Water pollution

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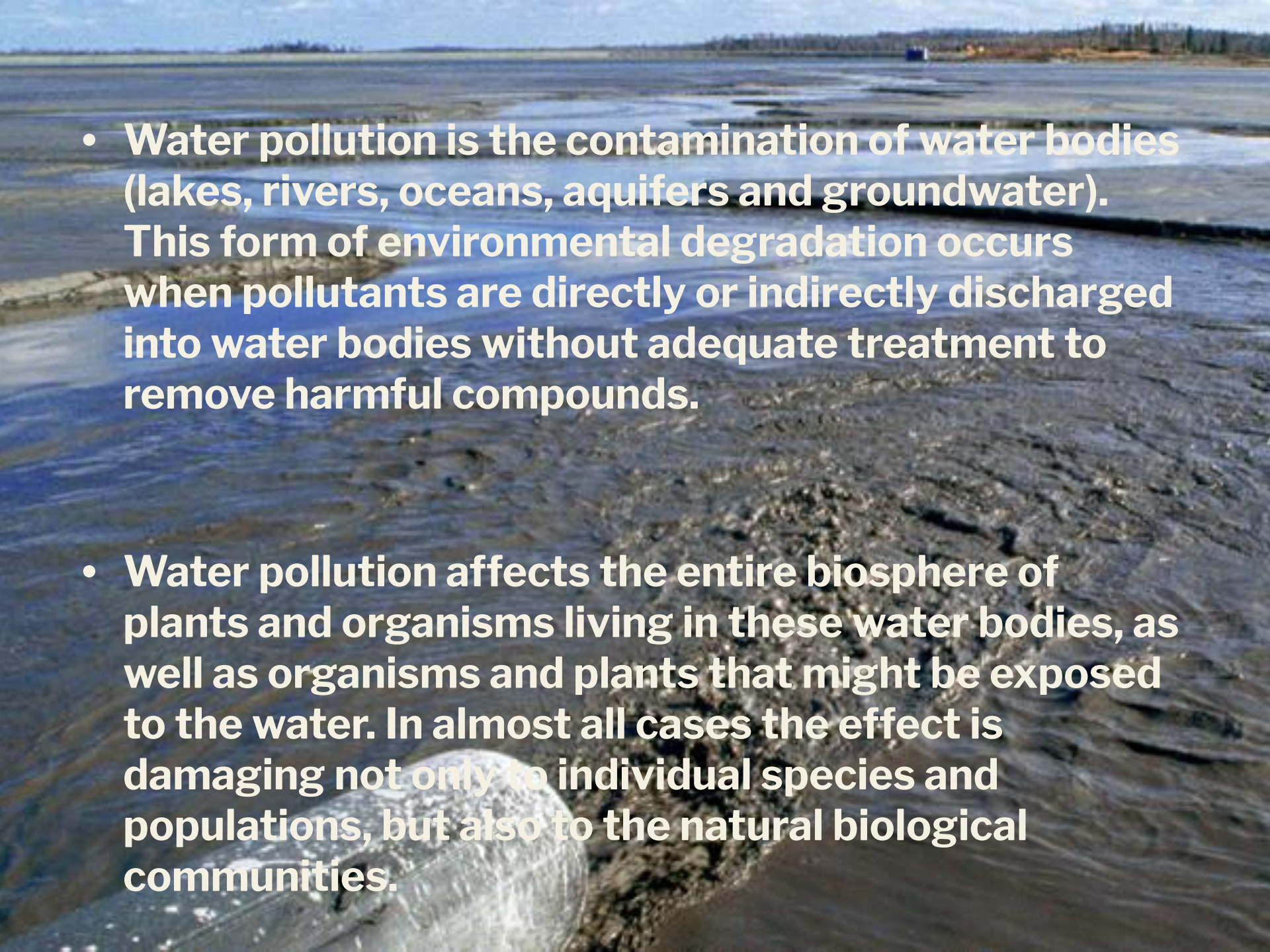
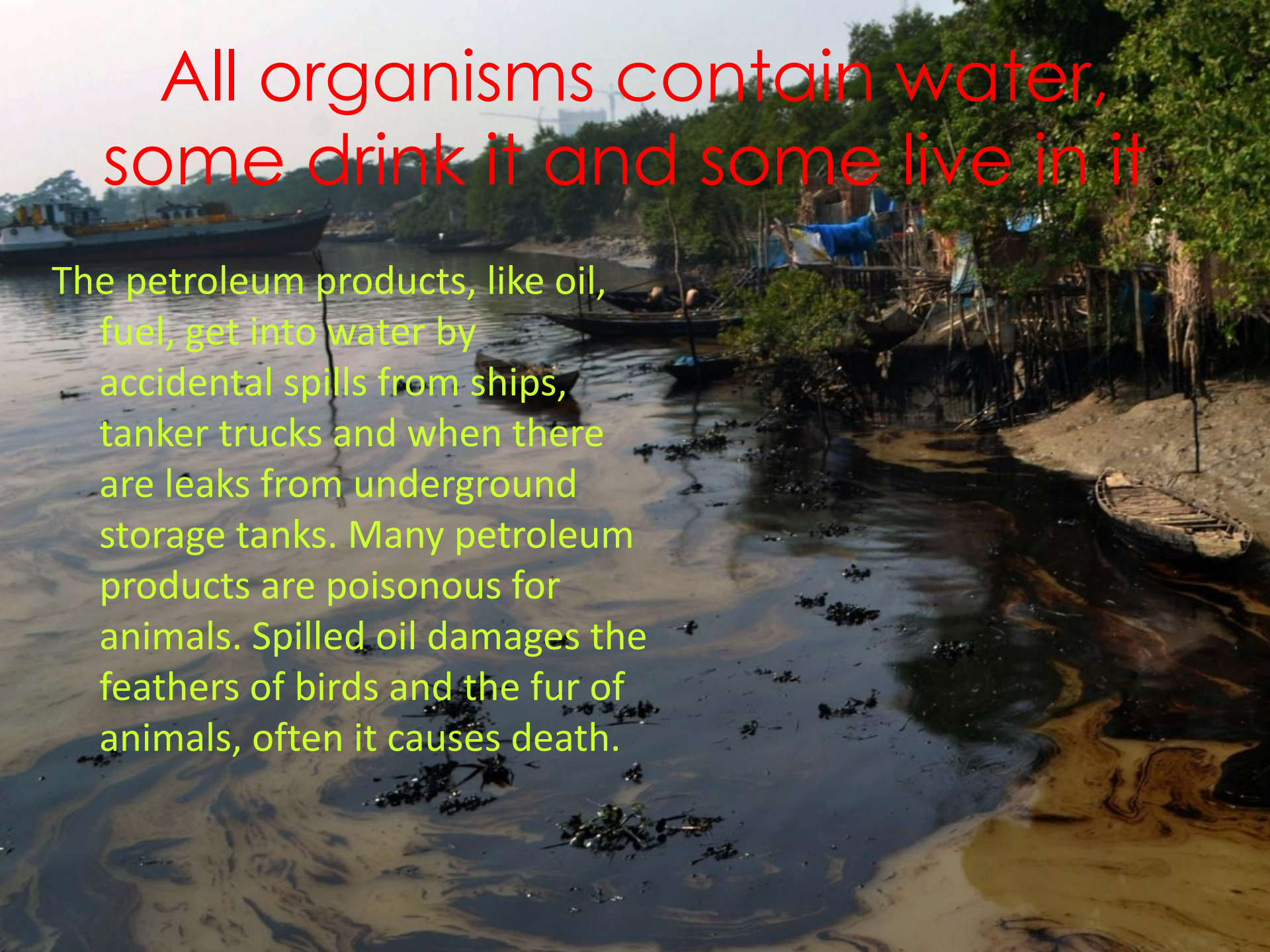


- Water pollution is the contamination of water bodies (lakes, rivers, oceans, aquifers and groundwater). This form of environmental degradation occurs when pollutants are directly or indirectly discharged into water bodies without adequate treatment to remove harmful compounds.

- Water pollution affects the entire biosphere of plants and organisms living in these water bodies, as well as organisms and plants that might be exposed to the water. In almost all cases the effect is damaging not only to individual species and populations, but also to the natural biological communities.

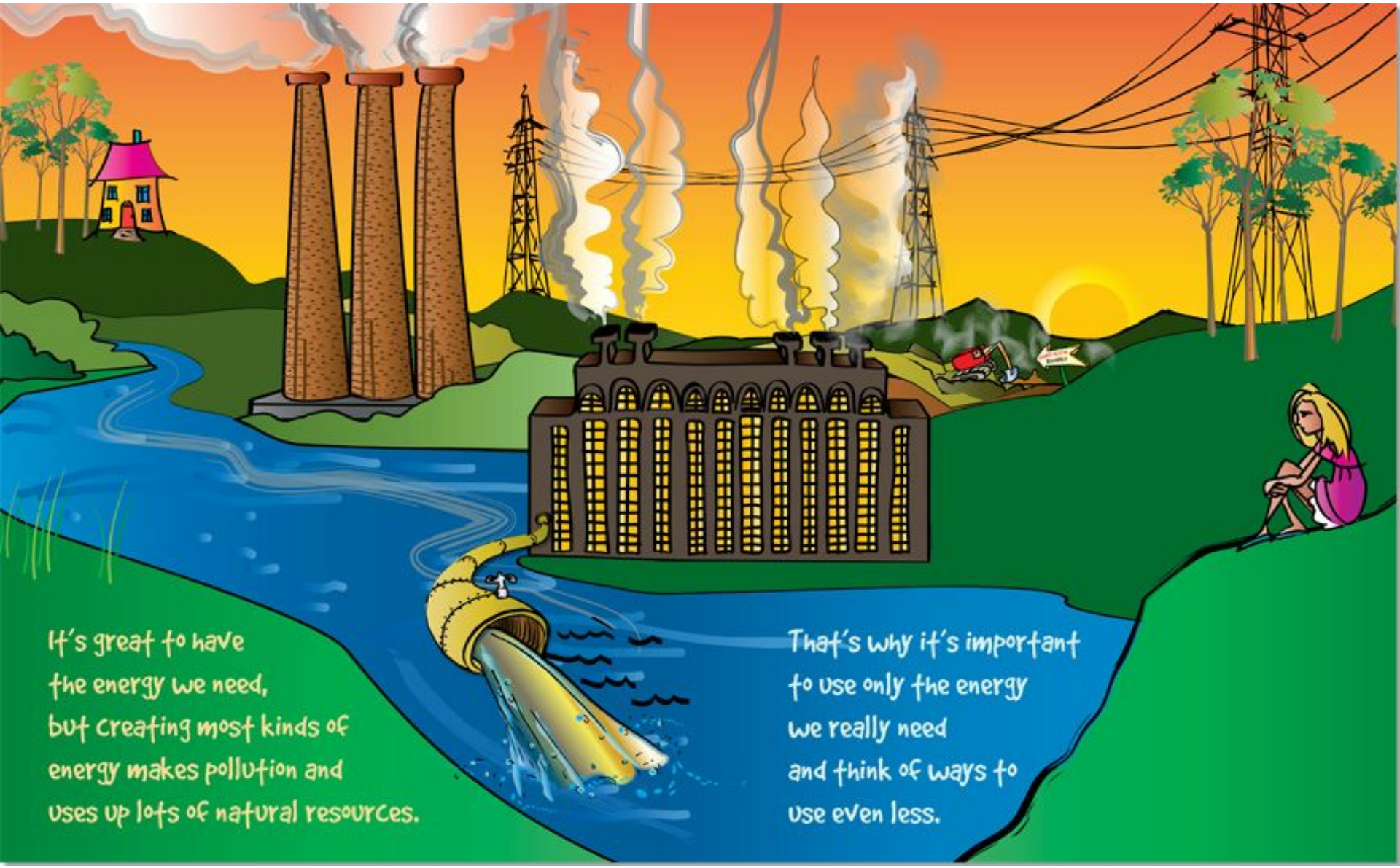
All organisms contain water, some drink it and some live in it.

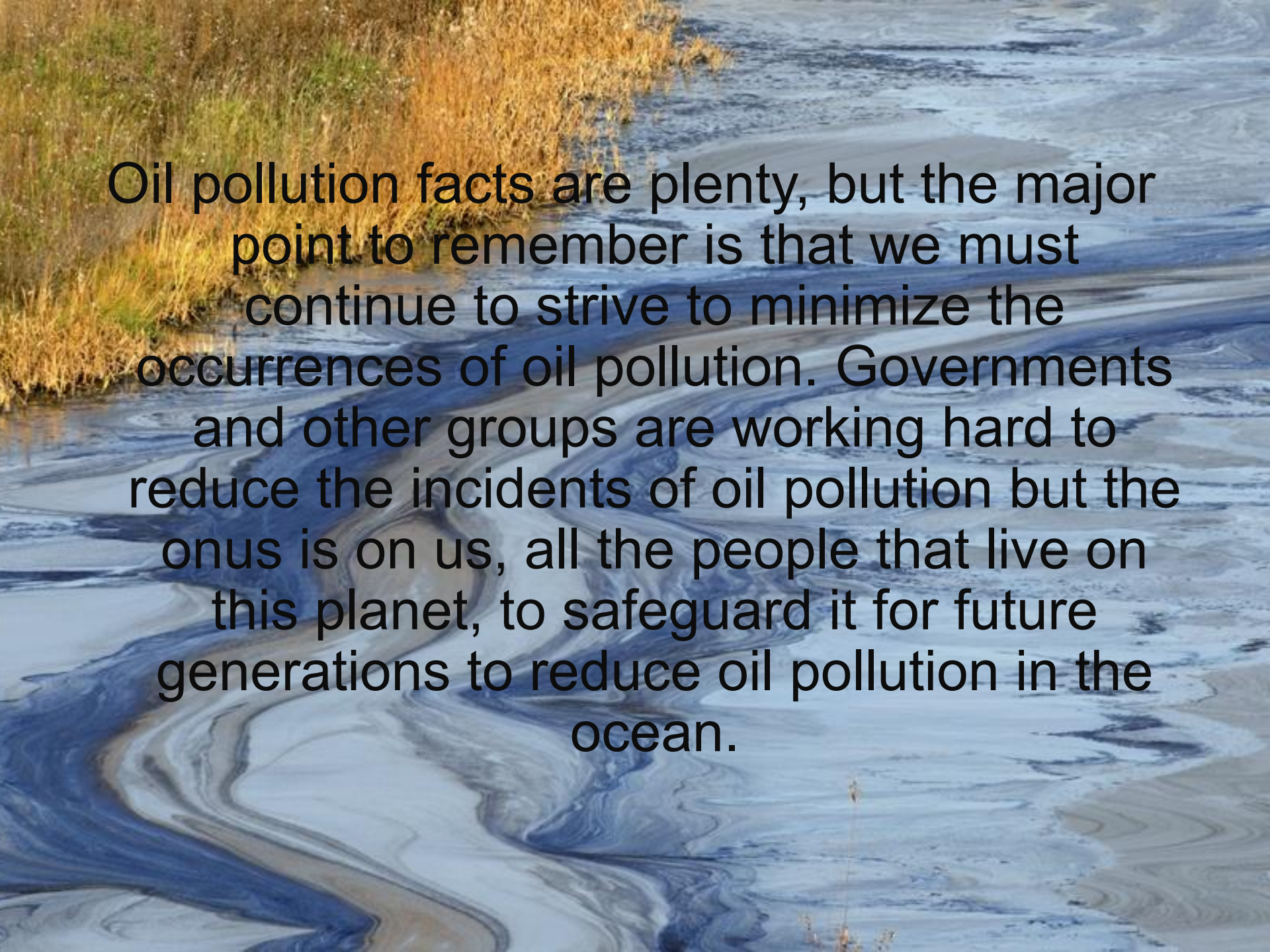


The petroleum products, like oil, fuel, get into water by accidental spills from ships, tanker trucks and when there are leaks from underground storage tanks. Many petroleum products are poisonous for animals. Spilled oil damages the feathers of birds and the fur of animals, often it causes death.

Oil pollution facts

- Oil pollution has a worse effect in the oceans than on land. This is because the ocean cannot absorb oil, and it cannot be dissolved in the water. That means that the oil has no place to go. It spreads over the water at times for hundreds of kilometers depending on how much oil has been released, negatively affecting the ecosystems in its path.
- Oil spills introduce gases to ocean water that change its chemical composition. This change makes the water turn more acidic. This in turn leads to the degradation of fragile ocean habitats like the coral reefs.
- When oil is spilled in the oceans, birds and mammals are also affected.
- The effects of oil pollution can be very dramatic in the short term, but they do not end there. Some long term effects can also be seen in the fish that live in the oceans. Marine biologists have noticed changes such as decreased liver function, slow reproductive and growth rates.
- Though many efforts may be employed to clean up oil pollution in the oceans, there is evidence to suggest that this may take a very long time. The oil may never be fully removed from these ecosystems.
- One of the ways in which oil pollution is cleaned up is to burn it. They try to contain the area that they burn, which is commendable, but this method has negative effects on the habitat of that localised


It's great to have
the energy we need,
but creating most kinds of
energy makes pollution and
uses up lots of natural resources.
That's why it's important
to use only the energy
we really need
and think of ways to
use even less.



Oil pollution facts are plenty, but the major point to remember is that we must continue to strive to minimize the occurrences of oil pollution. Governments and other groups are working hard to reduce the incidents of oil pollution but the onus is on us, all the people that live on this planet, to safeguard it for future generations to reduce oil pollution in the ocean.


STOP OIL POLLUTION