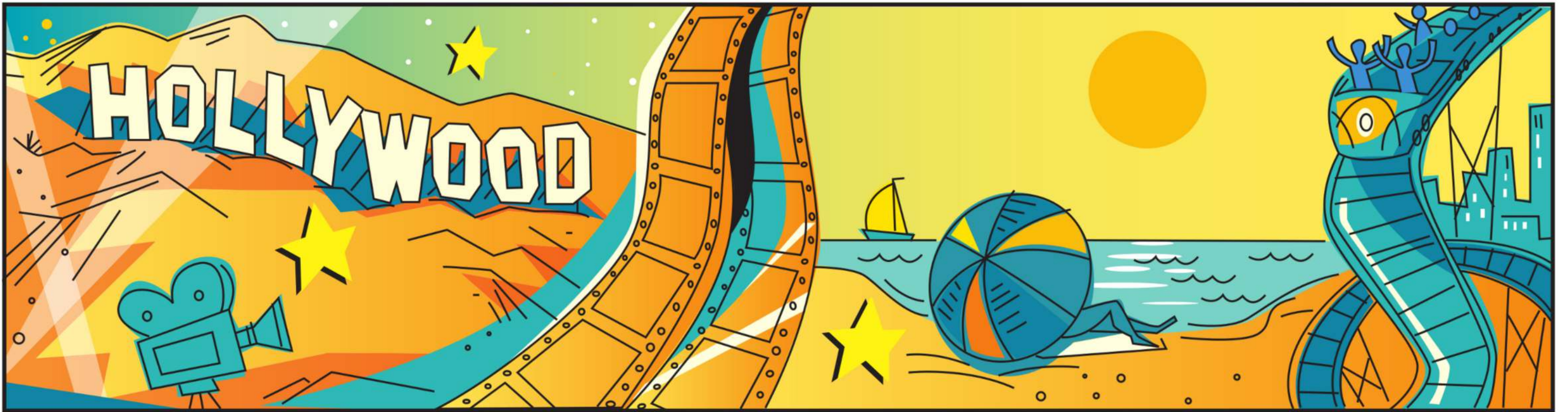




CAMP SMART with 'CERTIFIED' FIREWOOD

Aponi has spent the entire summer with her cousins in southern California – amusement parks, movie stars, the beach...it's been a big adventure and they've decided to wrap it up with a weekend camping trip to a nearby state park!



The day before they leave, Aponi's uncle mentions that he saw a pile of wood on the curb in front of someone's house on his way home from work. "Maybe we could swing by on the way out of town and ask if we can take it for our campfire?"



Aponi remembers seeing some trees being taken down while they were visiting one of the nearby public parks a few weeks earlier...



The groundskeeper explained that the trees were dying because they had been attacked by a tiny new beetle called the Invasive Shot Hole Borer.

She was amazed to see how **TINY** the beetle's exit holes were!



HOLD ON!!

What if the pile of wood that you saw is infested with the same thing?!



Aponi suggests that they look for heat-treated firewood instead, as that would kill any wood-boring insects.



The next morning they call the campground and the ranger gives them the name of a place nearby that sells it.



They stop by the camping supply shop on the way to the park...



...and the owner points out the certified firewood label on each of the bundles. They know they've made the right choice!



That night, as they tell ghost stories around the campfire, they can enjoy their s'mores even more knowing that they didn't introduce a dangerous pest to the forest.