

Protect our environment

MEASURING HUMAN IMPACT

YOU WILL NEED:



A METRE-RULE OR TAPE MEASURE



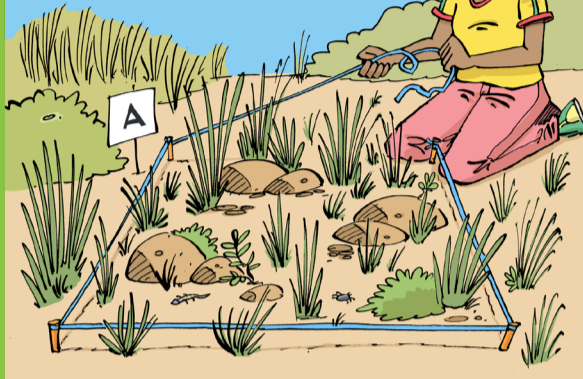
SOME STICKS AND STRING



PAPER AND PEN/ CLIPBOARD

1 WHAT TO DO:

LOOK NEAR YOUR HOME OR SCHOOL TO FIND AN AREA THAT HAS NOT BEEN CHANGED MUCH BY HUMAN ACTIVITY. (IT SHOULD LOOK AS NATURAL AS POSSIBLE). CALL THIS AREA **A**.



2

FIND ANOTHER AREA THAT HAS BEEN CHANGED A LOT BY HUMAN ACTIVITY (NEAR A BUILDING, FOR EXAMPLE). CALL THIS AREA **B**.



3

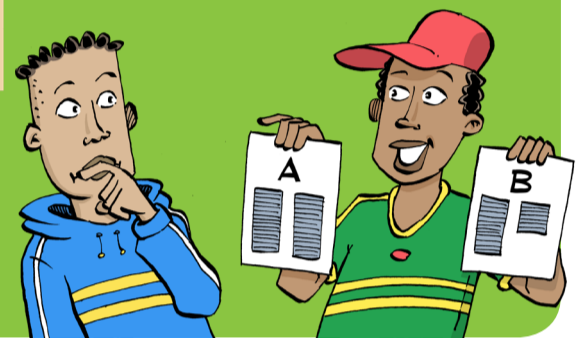
USE A METRE RULE OR A TAPE MEASURE TO MEASURE OUT A SQUARE 1M X 1M IN AREA **A**. USE STICKS AND STRING TO MARK OUT THE AREA. DO THE SAME FOR AREA **B**.

4

MAKE A LIST OF ALL THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES THAT YOU CAN FIND IN EACH AREA.



WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE NUMBER OF PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES IN **AREA A** COMPARED TO THOSE IN **AREA B**?
WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THE **IMPACT** OF HUMAN ACTIVITY ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF THESE AREAS?

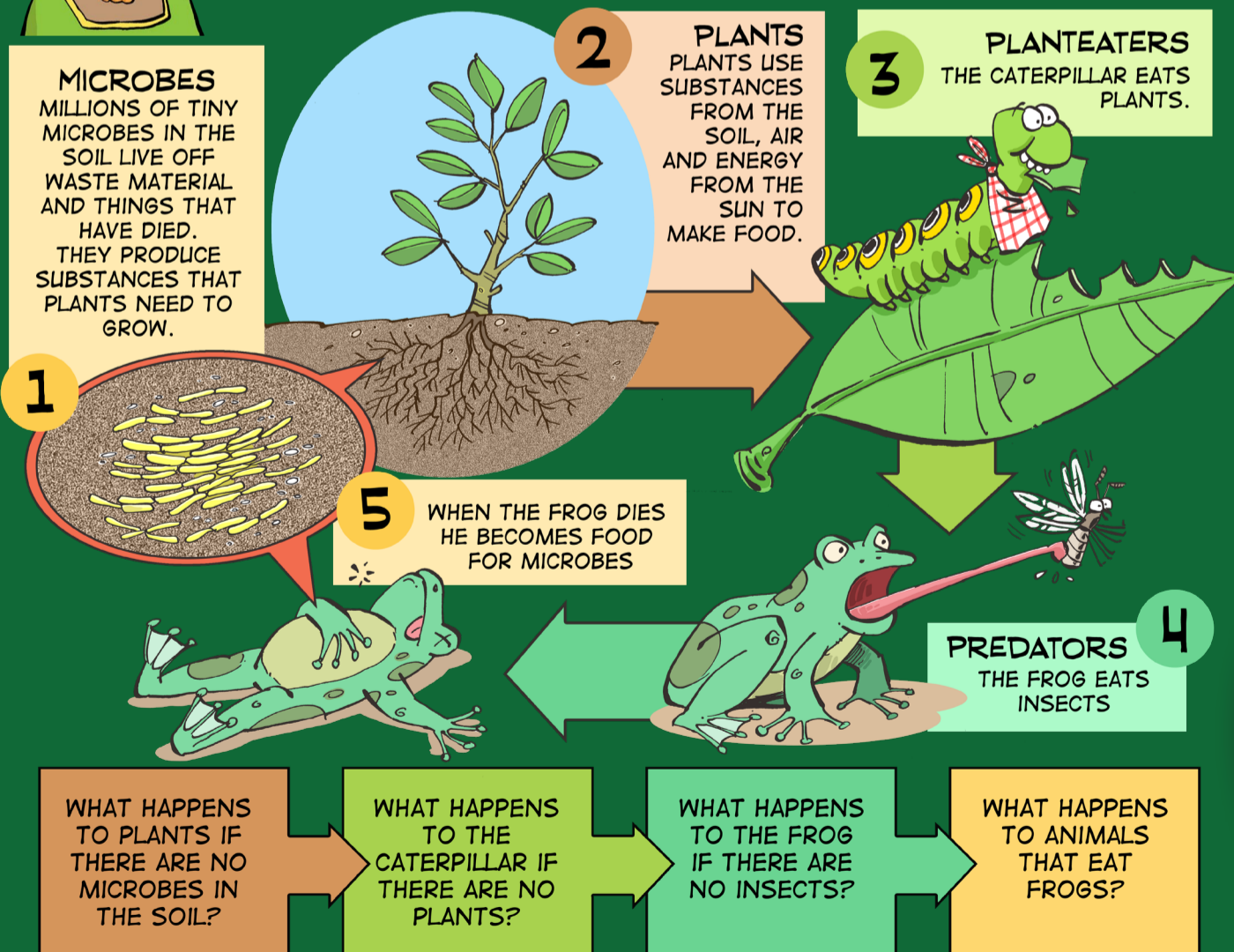


WHAT'S HAPPENING HERE?



YOU PROBABLY NOTICED THAT THERE ARE MORE KINDS OF PLANTS AND ANIMALS IN THE NATURAL AREA THAN IN THE AREA AFFECTED BY HUMAN ACTIVITY.

IN A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT, MANY DIFFERENT PLANTS AND ANIMALS LIVE TOGETHER AND DEPEND ON EACH OTHER. HERE IS A SIMPLE **FOOD CHAIN**.



IN NATURE THERE ARE MANY FOOD CHAINS LINKED TOGETHER TO MAKE A NETWORK. ALL THE LIVING THINGS DEPEND ON EACH OTHER, SO THE **NETWORK** CONTINUES YEAR AFTER YEAR. WE SAY IT IS **SUSTAINABLE**.

WHEN ANIMALS OR PLANTS ARE REMOVED FROM AN AREA, OTHER SPECIES THAT DEPEND ON THEM DIE. THIS **REDUCES THE BIODIVERSITY** OF THE ENVIRONMENT.



BIO- = LIFE

DIVERSE = DIFFERENT

BIODIVERSITY = NUMBER OF DIFFERENT LIVING THINGS THAT LIVE TOGETHER IN A SUSTAINABLE NETWORK

Reduce . Reuse . Recycle . Recover

GOOD GREEN DEEDS

Are you making a difference?

Section 24 of the South African Constitution states:
"Everyone has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being."