

# Meet the Earth

**NIEA** Northern Ireland  
Environment Agency  
[www.ni-environment.gov.uk](http://www.ni-environment.gov.uk)



◀◀◀◀ Name: \_\_\_\_\_





Congratulations!

You have started on your adventure to  
meet and care for the Earth.

Good luck in all you do.



## How we treat the Earth.

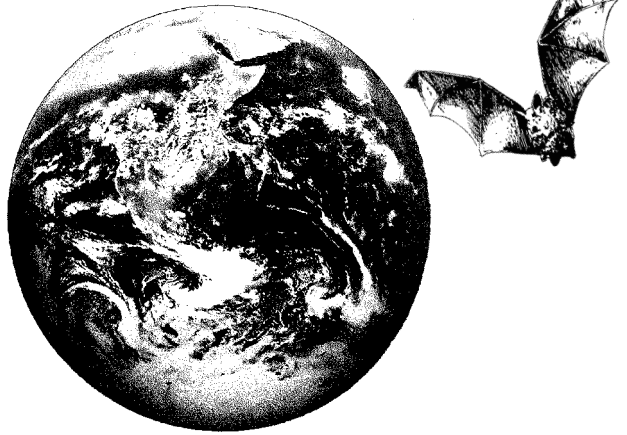
Could you now think of 3 more things that you and the rest of your class could do to help the environment, when you are at home or in school?


As a class you could plan how you are going to stick to doing these things. Maybe you could add three more next term and three more the term after that and.....

# Meet the Earth...



Is a special programme  
to encourage you to  
think about;



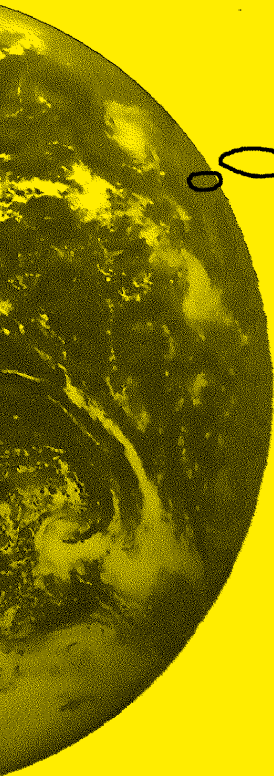
**M- Me** Each one of us this is  
where our adventure starts

**E- Earth** This is where we live  
and where our adventure takes place  
Planet earth provides all living things  
including us with everything that we  
need to survive

**E- Explore** This is what we  
must do if we want to learn about and  
experience this incredible planet and all  
the amazing things that exist on it

**T- Together** We are all in  
this together and if we want to have  
real power to make a difference on our  
planet we must all work as a team





Can you think of any reasons why planet Earth is so special?

Here are 5 things that we believe make the earth unique.

1. **Life.** Earth is the only planet that we know of so far that has life on it.
2. There are the **Ingredients for life.**
3. **Mysterious Processes** that make life possible.
4. **Change;** the earth is constantly changing, it is dynamic!
5. **People, us!!**

Read on to learn more about these 5 special things.

## How we treat the Earth.

Ok. Now lets think about how we are already part of the solution.

Can you list one or more things you do already to help the environment?


Excellent

Well done! You could plan out how everyone in your class could try hard to do these things.



Can you find out what these symbols mean?

# People. How we treat the Earth.

Can you list at least 3 or more things that you or people in your class do that might create problems for the environment?


Well done

You know figuring out what the problem is, is the vital first step in learning how to solve it!

# Life - Biodiversity.



- Biodiversity simply means the variety of **all living things** on our planet.  
Just think of all the plants and animals that you know!
- Scientists now know of **1.7 million** that they can name!
- In Northern Ireland we can name **22 000 living things** so far!
- The exciting fact is that **scientists discover new living species every day** and they believe that there might be many millions of different living things on planet earth that we could still discover.  
**There is still so much to explore!**

# Life. Can you list 10 living things?

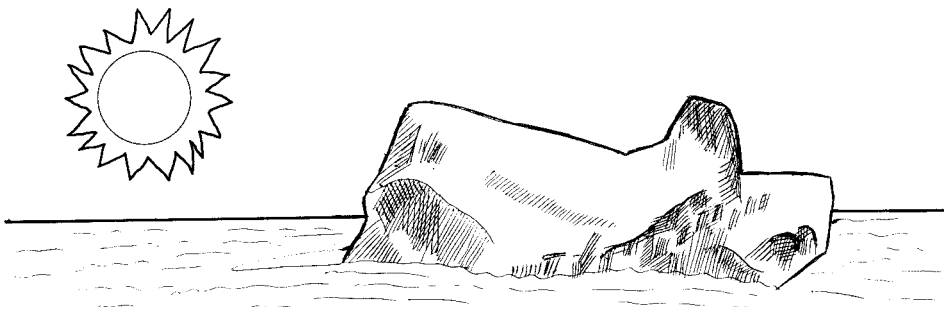
Which habitats did you explore on your visit?

.....

.....

Make a list of the living things you saw or heard...


Could you find out more about these things?



## Change.

Unfortunately not all change is good. Some change can be bad. At the minute the earth is going through changes which are happening so rapidly, many plants and animals cannot adapt to them. Here are two examples:

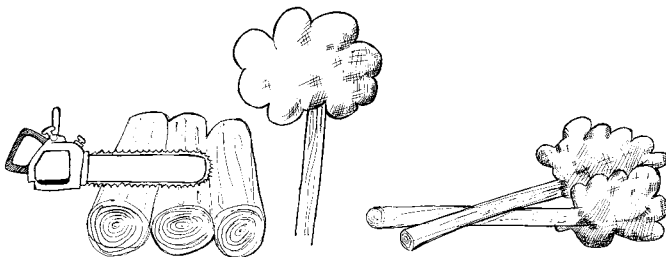
### Climate Change.

- Many scientists now believe that the climate of our planet is changing.
- Most of these scientists believe that humans are responsible for this climate change because we burn too many fossil fuels-like coal or oil.
- Scientists believe that global warming may cause the ice caps at the North and South poles to melt, sea levels to rise, and further changes in our climate.

### Habitat Destruction.

There are many different types of habitat on Earth. Rainforests provide thousands of living things with a habitat but people are destroying this.

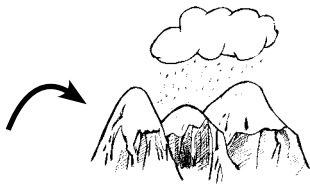
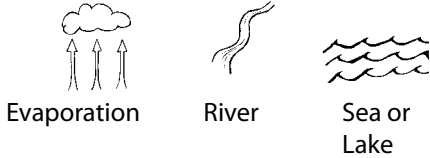
- Can you find out what people are doing to the rainforest? Why are they doing this? Is it legal?
- Peatland or bog is one of our most special habitats in Northern Ireland! Can you find out what is happening to this habitat? (See [www.peatlandsni.gov.uk](http://www.peatlandsni.gov.uk))



# Change

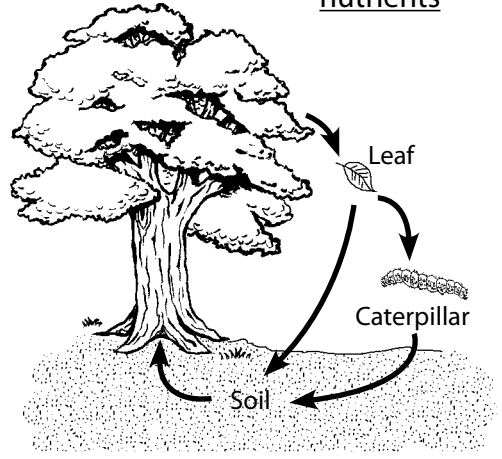
Change happens naturally in our environment every single day. This natural change is good and it is vital to the survival of many species of living things.

Use these symbols to complete the cycle



Water Cycle

Rotting releases nutrients



Life Cycle of a Butterfly

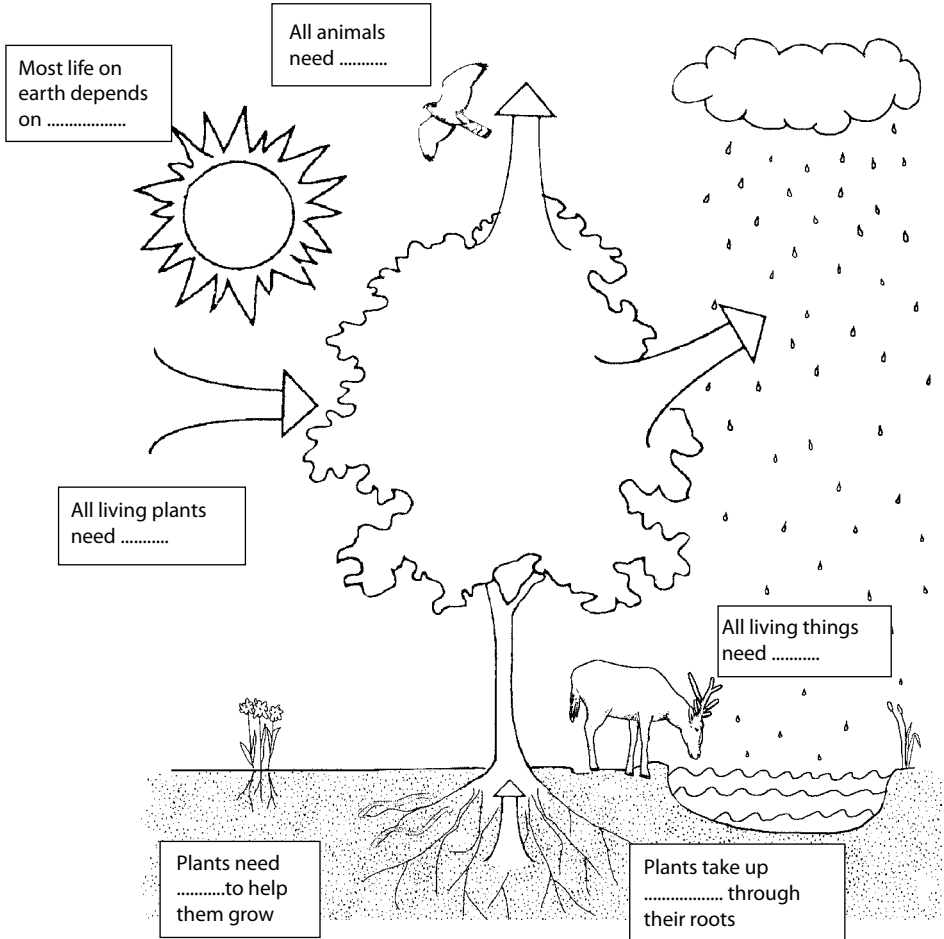
Use these symbols to complete the cycle



- Can you complete the life cycle of a butterfly?
- Can you see how these cycles are connected?

# Ingredients for Life

Can you fill in the boxes using the words below the picture?



Sunlight

Carbon Dioxide

Water

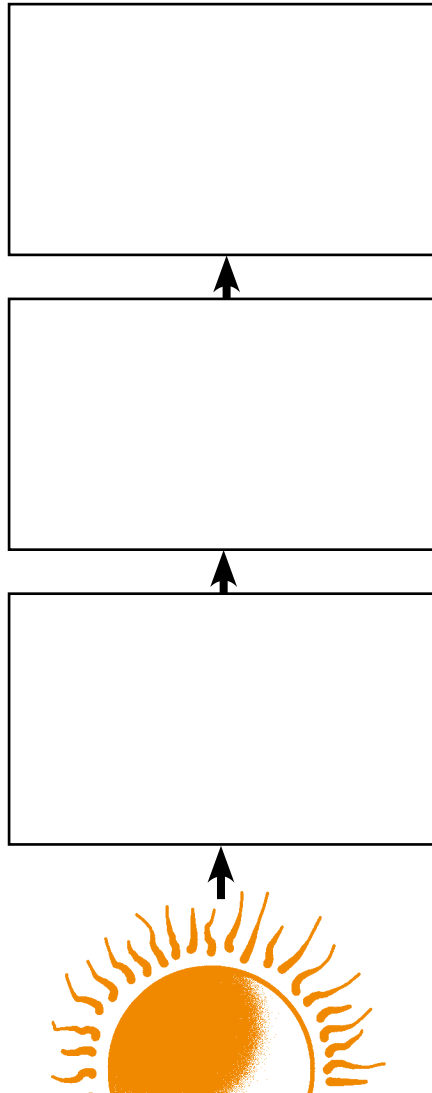
Soil

Oxygen

- Plants need water, Carbon Dioxide and sunlight to make their own food. The waste from this process is Oxygen.
- Can you think of why plants are so important for us?

## Processes that make life possible

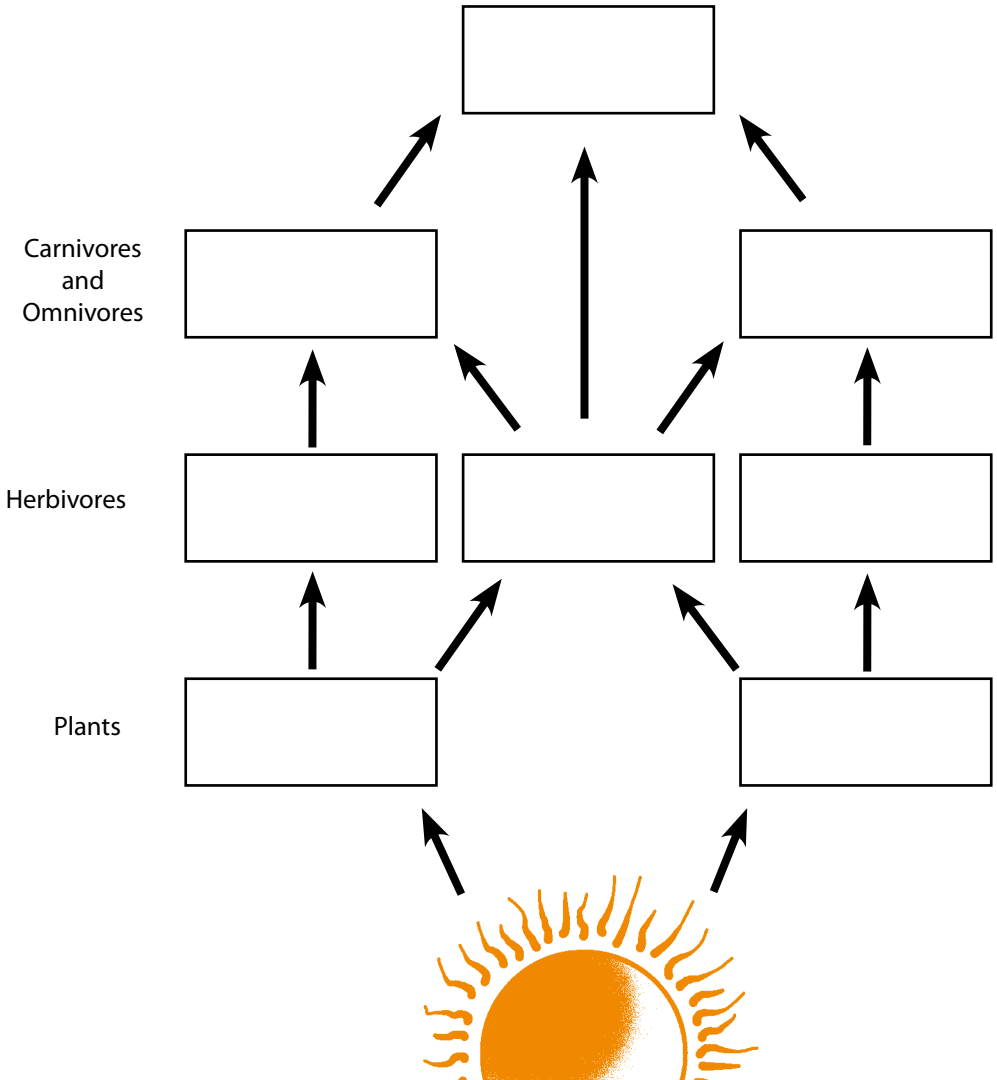
All energy on our planet comes from the sun. This energy flows through all living things. Can you complete the food chain below to show the path of the energy?



Remember to include a plant, a herbivore and a carnivore

## Processes - Food webs and connections

- All the plants and animals on the earth are connected to each other (including humans)
- You can see some of these connections by completing this food web



Where might you go in this web?



An Agency within the Department of the  
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Our aim is to protect, conserve and promote the natural and built environment for the benefit of present and future generations.

