

Why Natives?

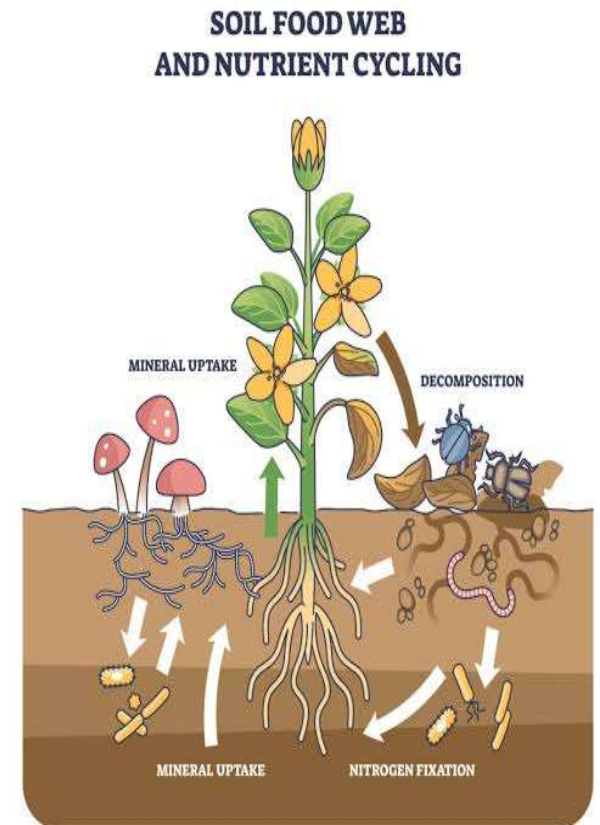


What is a Native?



A native plant or animal occurs naturally in a certain place and has experienced hundreds to thousands of years **of** evolutionary processes with fellow inhabitants.

Organisms have evolved to form special relationships with each other.



- ❖ The monarch butterfly will only lay its eggs on a milkweed. No milkweed, no monarchs. It is a special relationship.
- ❖ Why did it “choose” milkweed?
- ❖ Defenses for the Monarch.
- ❖ The great thing is that milkweed doesn't just support Monarchs but almost 500 species of organisms.





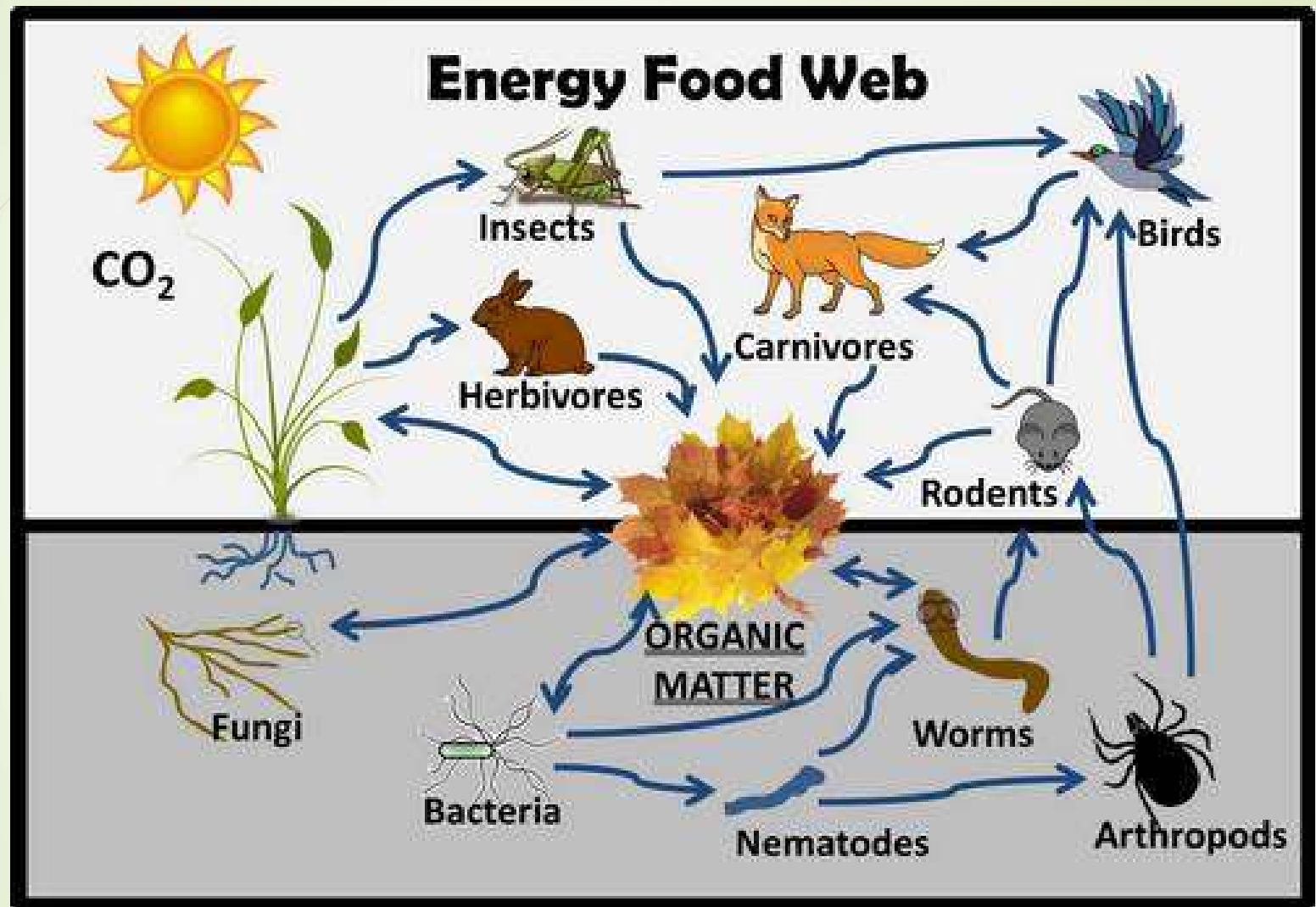
There are millions of such relationships intertwined with each other in an ecosystem.

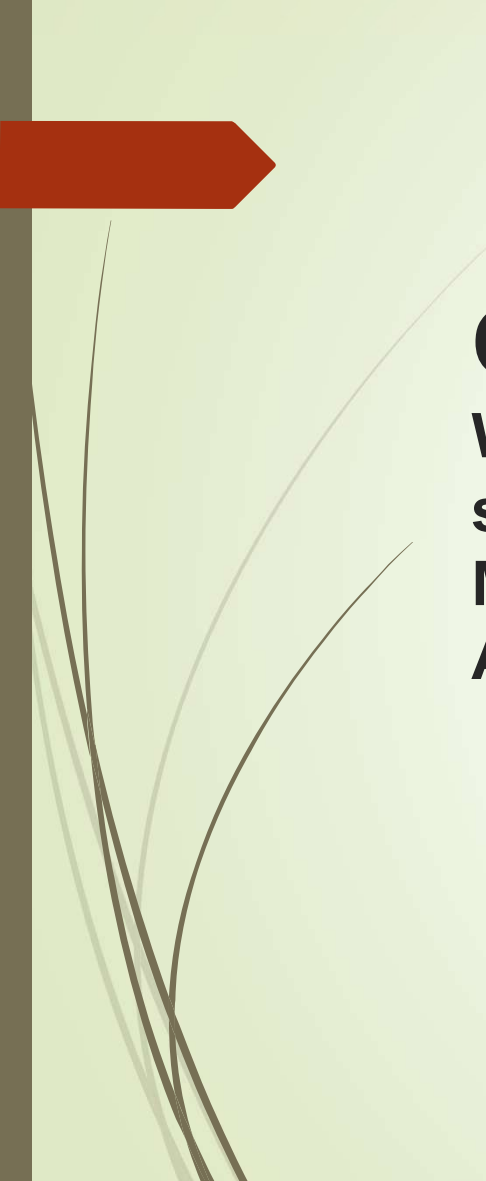
If you go to <https://nativeplantfinder.nwf.org/> and type in your zip code, you can find many of these specific relationships between plants, butterflies and moths. If you type in a plant, it will give you how many butterflies and moths it supports with examples. If you type in a specific butterfly or moth, it will tell you what to plant to support it.



Natives don't just extend to plants and the insects and animals associated with them on the land.

It extends to soil organisms within it that have developed very deeply intertwined relationships that support soil health, plant health and the health of our food.





ODNR Field Guides: The Division of Wildlife has over 20 filed guides on-line that are specific to Ohio. Examples include Moths, Owls, Mushrooms, Summer Wildflowers, Trees, Amphibians, etc.

[All Ohio Field Guide Link](#)



Where to find information on planting native?

[Putnam Soil and Water Conservation](#)



For an incredibly interesting look at why we need natives and how you can start to incorporate them, watch

[Doug Tallamy's, "Pollinators Best Hope"](#)



Be a part of the movement. Check out this site that has all the links and connections to make your home a native paradise...

[Homegrown National Park](#)