



CLI-FI IN THE CLASSROOM:

Speculative Fiction, Comics, and the Environment

Project Abstract: The impacts of climate change, systemic racism, and environmental injustice have generated a spate of interest in climate fiction (Cli-Fi) to envision a better future. This creative project challenges students to apply Cli-Fi as a subgenre of speculative fiction to imagine a better world through the art of comic books. In this project, students imagine a future in which technological domination over nature and environmental degradation can cease to exist. What might that future look like? How do we get there? Can creative solutions offer new directions? This activity helps visualize a pathway towards a better world. In the process, speculative approaches might speak them into existence.

Wondering how speculative fiction can communicate environmental justice to a broad audience? A comic book example is included at the end of this activity:

Project Description: Through the art of speculative storytelling, this project emboldens students to visualize a future in which climate change, systemic racism, or environmental injustice cease to exist. By developing a fictional story set in the distant future, students are tasked with creating a plot (replete with characters and potential conclusions) to generate hope—particularly as it relates to present-day environmental issues. Through comic book-style sequential art, students will formulate a Cli-Fi comic book project to visualize a more just world. Speculative possibilities are part and parcel with making a better future possible. Learn how on the next page.



Suggested Readings:

Butler, Octavia E. *Parable of the Sower*. Parable Series, Bk. 1. Open Road Media Sci-Fi & Fantasy, 2012; **Bacigalupi, Paolo.** *The Water Knife*. Alfred A. Knopf Publishing Company. New York: Vintage Books, 2016; **Bacigalupi, Paolo.** *The Windup Girl*. San Francisco: Night Shade Books, 2009.



CLI-FI IN THE CLASSROOM:

Create Your Comic Book

Imagine a future that you want to be a part of. Create that fictional world and help your readers imagine what it might look like. The following steps can help you get started.

1. Choose an environmental issue

- a. In this speculative future, this issue will no longer be a threat.

2. Story elements

a. Create a setting

- i. What century does your comic take place in? What year is it? What does this future look like?



b. Create a main character

- i. Who are they? What's their name? What motivates them? What challenge are they facing? How are they helping make the world a better place?

3. Plot

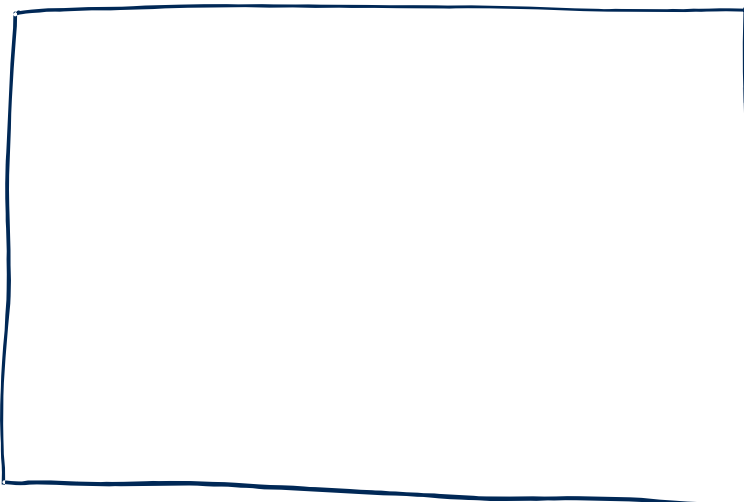
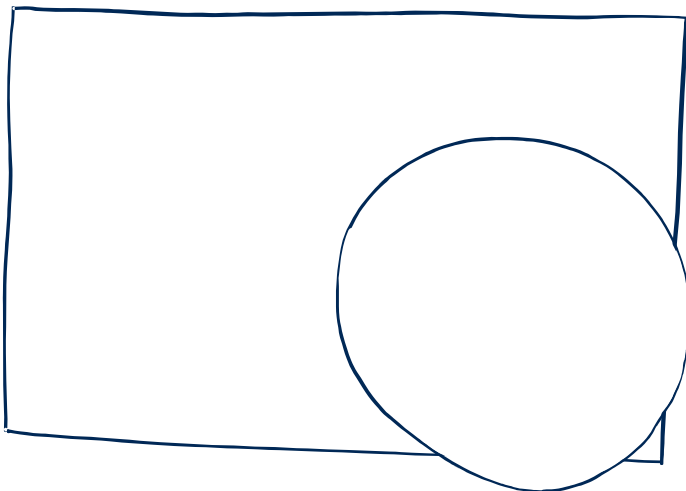
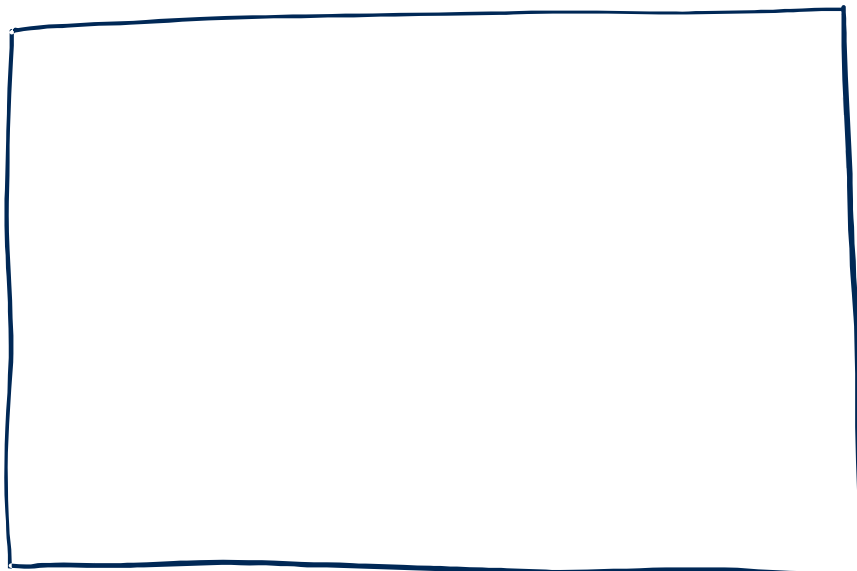
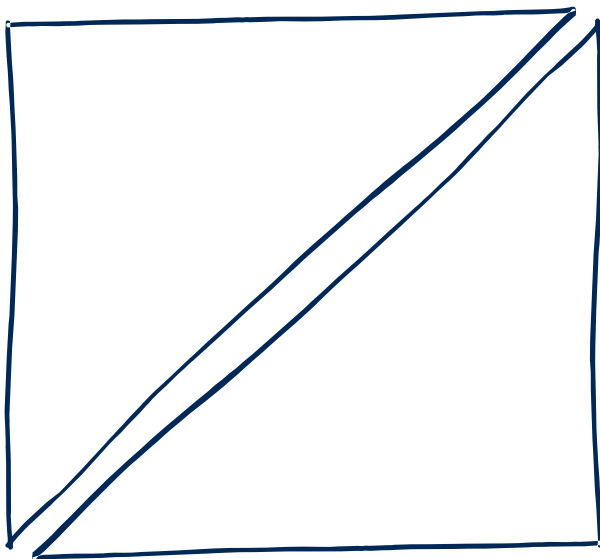
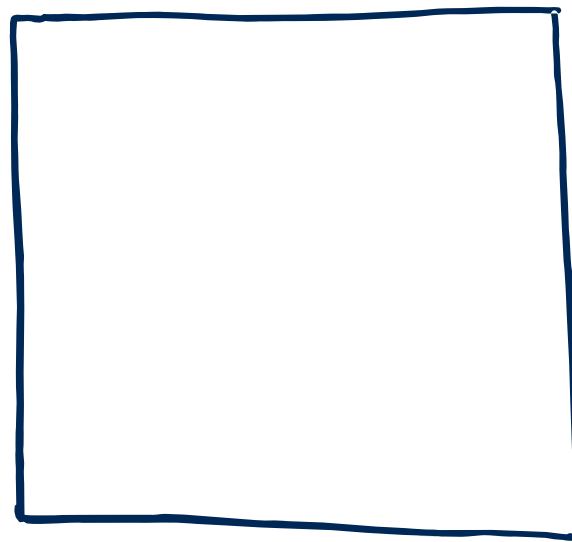
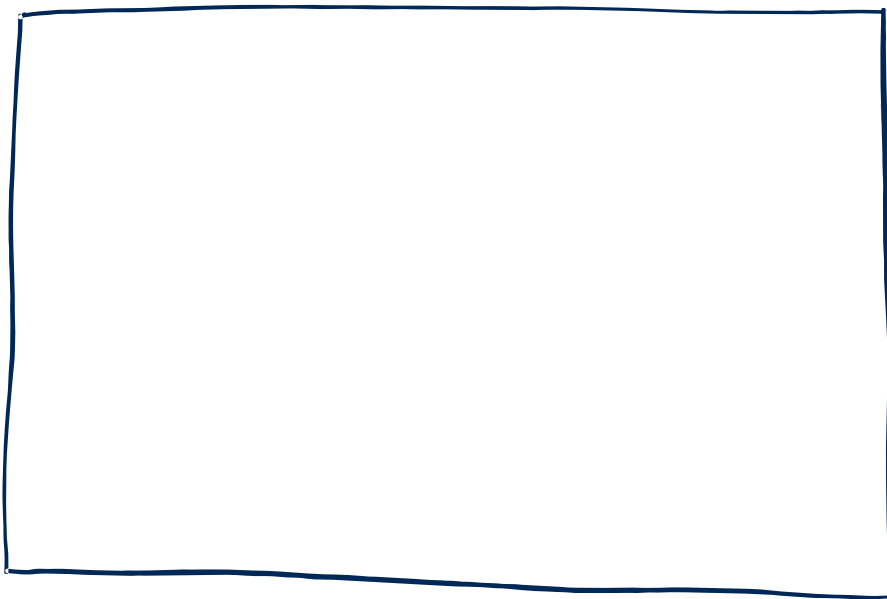
- o Page 1: Introduction
 - Show how the environmental issue has impacted a particular area.
- o Page 2: Rising Action
 - How do characters work against environmental degradation in the story?
- o Page 3: Climax
 - What challenges do they face in that process?
- o Page 4: Falling Action
 - Do they succeed? Do they not succeed?
- o Page 5: Resolution or Catastrophe
 - Is the environmental issue addressed? What might that world look like? What can we learn from this?

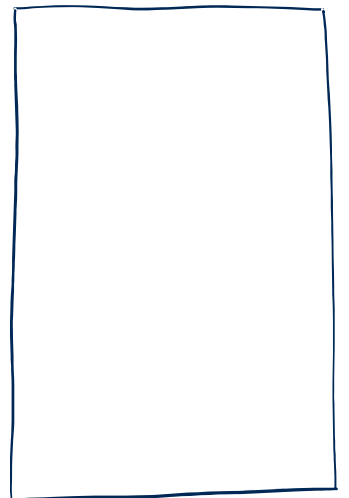
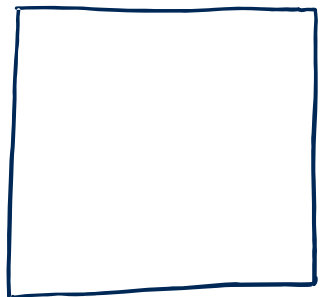
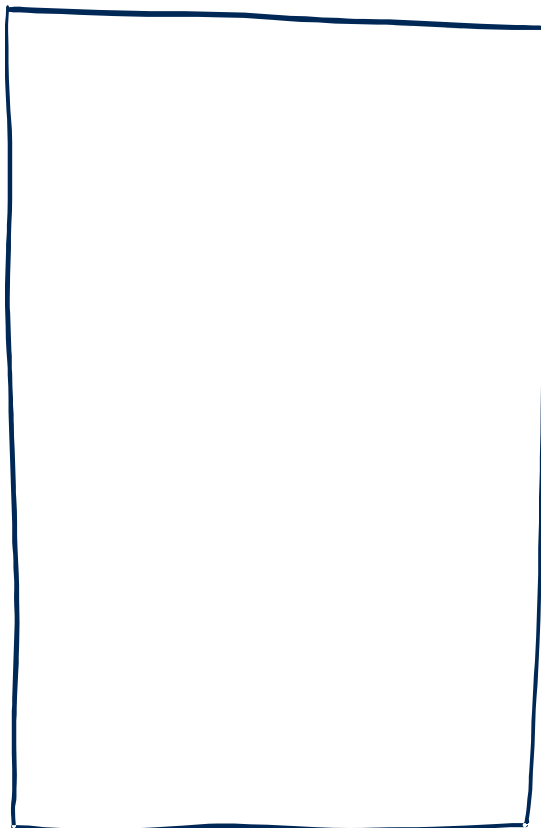
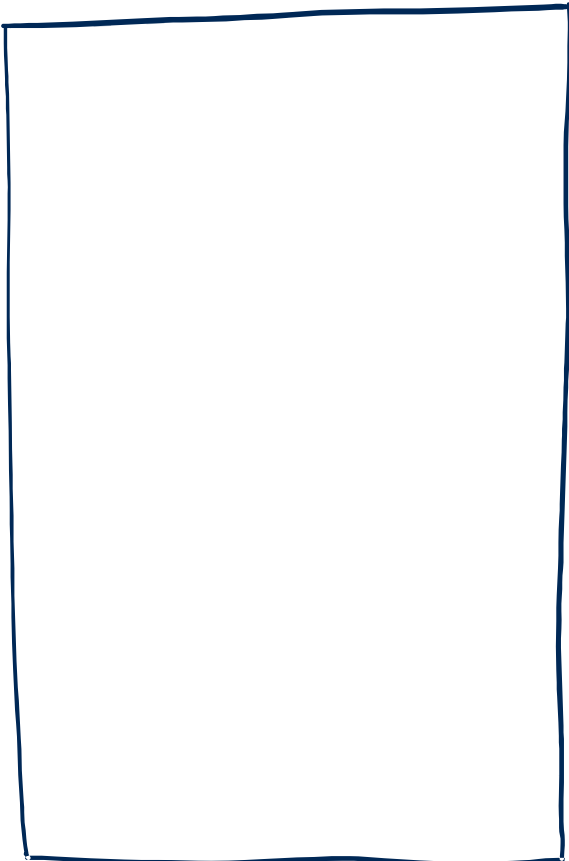
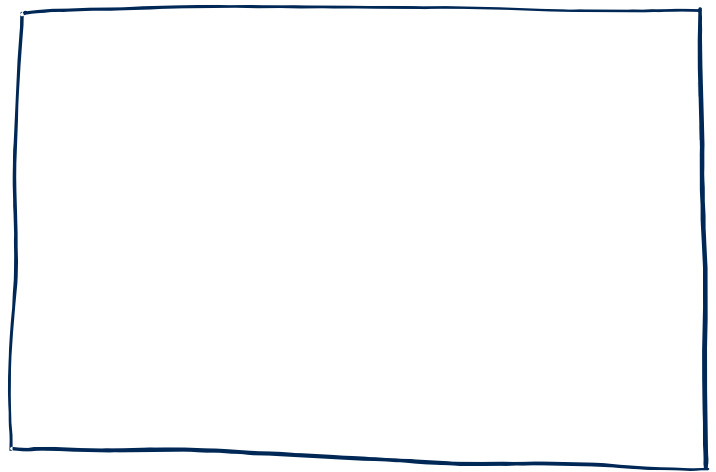
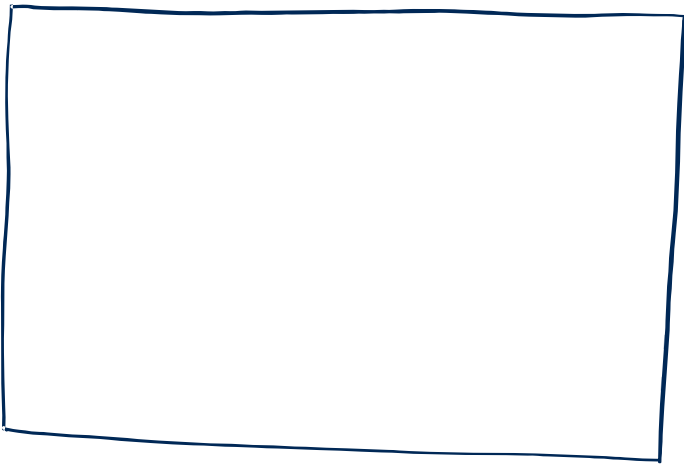
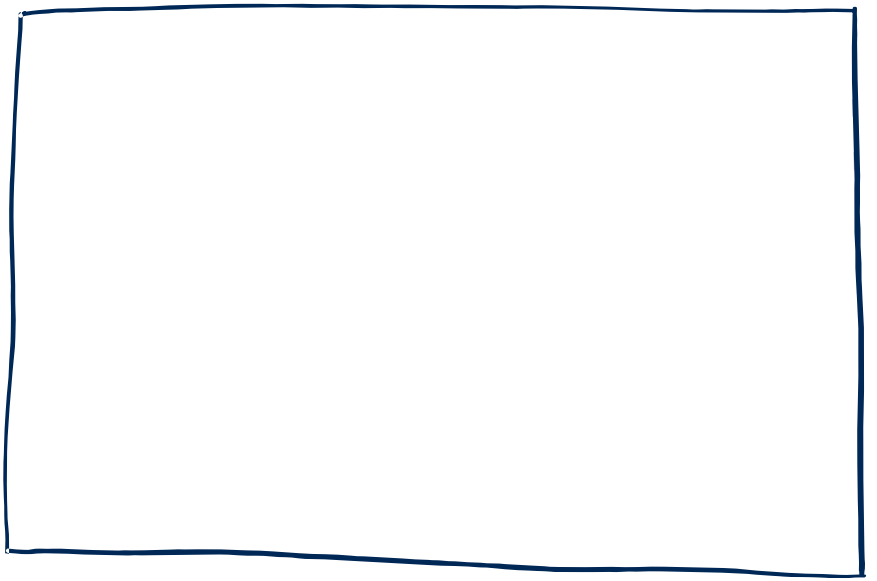
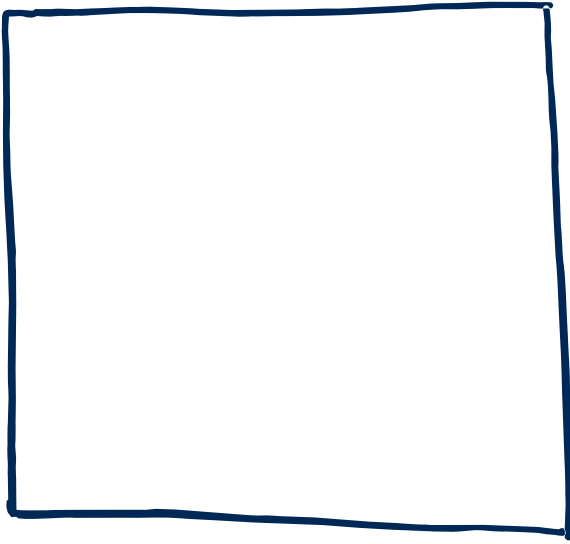
4. Storyboarding

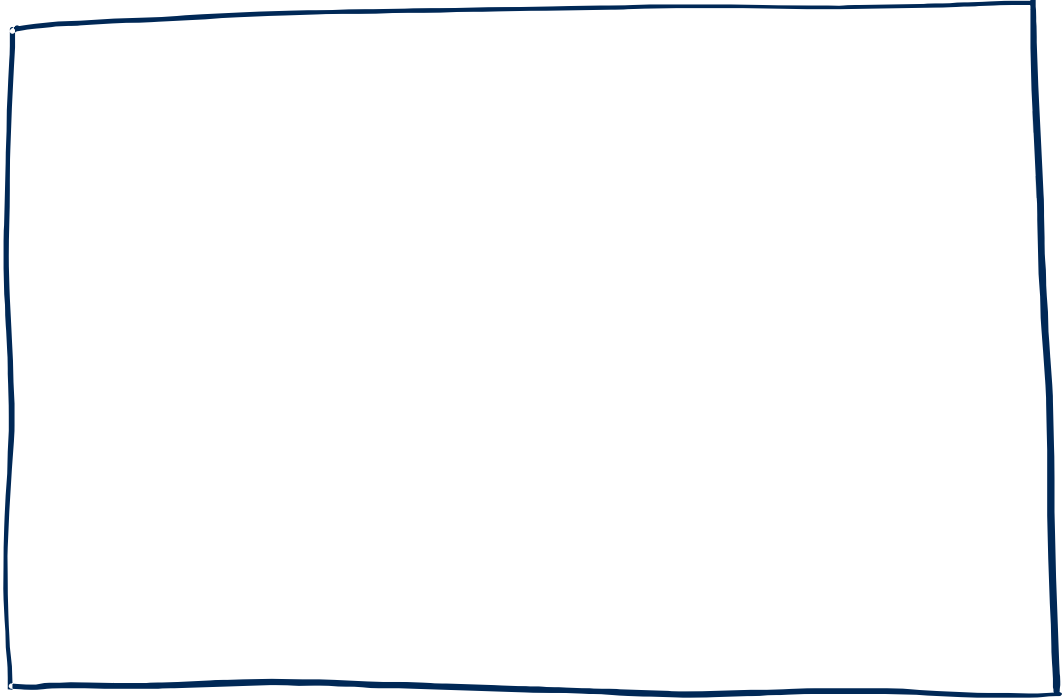
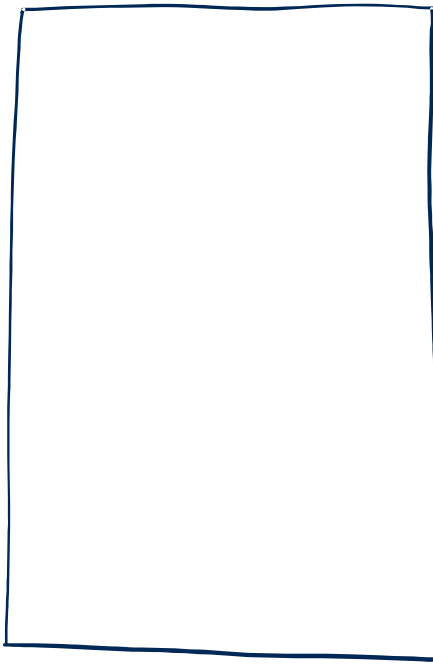
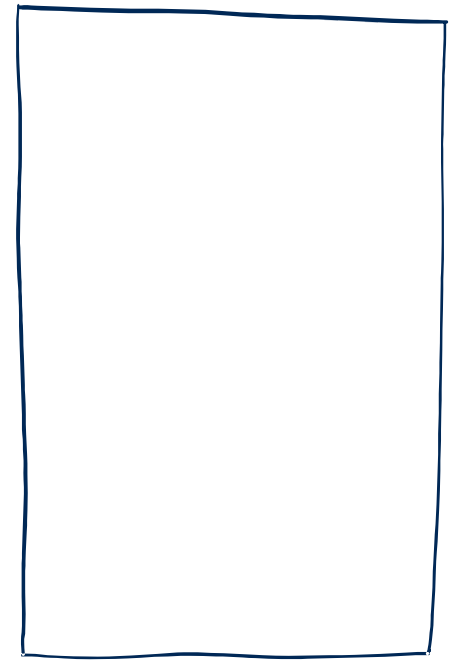
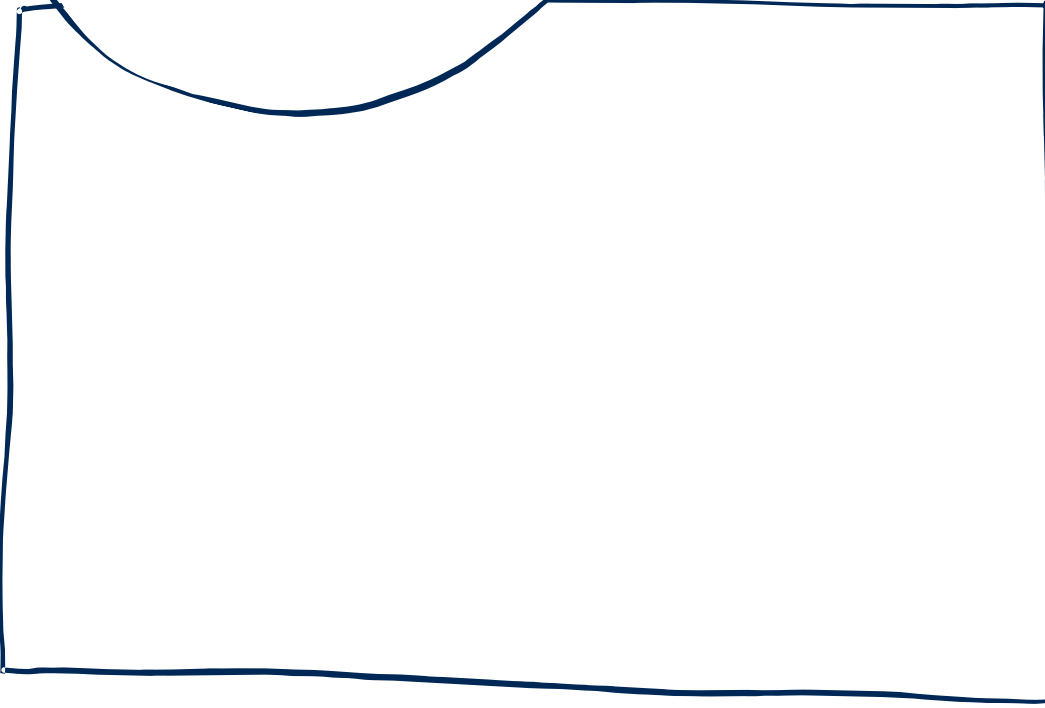
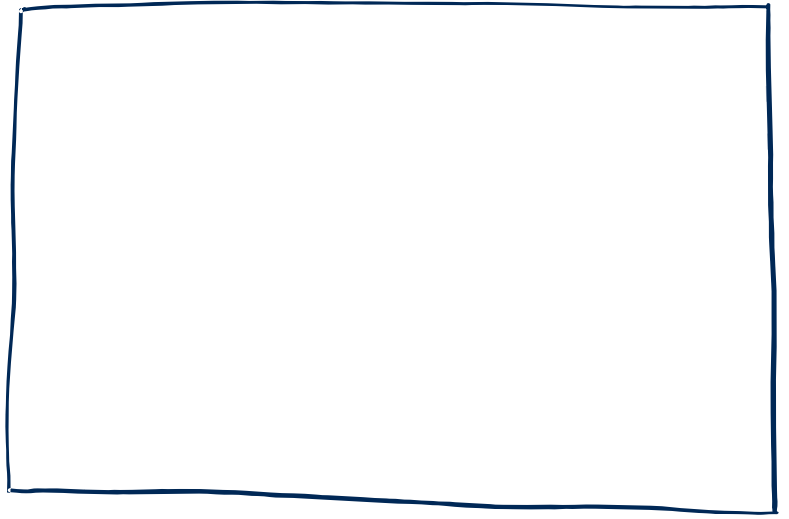
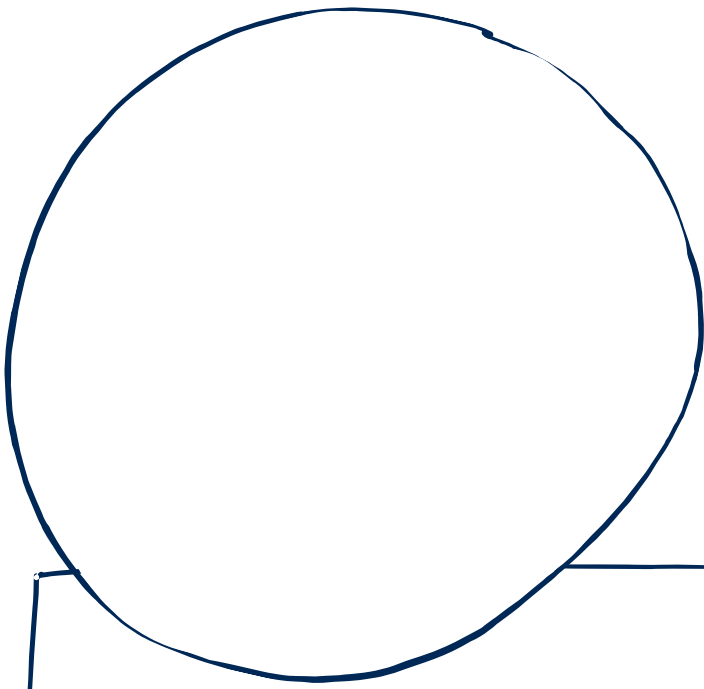
- a. Use the storyboard on the following pages to illustrate the process above.
 - b. Use your art skills to tell the story, but also include voice bubbles for characters to speak.
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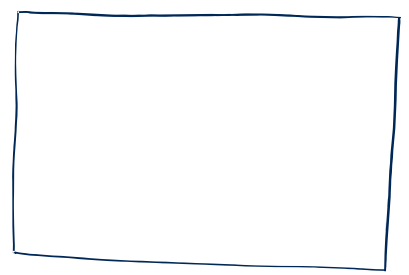
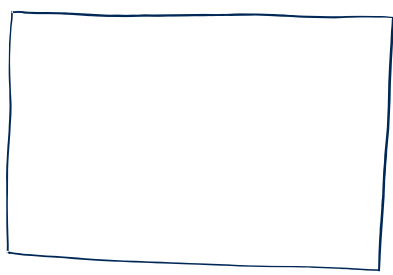
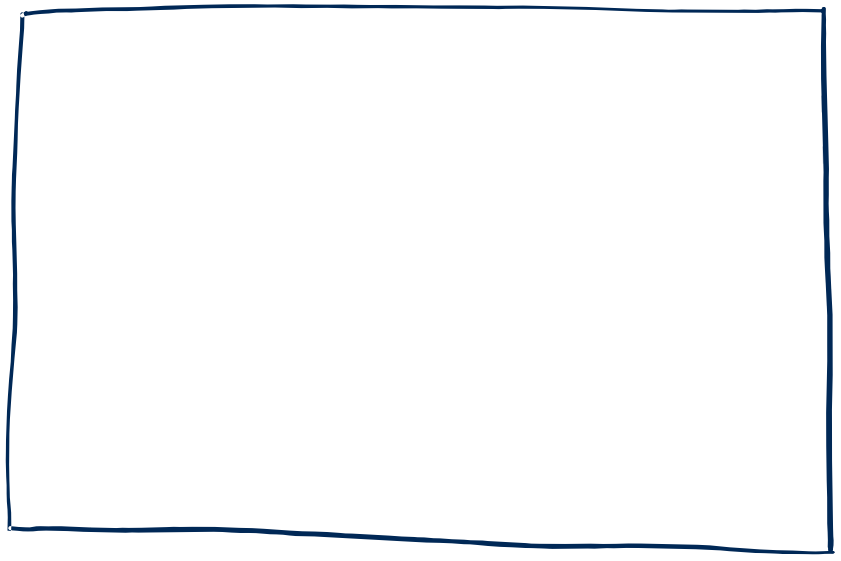
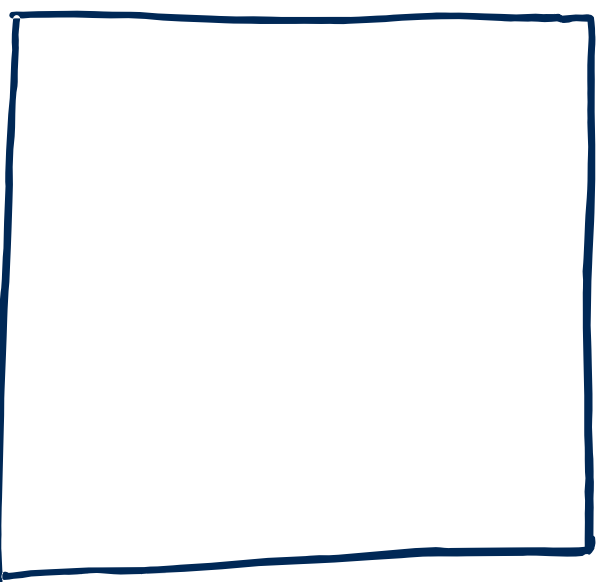
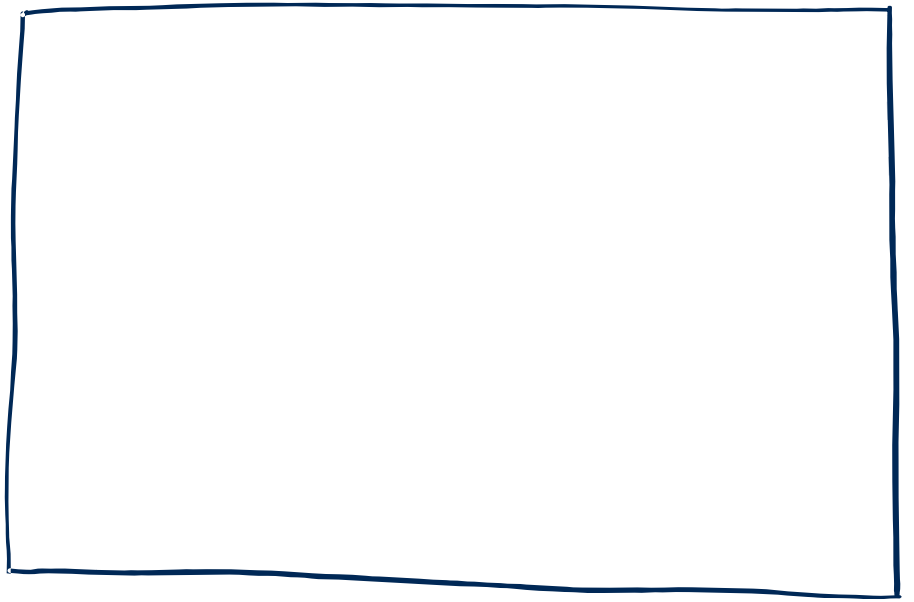
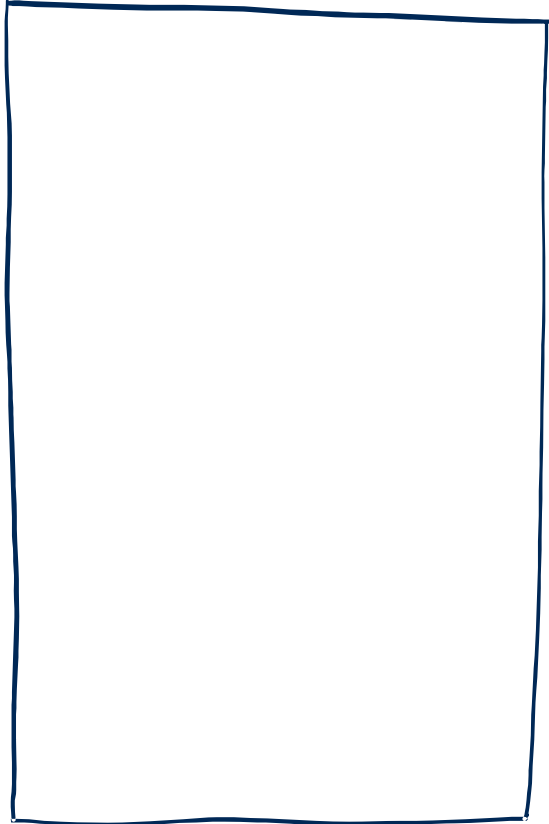
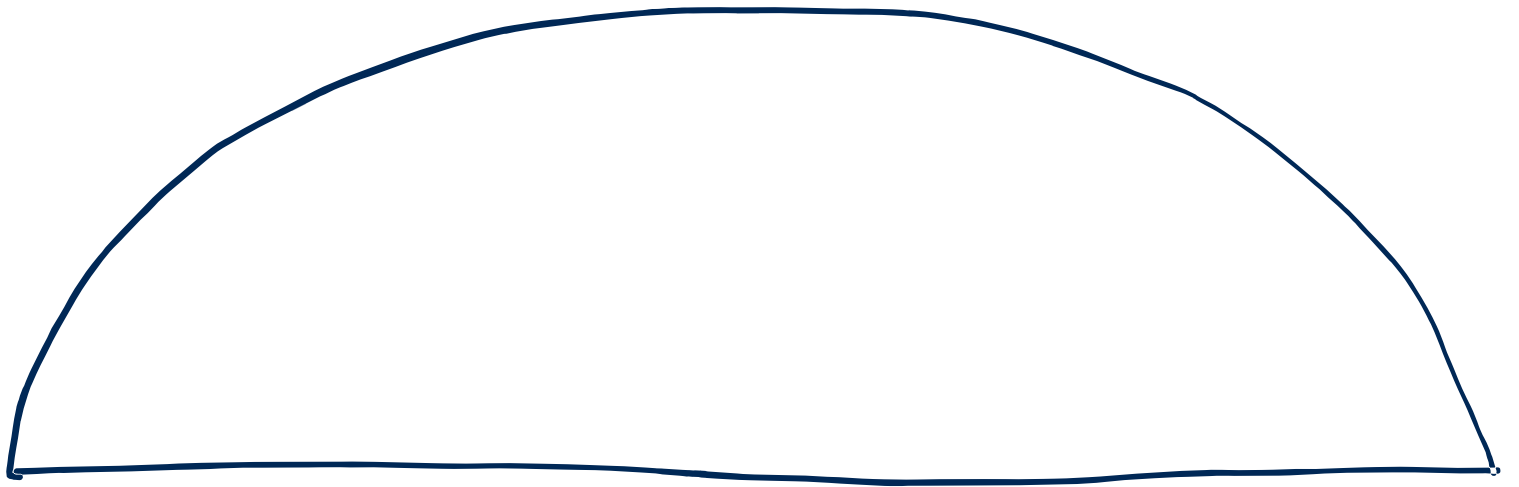
CLI-FI COMIC BOOK STORYBOARD

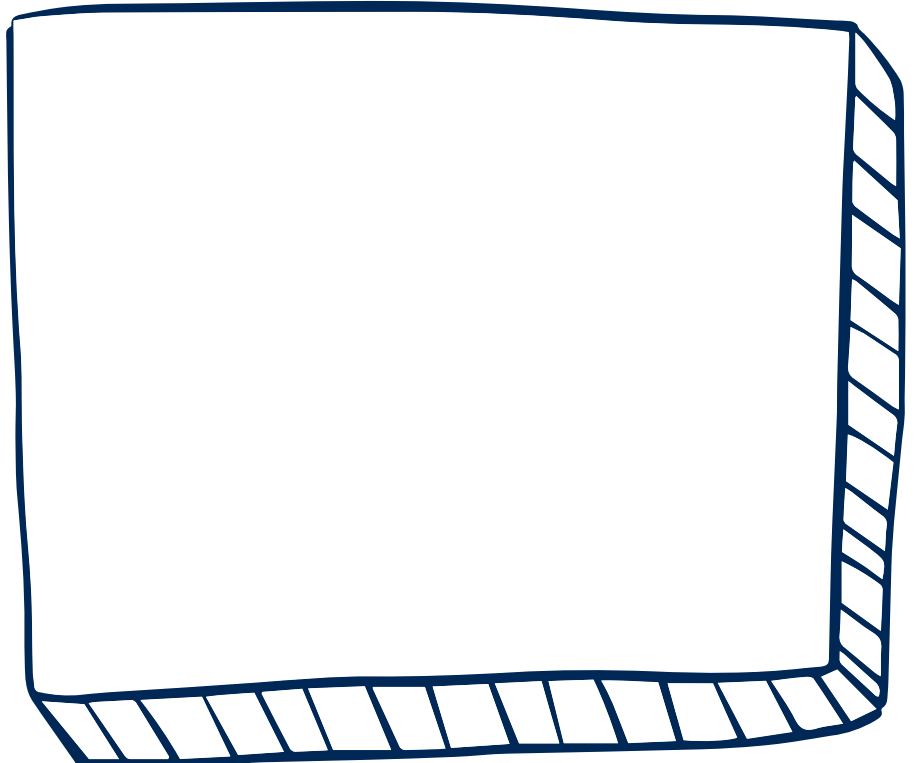
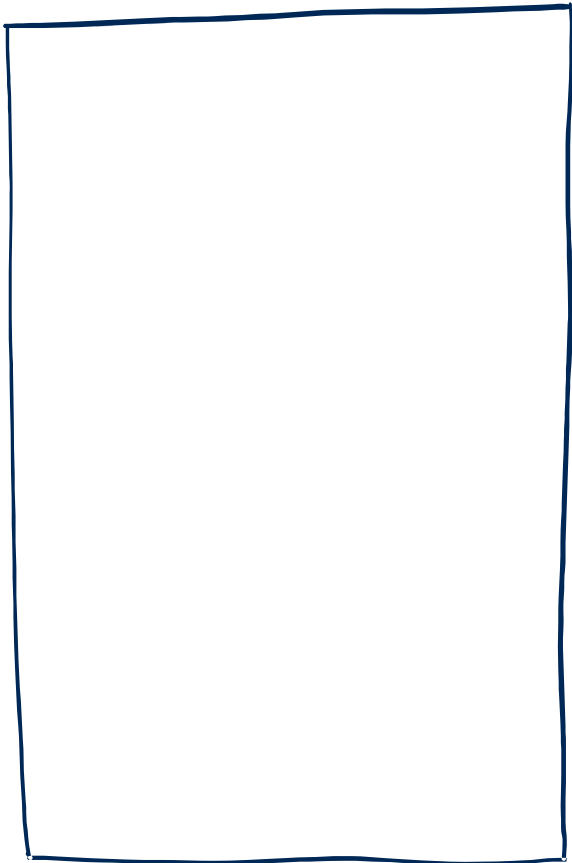
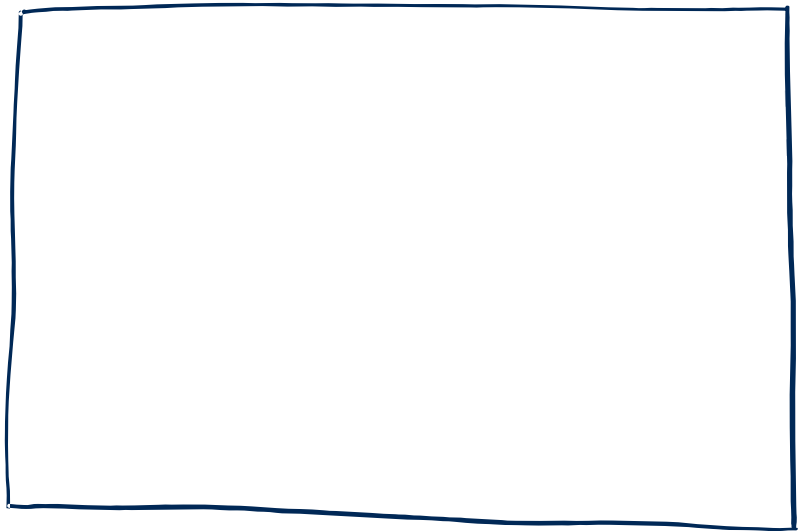
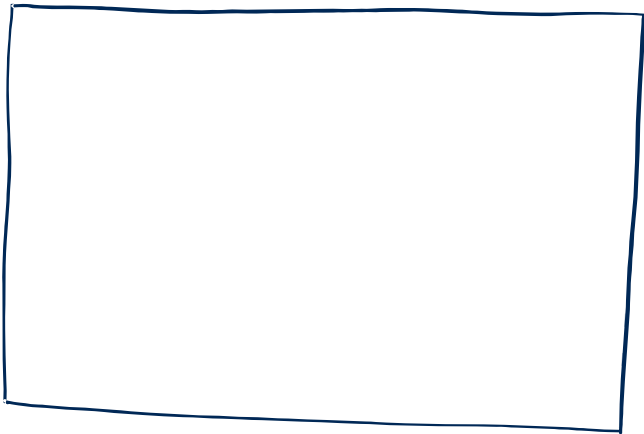
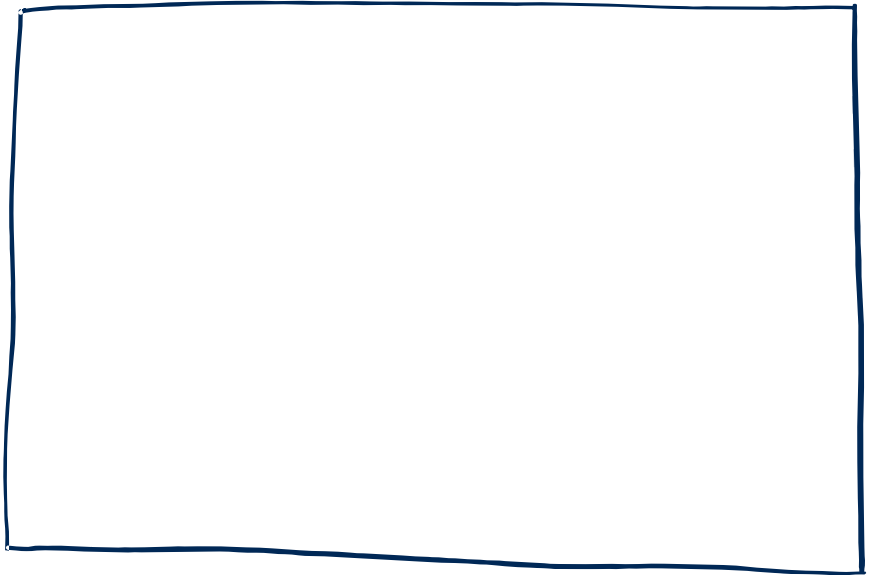
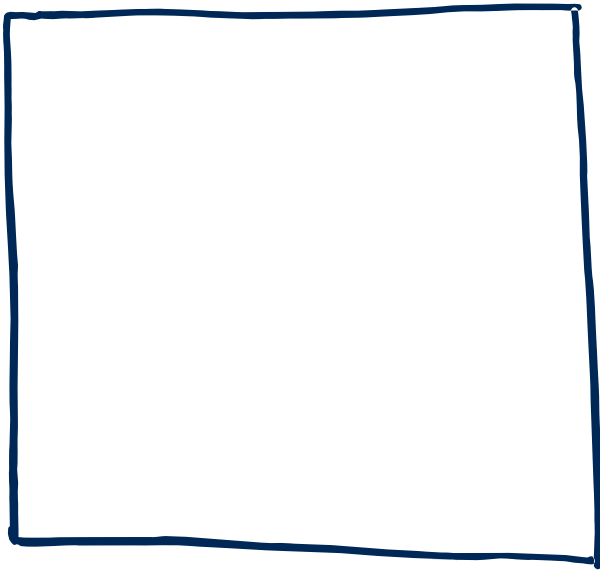
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THIRSTY FOR CHANGE

SED POR CAMBIO

- A visual guide to getting involved in water politics -
Una guía visual sobre cómo involucrarse en la política del agua



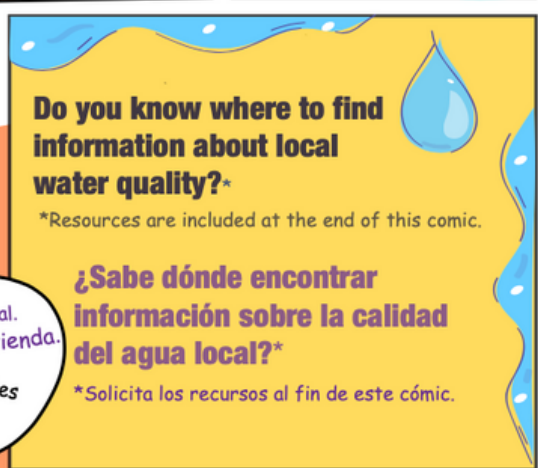
Written by: Ivan Gonzalez-Soto

Illustrated By: Jazz Diaz

Delagua, California

The Central Valley / El Valle Central

One hot summer... / Un verano caluroso...



*Resources are included at the end of this comic.

***Solicita los recursos al fin de este cómic.**

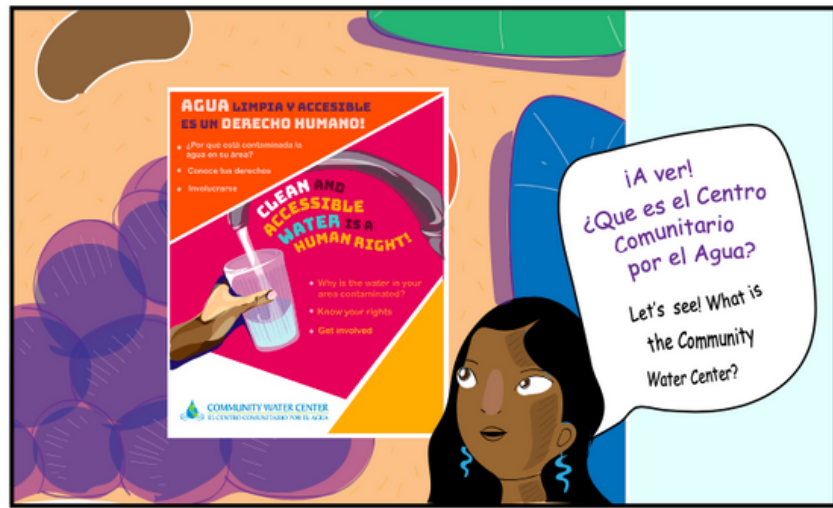




**At the market...
En el mercado...**



¡Mira mamá dice "el agua es un derecho humano!"
Look mom it says, "water is a human right!"



¡A ver!
¿Que es el Centro Comunitario por el Agua?
Let's see! What is the Community Water Center?



¿Tal vez ellos sepan porque está contaminada el agua? ¡Vamos!
Maybe they know why the water is contaminated? Let's go!



No lo sé.
¿Por qué ir?
El agua en nuestra comunidad es mala. Así es como es.
I don't know. Why? The water in our area is bad—that's just how it is.



¡Podemos averiguar por qué!
We can find out why!



¿Cuándo es la junta?
When is the meeting?
¡Vamos! Dice que tenemos derecho a saber. Let's go! It says we have a right to know.

