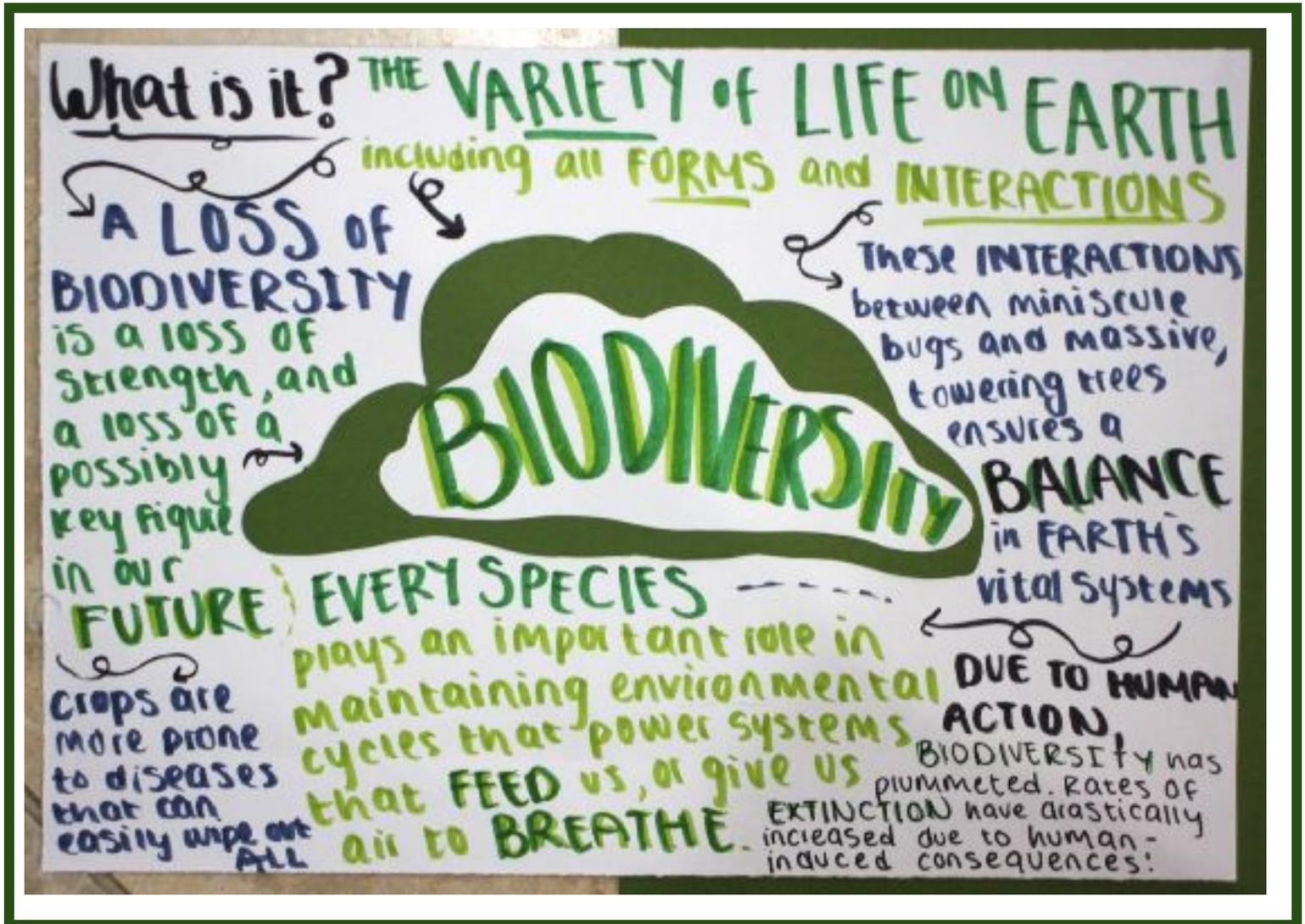


## Biodiversity Map:



## Where do I fit in?

Humans are part of the environmental cycle that affect all flora and fauna on the Earth. Biodiversity feeds us, but we continue to take and limit biodiversity in favor of profit and mass-production.

**To combat the alarming decline in biodiversity, I can make changes in my own backyard.**

- 1.) I can start planting species that are native to my region

- The soil naturally holds the nutrients (if not depleted by human action... that's where composting comes in handy!) that are perfect for native plants, as native plants have evolved to thrive in the specific climate! Giving native species the ability to grow in my area will in turn combat the generic, and often non-native crops from taking root at the expense of the native plants. In addition, native crops will attract native critters, such as bugs.

2.) I can implement plants that attract pollinators

- Bees are so so so important. They allow our crops to reproduce, as well as spread biodiversity when they scatter pollen into various places. Bees are already facing a decline due to pesticides, so creating an environment where they (and other pollinators!) are welcome and able to pollinate is ideal. This includes planting flowers such as marigolds or hyacinths, and others without the use of harmful chemicals.

3.) Buy wisely: avoid industrial agriculture

- Buy organic and if necessary, purchase sustainably produced animal products, such as fish. Organic goods do not use chemical fertilizers (that typical industrial agriculture farms will use) that damage soil as well as pollinators. Buying from sustainably-produced fisheries ensure that the fish are not caught in the high-seas, where trawler nets scrape the ocean floor and damage coral that has been growing for many many years. In addition, coral is vital to the ocean ecosystem! High seas fishing also tends to extract the same coveted fish, such as tuna, decreasing the numbers of said fish and harming the ocean's food cycle.

Sources:

<http://fire.biol.wvu.edu/hooper/10thingsforbiodiversity.pdf>

<https://greenlivingideas.com/2019/05/08/how-to-increase-biodiversity-in-your-own-backyard/>