grade 4-6

Biodiversity

This is a resource developed by Bellarine Catchment Network updated with Wadawurrung content thanks to the Corangamite CMA and Wadauwurrung.

Learn about our local flora and fauna and how biodiversity is important for sustainable ecosystems.

For more information, email info@bcn.org.au

Artwork by BJ O'Toole, proud Wadawurrung man

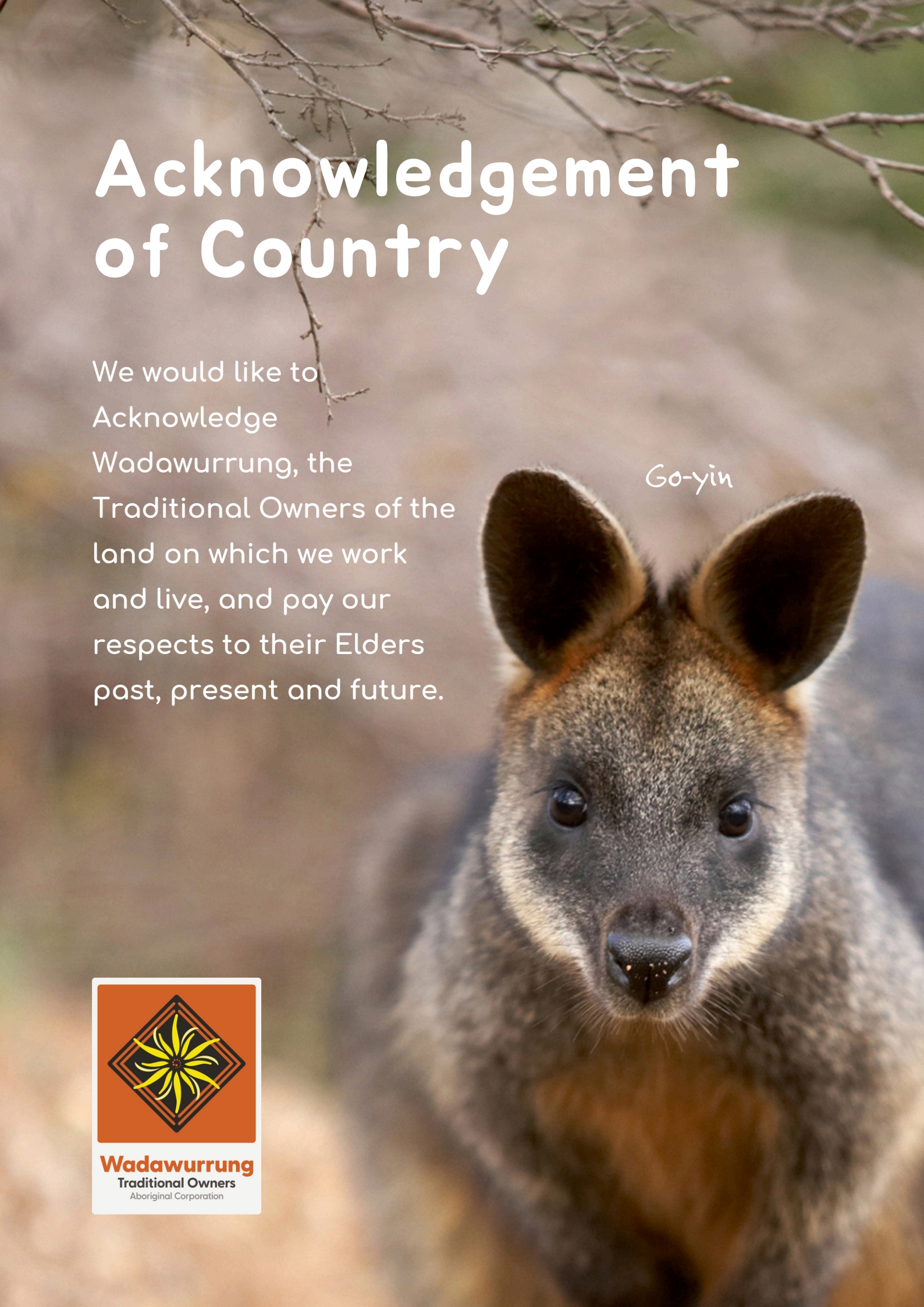
BELLARINE CATCHMENT NETWORK
Landcare and Coastcare

CORANGAMITE CMA

Wadawurrung
Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

Acknowledgement of Country

We would like to Acknowledge Wadawurrung, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we work and live, and pay our respects to their Elders past, present and future.



Wadawurrung
Traditional Owners
Aboriginal Corporation

Biodiversity

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Biodiversity is the word used to describe the variety of all living things; plants, animals and other natural elements across our land, rivers, coast and oceans. This diversity includes genetic diversity, species diversity and ecosystem diversity.

Biodiversity makes human life on Earth possible and is important for many different values including economic, ecological, cultural, scientific and recreational. It allows nature to supply oxygen, clean water, pollination of plants, pest control, and much more.

Despite Earth being estimated to have over nine million species of living things - biodiversity is at risk from humans. Declines in plants ans animals have been observed both in Australia and around the world. Threats to biodiversity include; habitat loss, climate change, introduced flora and fauna, livestock grazing, pollution, and over harvesting of native species.

Some actions to protect biodiversity:

1. Removing introduced plants
2. Planting of native species
3. Removing introduced animals
4. Enhancing habitats (nest boxes)
5. Linking habitat together
6. Reduce impact of climate change
7. Stopping the illegal wildlife trade
8. Understanding indigenous values
9. Preventing habitat loss
10. Stop over-harvesting of species.

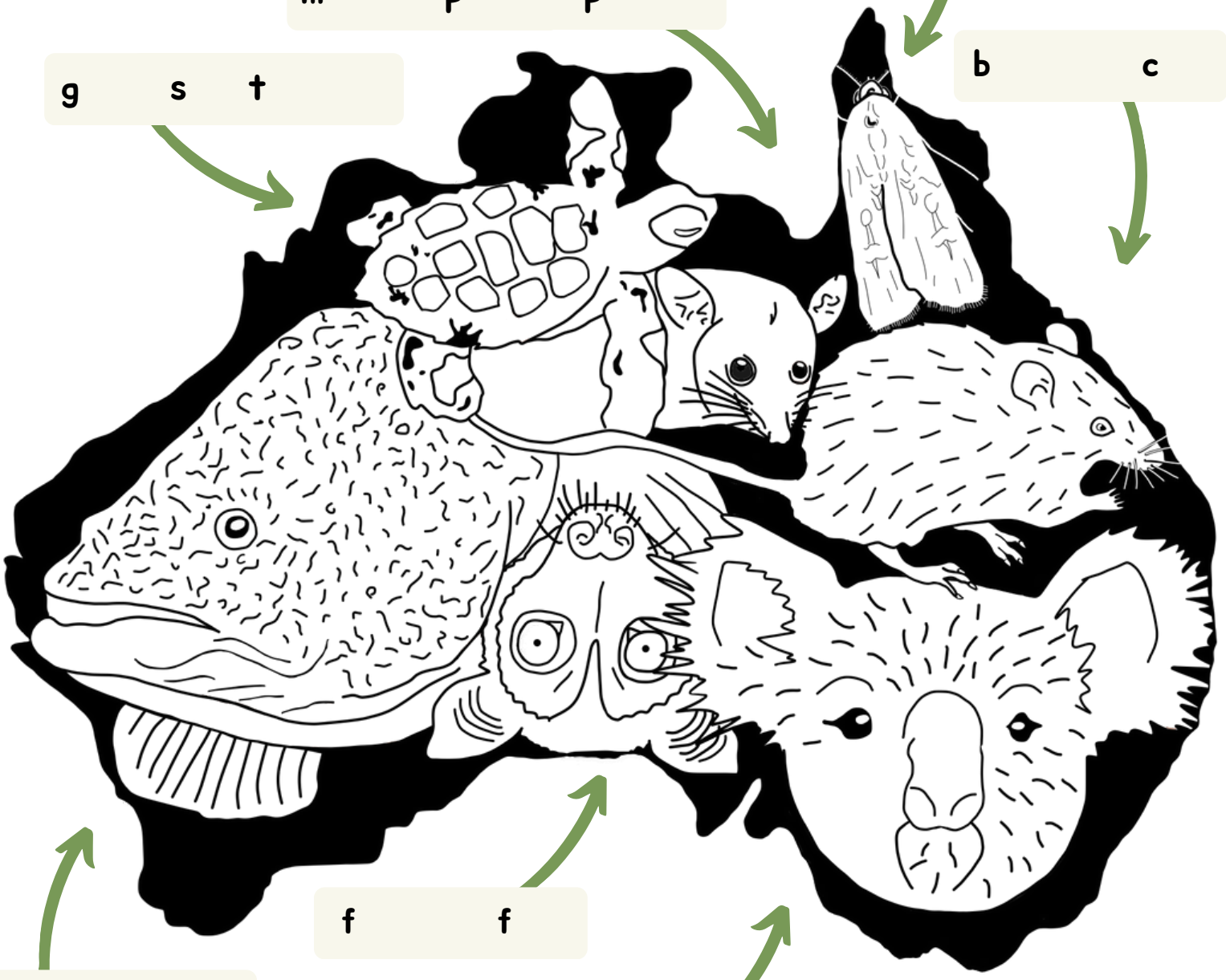
Some animals have strong cultural affiliations to Wadawurrung as part of their cultural kinship. They can be totemic species for which they have obligations to protect and look after like Kununwarra the black swan.



Wirran

Threatened Species Map

All of these species face threats to their existence. Colour them in and try to fill out their names using the link below.



b m

m p p

b c

g s t

f f

m c

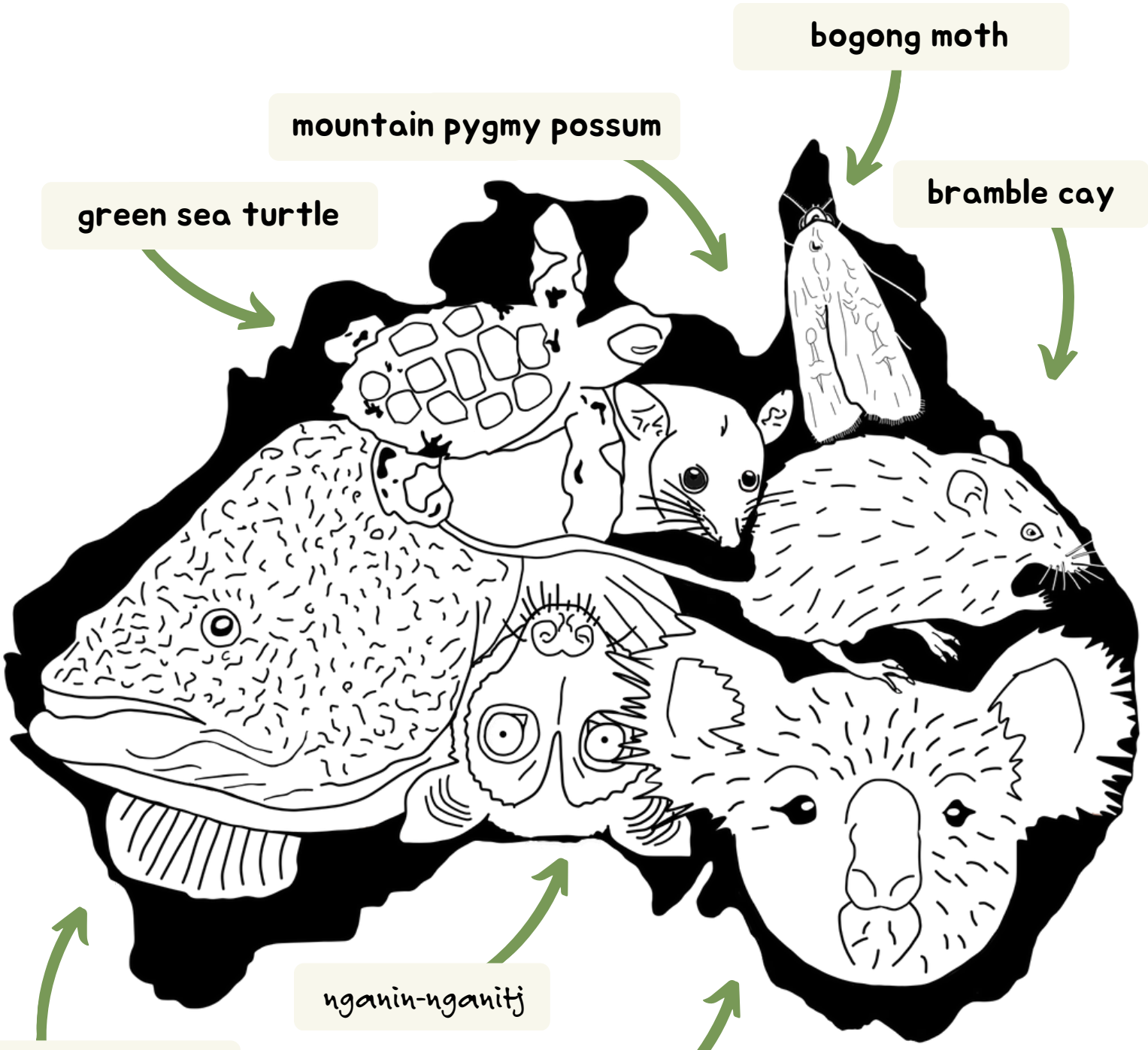
k

t d

For hints, read through this document by the Climate Council: click here

Threatened Species Answers

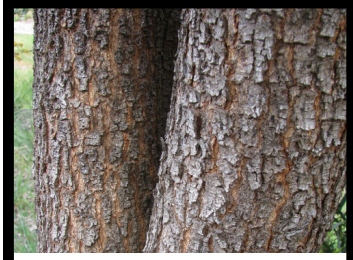
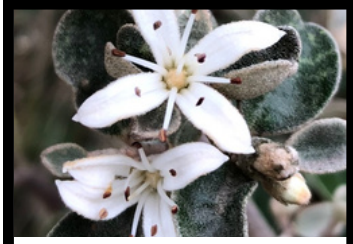
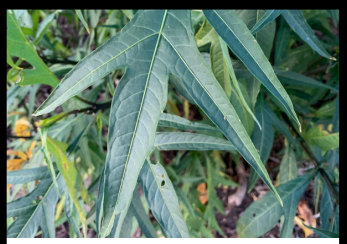
All of these species face threats to their existence. To learn how to pronounce the Wadawurrung words, download their Language App.



For hints, read through this document by the Climate Council: click here

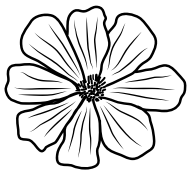
Biodiversity Bingo

Head into your backyard or natural reserve and try and tick off as many of the types of life as you can below.

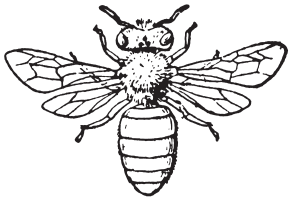
 boyurrok ☐	 ngubitj ☐	 morroyok ☐	 gurr ☐
 karrung ☐	 kuwiyn ☐	 wurrak ☐	 bigurn ☐
 karrap-karrap ☐	 parrarr ☐	 murran ☐	 waa ☐
 war-war-ok ☐	 barnabil ☐	 parwan ☐	 djirrm ☐
 ngarri ☐	 lelon ☐	 bardangal ☐	 djirranggarrak ☐

Bio Backyards

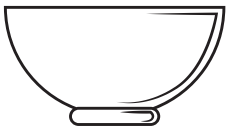
Draw a birds eye view of your house on a spare piece of paper and then draw in some ways that you could encourage native plants and animals into your garden. You can also cut and paste some of our suggestions below.



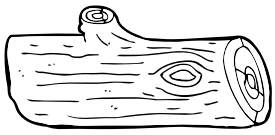
native flowers



insect hotel



bird bath



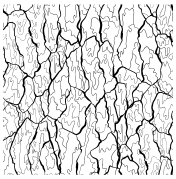
logs or branches



native trees



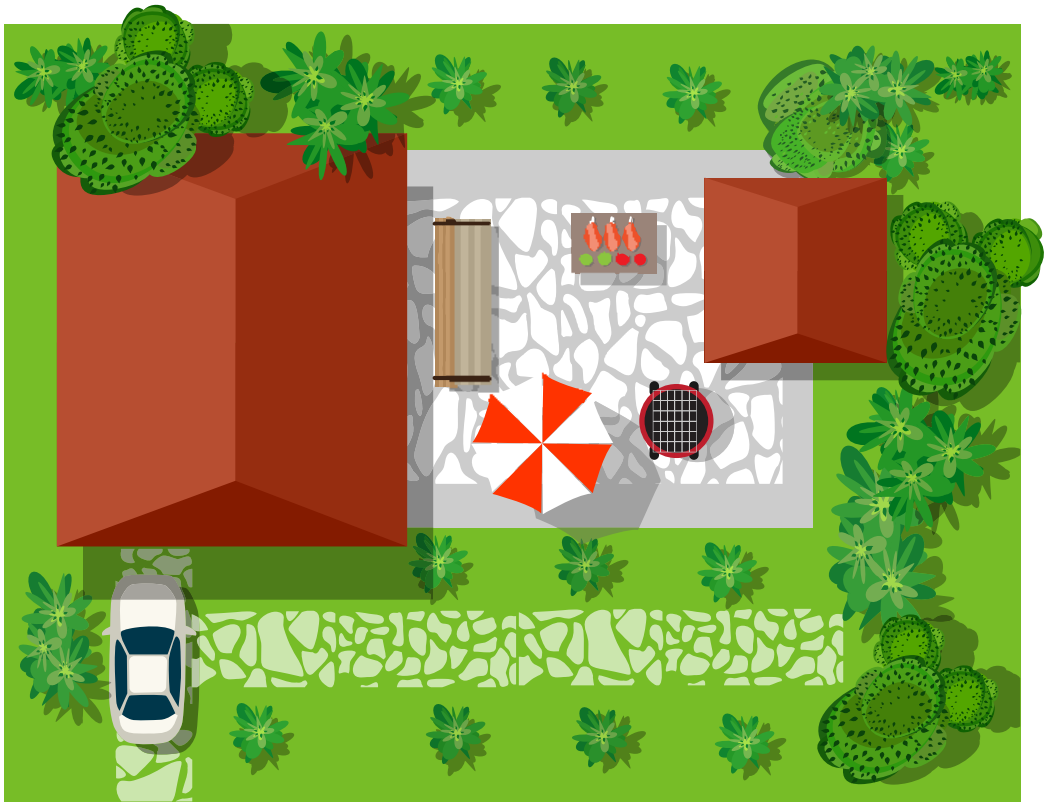
native grasses



chunky mulch



rocks in sunny spots



Hint: This is an example of a birds eye view of a garden.

For more info, click the links:

1 - click here

2 - click here

3 - click here

Plant diversity

Plants also have a lot of diversity. Plants come in all shapes, sizes, colours and types. In the boxes provided, head to your backyard or local park and draw a leaf or flower that have the features listed below. You can also do a leaf rubbing by putting a leaf underneath this page and using a pencil or crayon to create an image of the leaf.

a leaf with a smooth edge

a round leaf

a thin, long leaf

a flower with more than 3 petals

Plant diversity

Using the spaces below, find more leaves or flowers with different features than those on the previous page. Draw what you see and write a description of it (example: leaf with jagged edges)

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.....

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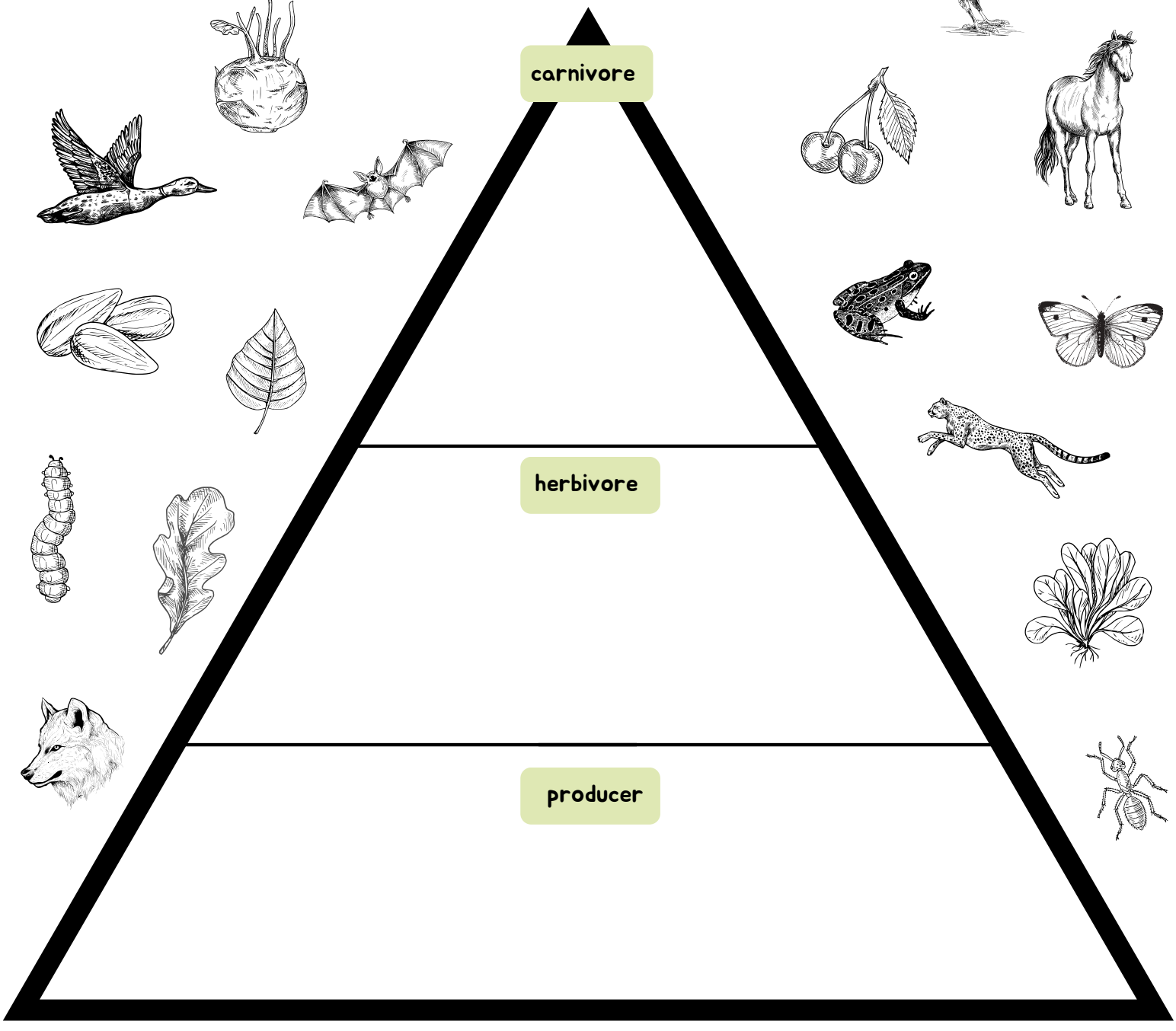
Food Pyramid

All plants and animals play a role in an ecosystem. To learn about how everything is connected, try your best to complete this food pyramid. Cut out each plant or animal and paste them into the section that you think they belong in. Use the key below to help you.

producer (plant): uses sunlight to make food

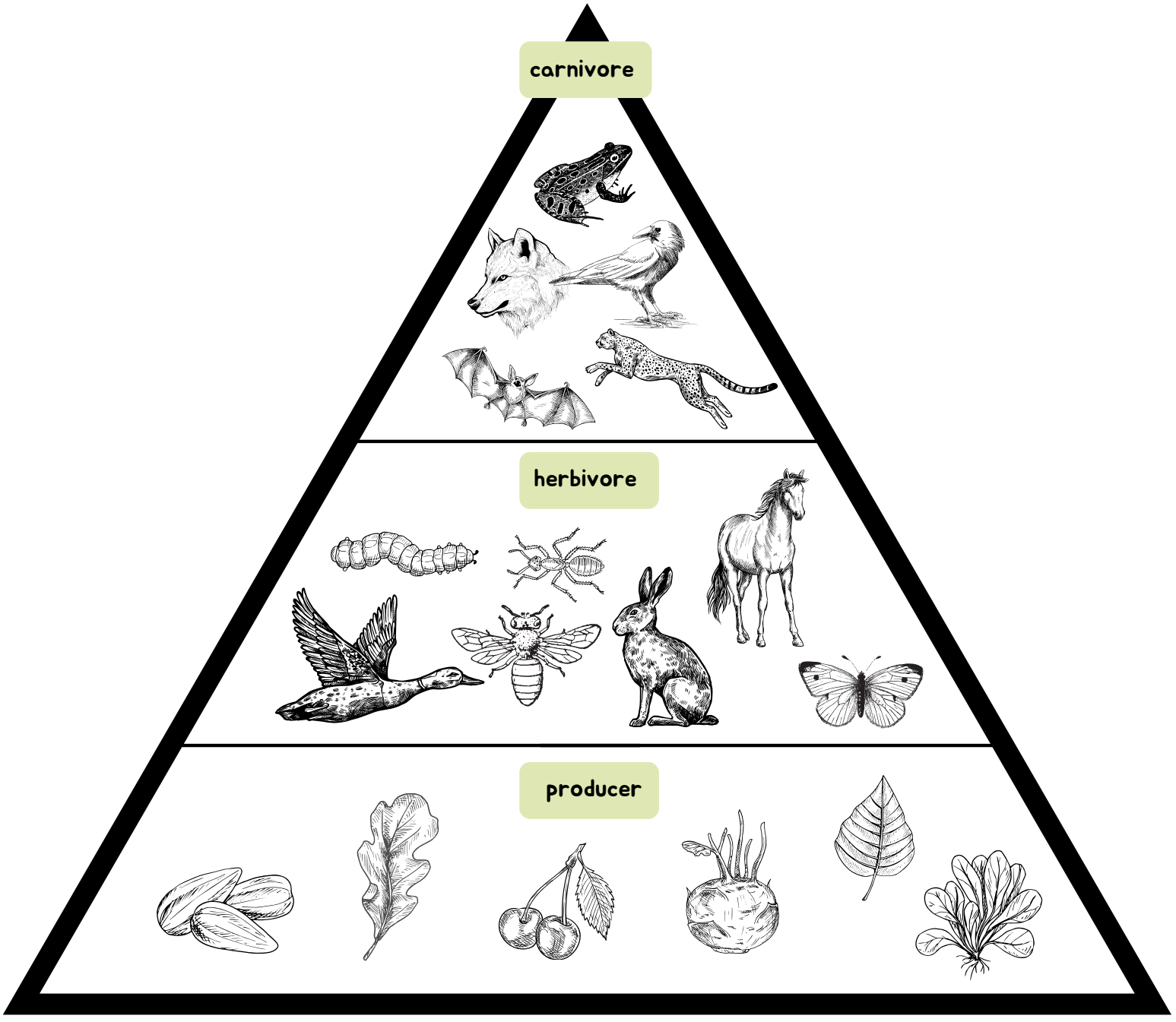
herbivore: eats producers

carnivore: eats other animals



Food Pyramid Answers

? Did you find any animals that could be both a herbivore and a carnivore (an omnivore)? List them below



Evaluation

What activity was your favourite?

What is biodiversity made of?

Why do we need to protect biodiversity?

list 3 ways that we can enhance and protect biodiversity.

Name _____ Teacher _____

Grade _____ Date _____