



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

Activity Book



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Name _____

School _____

Grade _____

Teacher _____

Soil Detective Game

Can we live without soil? Stop and think for a moment. What did you have for breakfast this morning? Where did it come from? If you trace it back far enough, you'll find that no matter what you had for breakfast, it started with a green plant growing in the soil.

Directions: Circle the following 13 words in this block of letters. They may be located vertically, horizontally, diagonally or backwards.

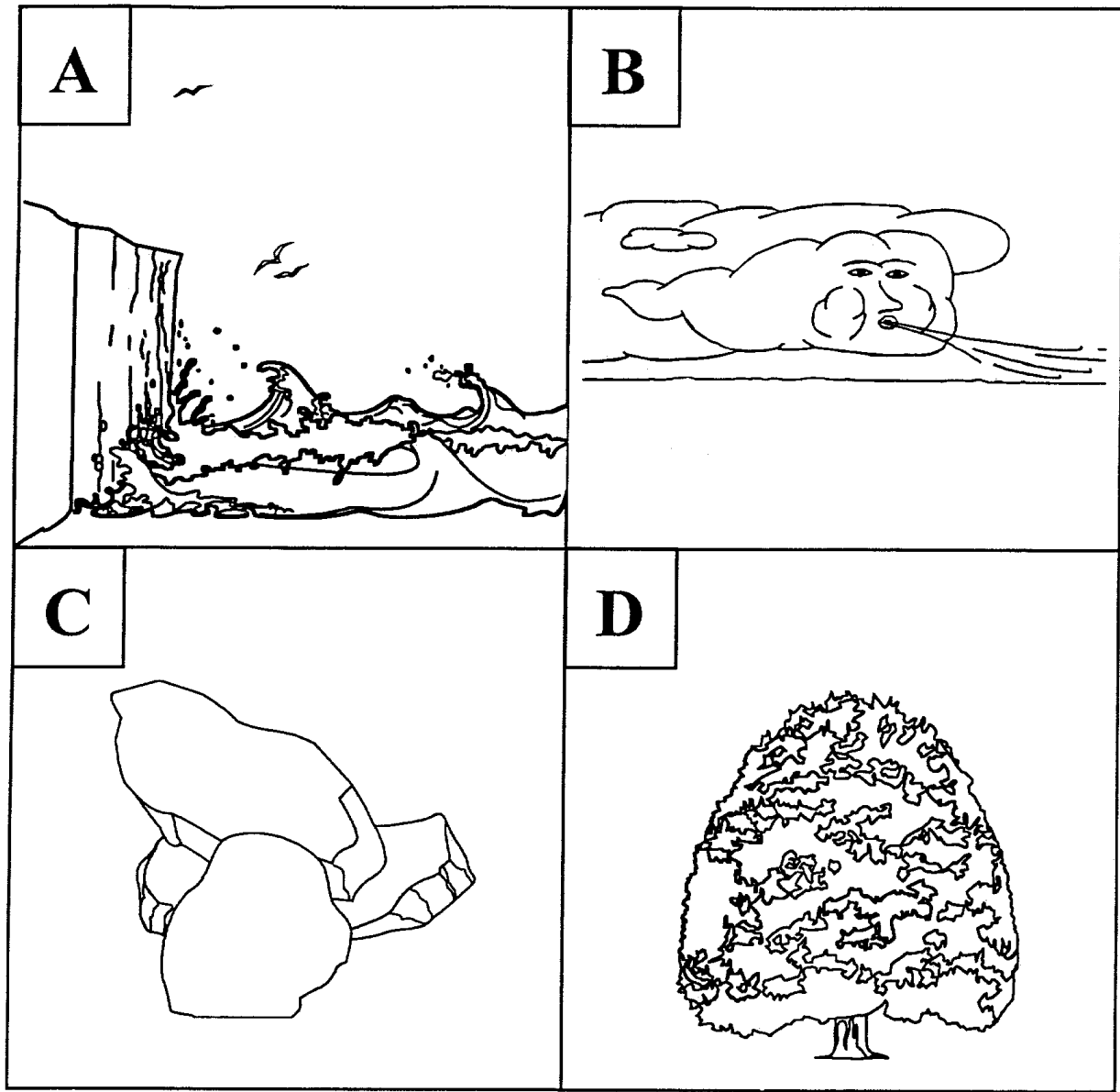
S	T	N	A	L	P	O	S	E	V
A	O	P	Q	I	J	T	B	W	E
N	O	I	U	H	O	C	E	A	G
D	M	D	L	O	C	N	Z	T	E
S	G	H	R	A	I	N	L	E	T
X	W	O	U	H	S	K	T	R	A
R	O	T	S	D	S	K	S	P	B
T	T	N	O	N	B	V	C	I	L
C	U	M	L	I	G	H	J	O	E
S	M	R	O	W	C	O	L	P	R

Words to look for:

COLD
HOT
ROCKS
WIND
RAIN

SAND
WATER
WORMS
PLANTS

VEGETABLE
SOIL
ROOTS
SUNSHINE



(Color on your own.)

What is soil made of?

A _____

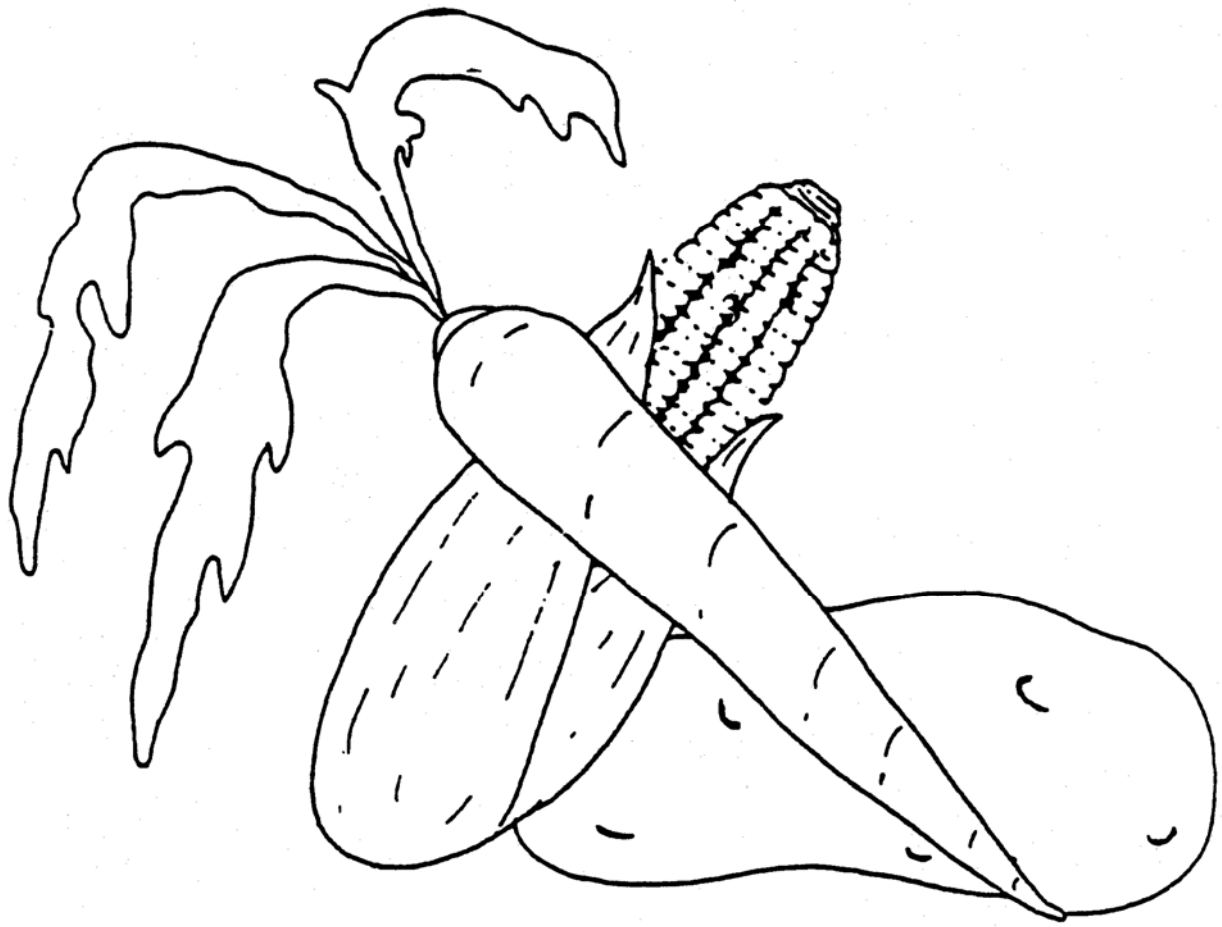
B _____

C _____

D _____

Soil is made up of:

- A. Water
- B. Air
- D. Rocks
- D. Organic Matter



Where do *vegetables* come from?

_____ A. The grocery store.

_____ B. The soil.

The answer is B.

Vegetables come from the soil.

Vegetables depend on the soil to grow, then they are taken to the grocery store.

List ten *vegetables* that depend on the soil to grow.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

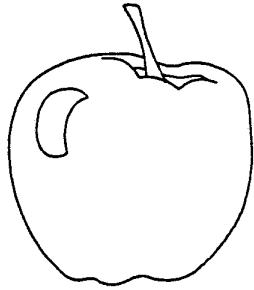
6. _____

7. _____

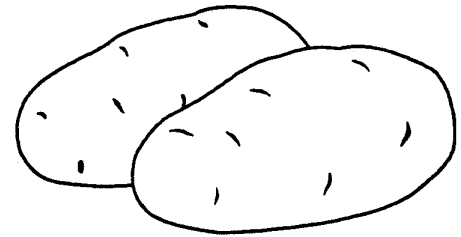
8. _____

9. _____

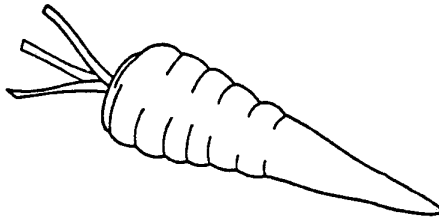
10. _____



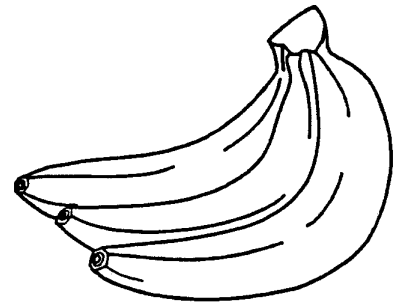
1. Apple



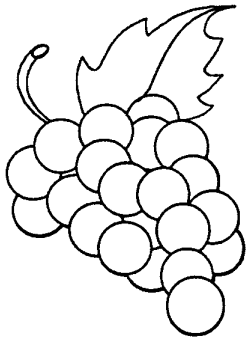
2. Potatoes



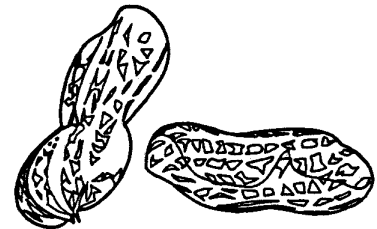
3. Carrot



4. Bananas



5. Grapes



6. Peanuts

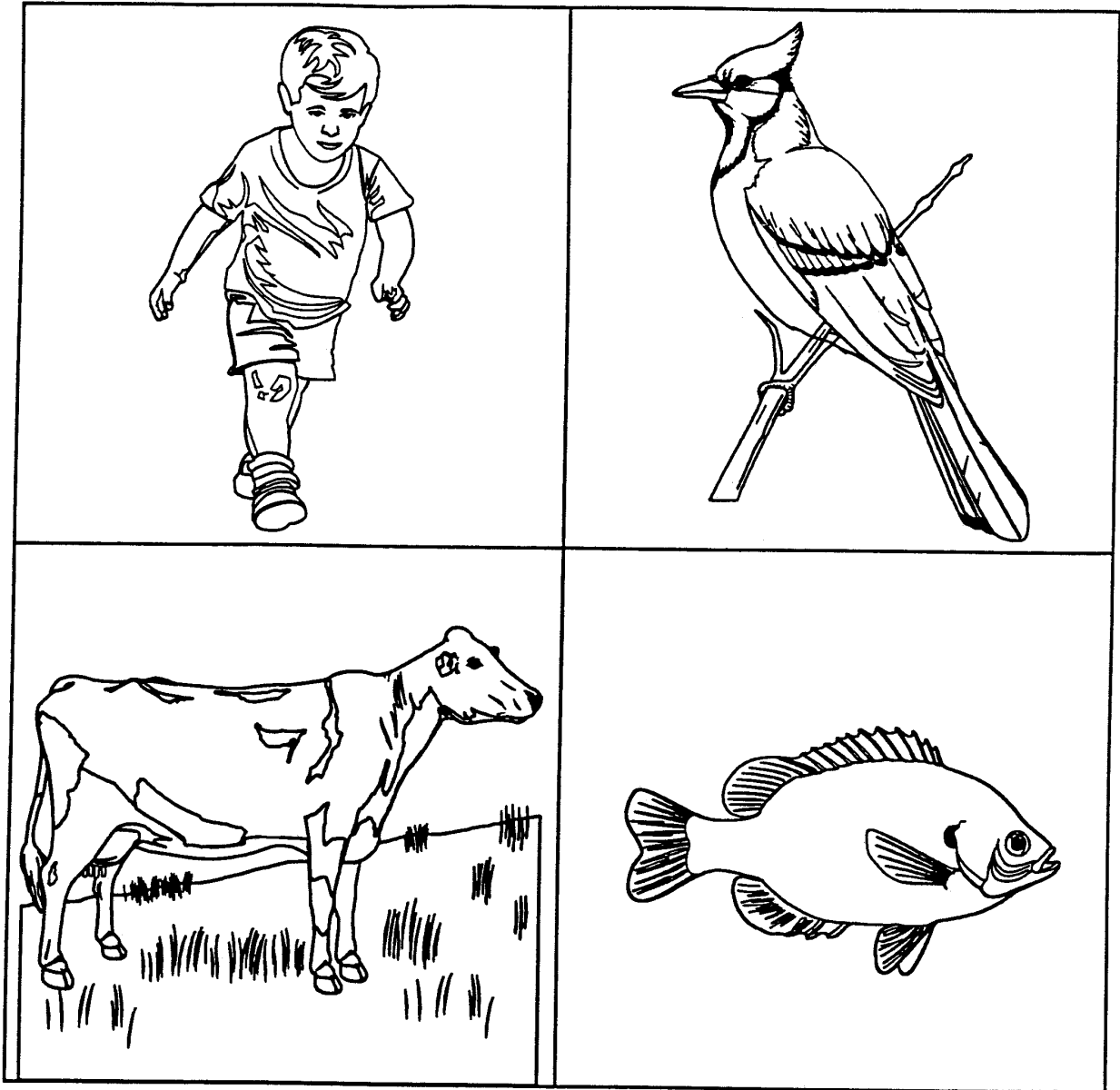
Which of these fruits and vegetables are harvested below the soil and which are above the soil? (Write the number).

Below _____ Above _____

The answer is:

Below
(2) Potatoes
(3) Carrot
(6) Peanuts

Above
(1) Apple
(4) Bananas
(5) Grapes



How many of these living things depend on the soil?

- _____ A. Boy
- _____ B. Bird
- _____ C. Cow

- _____ D. Fish
- _____ E. All living things

The answer is E.

All living things depend on soil to survive.

List or draw 5 living things that depend on soil to survive.

The mission of the Natural Resources Conservation Service is to provide leadership and to administer programs to help people conserve, improve, and sustain our natural resources and environment.