

WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY



JUNE 5

World Environment Day is held each year on June 5. It is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations (UN) stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment and enhances political attention and action.

Five decades of environmental action: World Environment Day was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1972 to mark the opening of the Stockholm Conference on the Human Environment. Another resolution, adopted by the General Assembly the same day, led to the creation of UNEP. It is hosted every year by a different city and commemorated with an international exposition through the week of June 5.

What Do People Do?

World Environment Day is celebrated in many ways in countries such as Kenya, New Zealand, Poland, Spain and the United States. Activities include street rallies and parades, as well as concerts, tree planting, and clean-up campaigns. In many countries, this annual event is used to enhance political attention and action towards improving the environment. This observance also provides an opportunity to sign or ratify international environmental conventions.

The foods we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all come from nature.

Yet, these are exceptional times in which nature is sending us a message:

To care for ourselves we must care for nature.

It's time to wake up. To take notice. To raise our voices.

It's time to build back better for People and Planet.



Caring for our environment

Start a home garden

YOU CAN PLANT YOUR OWN FRUIT AND VEGGIES IN A HOME GARDEN. YOU WILL BE HELPING THE ENVIRONMENT AND SAVING MONEY AT THE SAME TIME!



Make your own compost

PUT LEFTOVER FOOD IN A COMPOST HEAP. YOU CAN USE COMPOST TO GROW NEW PLANTS. MAKING COMPOST ALSO REDUCES SPACE USED FOR LANDFILLS AND CREATES HEALTHY SOIL.



Plant indigenous

PLANT INDIGENOUS SPECIES OF PLANTS. THEY USE LESS WATER AND PROVIDE FOOD AND HABITAT FOR ANIMALS.



Reuse

USE A GLASS DRINKING BOTTLE THAT CAN BE WASHED OUT AND USED AGAIN. IF YOU USE ITEMS THAT CAN BE REUSED, THIS RESULTS IN LESS WASTE.



Reduce . Reuse . Recycle . Recover



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."

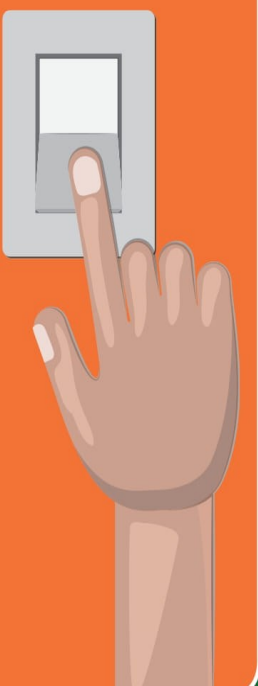
Become a Waste Picker

START WASTE PICKING TO MAKE MONEY. WASTE PICKERS COLLECT RECYCLABLE MATERIALS TO RESELL TO BUYBACK CENTRES.



Reduce power use

WHEN YOU EXIT A ROOM, ALWAYS TURN OFF THE LIGHTS. USING ELECTRICITY CREATES POLLUTION. YOU WILL CREATE FAR LESS POLLUTION IF YOU SAVE ELECTRICITY.



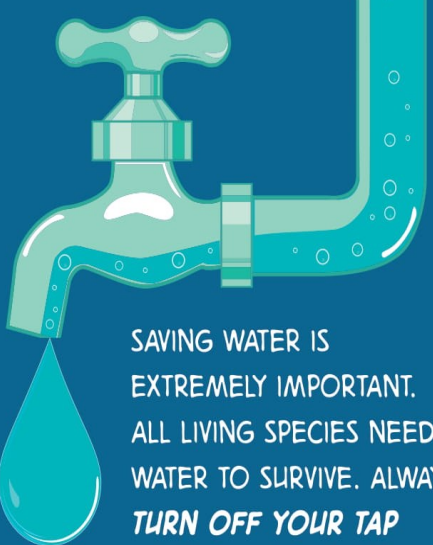
Don't use plastic

PLASTIC BAGS HARM ANIMALS AND THE ENVIRONMENT AND TAKE YEARS TO BREAK DOWN. USE YOUR OWN CANVAS BAG INSTEAD OF PLASTIC BAGS.



Save water

SAVING WATER IS EXTREMELY IMPORTANT. ALL LIVING SPECIES NEED WATER TO SURVIVE. ALWAYS TURN OFF YOUR TAP WHEN YOU'RE FINISHED AND FIX ALL YOUR PLUMBING LEAKS.



Protect our environment

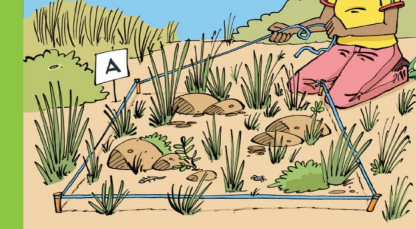
MEASURING HUMAN IMPACT

YOU WILL NEED:



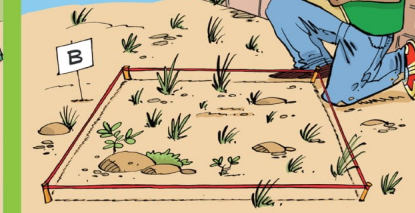
1 WHAT TO DO:

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.



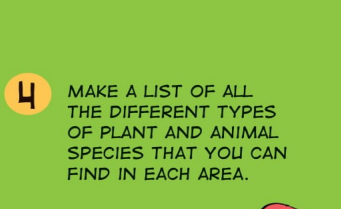
2

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



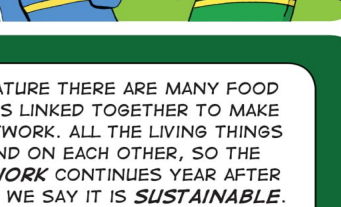
3

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.

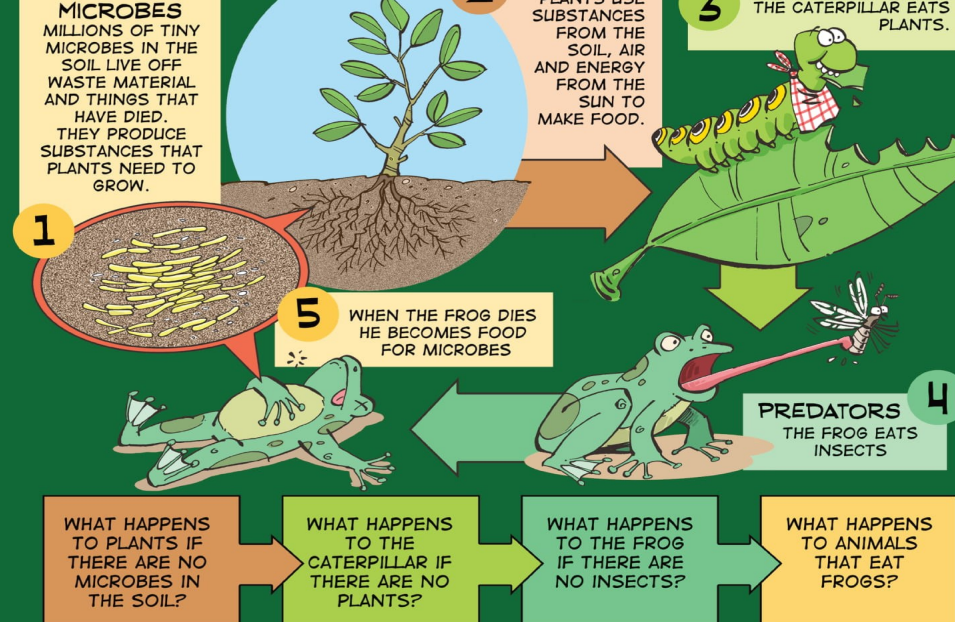


WHAT DO YOU NOTICE ABOUT THE NUMBER OF PLANT AND ANIMAL SPECIES IN AREA A COMPARED TO THOSE IN AREA B? WHAT CAN YOU SAY ABOUT THE IMPACT OF HUMAN ACTIVITY ON THE BIODIVERSITY OF THESE AREAS?

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



Are you making a difference?