



THE ECO-EXPLORER'S FIELD GUIDE

Investigating Living Things and Their Environments

Field Notee, Oct 14:
Observed diverse habitats today.
Remarkable adaptations!



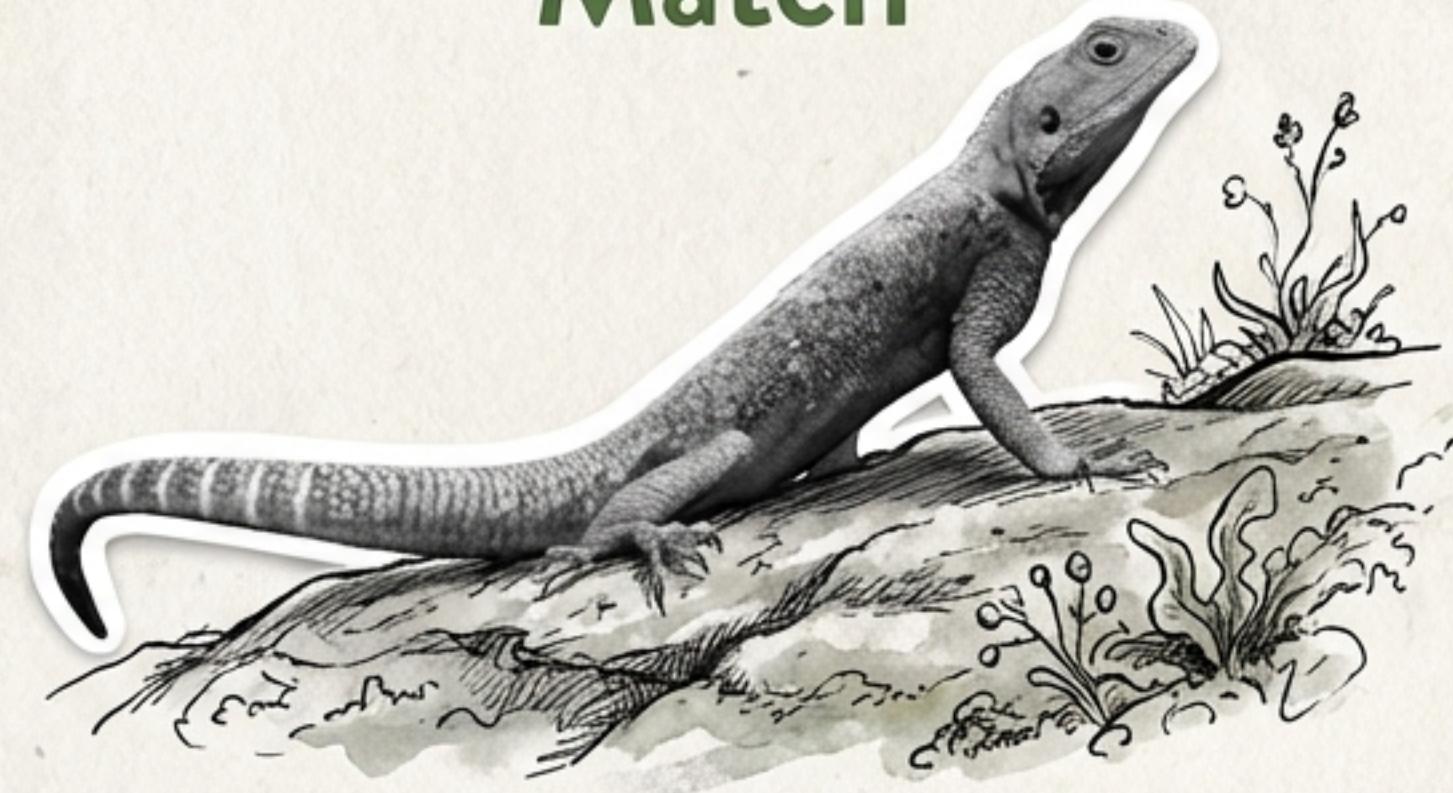
The Rules of Survival

Mismatch



Fish out of water!

Match



Habitat:

A natural home that provides food, water, air, and shelter.

Adaptation:

Special body parts or behaviors that help an organism survive in its home.

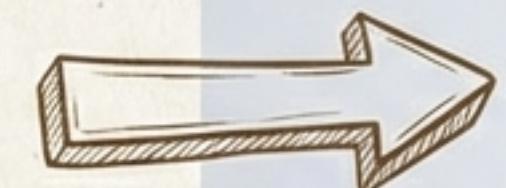
Insight: Different habitats contain different plants and animals.

The Specialist of the Savanna: The Giraffe

Long Neck: Reaches high leaves others can't.



Tough Tongue & Lips: Protects against sharp thorns.



Coat Pattern: Camouflage in the dappled tree light.

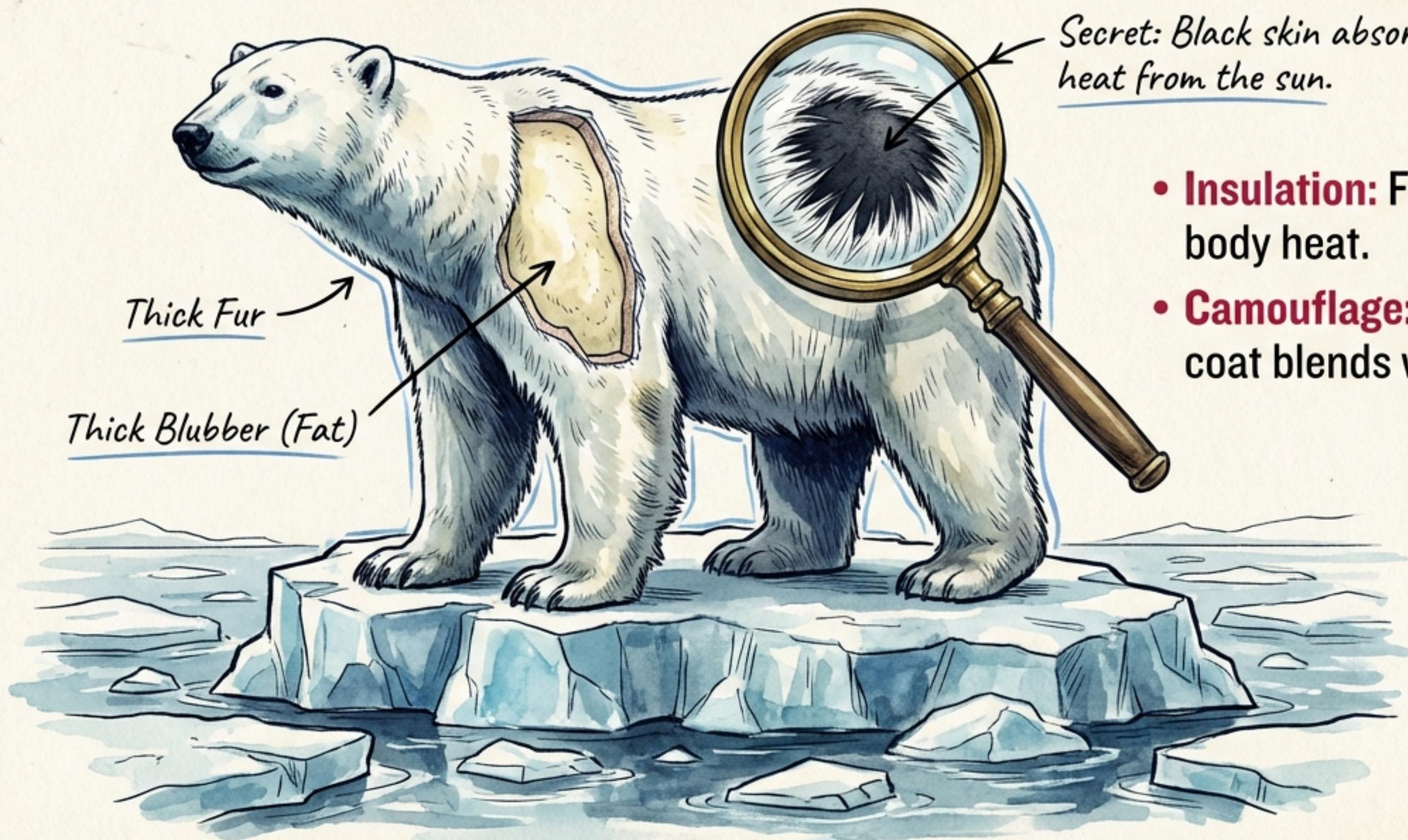


Field Note:

Context: Savannas are tropical grasslands. It is hot and dry most of the time.



Masters of the Freeze: Animals in Cold Climates



- **Insulation:** Fat traps body heat.
- **Camouflage:** White coat blends with snow.

Life Beneath the Surface: The Pond Habitat

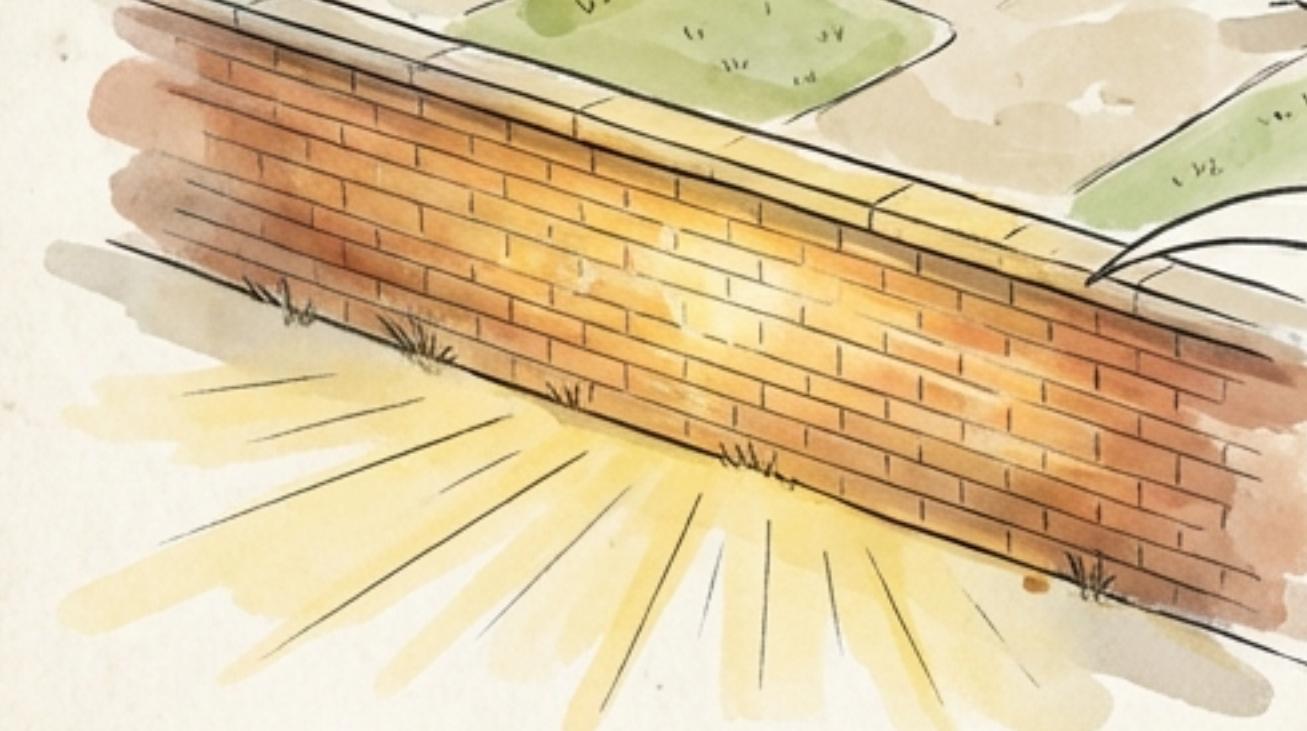


A pond is a small area of still water. Plants here must stay afloat to survive.

Backyard Science: Habitats Around Our School



Under a Rock:
Damp, dark
homes.



Sunny Wall:
Warm spots
for reptiles.



Tree Bark:
Hiding spots
for beetles.

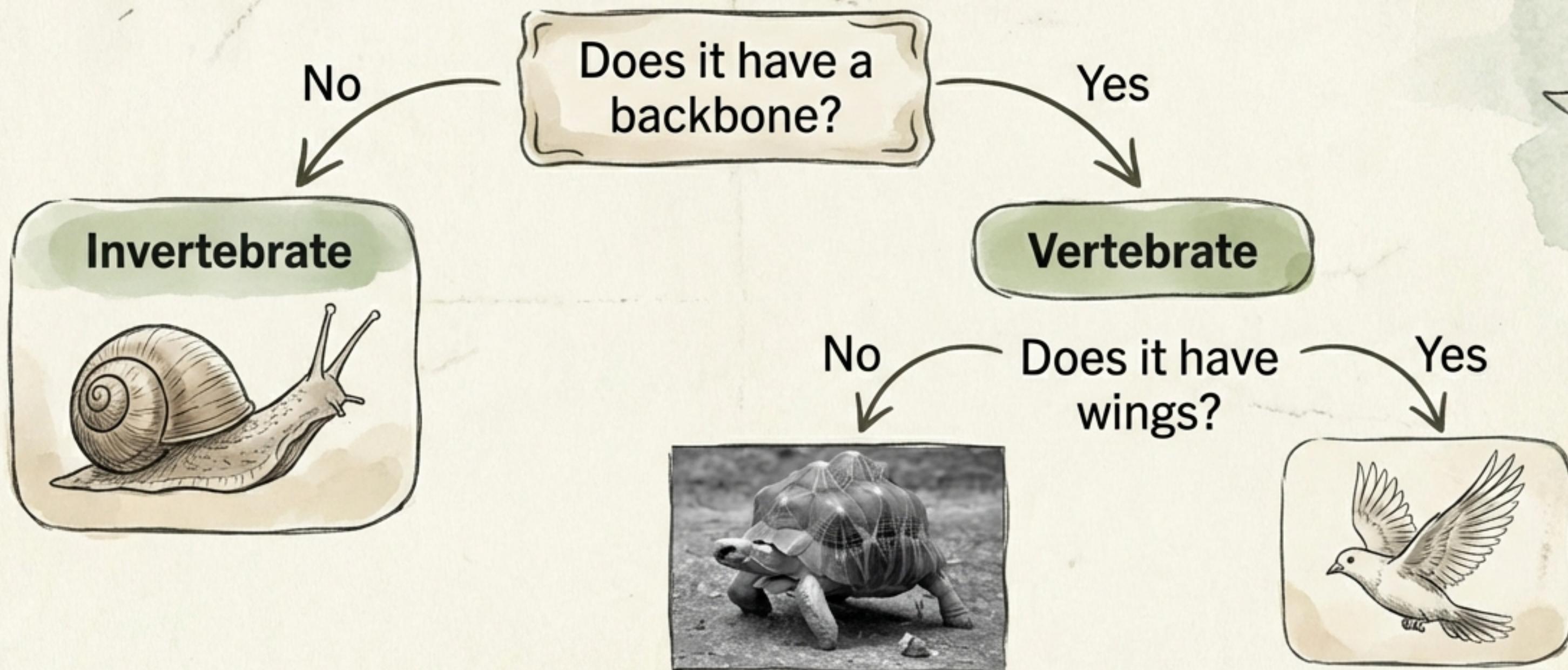


Explorer's Code

1. Do not disturb nests.
2. Wash hands after handling soil.
3. Observe without harming.

Unlocking the Mystery: Using a Key

Science is about asking the right questions.



Identification keys use 'Yes' or 'No' questions to sort living things.

The Night Hunter: Identifying the Owl



IDENTITY CONFIRMED: OWL

Checklist:

- Vertebrate? (Yes)
- Bird? (Feathers/Wings)
- Nocturnal? (Active at night)

Key Features:

- Flat face with **large forward-facing eyes**.
- Sharp **talons**.

Role: Carnivore & Predator.

When Habitats Break: Industrial Waste



Source: Toxins enter air and soil.



Absorption: Toxins enter plants and small animals.



Accumulation: Poison moves up the food chain.

Warning: Substances can be toxic and damage living things.

Troubled Waters: The Impact of Pollution



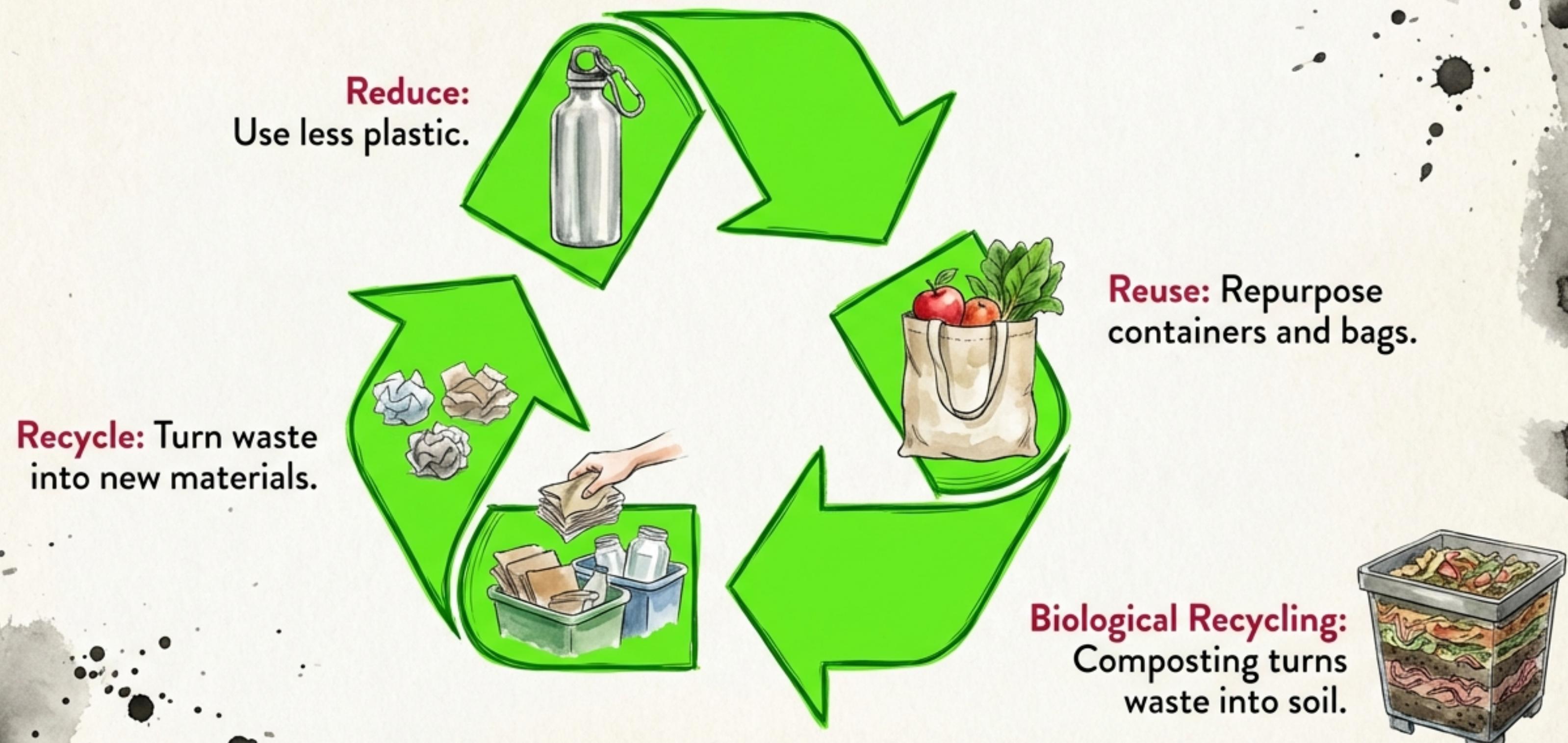
Impacts

- Oil Spills: Coats feathers, ruining flight and warmth.
- Murky Water: Blocks sunlight.
- No Sunlight = Plants die -> Oxygen drops -> Fish die.

“Murky water reduces sunlight... preventing photosynthesis.”

Eco-Explorer's Field Journal

The Rescue Plan: Reduce, Reuse, Recycle



Mission Report: Our Connected World



- Animals have amazing adaptations to fit their homes.
- We can explore and identify life in our own backyards.
- Our choices (The 3Rs) protect these habitats.

- The world is a habitat. Let's keep it healthy.