

Unit 2

Nature's Balance



BIG
Question

What happens
when nature
loses its balance?

THE ARCTIC
Polar bears trying to survive in an environment
damaged by industrial pollution

Unit at a Glance

- ▶ **Language Focus:** Ask and Answer Questions, Give and Carry Out Commands
- ▶ **Reading Strategy:** Ask Questions
- ▶ **Phonics Focus:** Vowel Sounds and Spellings: *u_e* and *oo*
- ▶ **Topic:** Ecosystems



Share What You Know

- 1 **Draw** a place where plants and animals live, such as a fish tank or a field.
- 2 **Imagine** that something changes in this place. Does the fish tank get dirty? Does rain flood the field?
- 3 **Display** your drawing. Tell what could happen to the plants or animals because of the change.



Fish might get sick in dirty water.



Ask and Answer Questions

Listen to the dialogue between Linda and Mike.
Then use **Language Frames** with a partner. Ask and answer questions about something in nature.

Language Frames

- Who is _____ ?
- What is _____ ?
- Where is _____ ?
- The _____ is _____ .

Dialogue

1.



Nice garden. Who is your gardener?

My mom. Gardening is her hobby. See that hole near the tulips? It's a gopher hole. Gophers live there.

2.



What is a gopher?

It's an animal that eats plants. We have too many gophers. Mom set out a trap, but the gophers won't go near it.

3.



Where is the trap?

The trap is in the middle of the tulip bed.

4.



I like tulips.

So do the gophers!

Key Words

amount

behavior

decrease

increase

supply

Key Words

Look at this example. Use **Key Words** and other words to talk about bird **behavior**.



What happens when the **supply** of birdseed **increases**?



What happens when the **amount** of birdseed **decreases**?

Talk Together

With a partner, talk about balance and the supply of bird food. Use **Language Frames** from page 76 and **Key Words** to ask and answer questions.

Compare and Contrast

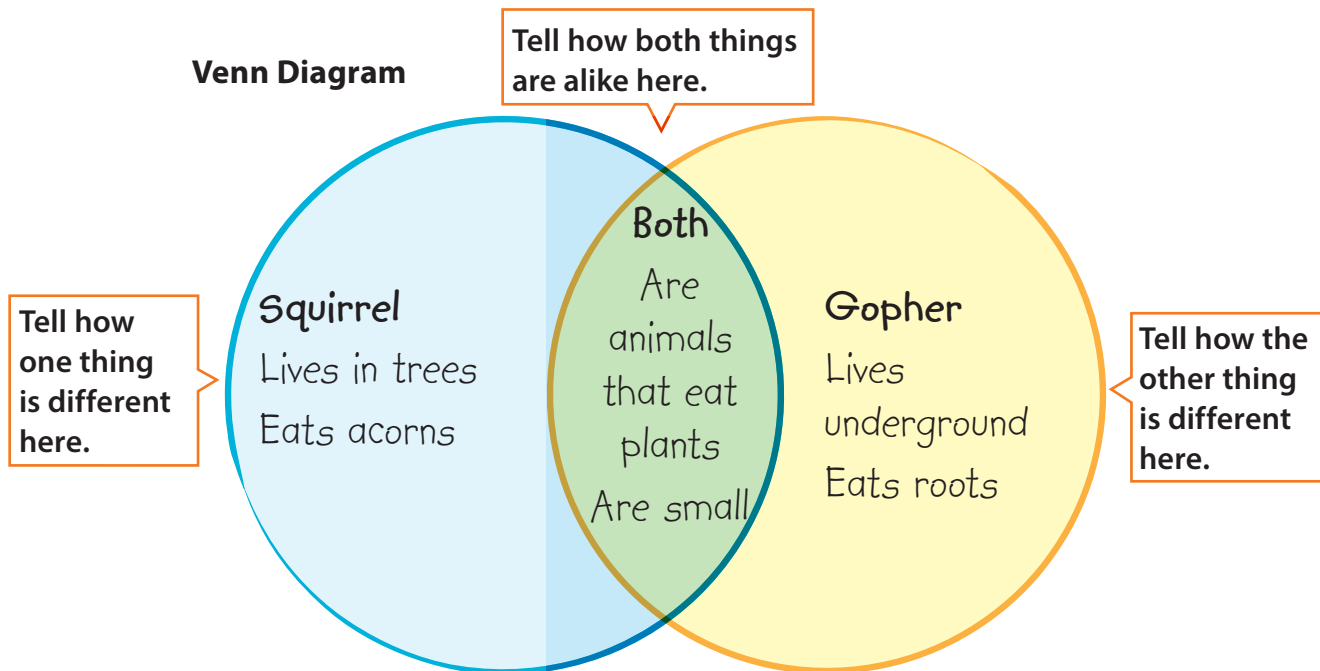
Sometimes you tell how things are alike and how they are different. When you do this, you **compare and contrast**.

Look at the pictures. How are the animals alike and how are they different?



Map and Talk

You can make a Venn diagram to compare and contrast.



Talk Together

Compare and contrast what you see in the pictures on page 77. Tell a partner. Your partner makes a Venn diagram.

Read a Humorous Story

Genre

A **humorous story** has funny characters and events.

Setting

The setting is where and when a story happens.

This story happens in a small village in China.





It's All in the Balance

by **Susan Henderson**



► Set a Purpose

A visitor sees a village garden.
Find out what he doesn't like
about it.

Once there was a **village** that had a very beautiful garden. Birds sang, bees buzzed in the trees, and colorful butterflies flew among the many **bright** flowers.

The people in the village were very **proud** of their garden. They thought it was the most beautiful garden in all the world.



village small town
bright colorful
proud pleased with

One day, a **visitor** came to the village.

“This is a wonderful garden,” he said, “except for all the holes in the leaves of the plants.”

“Oh dear,” said the villagers. “What can we do to fix the leaves?”

“Listen to me,” said the visitor. “For I am the greatest gardener in all the land.”



visitor guest

“Caterpillars eat leaves, and caterpillars come from eggs laid by butterflies,” said the visitor.

“It’s simple. If you **dig out** the butterfly bushes, the butterflies will go away—just like that.” And the man **snapped** his fingers.

The villagers nodded their heads. *This visitor must be very wise, they thought.*



dig out remove
snapped made a clicking sound



The villagers picked up their **shovels** and **wheelbarrows** and went to work digging up the garden.

Meanwhile, the butterflies and the birds watched from above. “Oh no!” they cried. “What are the villagers doing to our beautiful garden?”

The visitor looked on, quite satisfied with the villagers’ work.



shovels tools for digging

wheelbarrows small carts

Meanwhile While this was happening

► Before You Continue

1. **Cause/Effect** What does the visitor want to remove from the garden? Why?
2. **Ask Questions** Think about the visitor. Ask yourself a question about the character. Look for the answer as you read.

► Predict

What do you think will happen if the villagers get rid of the butterfly bushes?

A boy who lived outside the village passed by and saw what was happening. He told the villagers that the butterflies said the visitor's **advice** was silly. He **pleaded with** the villagers not to **get rid of** the butterfly bushes.



“The butterflies help keep this garden **in balance**,” said the boy.

“Butterflies?” **sneered** the visitor. “What do butterflies know?”

advice recommendation

pleaded with begged

get rid of remove

in balance in harmony

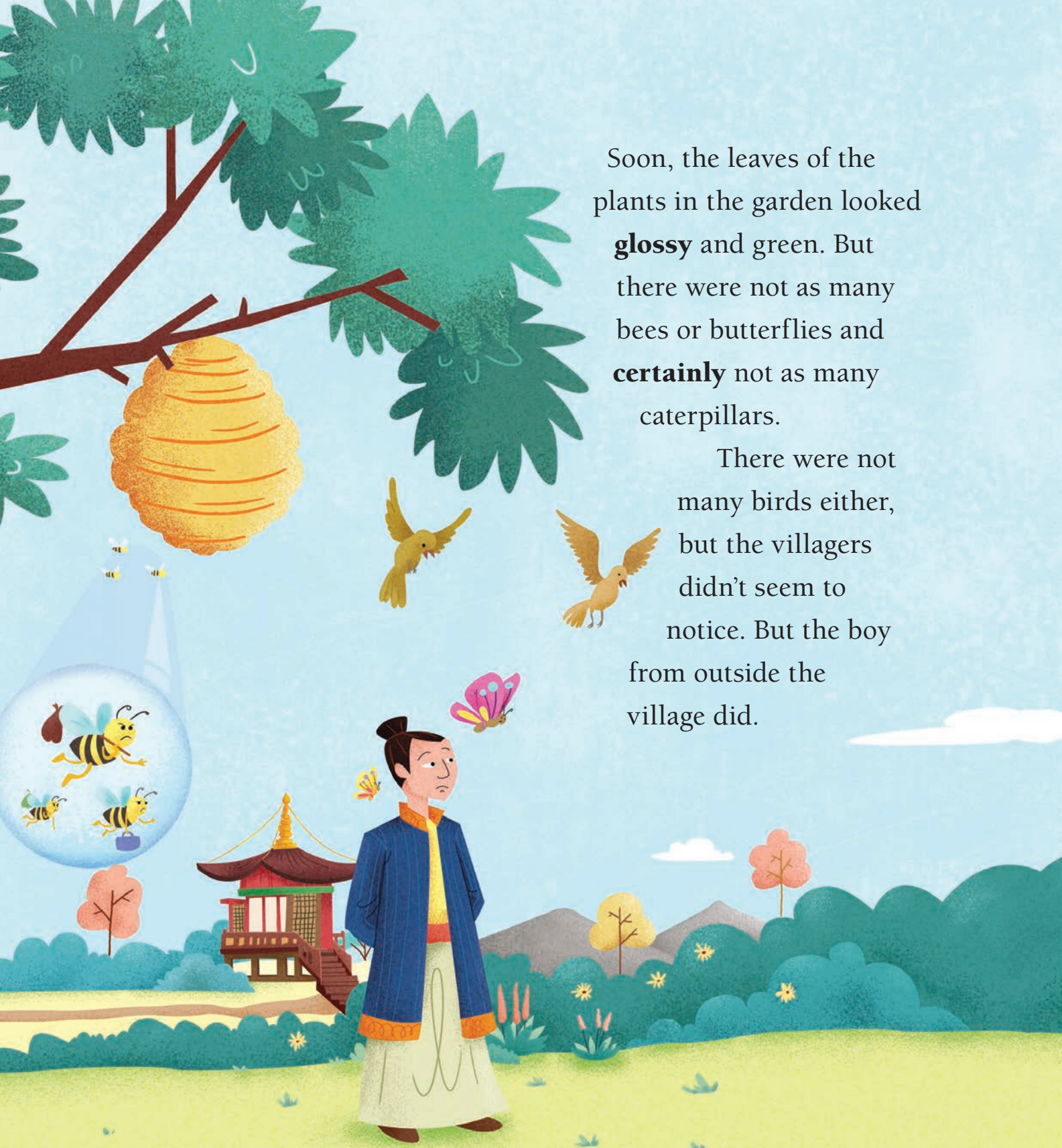
sneered mocked with a smile

“What do butterflies know?” the villagers repeated. They dug up all the bushes and laughed at the boy as he sadly walked away.

But the boy **saved** one of the butterfly bushes and took it back to his home. The butterflies and the birds, angry with the villagers, went with him.



saved rescued



Soon, the leaves of the plants in the garden looked **glossy** and green. But there were not as many bees or butterflies and **certainly** not as many caterpillars.

There were not many birds either, but the villagers didn't seem to notice. But the boy from outside the village did.

glossy shiny
certainly definitely

When the visitor returned, he said, “The leaves look much better, but your garden is too colorful. Get rid of some of those flowers.”

“TOO colorful?” replied the boy from outside the village. “The bird asks, ‘How can a garden be too colorful?’”

“What does a bird know?” asked the villagers, and they dug out most of the flowers.



► Before You Continue

1. **Confirm Prediction** What has happened to the garden so far? Was your prediction correct?
2. **Details** What does the visitor want the villagers to do next? Why?

► **Predict**

How will the villagers feel when the creatures start to disappear?

Time passed. One day, one of the villagers noticed that the **beehive** in the garden was empty. All the bees were gone.

“Who took the bees?” he **demanded**.

“Where have all the birds gone?” asked a woman.

“Where are the butterflies?” asked another. But there was no answer.



beehive home for bees
demanded asked forcefully

All at once, the garden seemed like a very sad place. There were no butterflies or birds. The bees had all gone, too. The garden had lost all its **residents**—and all its color.

“What have we done?” the villagers cried. “What has happened to our beautiful garden?”



All at once Suddenly
residents creatures who lived in
the garden

► Before You Continue

1. **Confirm Prediction** What was your prediction? Was it correct? Explain.
2. **Setting** Describe how the garden was different after the creatures disappeared.

► Predict

Look at the picture of the boy's garden. How will the villagers get their garden back to the way it was?

One day, one of the villagers **happened upon** the boy's house. There were colorful flowers **everywhere**. He saw bees and butterflies. He heard many birds **singing** from the trees.

"Your garden is beautiful," said the man. "Why isn't our garden like this?" he asked.

"Listen to the bees," said the boy.



happened upon accidentally
found

everywhere all over

singing chirping and tweeting



“Bees?” said the man. “What do bees—?” Then suddenly, he stopped. And he listened.

“The bees say, we tried to **control** nature,” said the man. “But we’ve **upset** the **balance**. Digging up the butterfly bushes made the butterflies go away. Without the butterflies, there were no caterpillars. With no caterpillars, the birds had nothing to eat, so they left, too.”



control supervise or manage
upset disturbed

The boy said, “Yes. Everything in nature **interacts** with one another. Plant flowers and butterfly bushes, and the bees and butterflies will come back. Then birds will come back, too.”

So the villagers **planted** new butterfly bushes and added more flowers.

Soon, their garden was the most beautiful garden in the world once again.



interacts connects

planted put in the ground

When the visitor returned to the village, he found the villagers **disguised** as birds, bees, and butterflies running toward him to **prevent** his entry. The visitor ran away as fast as he could, and the villagers laughed as he ran.

Once he was gone, the boy who lived outside the village turned to them and smiled. He said, “Ah, what does a visitor know?” ❖



disguised wearing costumes
prevent stop

► Before You Continue

1. **Confirm Prediction** How did the villagers get their garden back to the way it was? Was your prediction correct?
2. **Compare/Contrast** What do the villagers think about the visitor's advice at the beginning and end of the story? What do they learn?