



Before the Glass



When I was little...



...I thought some pretty funny things like if you stepped on a crack in the footpath, you would marry a rat.



And that you shouldn't drink rainwater  
because it might have bird poo in it.  
My sister told me that one.



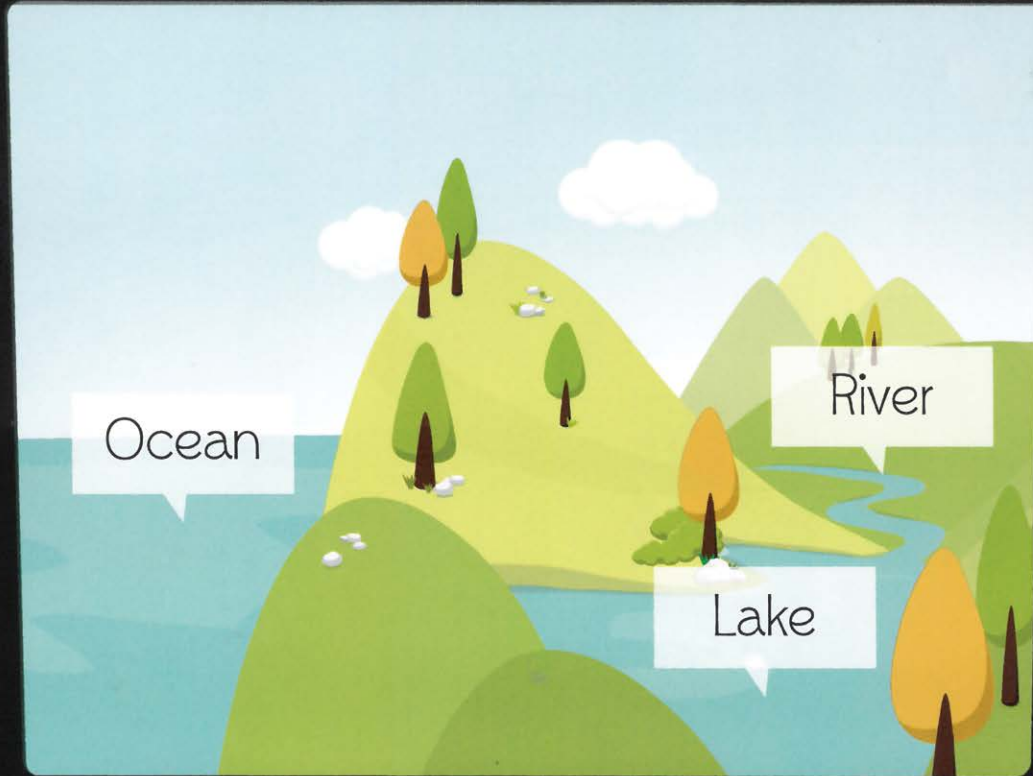
Now that I'm older, she can't trick me anymore.



Anyway, I know a lot more than her about water because I did some research the other day about where it comes from and how it gets to us.



I learnt a lot of interesting things, like the fact that water can come from many places: rivers, lakes, the ocean...





...reservoirs or dams...



...underground and even our wastewater if it is recycled.



And did you know, water is usually treated before we use it?



The treatment differs depending where the water comes from but it usually starts with removing things like rubbish.



This is done by pouring the water through a filter or by letting it settle in ponds. Gravity will then make any solids sink to the bottom.



If the water is from the ocean or wastewater, salts are removed by a process called desalination.



Most water also goes through a process to remove minerals, making it taste and smell cleaner...



...and then another process to kill any harmful things like bacteria or algae.





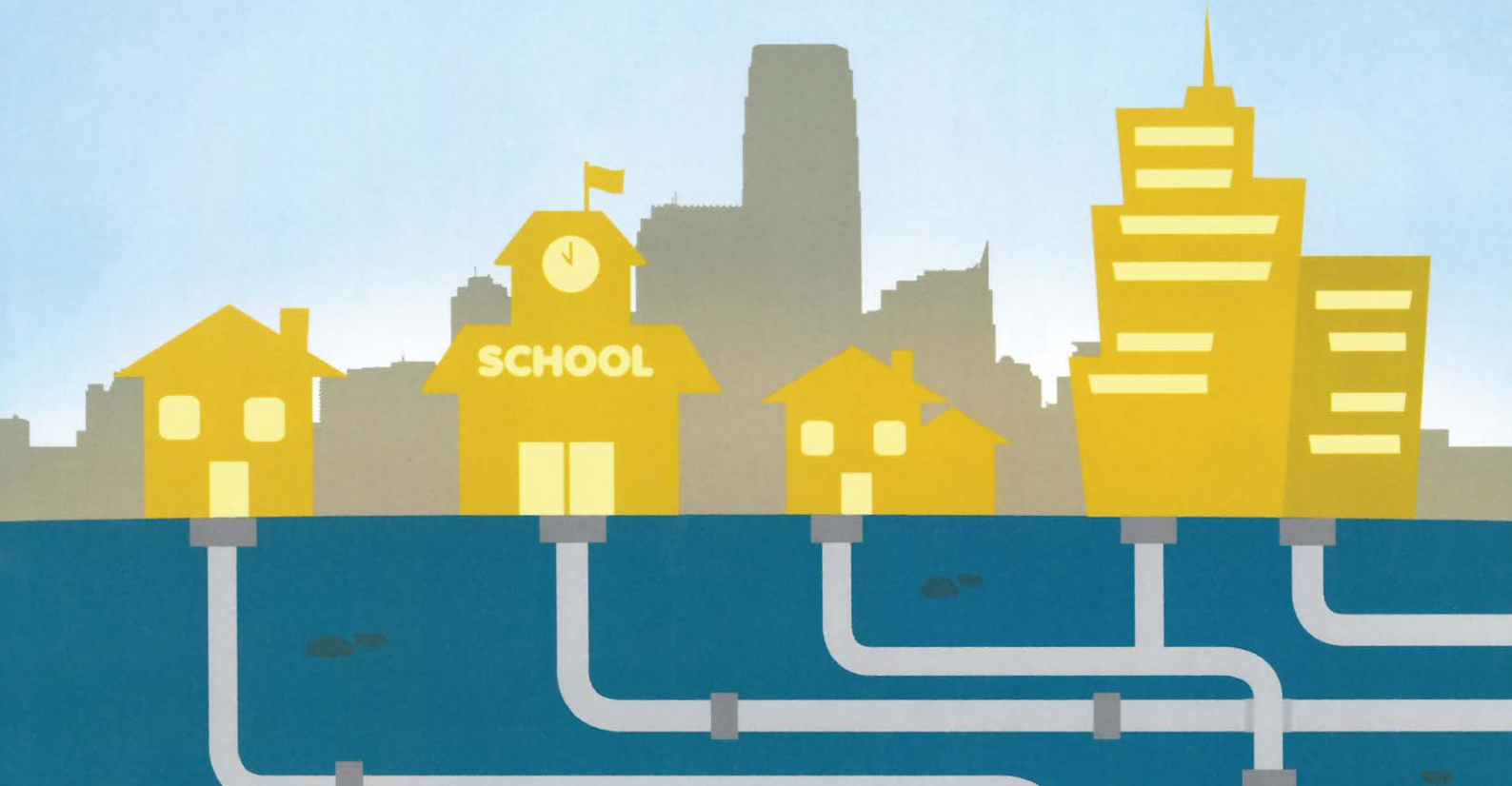


In many parts of Australia, fluoride is also added to our water to help keep our teeth healthy.

Once water is treated, it is stored in large tanks or reservoirs, which are usually on high ground so water can flow from them into a network of pipes using gravity.



The network starts with large water mains, which feed into smaller water mains and pipes that are connected to our houses, businesses and schools – everywhere with water.



And that's not all I learnt. Some people get their own water like my Aunt. She lives in the country and has a rainwater tank.



I'll have to ask my little cousin how they keep bird poo out of it.





The End

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[www.thewaterconservancy.org](http://www.thewaterconservancy.org)



Come with me and I'll show you all I've learnt about how water makes it from the sky to your glass.

We'll see where the water comes from, how it is cleaned and how it makes its way to our homes, businesses and schools – everywhere with water. It's quite an adventure!

Written by Bridget Cull and illustrated by Digital Media Design students at Swinburne University of Technology.

