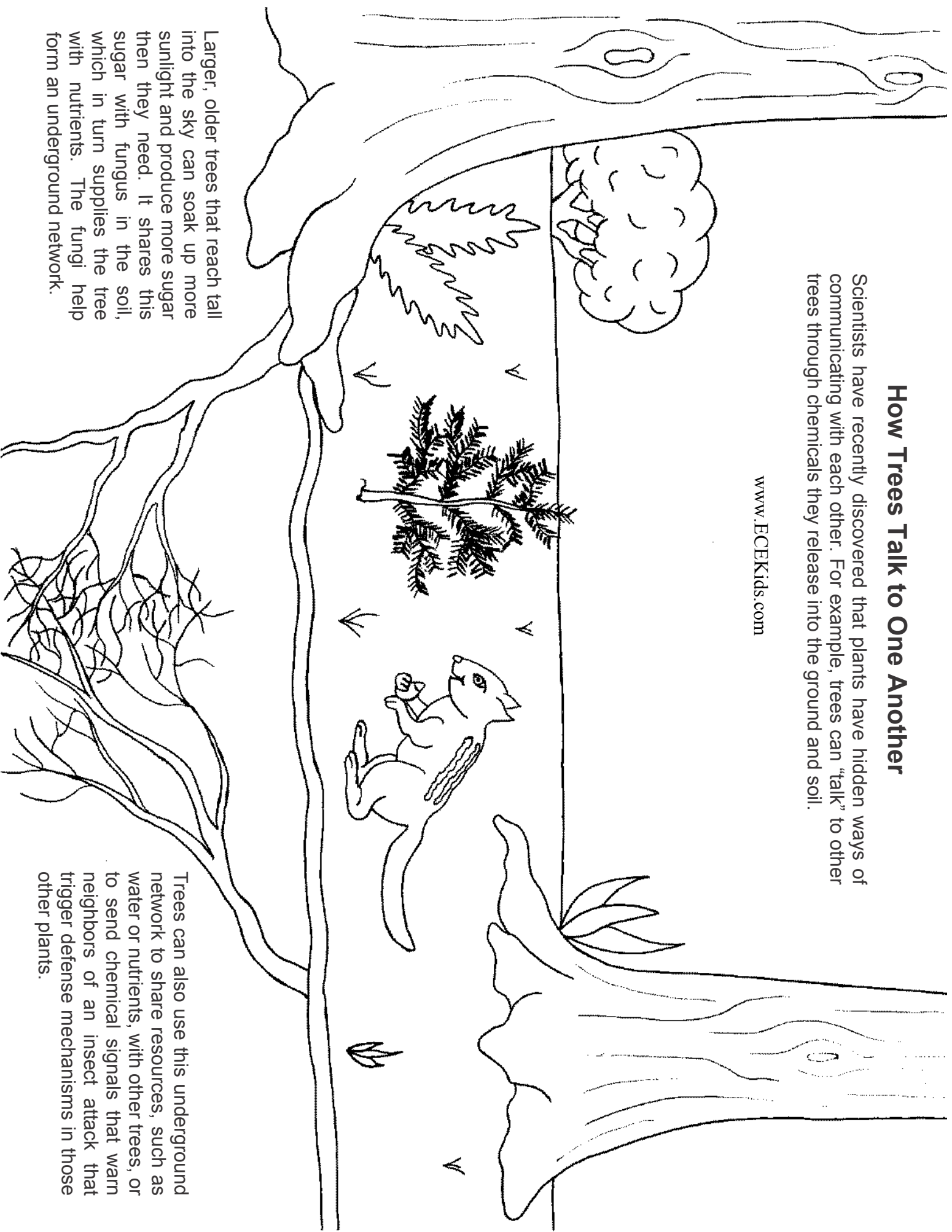


How Trees Talk to One Another

Scientists have recently discovered that plants have hidden ways of communicating with each other. For example, trees can “talk” to other trees through chemicals they release into the ground and soil.

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Larger, older trees that reach tall into the sky can soak up more sunlight and produce more sugar than they need. It shares this sugar with fungus in the soil, which in turn supplies the tree with nutrients. The fungi help form an underground network.

Trees can also use this underground network to share resources, such as water or nutrients, with other trees, or to send chemical signals that warn neighbors of an insect attack that trigger defense mechanisms in those other plants.