

# ECOSYSTEMS

in Your

## BACKYARD



by Nyree Bevan



THE GOOD AND THE BEAUTIFUL LIBRARY



Did you know that in your backyard there is an ecosystem? You might be wondering what that is. An ecosystem is a community of living organisms that interact in a particular place. The organisms all work together to create a circle of life. Our incredible earth is full of many ecosystems, and they are all connected. In fact, the earth is one gigantic ecosystem. Yet some are small, like your neighborhood or your own backyard. Even just a small potted plant is an ecosystem!





Let's travel around the world and explore the ecosystems of three different backyards.



First, we'll head  
to beautiful  
Dunsborough in

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Right next to a river, there is a little green clapboard house, and in the backyard are lots of tall trees. Up in the trees live many wild birds, such as weiros, willie wagtails, and kookaburras, creating quite a ruckus. Down in the grass, you might see kangaroos bounding away or snakes seeking some shade from the hot sun. All year long, pesky mosquitoes buzz around.



KOOKABURRA



DIAMOND PYTHON



Kangaroos can jump over a fence 1.8 meters (6 feet) tall in one bound and move at speeds of up to 56 kilometers (35 miles) per hour!

KANGAROOS TRAVEL TOGETHER IN GROUPS CALLED MOBS AND ARE LED BY THE LARGEST MALE, CALLED A BOOMER.

Some species of kangaroo can grow up to 2.1 meters (6.9 feet) tall and weigh up to 90.7 kilos (200 pounds)!



A MOB OF KANGAROOS

On the other side of our planet in the lush, green state of Maryland, USA, there is a place called Germantown.

MARYLAND, USA

Here we find many houses, cars, people, and neighborhoods. Behind a brown town house, there is a small woodland with a creek flowing through it. The trees and plants give the community fresh air to breathe, and there are paths where people like to walk.





BALD EAGLE

The bald eagle isn't actually bald. In English, the word "bald" used to mean "white," so it gets its name from the distinctive white feathers on its head.

There are so many trees and flowers in the woods. It is nice and cool under the canopy of leaves, and you can often hear creatures moving about.

A TRILLIUM PLANT CAN LIVE UP TO 25 YEARS!



TRILLIUM



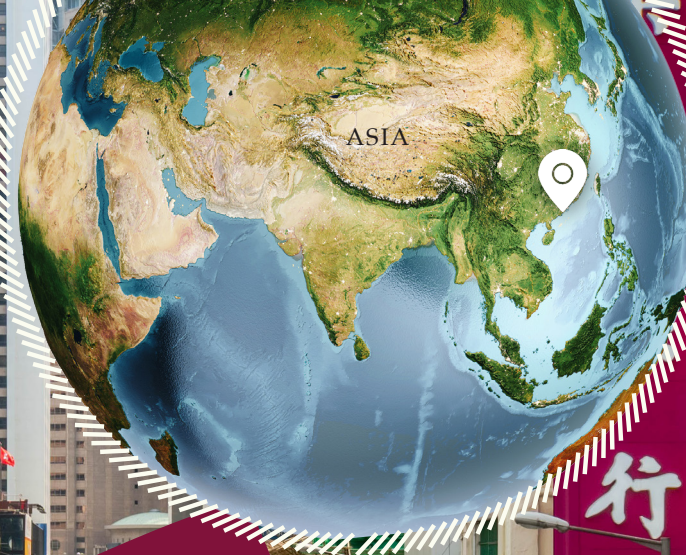
BLACK-EYED SUSAN



WHITE-TAILED DEER FAWN

What about people who live in large urban areas with buildings and cars everywhere?

How do you find an ecosystem when you don't even have a yard?



# HONG KONG

On the 20th floor of a high-rise apartment building in Hong Kong lives a lovely couple and their young daughter. They have a very small patio that looks out over the city.








THERE ARE TWO COMMON TYPES OF BEES IN HONG KONG: THE ASIATIC HONEY BEE AND THE ITALIAN BEE.

The Asiatic honey bee is one of the most physically varied species of honey bee.

THE ITALIAN BEE IS KNOWN FOR ITS GENTLE NATURE AND ABILITY TO EASILY ADAPT TO DIFFERENT CLIMATES.

The family eats most of the vegetables, and what they don't eat goes to feed the worms. As the worms eat the leftovers, they leave behind waste, also known as castings, which make some of the best fertilizer you can find. The family members collect the castings from the worms to put into the soil of their vegetable boxes. This helps feed the plants and produce large, tasty vegetables.



# ECOSYSTEMS in Your BACKYARD

**E**cosystems are everywhere you look—out your kitchen window, underneath the ground, even on your own skin! They all work in perfect harmony, and each is an incredible example of God's creative power. In this book you'll travel to three unique ecosystems around the world and learn about the plants and animals that live and work there side by side. Some are cute and some are creepy, but they all play a vital role in keeping their ecosystems—and our earth—healthy.



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