



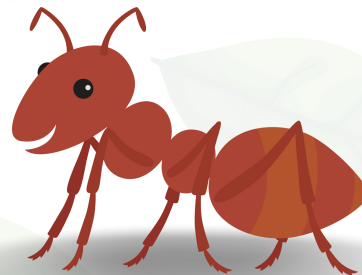
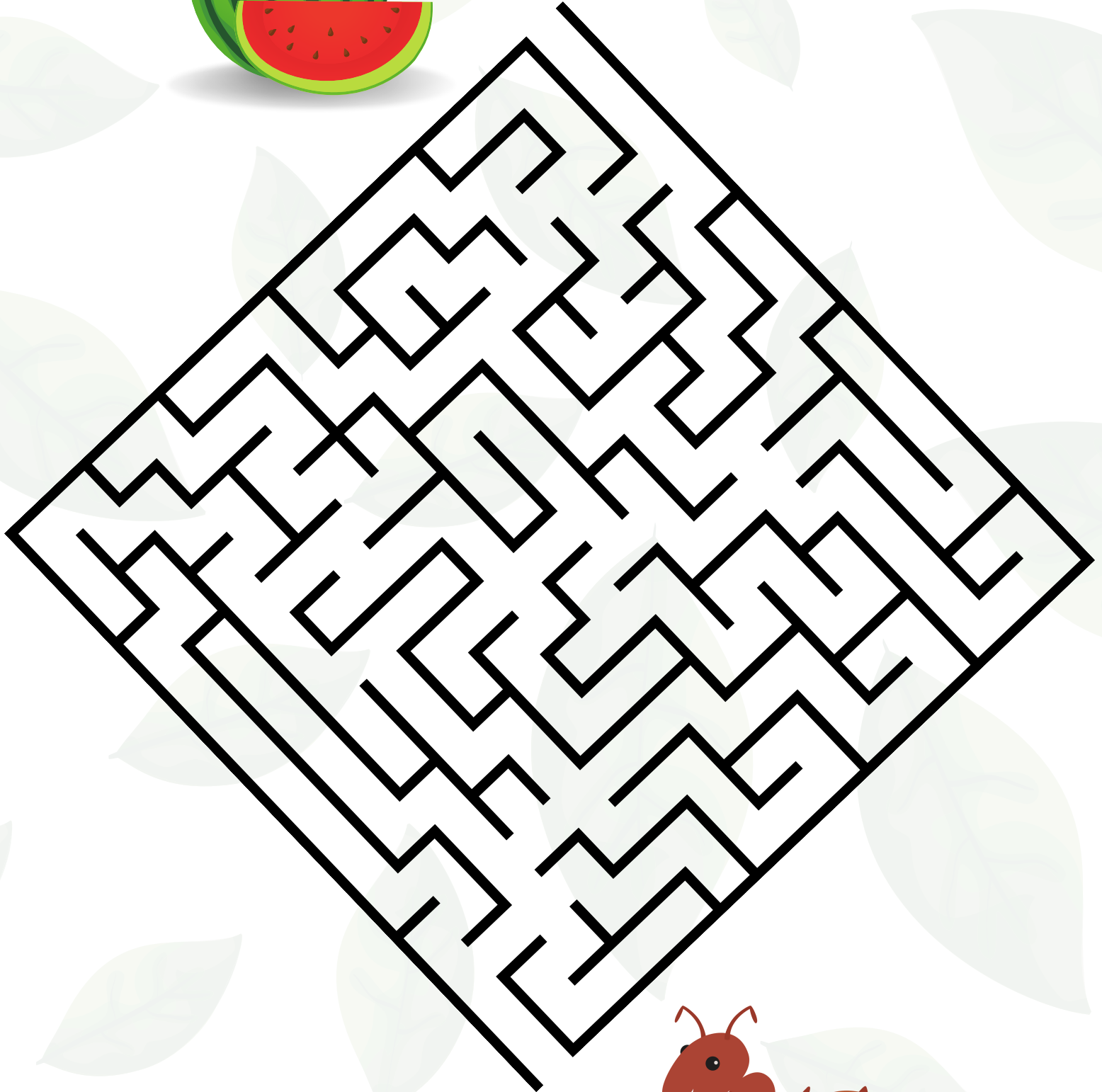
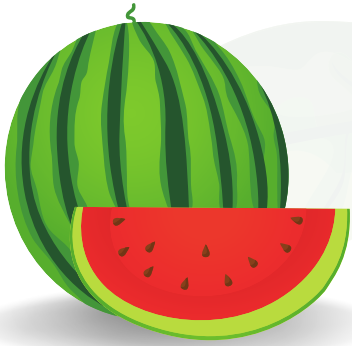
CAPE ATLANTIC  
CONSERVATION DISTRICT



# BACKYARD CONSERVATION FOR KIDS



**Help the ant find his way through the tunnels to  
the watermelon above!**



Find and circle the following words in the puzzle below!

SNAKE

WATER

FROGS

BIRD

TREE

SPRING

GROW

TURTLE

LADYBUG

FLOWER

SOIL

NEST

S	D	R	N	E	E	T	S	A
L	U	R	T	L	E	O	N	W
A	O	F	R	T	G	R	O	L
D	E	L	I	R	T	N	A	I
Y	S	O	I	U	R	F	R	O
B	P	W	A	T	E	R	F	S
U	R	E	A	R	E	O	M	W
G	I	R	D	S	P	G	R	O
I	N	B	M	N	E	S	T	R
O	G	A	L	A	D	Y	B	G
W	L	P	M	K	B	I	R	D
M	Z	Q	Y	E	J	X	R	K

# How to plant a seedling and care for it!



**How you plant your seedling will affect not only its' immediate survival, but it will also affect how it grows for years to come.**

- Choose the correct spot for your seedling. Some plants prefer a sunny location while others prefer shade. Also, some plants like well drained soils, and some thrive best in wet conditions. Most evergreen seedlings prefer sunny locations.
- Dig the hole large enough to fit the roots of the seedling. You can mix organic soil or compost with the soil you dig out of the hole.
- Place the seedling at the proper depth in the hole. The root crown should be level with the surface of the ground.
- Backfill the mixed soil around the roots, tamping softly as you backfill to remove any air pockets.
- Build a small berm of soil around the perimeter to help retain water.
- Water your newly planted seedling with about two gallons of water.
- Place mulch about 3" high to retain ground moisture, and to help prevent weeds from growing. Don't place mulch directly next to the base of the seedling.
- If rabbits or deer visit your yard often you may want to place a wire fence around your new plant to keep the animals from chewing on the seedling.
- Water your new seedling each week. About two gallons per week should be enough. You may need to water more often during hot and droughty weather. Be sure not to over water your new seedling.





**Find as many different backyard conservation items as you can around your own yard, neighborhood, or school. Circle each one you find.**



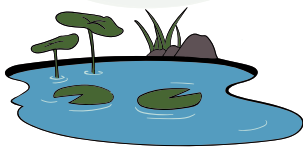
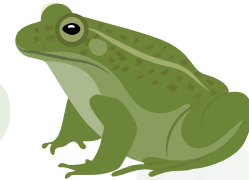
**Ladybugs** are just one of the beneficial insects that can be used to control harmful insects such as aphids. The use of beneficial insects can help reduce the need for chemical insecticides.

**Bats** are the most important feeders of night flying insects such as mosquitoes, moths and beetles. A single bat may eat more than 600 mosquitoes in an hour.



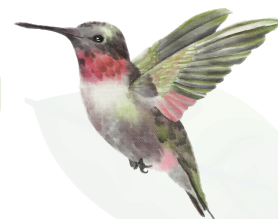
**Butterflies** are attracted to certain plants and flowers. In the adult stage butterflies feed on the nectar of flowers. They help pollinate plants.

**Frogs** can help control the population of harmful insects around your pond. Be sure to provide shelter near the pond for frogs and toads.



**Water** is needed for all living things to survive. Floating plants can help keep your backyard pond clean.

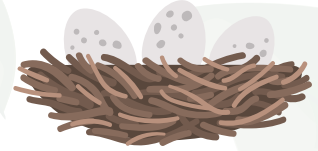
**Hummingbirds** are attracted to colorful tubular flowers. You can also provide a hummingbird feeder that contains a sugar and water solution.





**Birdhouses** can be placed in your backyard to help attract certain kinds of birds. The size of the house, location, and the size of the entry hole will determine what type of bird can successfully nest in the house.

**Nests** are placed where birds lay their eggs. A bird's nest should never be disturbed. By planting trees and large shrubs you provide a place for birds to build a nest.



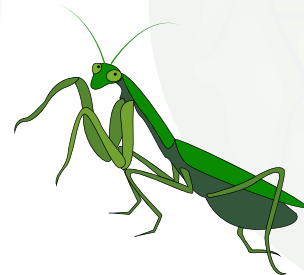
**Turtles** need food and shelter to survive in your backyard. Turtles are omnivores, which means they eat both plants and animals. They can help control slugs, snails, and other insects such as crickets and grasshoppers.

**Birds** such as the Northern Cardinal rely on trees and plants for food and shelter. Since not all birds migrate during the winter, it is important to choose some plants that have a berry or seed during the winter months.



**Snakes** can help control harmful insects and rodents. Some snakes may be poisonous, so it's always a good idea to leave them alone.

**Preying mantis** prey on harmful insects and can eat an incredible amount of bugs in their short lifetime.



**Bees** play an important role in a healthy plant community. As they fly from flower to flower feeding on nectar, they help pollinate many different kinds of plants. Bees can help increase the quality and quantity of fruits and vegetables in your garden.

# Backyard Conservation Crossword



## Across

- [3] This occurs when bare soil is washed away by rainfall
- [5] These give us shade and oxygen
- [7] These flying animals can eat hundreds of mosquitoes a night
- [8] This red colored bird stays around here all year long
- [9] This can be made of decaying leaves, branches and grass clippings

[11] A bird lays her eggs here

## Down

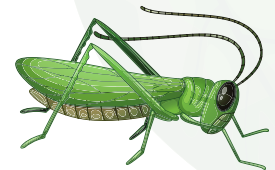
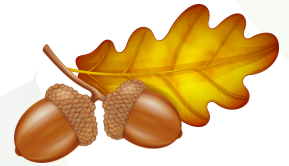
- [1] This bird can hover in the air and uses a long beak to get nectar from a flower
- [2] Tadpoles turn into these when they grow up
- [4] When planted into the ground this turns into an oak tree
- [5] These reptiles have a hard shell
- [6] Place this around plants to help keep the soil moist
- [10] You can build this in your yard to provide water for birds and other animals

**Crossword Puzzle Answer Key**  
 Across: 3. erosion, 5. trees, 7. bats, 8. cardinal, 9. compost, 11. nest  
 Down: 1. hummingbird, 2. frogs, 4. acorn, 5. turtles, 6. mulch, 10. pond

# POLLINATORS



**Draw a line from the animal on the left to the food on the right it might eat!**





# 10 Things you can do for Backyard Conservation

- 1 Plant shrubs and bushes that provide food and shelter for wildlife
- 2 Build a pond, or get a birdbath
- 3 Start a compost pile
- 4 Plant a tree
- 5 Put up a bat box
- 6 Put up a bird house
- 7 Plant a butterfly garden
- 8 Get a hummingbird feeder
- 9 Fix eroded soil areas, and cover with grasses or mulch
- 10 Mulch around plants to conserve water

