



CAN YOU DIG IT?

by Raye Lankford



MARTHA SPEAKS™



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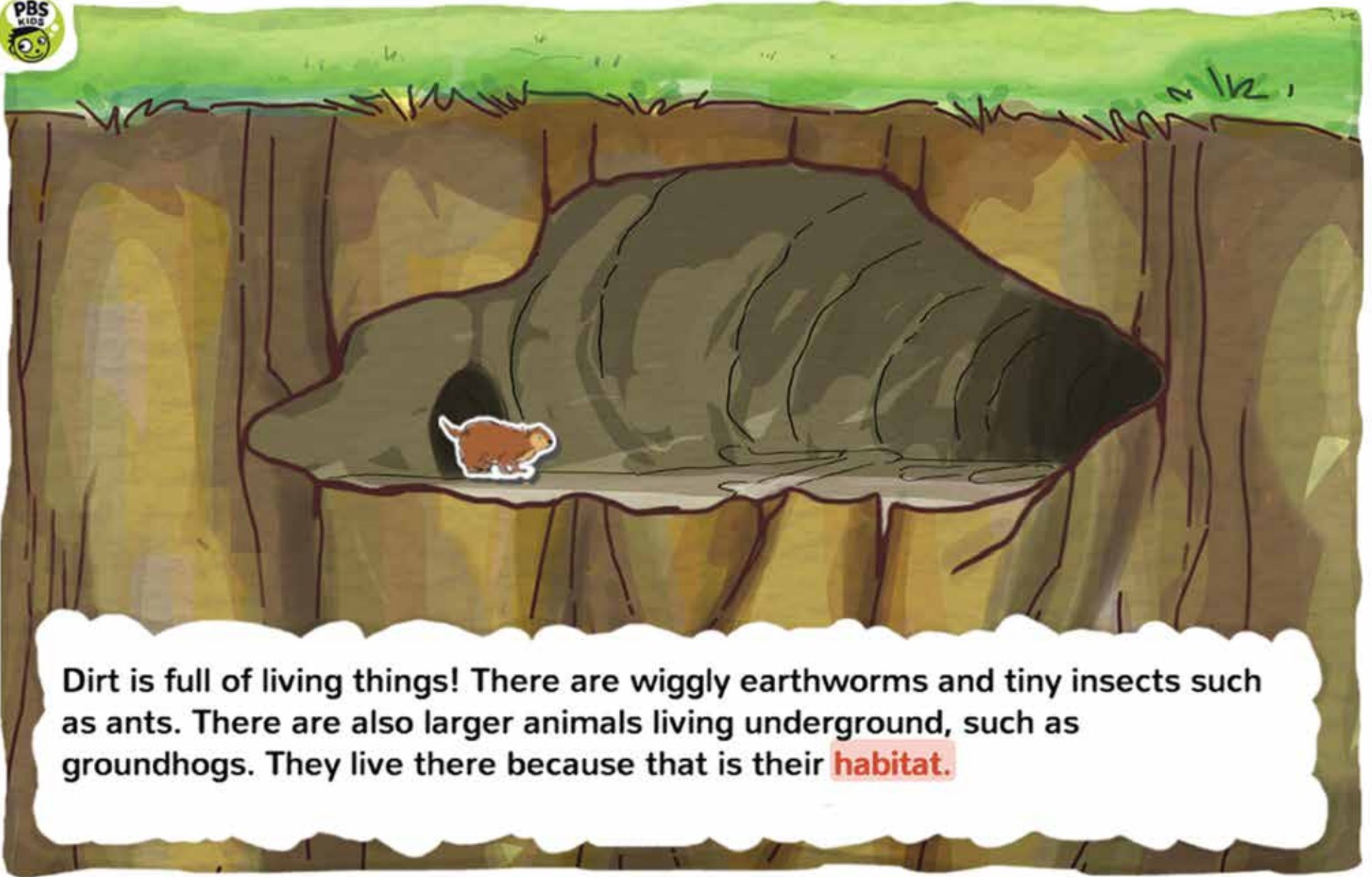
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Did you know there are all kinds of **creatures** living right underneath you? It's true! You just have to dig a little to see them!

creatures: a creature is something that's alive. It's a living thing.

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Dirt is full of living things! There are wiggly earthworms and tiny insects such as ants. There are also larger animals living underground, such as groundhogs. They live there because that is their **habitat**.

habitat: a habitat means a place where things live.

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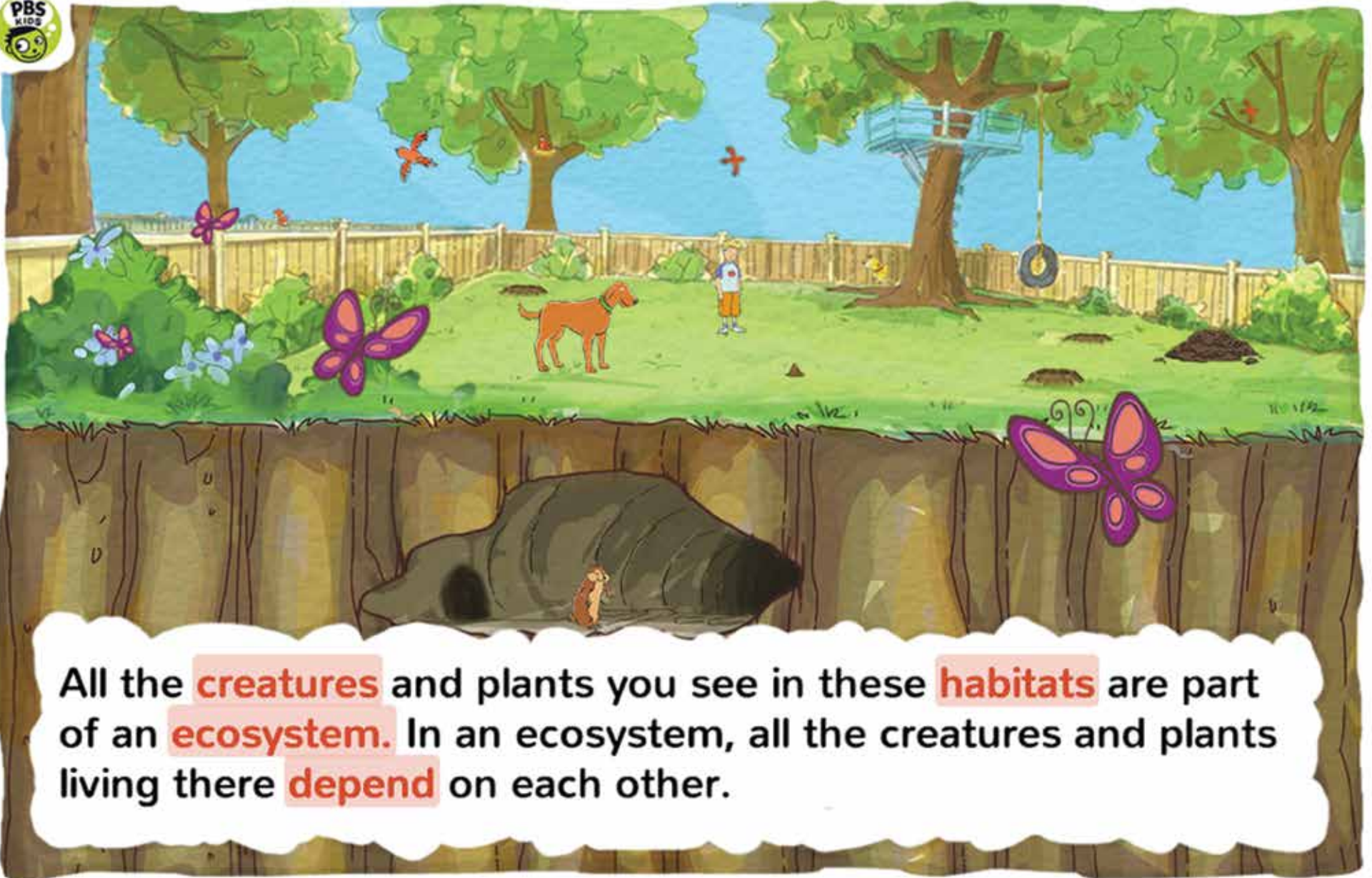
Other **creatures** have **habitats** above ground. You might **observe** squirrels collecting nuts or birds making nests in trees. You might even spot bees and butterflies flying around flowers.

creatures: a creature is something that's alive. It's a living thing.

habitat: a habitat means a place where things live.

observe: when you observe something, it means you watch it closely or see it happen.

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All the **creatures** and plants you see in these **habitats** are part of an **ecosystem**. In an ecosystem, all the creatures and plants living there **depend** on each other.

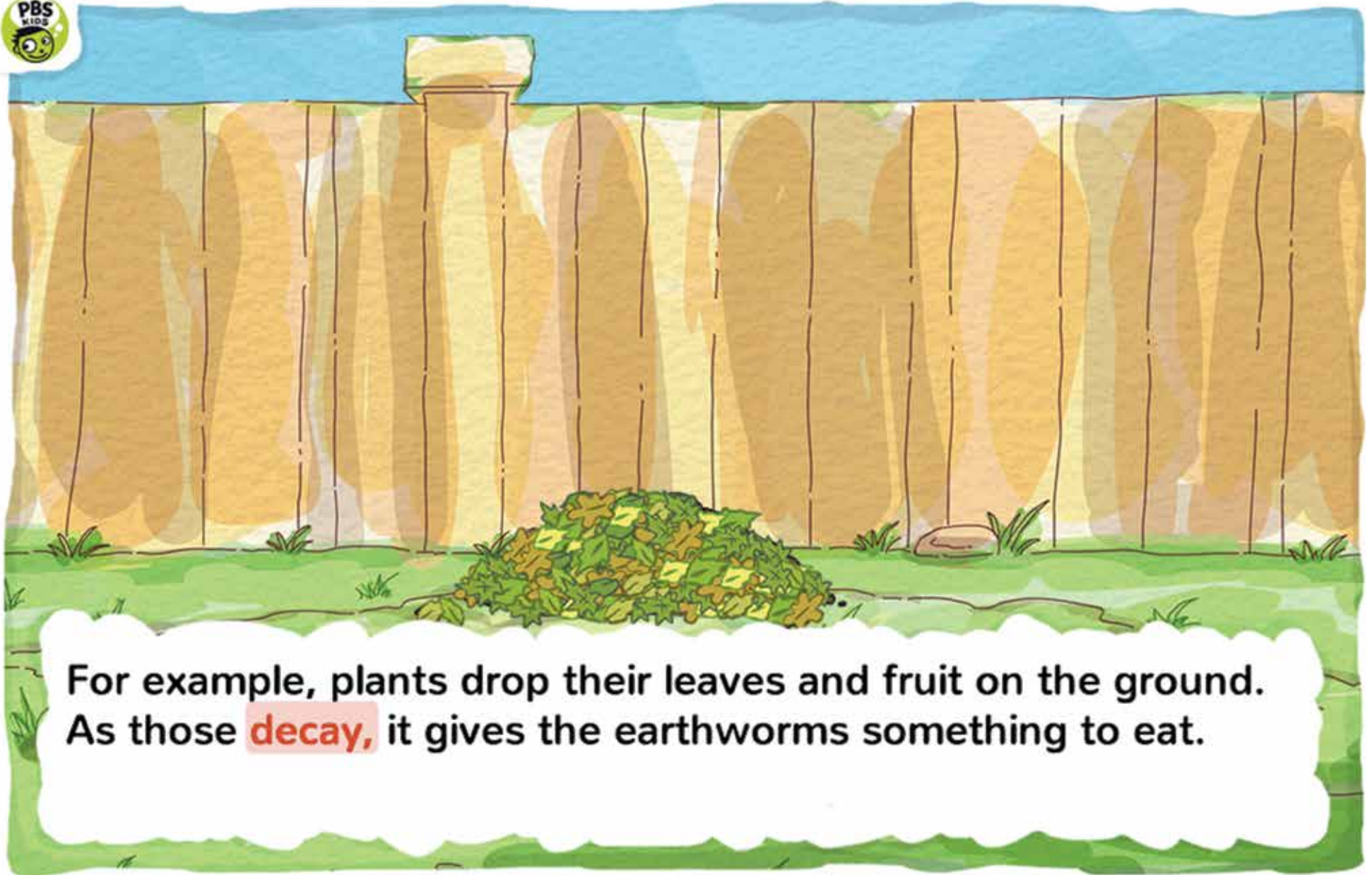
creatures: a creature is something that's alive. It's a living thing.

habitat: a habitat means a place where things live.

ecosystem: ecosystem is short for ecological system. It means all the living things and non-living things found in a particular area.

depend: when you depend on something it means that you need help from it.

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For example, plants drop their leaves and fruit on the ground. As those **decay**, it gives the earthworms something to eat.

decay: when something decays, it breaks down into smaller and smaller pieces until its gone.

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The earthworms and insects **fertilize** the soil, which helps the plants grow. Who knew that worms could be so useful!

fertilize: when you fertilize plants it means you add things to the dirt to help plants grow stronger.

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But earthworms aren't the only ones who **fertilize** things! You can fertilize your garden by making a **compost** pile.

fertilize: when you fertilize plants it means you add things to the dirt to help plants grow stronger.

compost: when you compost, you put food or yard scraps in a pile and let them break down.

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Then the plants grow vegetables and fruit that you get to eat.



There are ecosystems everywhere! What kinds of **creatures** can you **identify** in an **ecosystem** near you?

creatures: a creature is something that's alive. It's a living thing.

identify: when you identify something it means you know what it is and can name it.

ecosystem: ecosystem is short for ecological system. It means all the living things and non-living things found in a particular area.

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