



# Welcome to the Backyard



by Ruth Owen

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The page features a decorative border with a yellow and pink polka-dot pattern. On the left, a large brown earthworm is coiled at the top, and a red ladybug is at the bottom. On the right, another large brown earthworm is coiled at the top, and a bright yellow sunflower is at the bottom. The background is a light green textured surface.

# Contents

Welcome to the Backyard.....	4
Spring Is Here!.....	6
Lots of Plants to Eat.....	8
It's Time to Build Nests .....	10
Busy Bees.....	12
Butterflies and Caterpillars .....	14
A Rainy Day .....	16
Welcome to a Worm's World.....	18
Worms for Dinner! .....	20
Babies in the Toolshed .....	22
It's Time for Seeds and Fruit.....	24
Autumn Days.....	26
Winter Comes Around.....	28
A Backyard Food Web .....	30
Glossary .....	31
Index, Read More, Learn More Online.....	32

Words shown in **bold** in the text are explained in the glossary.

# Welcome to the Backyard

Who and what lives in a backyard?

This **habitat** can be home to trees, grass, and other plants.

The residents of this habitat include **insects**, birds, and other animals.



The plants and animals get what they need to live from the backyard.





**A backyard is a type of ecosystem. An ecosystem includes all the living things in an area. It also includes non-living things such as sunlight, rain, and soil. Everything in an ecosystem has its own part to play.**

**So let's find out what happens in this little neighborhood ...  
... welcome to the backyard!**

# Spring Is Here!

It's early spring, and the snow in the backyard is finally melting.

As the weather gets warmer, daffodil plants appear from underground.



In spring, buds grow on the bare branches of the trees. When the buds burst open, leaves and blossoms uncurl from inside.



**Sunflower seeds**

All over the yard, there are **seeds** waiting in the soil.

People plant seeds, too.

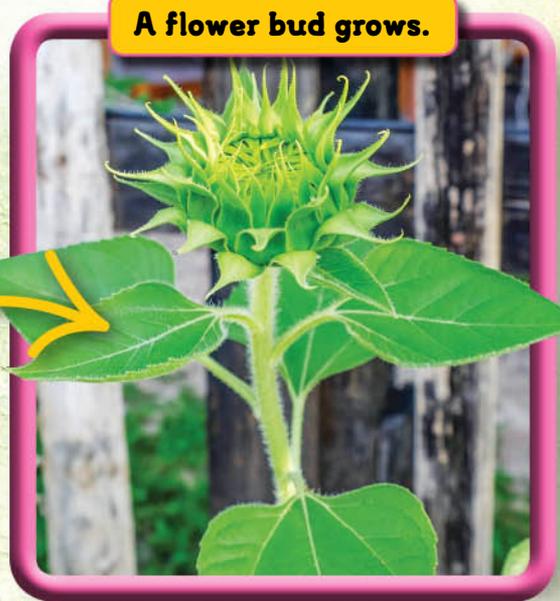
When the spring sunshine warms the soil, the seeds grow into new plants.



**A flower bud grows.**



**A sunflower seedling grows from the soil.**



**The sunflower plant grows bigger.**

What do you think happens once new plants start to grow?