

Term 1, Lesson 1

# Wetland Habitats

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## Learning Objectives:

1. Define a wetland habitat;
2. Recognise the riparian zone and aquatic zone within a wetland habitat;
3. Identify aspects of the riparian zone which support the aquatic environment

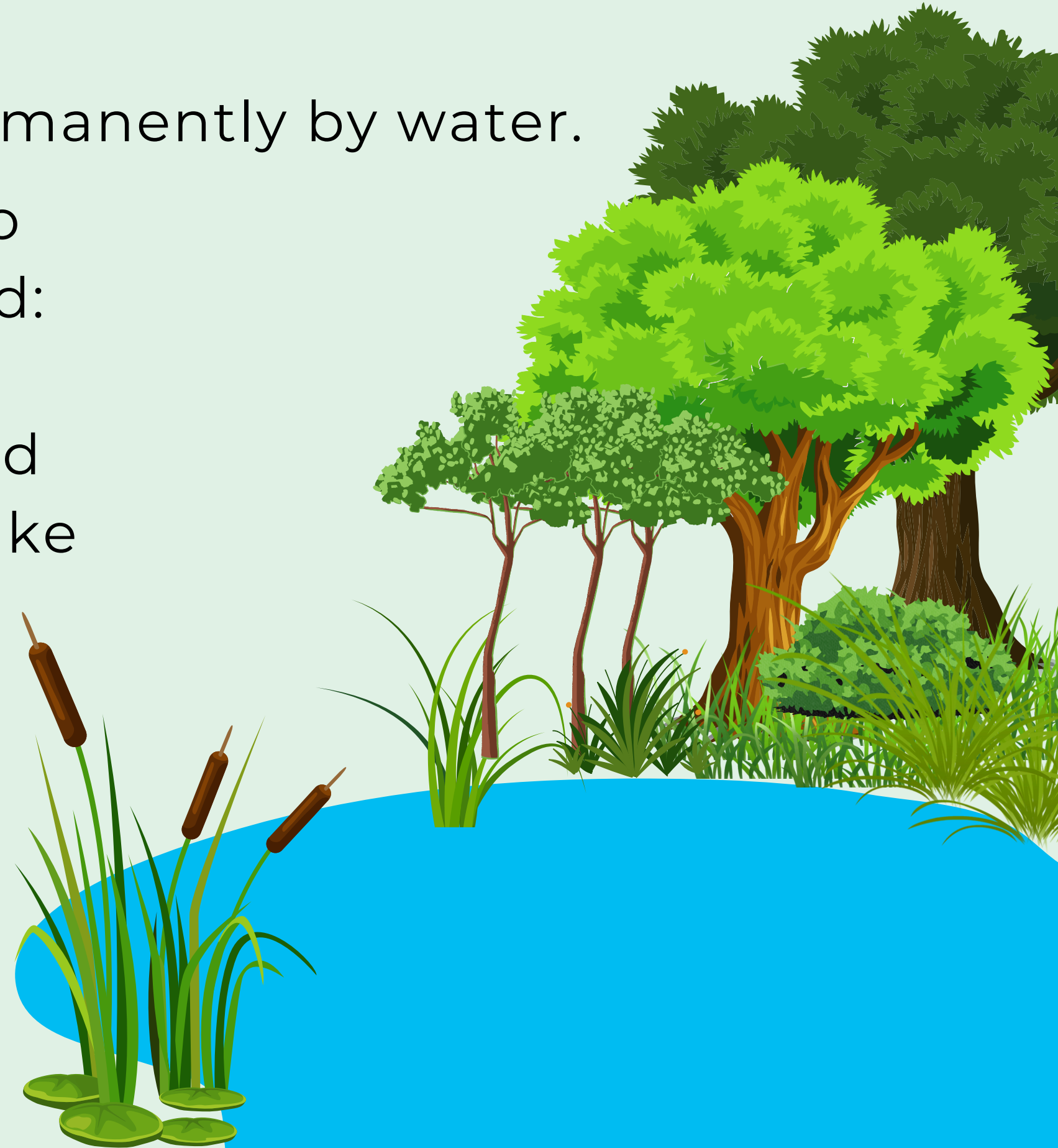


# What is a wetland?

Land that is covered temporarily or permanently by water.

In a wetland environment there are two main habitats which are interconnected:

- The riparian habitat - the area of land along the banks of a river, stream, lake or wetland.
- The aquatic habitat - the waters (i.e. river, lake, pond) which support aquatic life.



# Function of the riparian zone

- **Bank stability** - root systems of plants help bind the soil together and prevent erosion. They also act as filters, trapping pollutants and sediment.
- **Provides shade to the aquatic habitat** - helps regulate water temperature.
- **Nutrient cycling** - organic matter (leaves, branches etc) provides a source of nutrients for aquatic species.
- **Wildlife habitat** - wildlife corridors, nesting habitat for birds, shelter for aquatic organisms.



# Classroom Activities

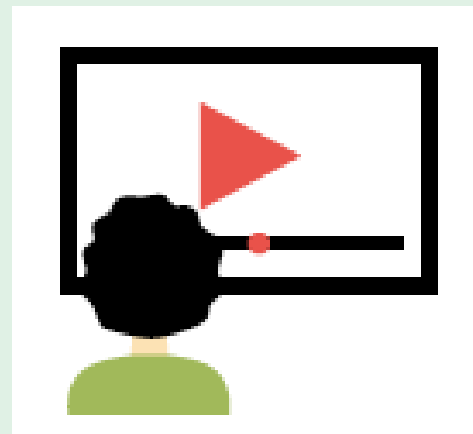
## Activity 1 - Video: Wetlands

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k9UbKIBc3W4>

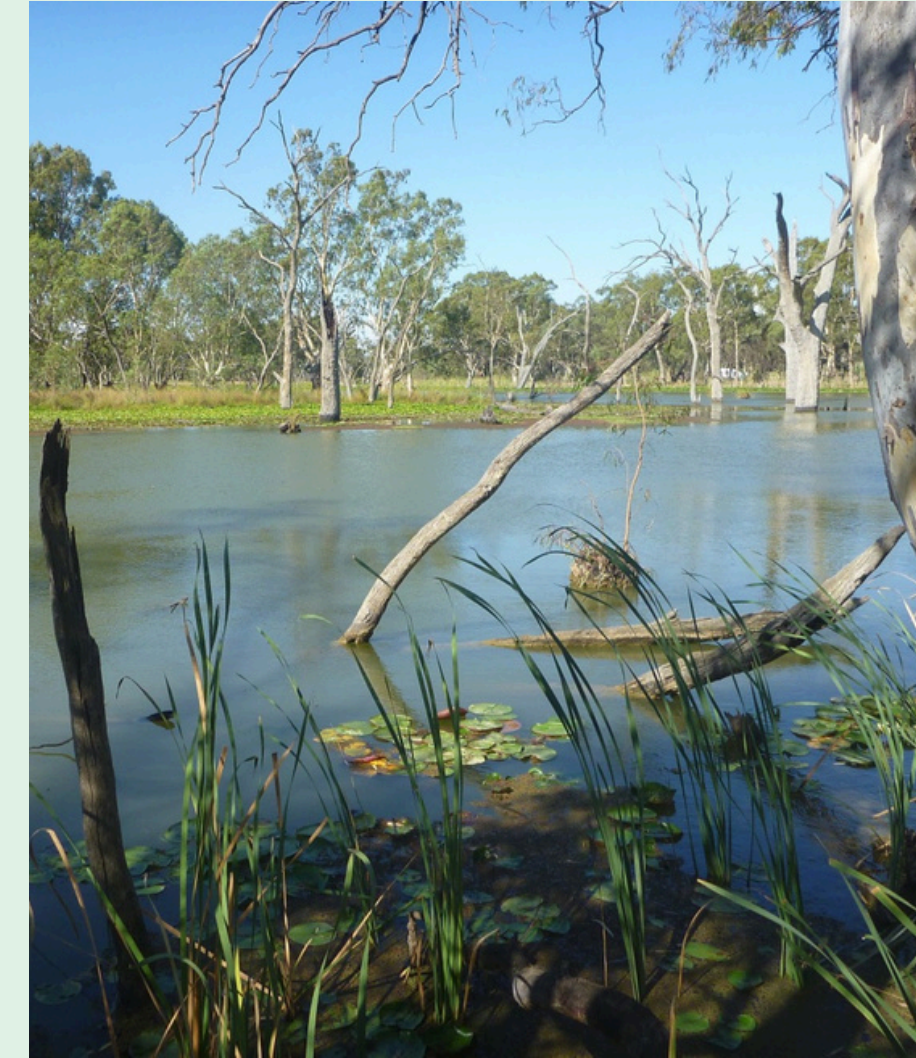
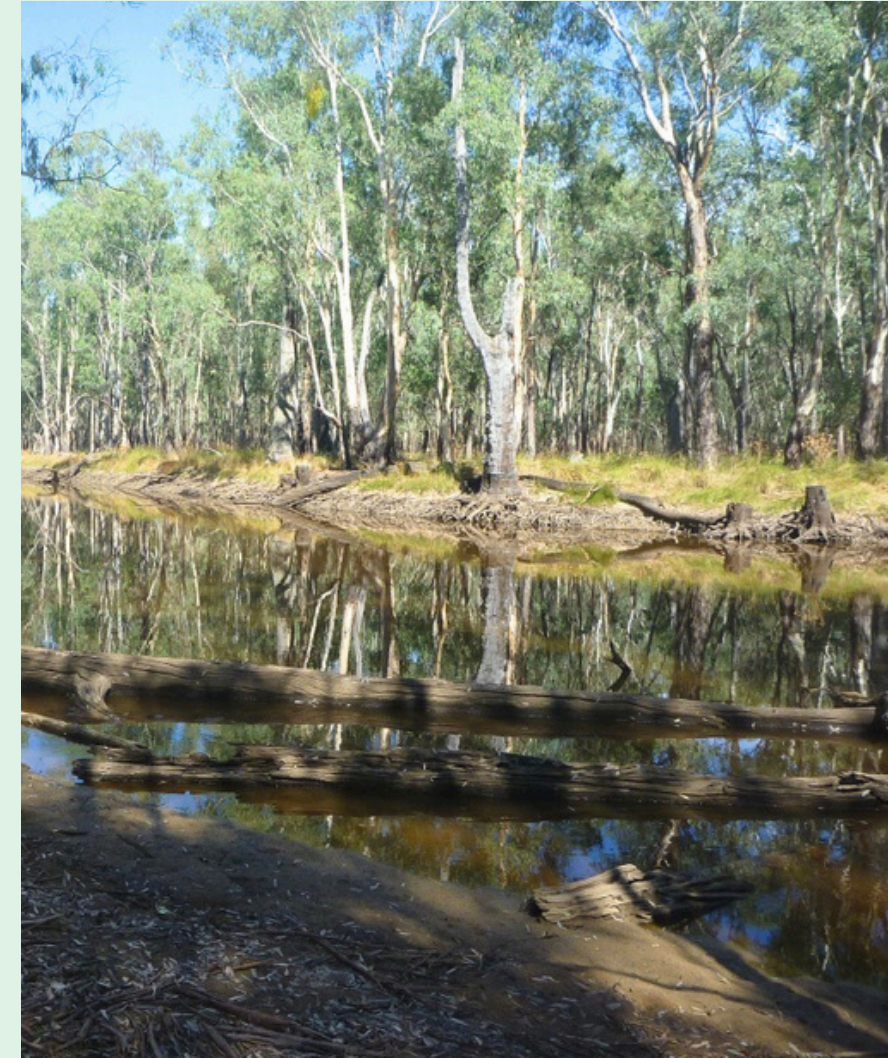
## Activity 2 - Video: Benefit of the riparian zone

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PmeTuFQuF7k>

Complete the Video Reflection worksheet for each video.



# Examples of healthy and degraded riparian zones



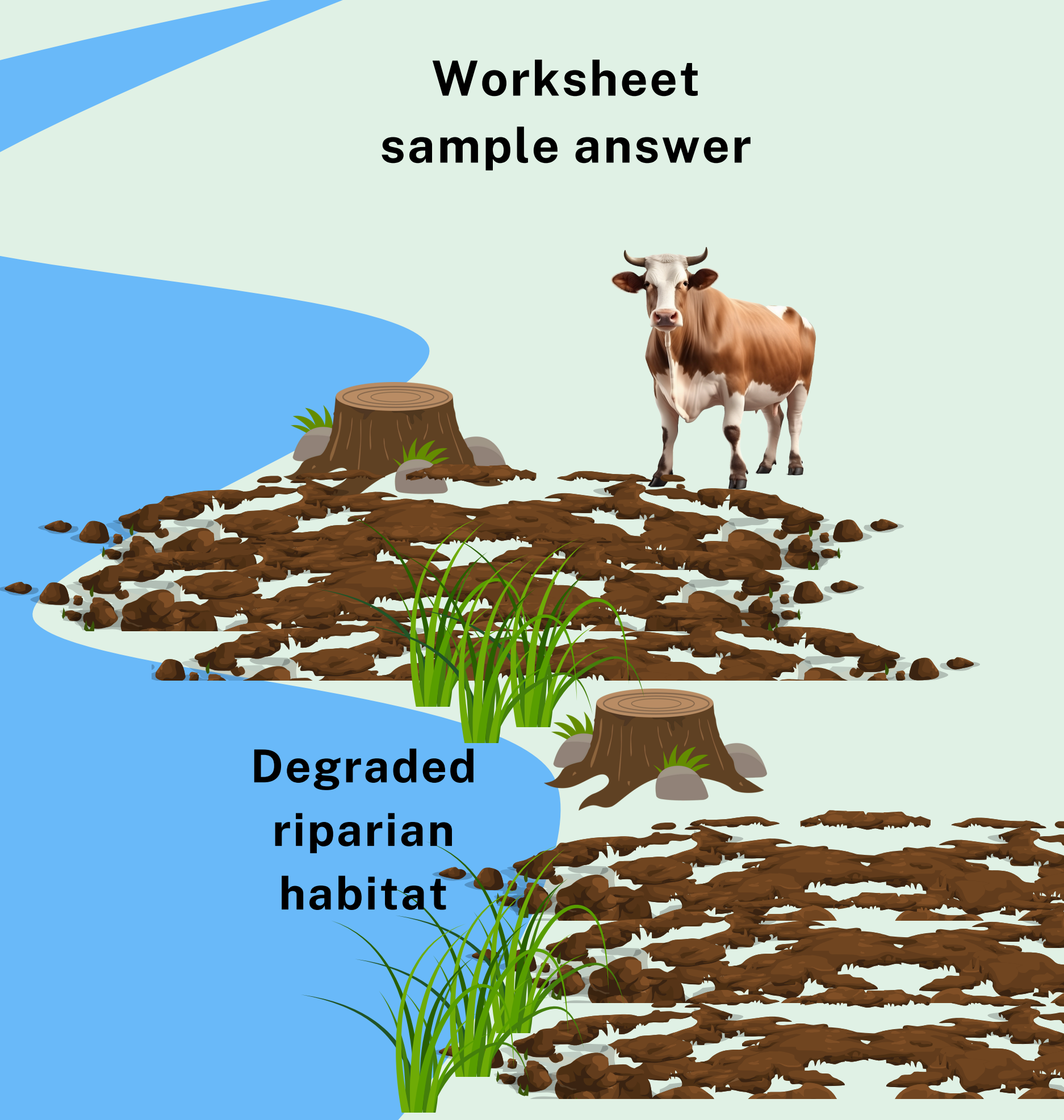
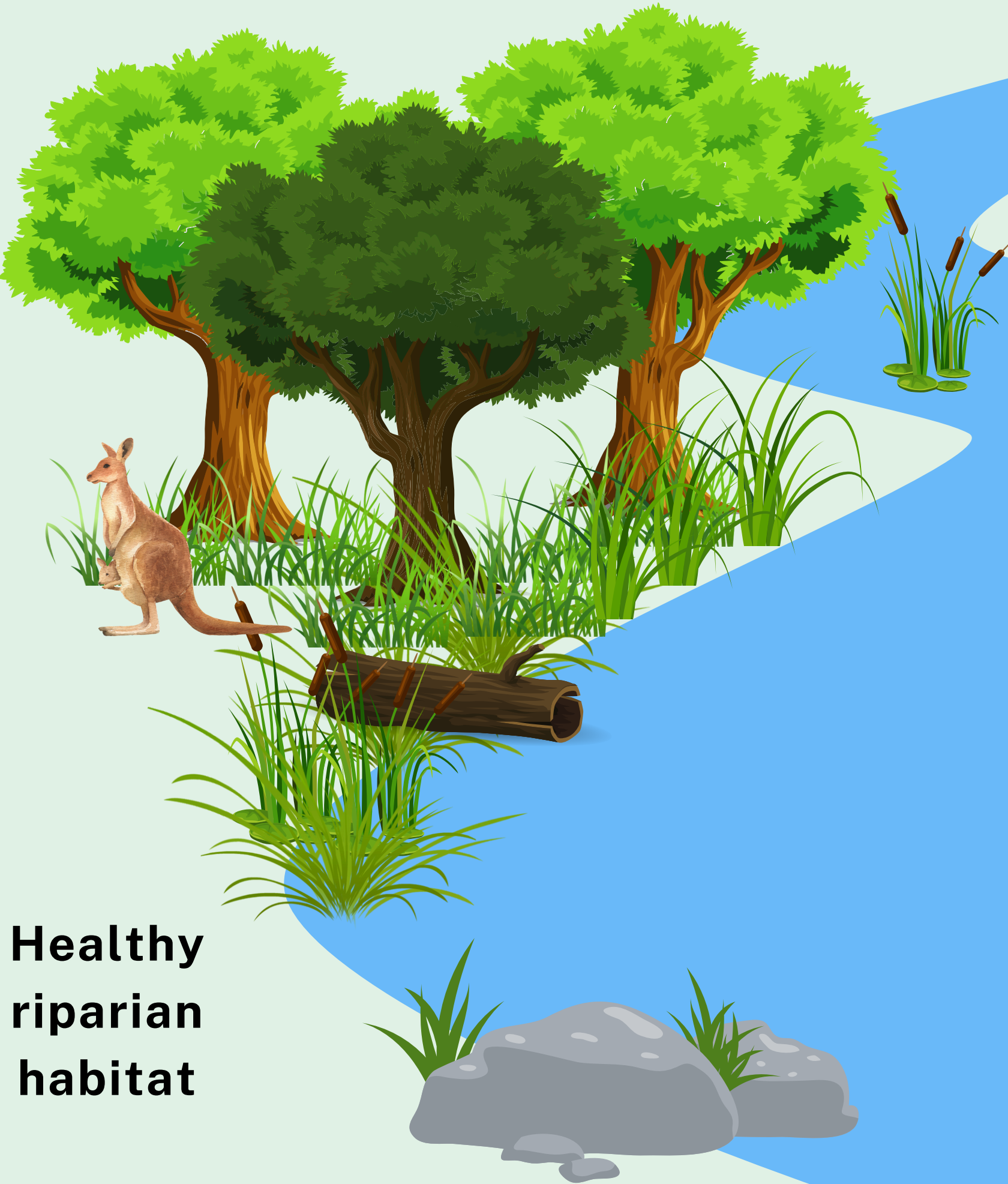
# Classroom Activities

## Activity 3 - Worksheet.

Draw a healthy riparian zone and degraded riparian zone.  
Explain how the riparian zone supports the aquatic environment.



**Worksheet  
sample answer**



**Healthy  
riparian  
habitat**

**Degraded  
riparian  
habitat**