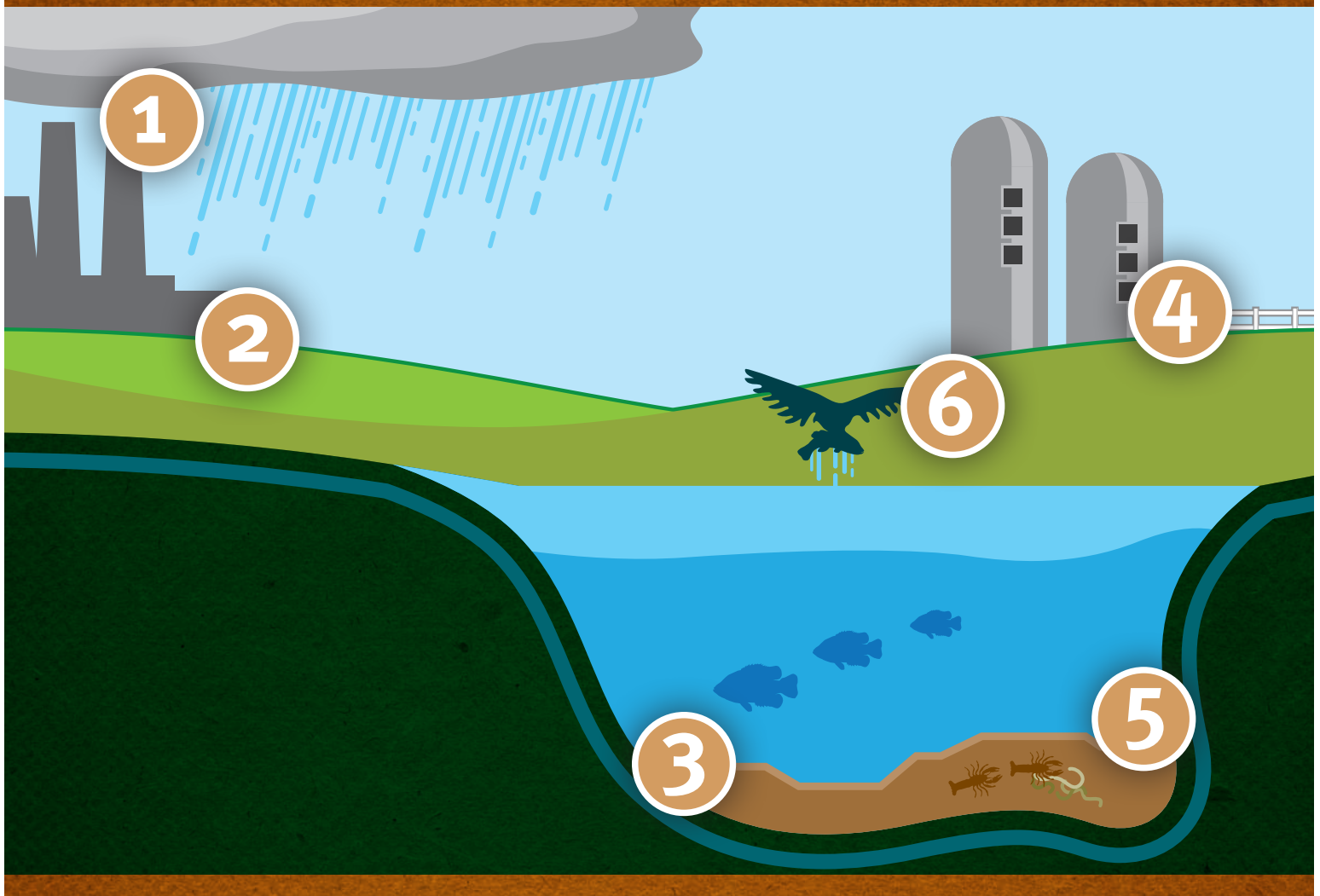


HOW MERCURY MOVES IN THE ENVIRONMENT



- 1** Mercury is introduced into the environment by humans from sources such as fossil fuel (coal) burning, fungicide use, mining and manufacturing.
- 2** Mercury may be released to soil through atmospheric deposition or by spills.
- 3** Mercury can then migrate into different environmental compartments or media (surface water and sediments).
- 4** Mercury has many molecular forms, some of which can accumulate in animals. Sewer outfalls, agricultural runoff, and general environmental pressure from increases in population may change conditions in the river and the mercury form.
- 5** As mercury moves through the food chain, it continues to accumulate in animal tissue.
- 6** Fish ingest aquatic animals, and mercury accumulates in fish tissue over time. Mercury can accumulate in human and wildlife tissues if they eat the fish.

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