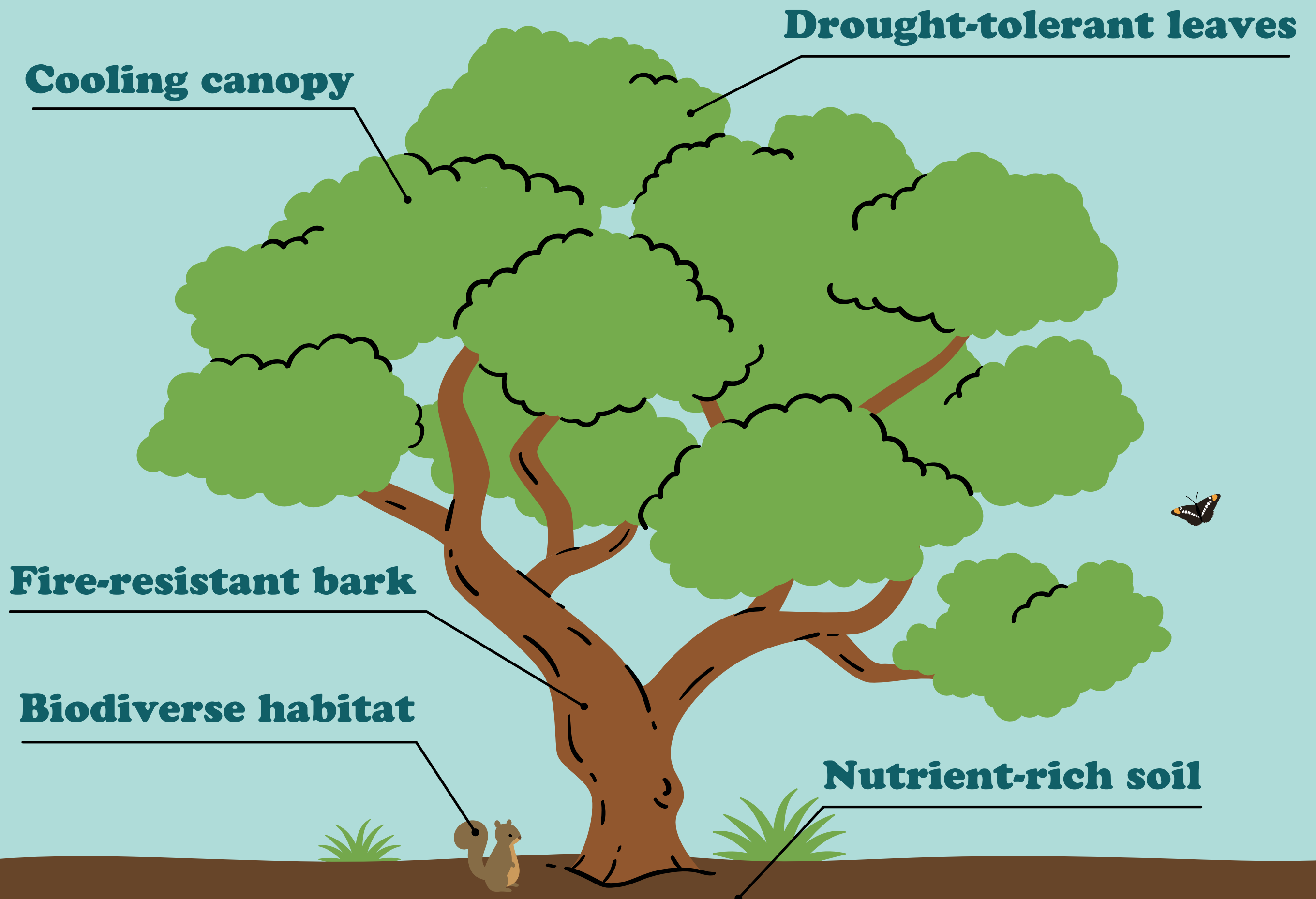


Anatomy of a Coast Live Oak

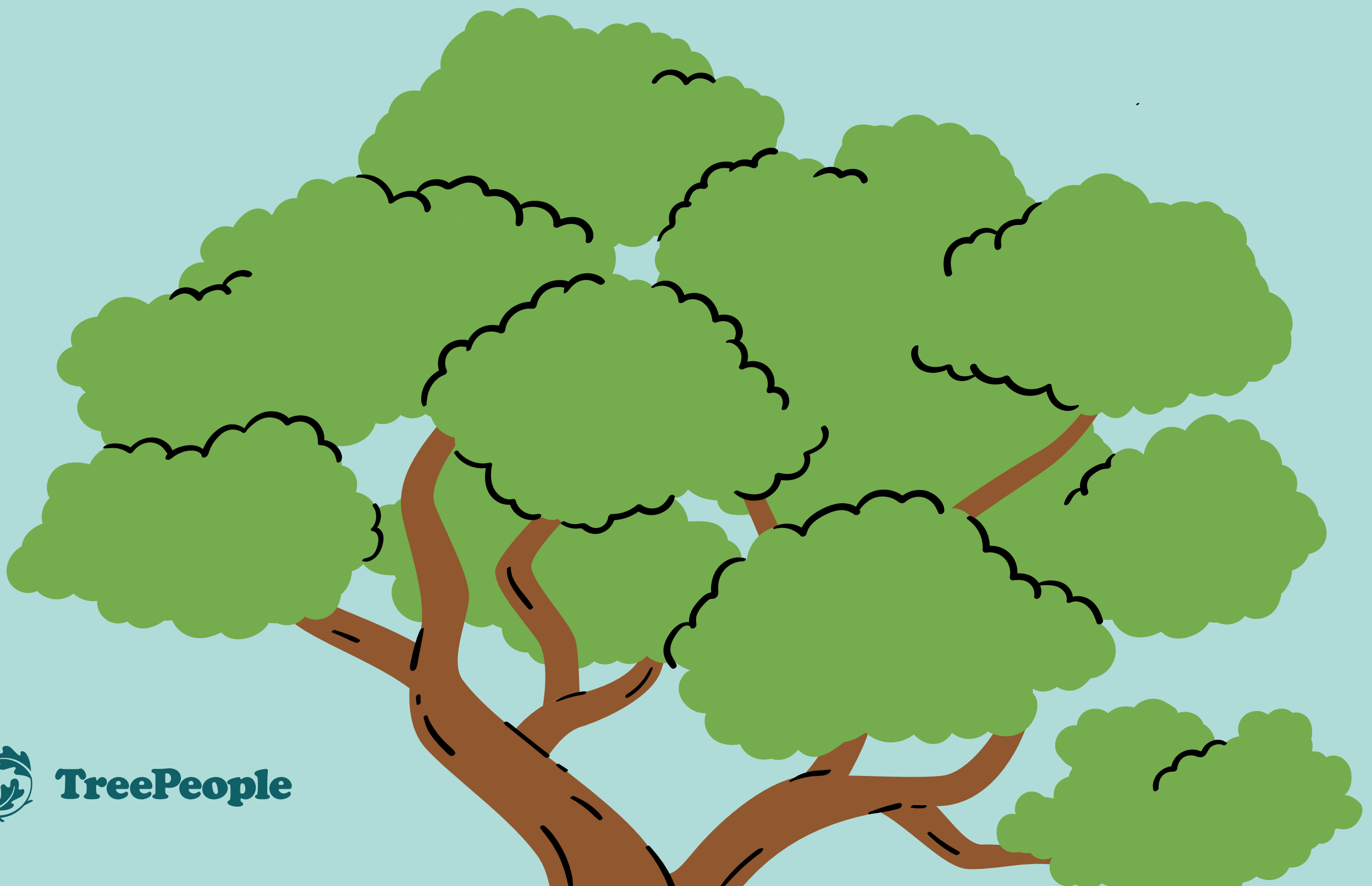


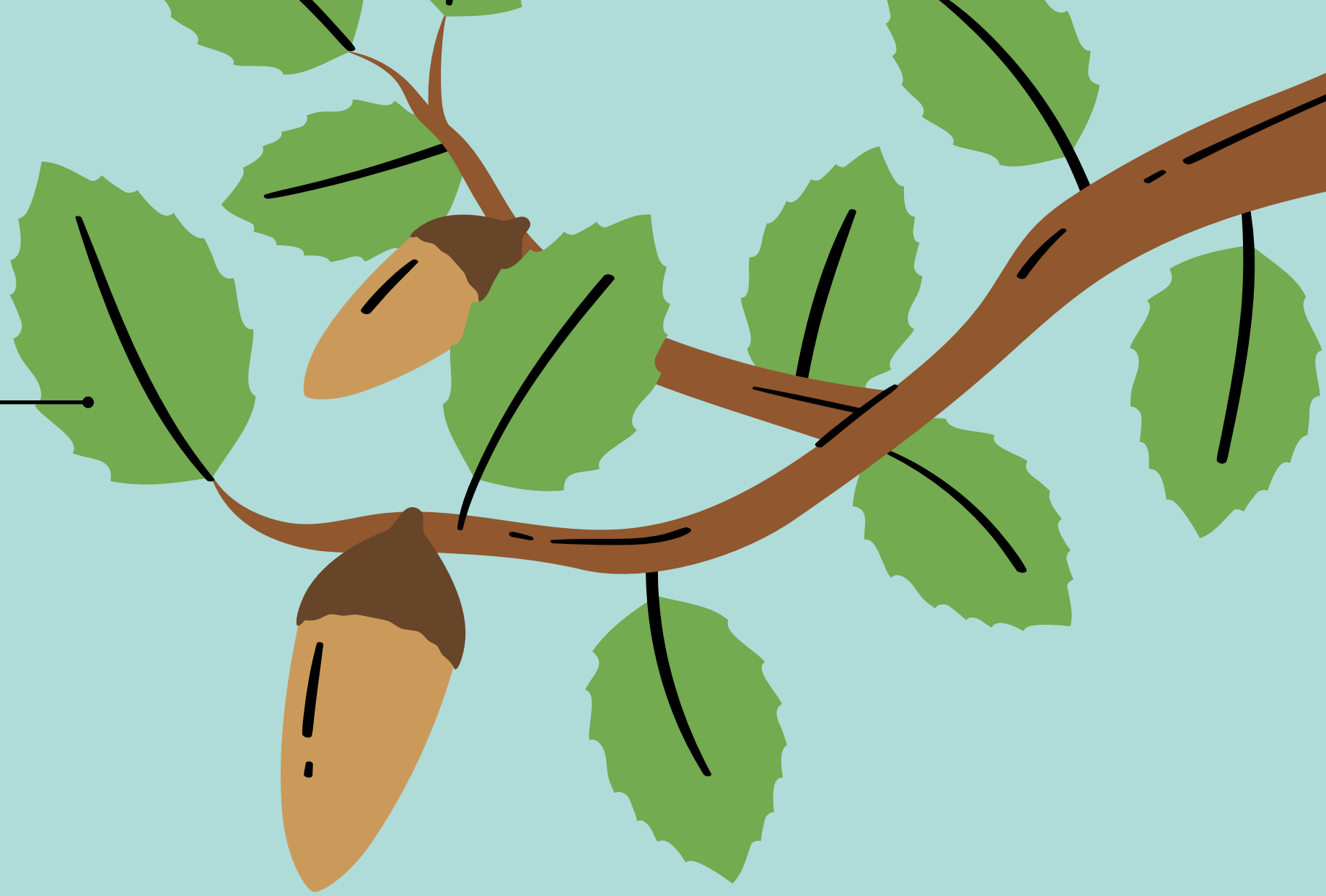
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The Canopy

With wide-reaching canopies that can spread up to **120 feet in diameter**, coast live oaks are excellent at providing shade, **cooling the air beneath them by around 10°F**. And, as evergreen oaks, they can keep providing that shade all year round.





The Leaves

The coast live oak's leaves are adapted to hold onto as much water as possible in California's dry climate. Their cupped shape, waxy outer coating, and fuzzy underside all help slow the loss of precious moisture. And, like all trees, its leaves also help clean the air. Trees capture around **10 pounds of pollutants annually**, on average... and live oaks have been known to live for up to a thousand years.



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The Bark

Coast live oaks are well-adapted to California's fire-prone ecosystems, and have an incredible ability to **bounce back after blazes**. Their super thick bark protects the tree's delicate inner tissue from getting damaged, allowing new growth to sprout back from the trunk or roots after the tree is burned.





The Soil

As the tree's leaves fall off and decompose, they make the soil around the coast live oak more absorbent, giving it a **greater capacity to soak up water**. This process also infuses the soil with nutrients and carbon, supporting beneficial microbial and fungal communities, and allowing understory plants like Toyon and Manzanitas to thrive.



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The Habitat

The coast live oak sustains more than **270 other living things**, which rely on it for food, shelter, and other resources. Birds and small mammals eat its acorns, insects use it as a place to live and raise their larvae, and mosses, lichens, and fungi grow among its branches and roots. It's a keystone species, and a beacon for biodiversity throughout California.



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