



G A I A

Level 2 Gaia worksheet
Difficulty: ■■■□

This picture is of Mary Midgley.

She wrote important books about humans, animals, and the planet that we share.

One of the things she wrote about is how everything in the world is joined together.



ACTIVITY 1

We can start by thinking about small things.
The rabbit in the picture below might eat the dandelion.

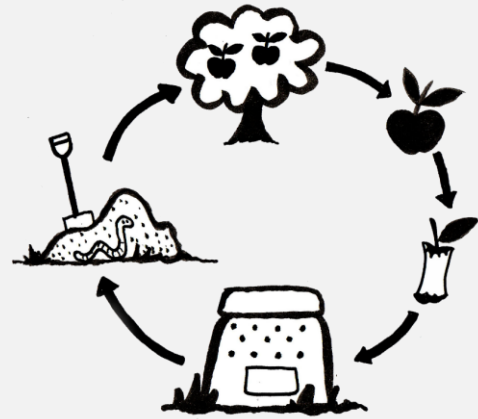
How do the other things in the picture join together?
Draw lines to connect them.



Plants and animals live and work together. When they do this, it is called an **ecosystem**. Ecosystems also need help from things that aren't plants or animals; for example, the weather and oceans. Everything needs to be just right for all the plants and animals to live well.

CHALLENGE

With the help of an adult, you could start a compost heap or compost bin. How do the worms and other animals make the compost from plant leftovers? How does the compost help the plants in your garden grow?



Now let's think about bigger things!

The plants and animals that you see in a garden work together, but they also need things that are further away. The rain that waters the garden comes from the oceans and lakes, and the clouds carry the rainwater over huge distances. The air needs to be warm enough, but not too warm, for the kinds of plants and animals that live there. That depends on what happens all over the world!

ACTIVITY 2

Think about the rabbit and the worm from the pond ecosystem in Activity 1. How are they connected?

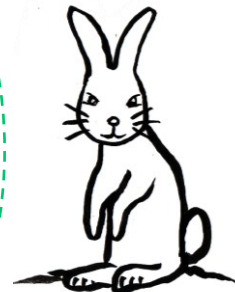
What things do each of them need?
What things do they both need?

Answer in words or drawings.

What does the worm need?



What does the rabbit need?



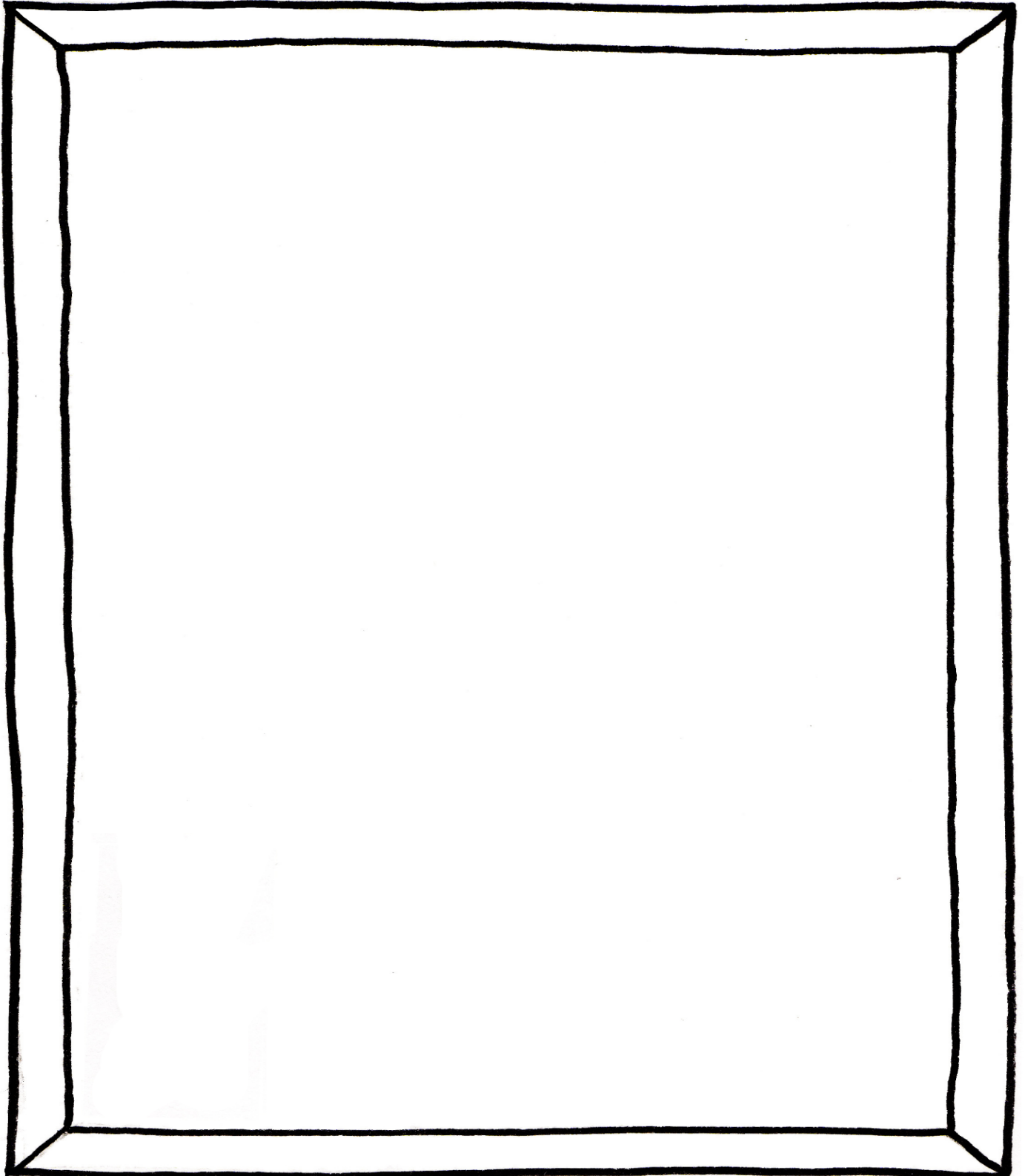
What do they both need?

ACTIVITY 3

Mary Midgley thought that the whole world works together as if it is one big creature.

Different parts of the planet work together, and the planet needs things to be just right for it to work properly. In this way, Mary thought the earth was like one big creature. Some scientists have called this creature 'Gaia', after the Greek goddess of the earth.

Can you draw the earth as a goddess? What physical features of the earth could you include?



ACTIVITY 4

When we burn gas and coal, pollute the sea, or treat other animals badly, it can make Gaia sick. This means that different parts of her body don't work as well as they should. If this goes badly wrong, some of the plants and animals can't survive, and life for humans becomes very difficult. For example, we can all get very sick if we do not treat the planet and all its animals properly.

How is our health connected to the health of Gaia?

What do you think we should do to keep Gaia healthy?