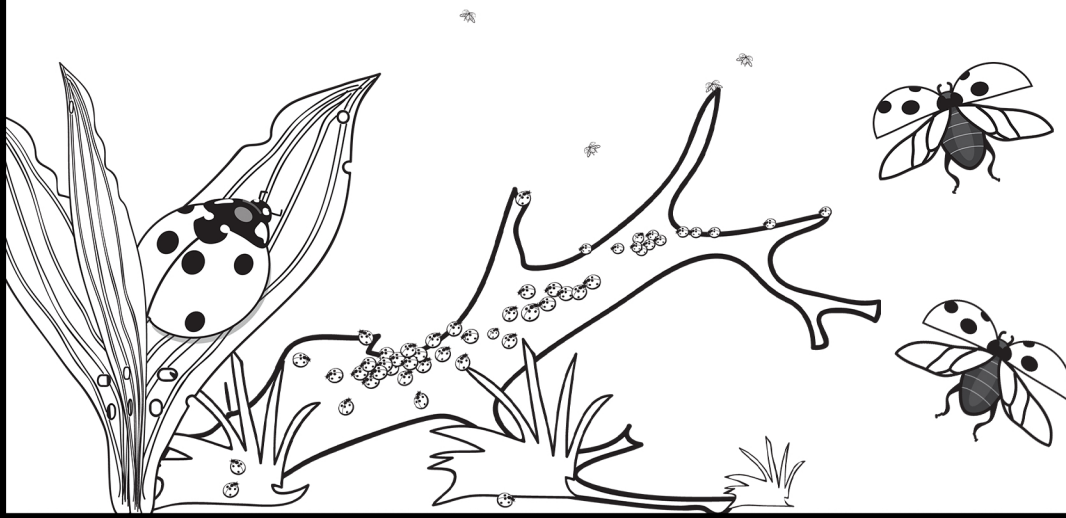


**Word Bank:**

food chain

ladybug

aphid

producer

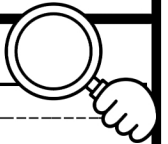
Gardens are full of tiny food chains. A food chain shows who eats whom, starting with plants. Plants are called producers because they make their own food using sunlight. Aphids are small, soft-bodied bugs that eat plants, making them a pest in many gardens. Luckily, ladybugs love to eat aphids! Since ladybugs eat so many aphids, they are known as beneficial insects or bugs that help protect plants instead of harming them. Many farmers and gardeners release ladybugs into their fields on purpose. This is called natural pest control, and it means fewer harmful chemicals are needed to grow healthy crops.

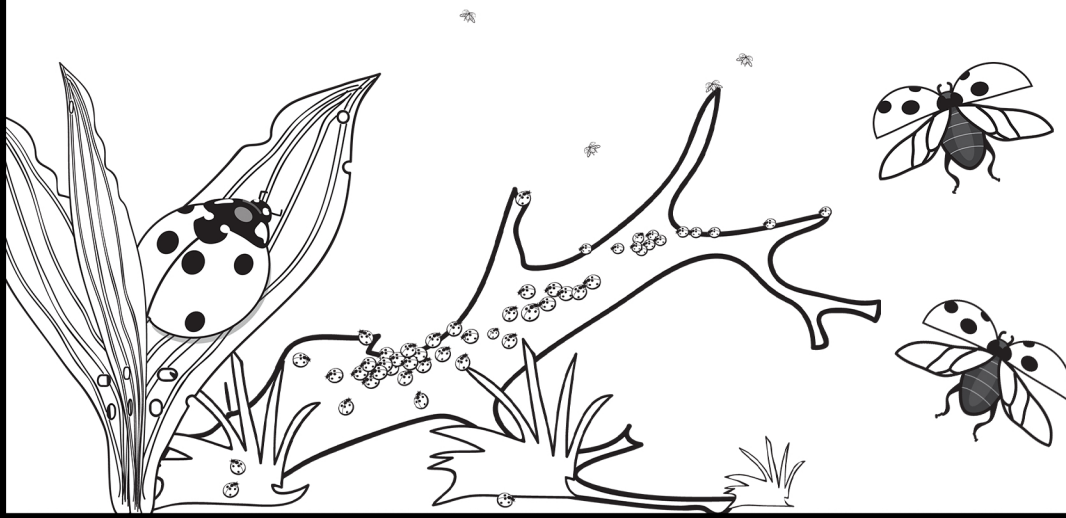
1. What is a producer?

2. Why are aphids considered a pest?

3. Why are ladybugs called beneficial insects?

4. Why might a farmer choose to use natural pest control?



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Gardens are full of tiny food chains. A food chain shows who eats whom, starting with plants. Plants are called producers because they make their own food using sunlight. Aphids are small, soft-bodied bugs that eat plants, making them a pest in many gardens. Luckily, ladybugs love to eat aphids! Since ladybugs eat so many aphids, they are known as beneficial insects or bugs that help protect plants instead of harming them. Many farmers and gardeners release ladybugs into their fields on purpose. This is called natural pest control, and it means fewer harmful chemicals are needed to grow healthy crops.

1. What is a producer?

A producer is a living thing that makes its own food using sunlight.

2. Why are aphids considered a pest?

Aphids are considered a pest because they eat and damage garden plants.

3. Why are ladybugs called beneficial insects?

Ladybugs are called beneficial insects because they eat aphids and help protect plants.

4. Why might a farmer choose to use natural pest control?

A farmer might choose it to protect crops without using harsh chemicals.

