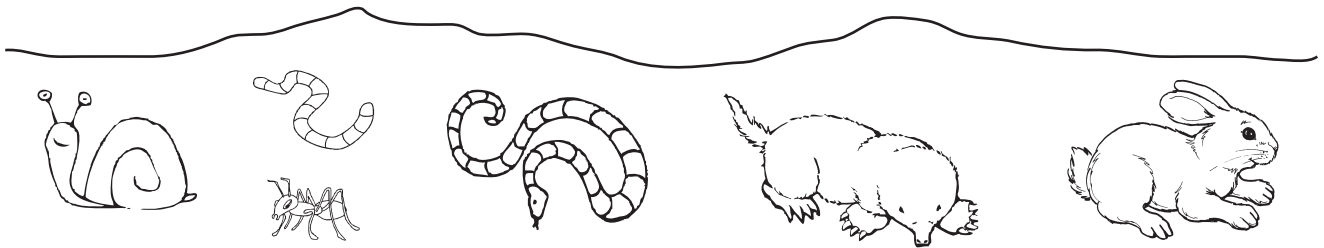


WHAT'S LIVING UNDER OUR FEET?

GRADES K-2

Fill in the missing letters to find the names of living things underground. The letters will make words that fit on the lines below.

a n _ _ m o u _ _ e s p i _ _ e r
 s l _ _ g w _ _ r m r a b b _ _ t
 s _ _ a k e b a c t e r _ _ a _ _ r u b
 s _ _ a i l m o _ _ e
 v o l _ _
 _ _ i z a r d



There are millions and millions of living things in the _____ beneath our feet. Moles, gophers, voles, mice, rabbits and other animals _____ holes in the ground for protection. Along with snakes, worms, spiders, and other creatures, they move through underground _____, eating, sleeping, growing, and raising their young. The paths made by these animals and the roots of plants help air and water get into the soil.

The smallest living things in the soil are things you can only see with a microscope, like nematodes, fungi, and bacteria. Nematodes look like little worms, fungi looks kind of stringy, and bacteria come in several different shapes: round-shaped, rod-shaped, and spiral-shaped. These living things help break down dead leaves and plants to make the soil healthy for growing plants.