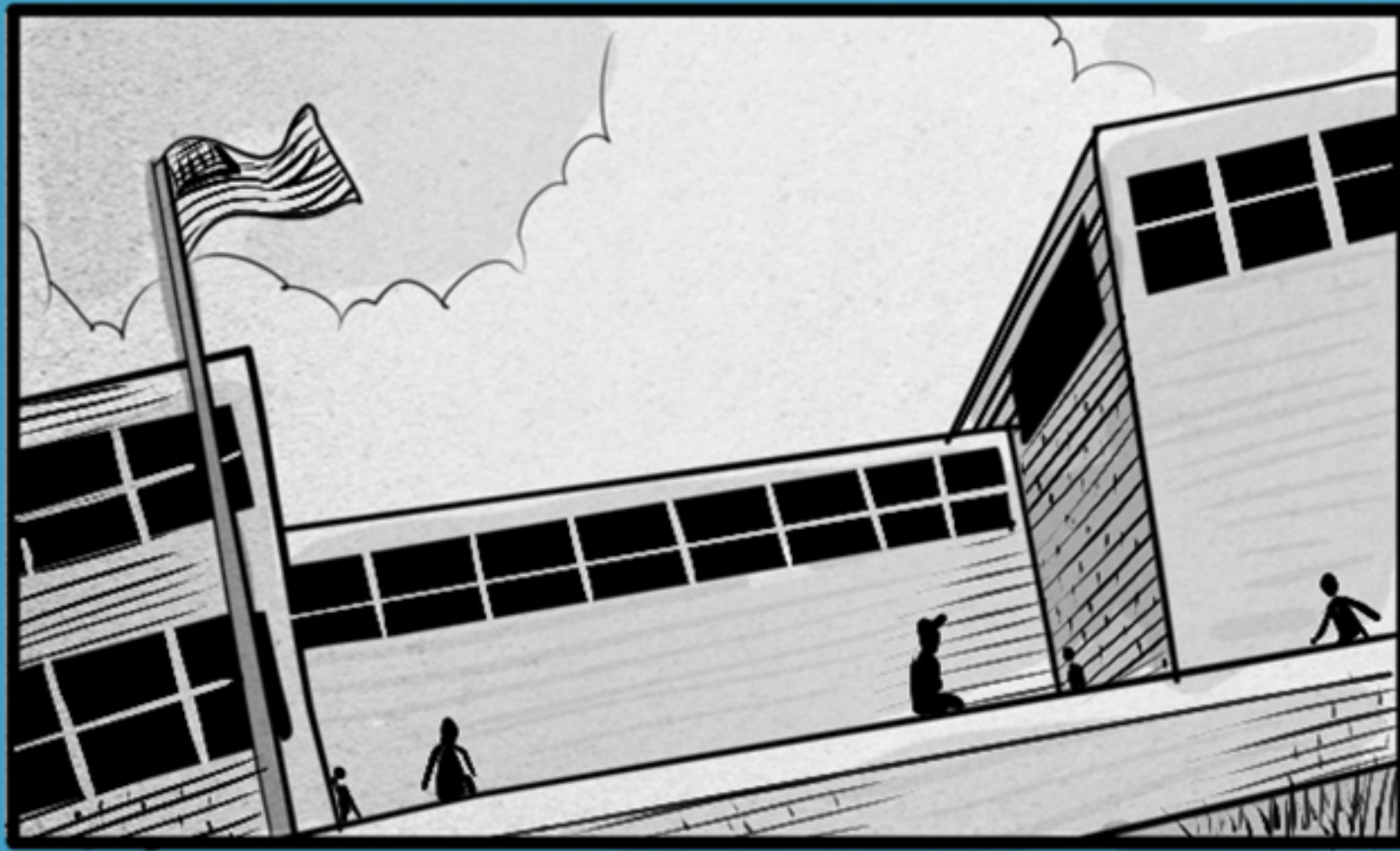
CHLOEerphyll Apr 10

Yep, huge fan of the Peterson Field Guides!

PoplarKid Apr 11

My fav!!   

I started this blog in high school,
sharing cool facts I'd learned about
nature and science in my
biology classes and elsewhere.

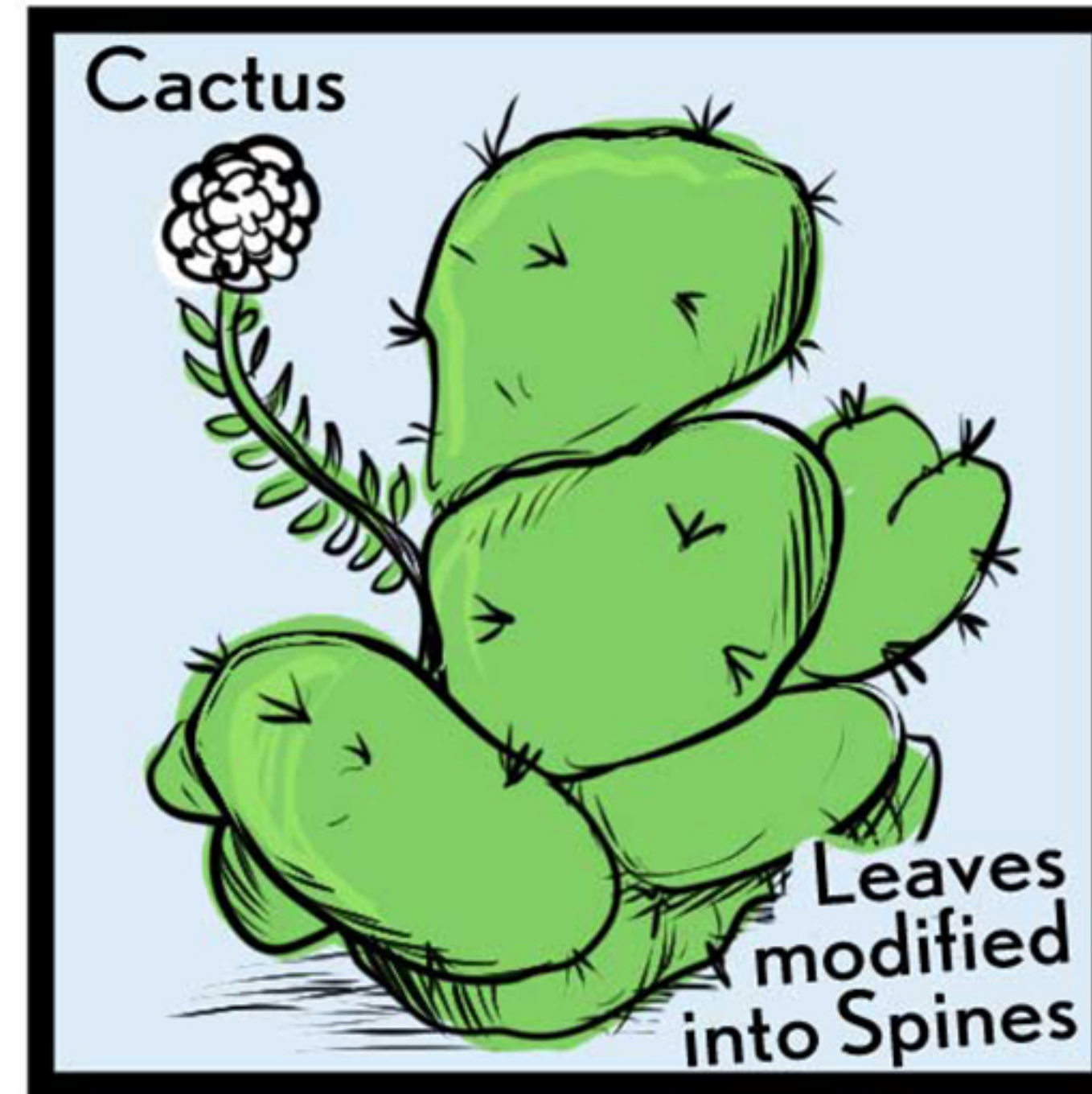
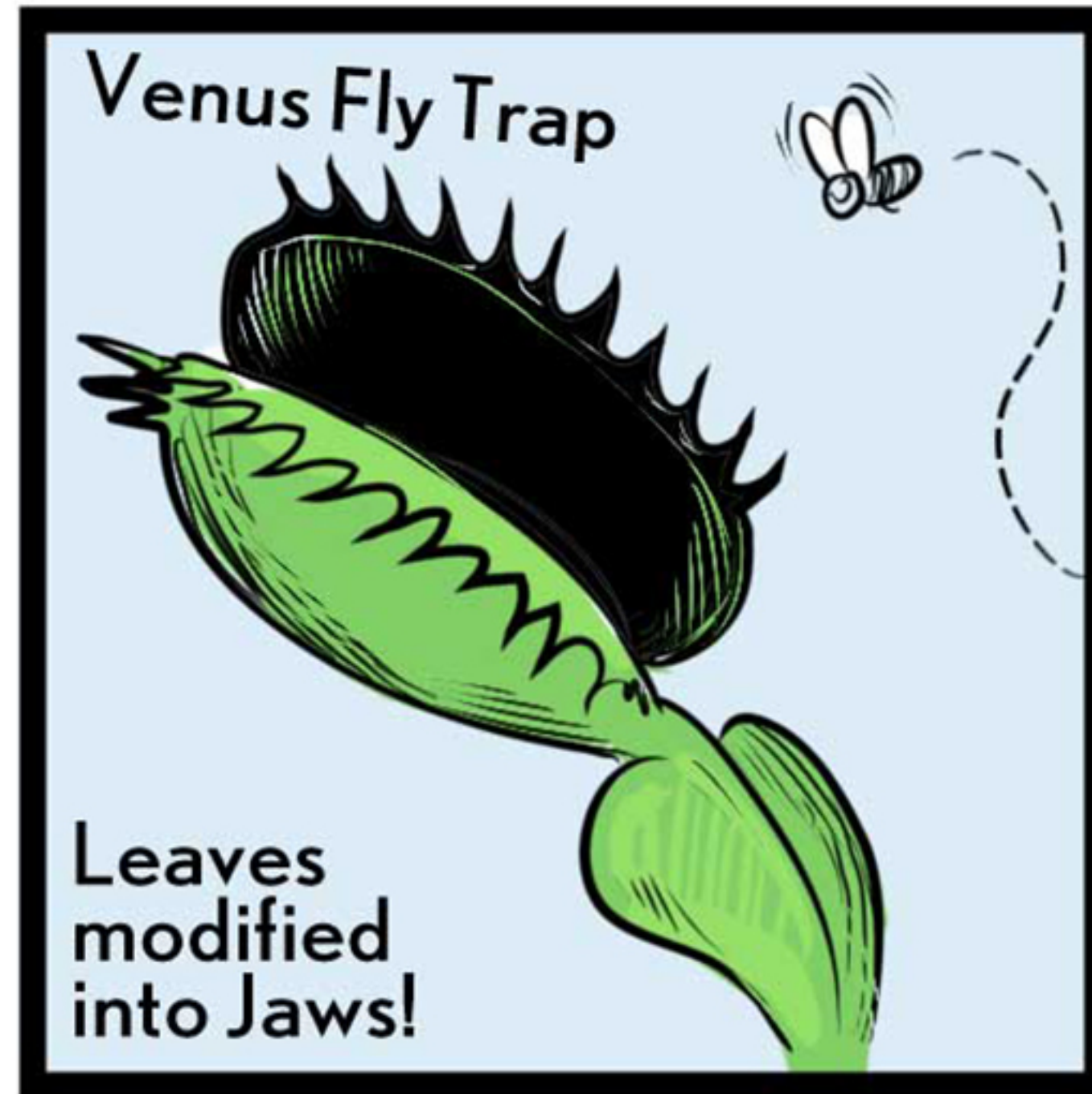
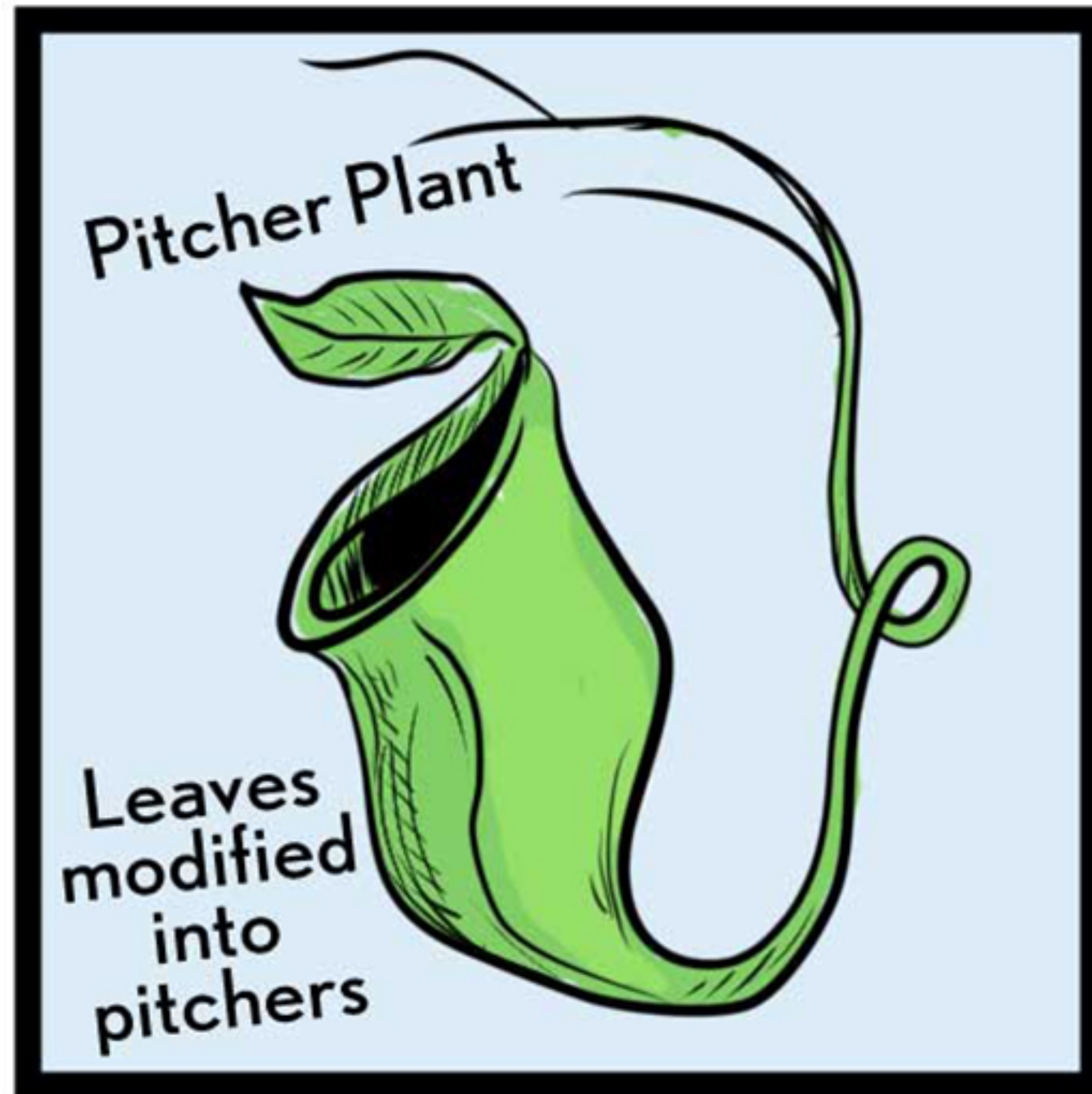


My highschool. (come on, plant a tree!)



Freshman
year
(I think.)

In college, I felt like a sponge as I took more biology classes and began wondering where it could take me.



Maybe I'd be one of the people making the discoveries I was learning about in class?

I wasn't so sure about working in a lab, but I thought I'd give it a shot. So I found a part time research assistant position in a forest ecology lab.



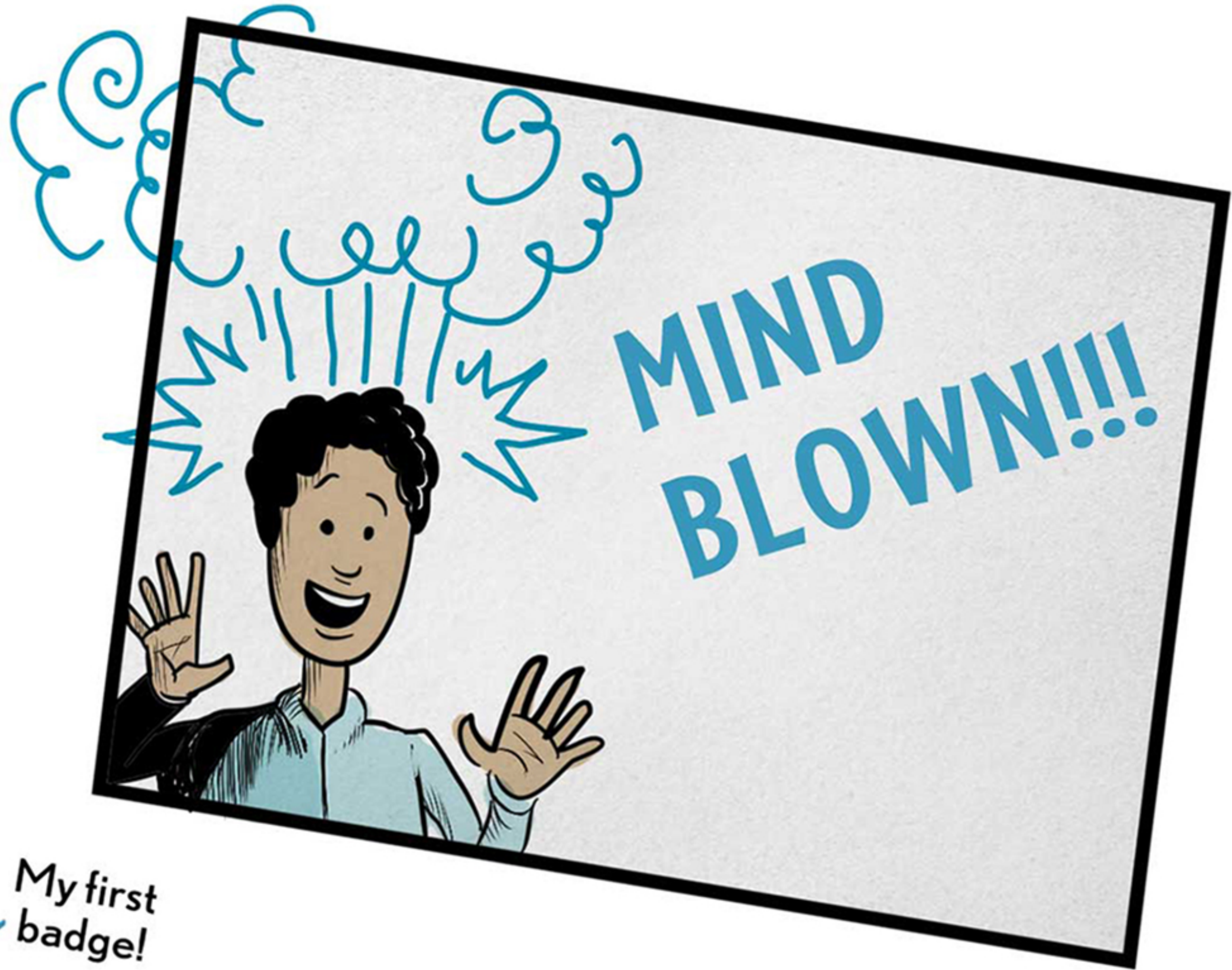
My first badge!



It would totally change everything!



My first badge!



Jordan, the lead researcher, was wonderful. She helped me see mistakes as learning opportunities and encouraged me to go to a local research conference. I learned a ton!



Before that, I thought you needed a PhD to contribute to science in a meaningful way. Turns out that's not true. We even worked together to coauthor papers.

Hey, that's ME!!!

The role of diversification in community assembly of the oaks (Quercus L.) across the continental U.S.
Jeannine Cavender Bares, Shan ... nari, José Eduardo ... Meireles, M ... h ... A. Kaproth
Paul S ... os, Chloe Davis, Andrew ... Hipp

Abstract

Evolutionary and biogeographic history, including past environmental change and diversification processes, are likely to have influenced the expansion, migration, and extinction of populations, creating evolutionary legacy effects that influence regional species pools and the composition of communities. We consider the consequences of the diversification process in shaping trait evolution and assembly of oak-dominated communities throughout the continental United States (U.S.).

Methods

Within the U.S. oaks, we tested for phylogenetic and functional trait patterns at different spatial scales, taking advantage of a dated phylogenomic analysis of American oaks and the U.S. Service (USFS) Forest Inventory and Analysis (FIA).
throughout the U.S. across all
grain sizes. Leaf

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TREEREX

Apr 10

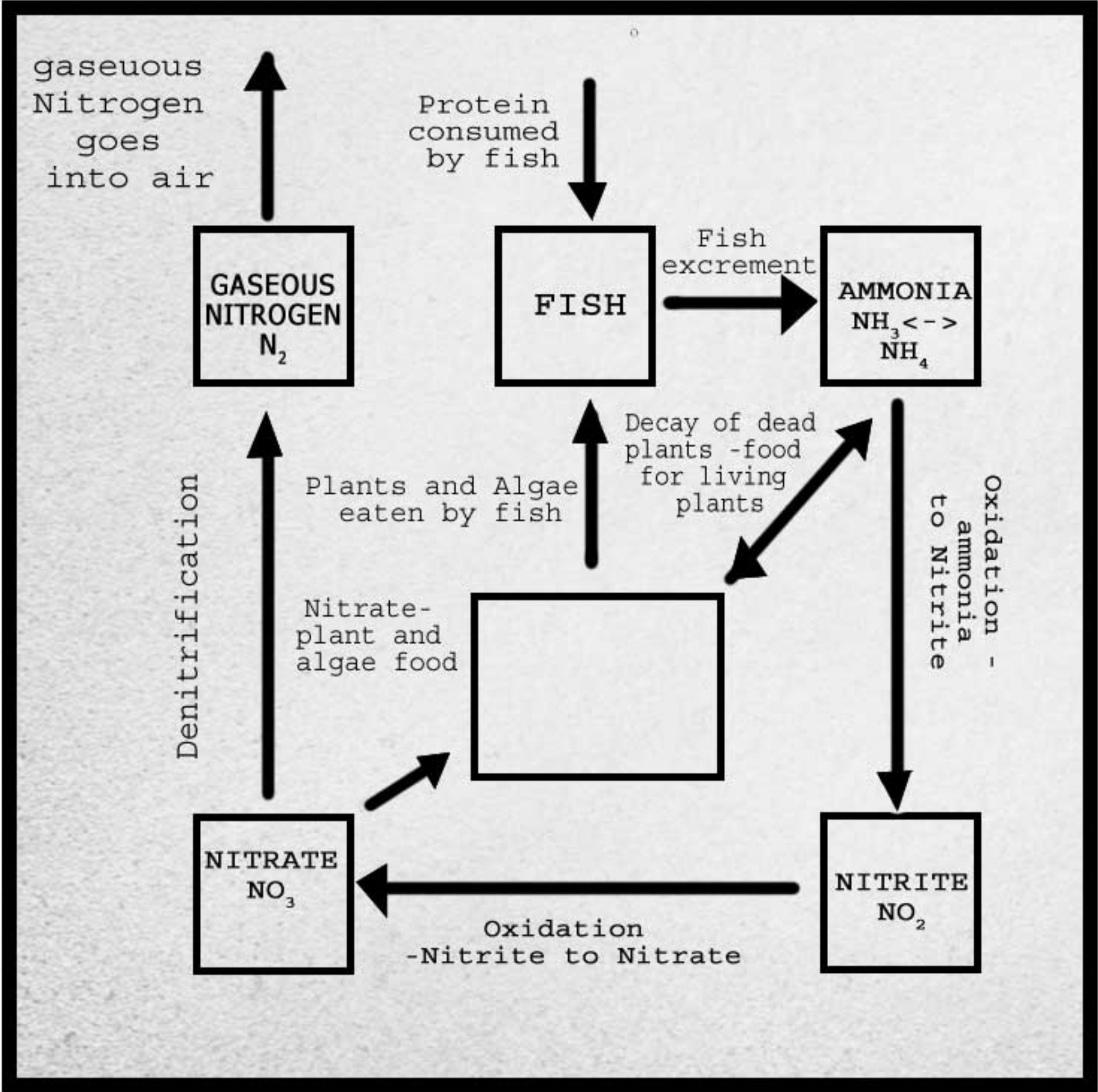
Wow, awesome!

CHLOEerphyll

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Totally, it was a huge confidence boost!

And they've encouraged me to use my art as a tool for communicating science.



This is my lab station, my home away from home!

Essential coffee!

Manipulating genetic sequence data!

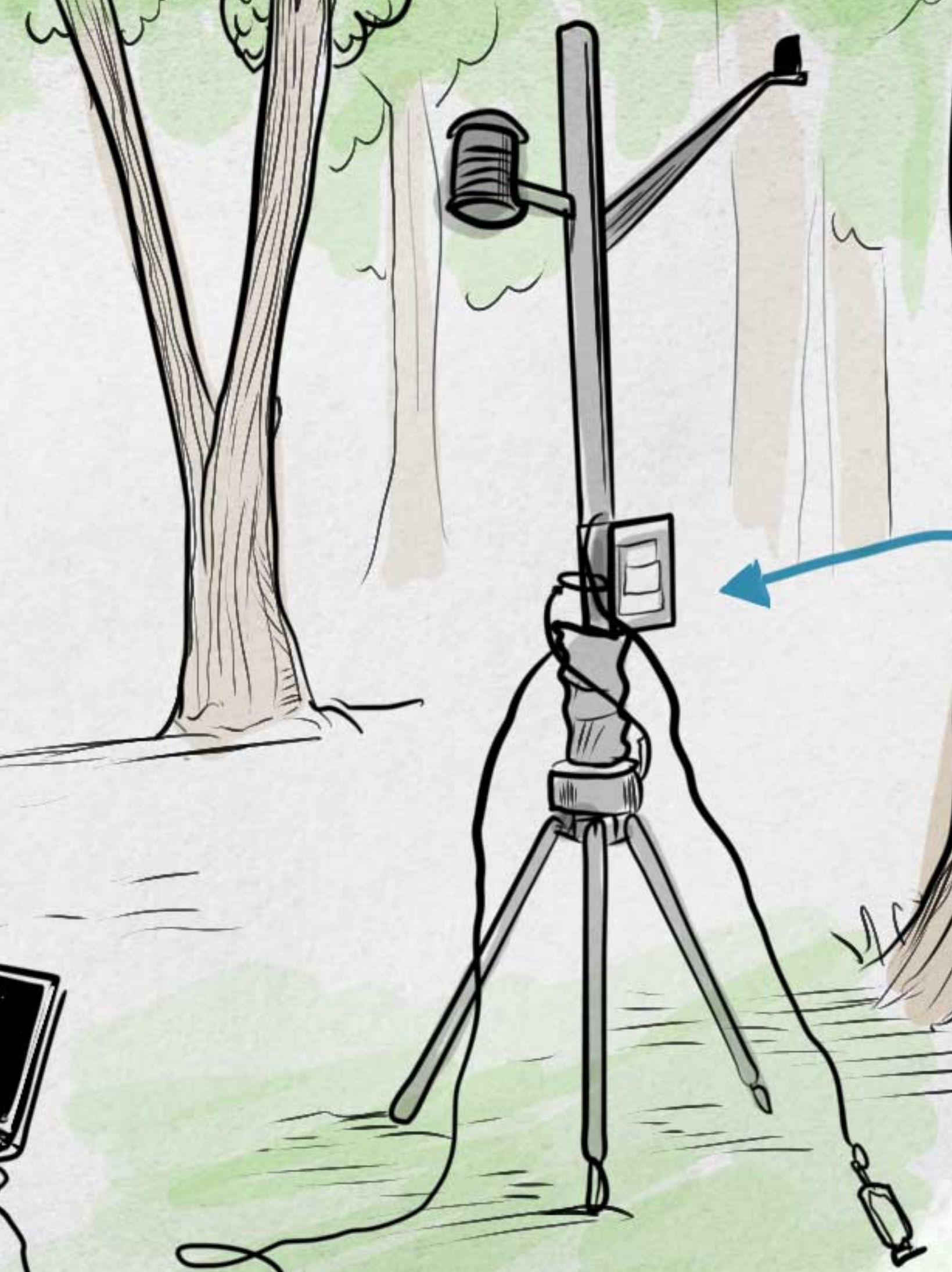
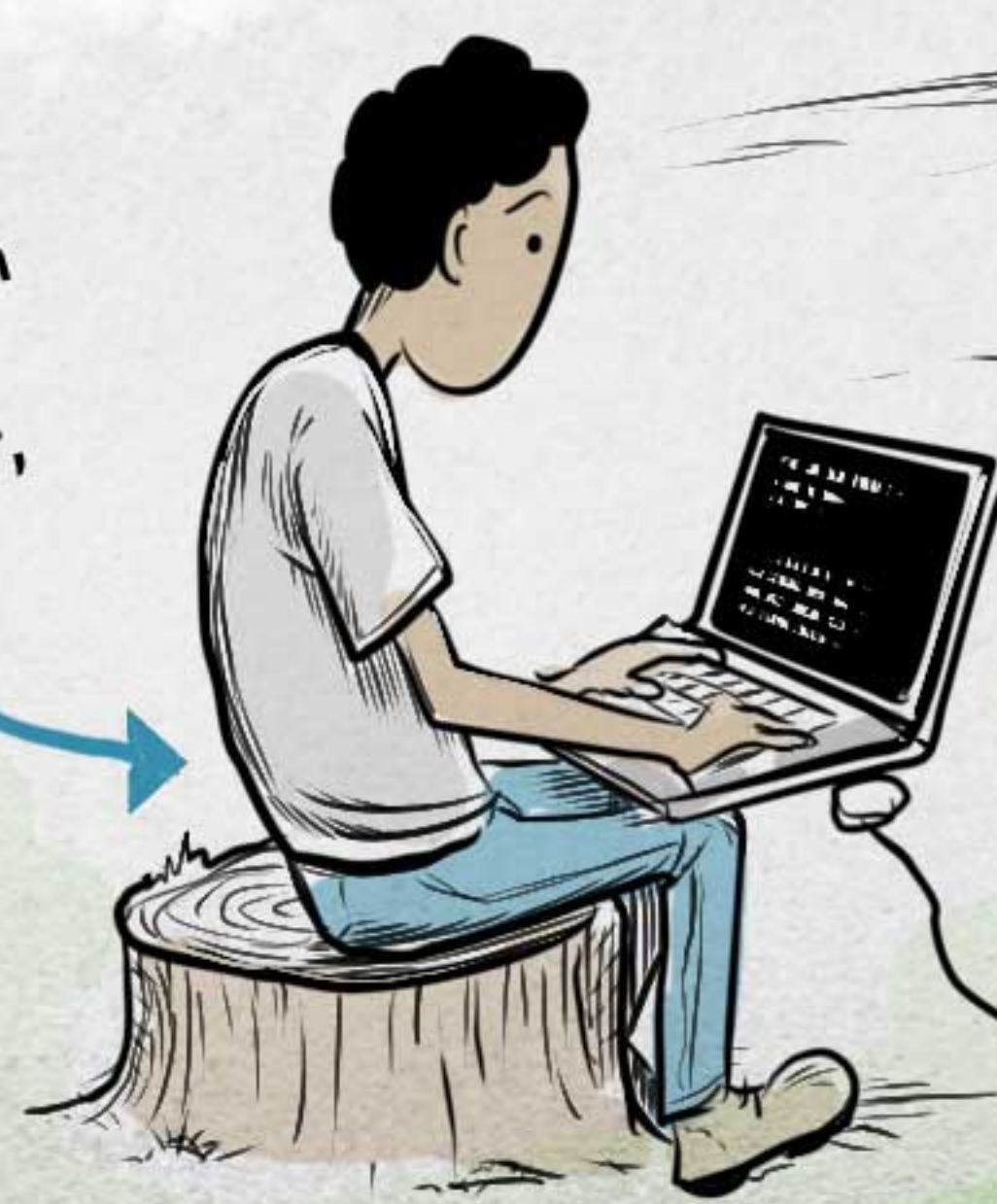
Also working on the blog!

Wood samples; looking at tree age;



But at the same time, I don't want to sit in front of a computer all day. I get to collect data for projects during fieldwork, which gets me into the local woods by myself.

Technically, I am sitting in front of a computer, but hey!



cool meteorology devices for measuring soil moisture, sunlight, air + soil temperature, and relative humidity

Watchout! It also breaks easily (so I had to learn how to fix it)!

Why is this oak so much bigger than the ones around it?

why do oaks live so much longer than maples?

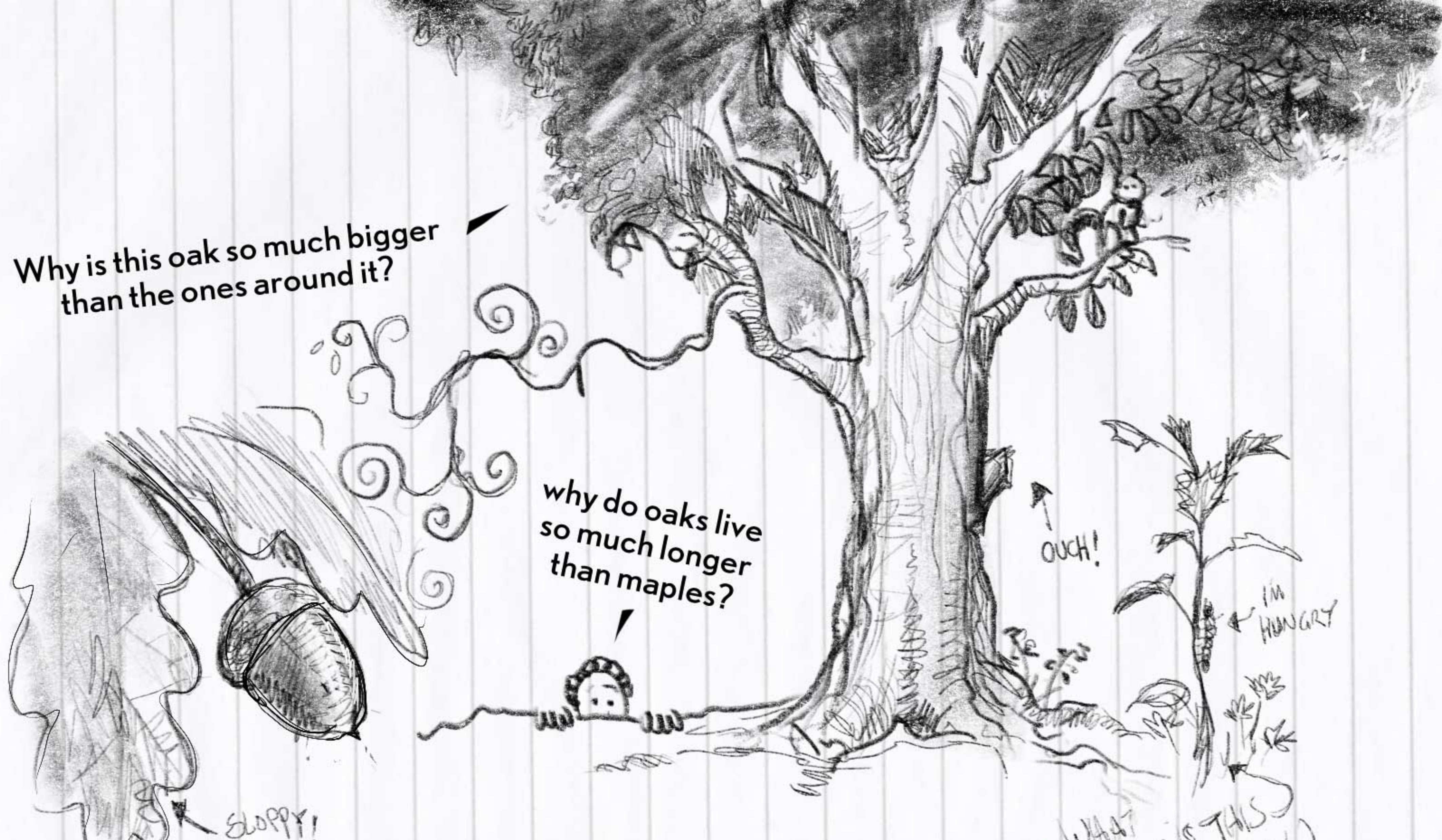
OUCH!

I'M HUNGRY

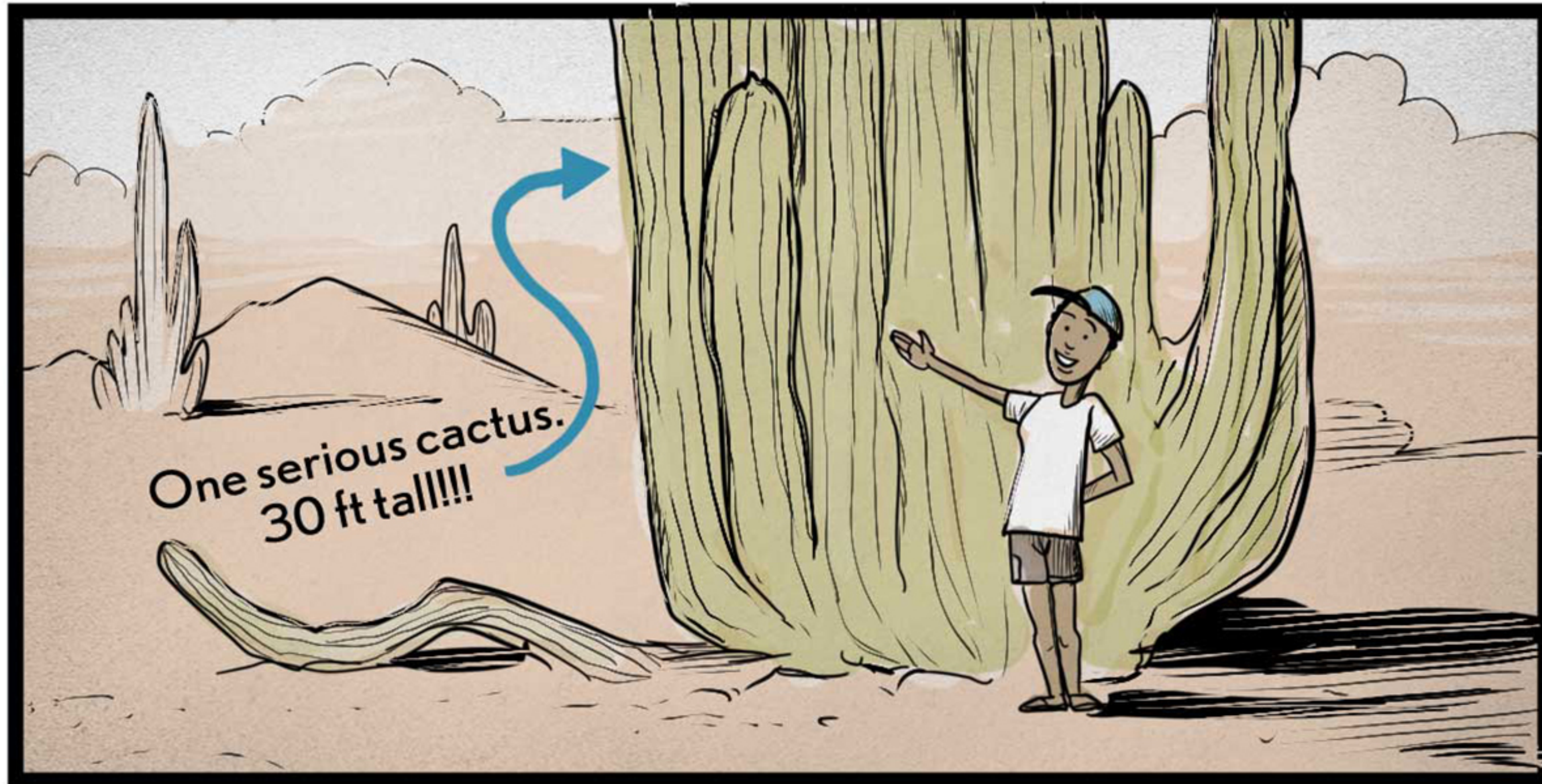
SLOPPY!

WHAT PLANT IS THIS (LOOK IT UP!)

Here's a quick doodle of a cool White Oak Tree I saw while I was out collecting data today...



I also got to work as a research assistant at a lab in Arizona. Being in an unfamiliar region was eye-opening, and the field work took me to some amazing places!



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Beechbum: Apr 10

Not sure I could handle living in the desert.

BAOBARBER Apr 10

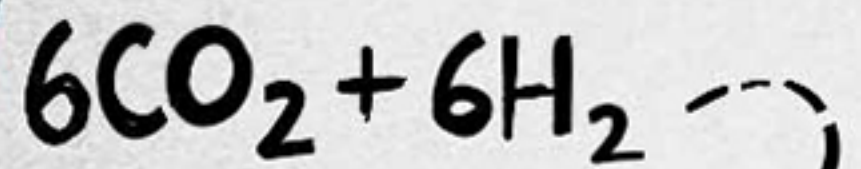
I wouldn't mind having the Grand Canyon practically in my backyard!

I've been exposed
to research
in a bunch
of cool
fields.

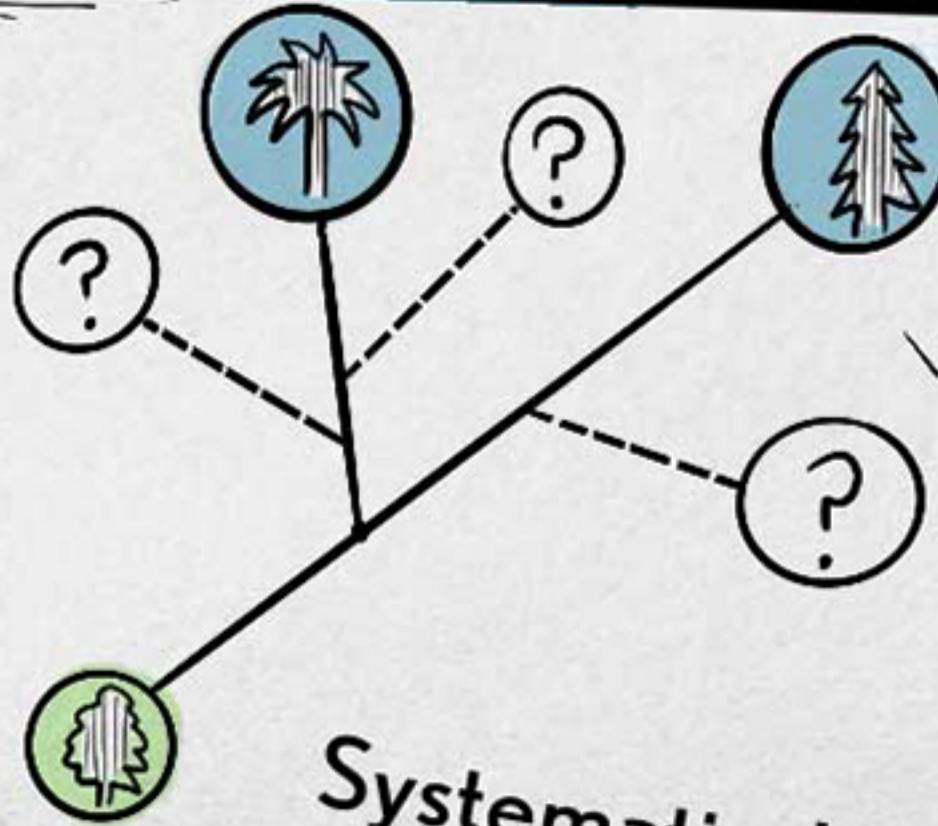
Dendrochronology!



Conservation
Genetics



Ecophysiology!



Systematics!

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SapHappy

Apr 10

Dendrochronology???

CHLOEerphyll

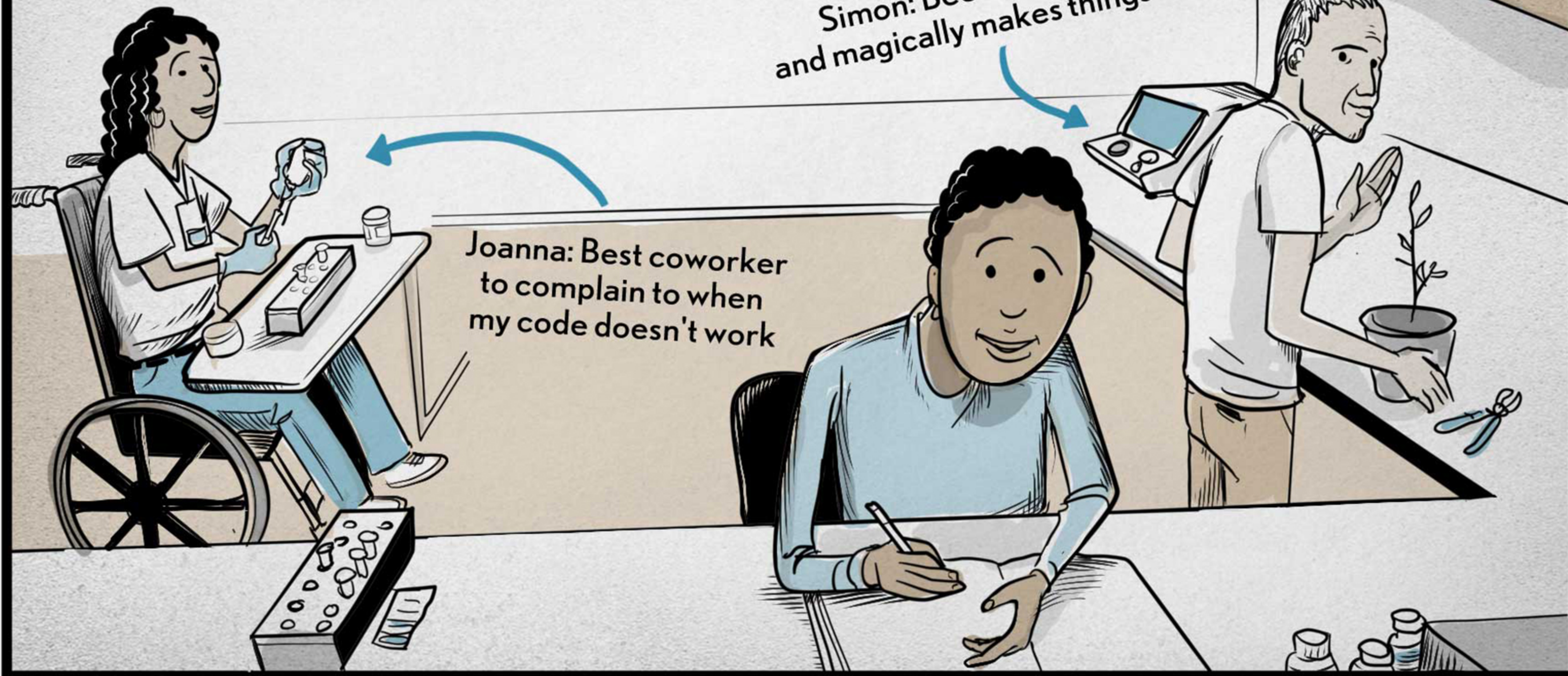
Apr 10

studying trees' annual growth rings to reveal each tree's story...and environmental change/past climate - used a lot in climate change studies!

More than anything, I've loved being part of a team.

Simon: Been here forever and magically makes things work.

Joanna: Best coworker to complain to when my code doesn't work



Working with different researchers has shown me
that nobody sciences the same way.



And it's helped me shape the way I ask questions.



I could keep talking about how awesome research assistant work is, but I should get back to some genetic sequencing data.

Send your comments and questions and I'll address them in my next post!



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GRASSROOTS

Apr 10

Did you study coding or learn it on your own?

FIRANDFEATHER

Apr 10

Where to next?

MUIRMAMA

Apr 11

Ever think about getting a PhD?