



nature's best hope



YOUNG READER'S EDITION



“The more species in an ecosystem the better it works— as long as those species are actually doing something.”
page 122

“What if half of every lawn in the United States was covered with native plants instead of grass— plants that the animals who live there can actually eat?”
page 72

“Remember, trees are stronger and healthier when they grow in groups, not alone.”
page 217

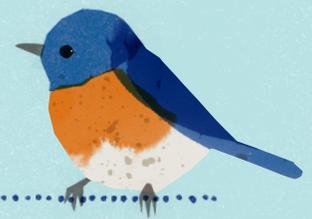
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Go out in your yard! When you look around do you feel animals and plants have a sanctuary there?
2. Even if you're the only ones in the neighborhood to rewild your yard, who and what are you helping?
3. What did Aldo Leopold learn about ecosystems after hunting for wolves with his dad? Do you think that Leopold would be happy to see what Yellowstone has become today?
4. What animals, bugs, and plants make up the ecosystem in your yard? What critters do you wish to see when you rewild it?
5. What's something you learned about in the book that you want to try in your yard?
6. How can native plants positively impact your yard? How do non-native plants impact your yard?
7. What do you think your role is in the ecosystem of your yard? Would you change your role?
8. Why is it important to aid plants and animals through rewilding your yard?
9. How are bugs helping our ecosystems?
10. What can you change in your yard to help nature?

TEN THINGS YOU CAN DO to start a Homegrown National Park.

Check out Chapter 10 for information on each of these steps!

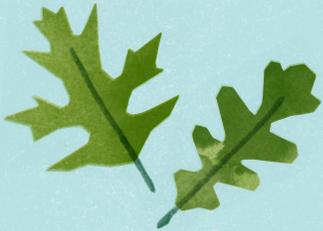
1. Shrink the lawn: Dedicate at least a small part of your yard to native plants.
2. Get rid of invaders: They can negatively impact animals and bugs.
3. Pick the best plants: Make sure you're filling your yard with the best plants for your environment.
4. Not just one or two: Just one native can't do as much for an ecosystem as a whole team.
5. What the bees need: A lot of insects can only feed on flowers from a few specific species.
6. Ask the neighbors: Like trees planted together, our efforts will grow stronger if we work as a group.
7. Not just plants: Planting natives is not the only way to make a Homegrown National Park.
8. A soft place of land: This can be some upturned soil, a pile of leaves, or even some yard debris.
9. Do not spray or fertilize: If we use good soil, plants will be able to sustain themselves.
10. Spread the word: Talk to your friends, your family, your neighbors!



the icons of nature

Below are just a few of the plants and animals most essential to our ecosystems. Do you remember how each of these icons help keep their environment healthy?

List some ways below each image.



Oak Trees

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Bees

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Monarch Butterflies

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Ladybugs

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Weeds

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Caterpillars

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Carolina Chickadee

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Ants

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