



# 2026 SAUK COUNTY WINNERS

## GRADES K-1 NAME SCHOOL DISTRICT

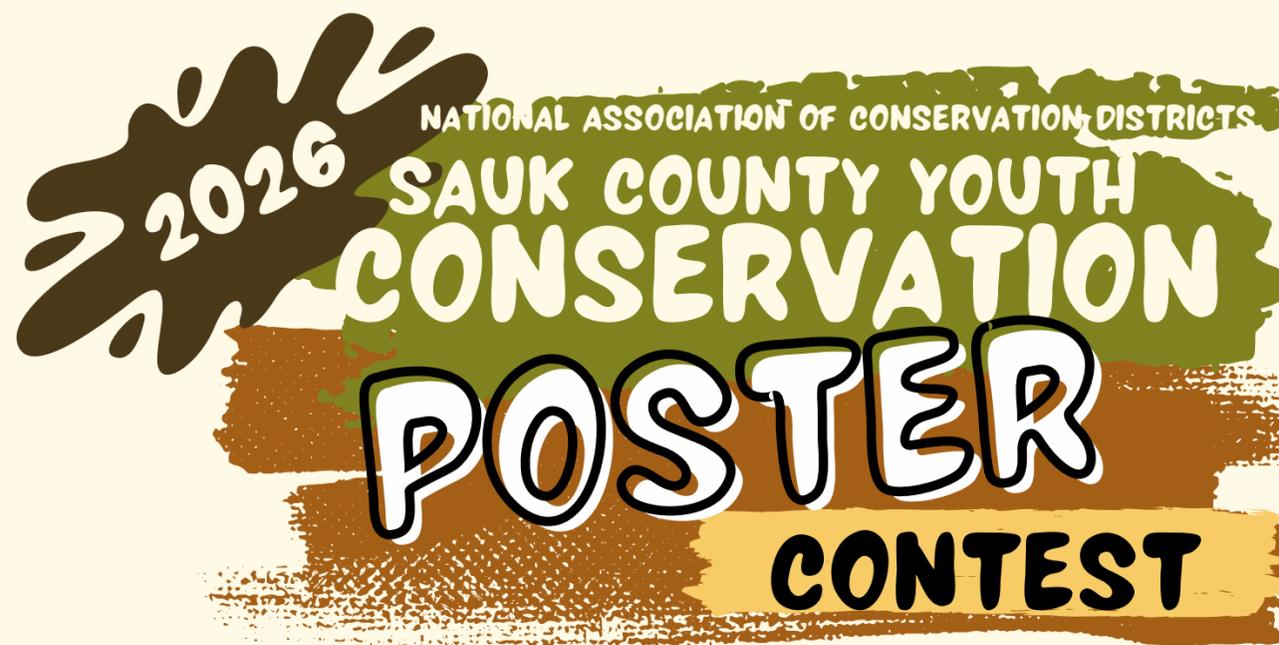
<b>1ST</b>	Naomi Thompson	Gordon L. Wilson Elementary	Baraboo
<b>2ND</b>	Colton Miller	Weston Elementary	Weston
<b>3RD</b>	Owen Motz	St. John's Lutheran School	Private
<b>4TH</b>	Emily Kociecki	St. John's Lutheran School	Private

## GRADES 2-3 NAME SCHOOL DISTRICT

<b>1ST</b>	Lynette Herrild	Gordon L. Wilson Elementary	Baraboo
<b>2ND</b>	Adeleigh Pyfferoen	Weston Elementary	Weston
<b>3RD</b>	Olivia Bourgeois	Merrimac Community School	Sauk
<b>4TH</b>	Jenell Bindl	River Valley Elementary	River Valley

## GRADES 4-6 NAME SCHOOL DISTRICT

<b>1ST</b>	Mackenna Herrild	Gordon L. Wilson Elementary	Baraboo
<b>2ND</b>	Laina Mani	River Valley Intermediate	River Valley
<b>3RD</b>	Hadlee Weiss	River Valley Intermediate	River Valley
<b>4TH</b>	Mateo Mendez	River Valley Intermediate	River Valley



Soil.  
Where it all Begins



Visit our website for poster contest information:  
[www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservation/conservation-contests](http://www.co.sauk.wi.us/landconservation/conservation-contests)

## GRADES 7-9 NAME SCHOOL DISTRICT

<b>1ST</b>	Alexandra Herrild	Jack Young Middle School	Baraboo
<b>2ND</b>	Aubrey Anliker	River Valley High School	River Valley
<b>3RD</b>	Elle Osborn	River Valley High School	River Valley
<b>4TH</b>	Camryn Ferguson	River Valley High School	River Valley

## GRADES 10-12 NAME SCHOOL DISTRICT

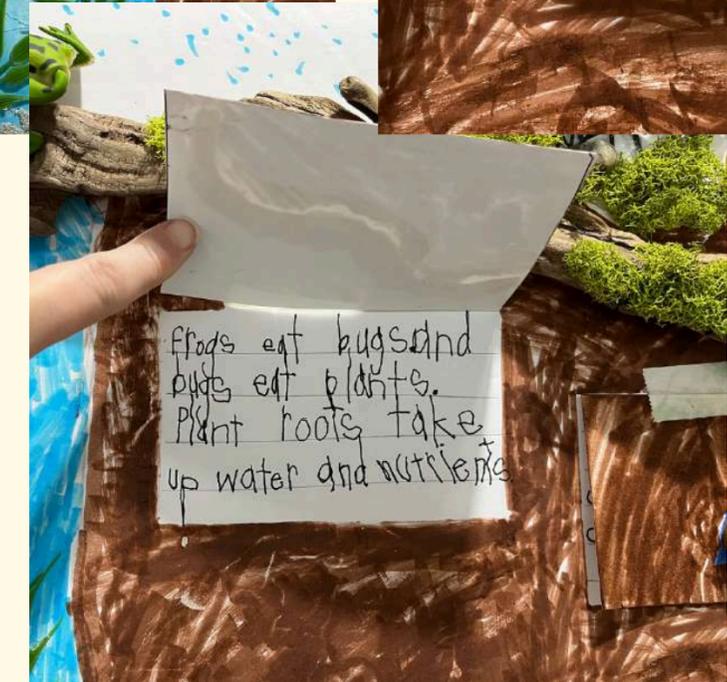
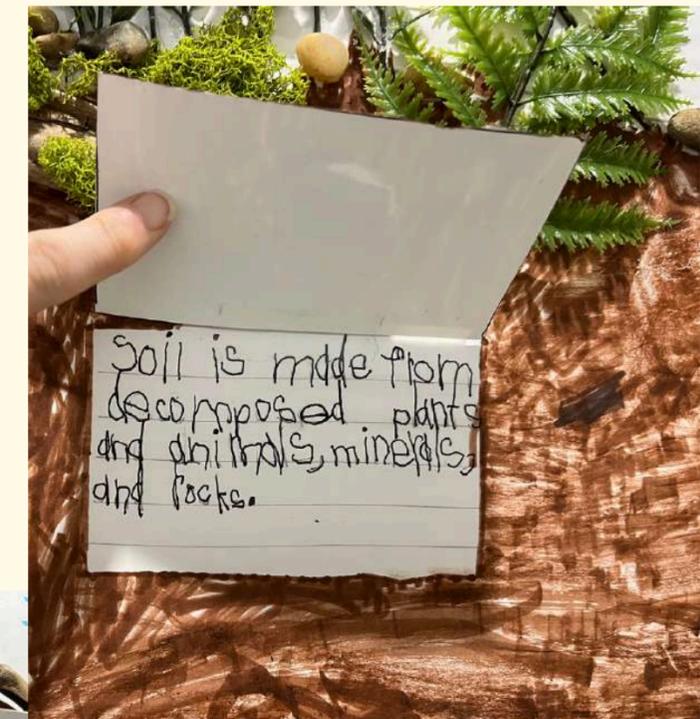
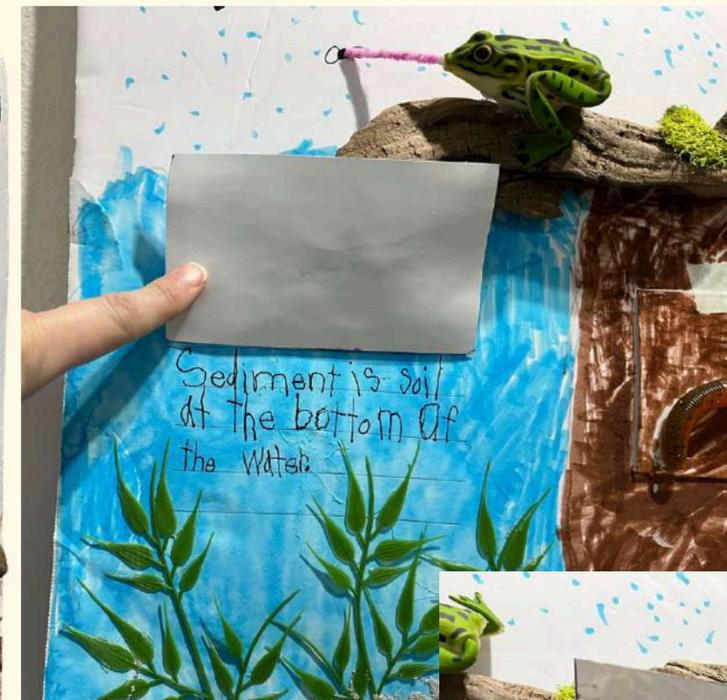
<b>1ST</b>	Lilly Bowar	River Valley High School	River Valley
<b>2ND</b>	Ashlynn Hannah	River Valley High School	River Valley
<b>3RD</b>	Aubree Christian	River Valley High School	River Valley
<b>4TH</b>	Quinn Ballweg	River Valley High School	River Valley

# GRADES K-1 1ST PLACE

NAOMI THOMPSON, KINDERGARTEN

GORDON L. WILSON ELEMENTARY

BARABOO



# GRADES K-1 2ND PLACE

COLTON MILLER, 1ST GRADE

WESTON ELEMENTARY

WESTON

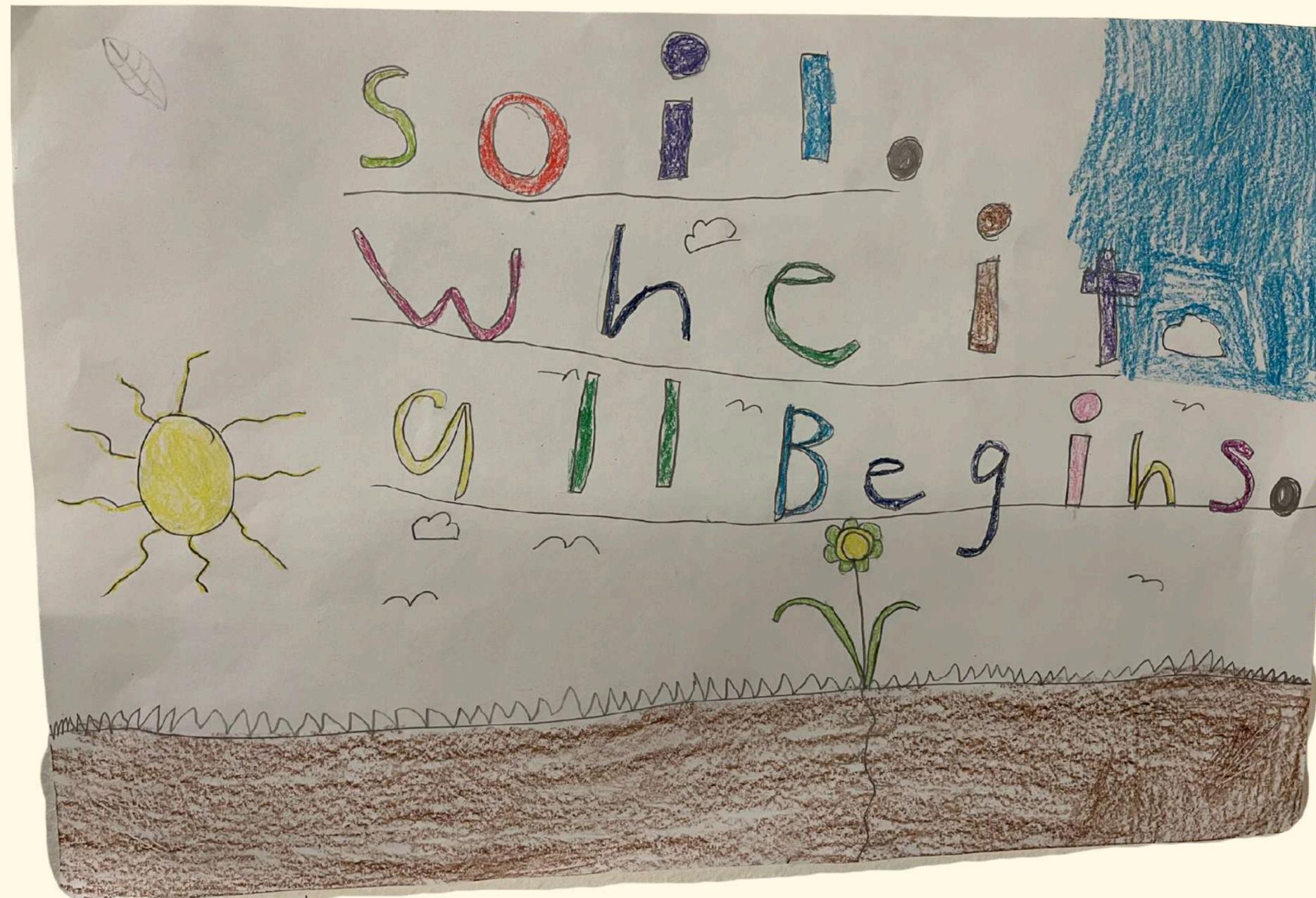


# GRADES K-1 3RD PLACE

OWEN MOTZ, 1ST GRADE

ST JOHN'S LUTERAN SCHOOL

PRIVATE

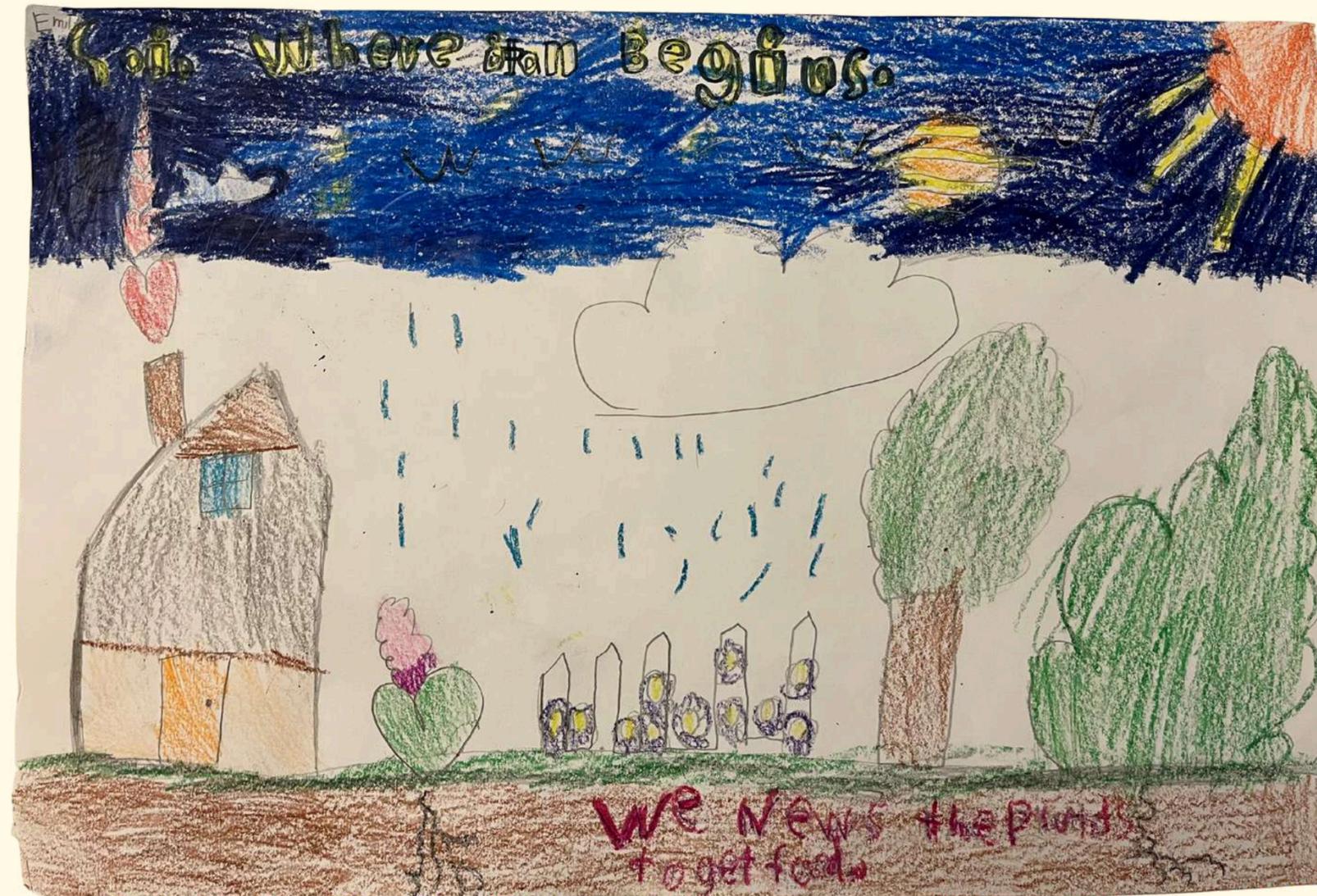


# GRADES K-1 4TH PLACE

EMILY KOCIECKI, 1ST GRADE

ST JOHN'S LUTERAN SCHOOL

PRIVATE



# GRADES 2-3 1ST PLACE

LYNETTE HERRILD, 2<sup>ND</sup> GRADE

GORDON L WILSON ELEMENTARY

BARABOO



GRADES 2-3

2ND PLACE

ADELEIGH PYFFEROEN, 3RD GRADE

WESTON ELEMENTARY

WESTON



# GRADES 2-3 3RD PLACE

OLIVIA BOURGEOIS, 2ND GRADE

MERRIMAC COMMUNITY SCHOOL

SAUK



# GRADES 2-3 4TH PLACE

JENELL BINDL, 2ND GRADE

RIVER VALLEY ELEMENTARY

RIVER VALLEY



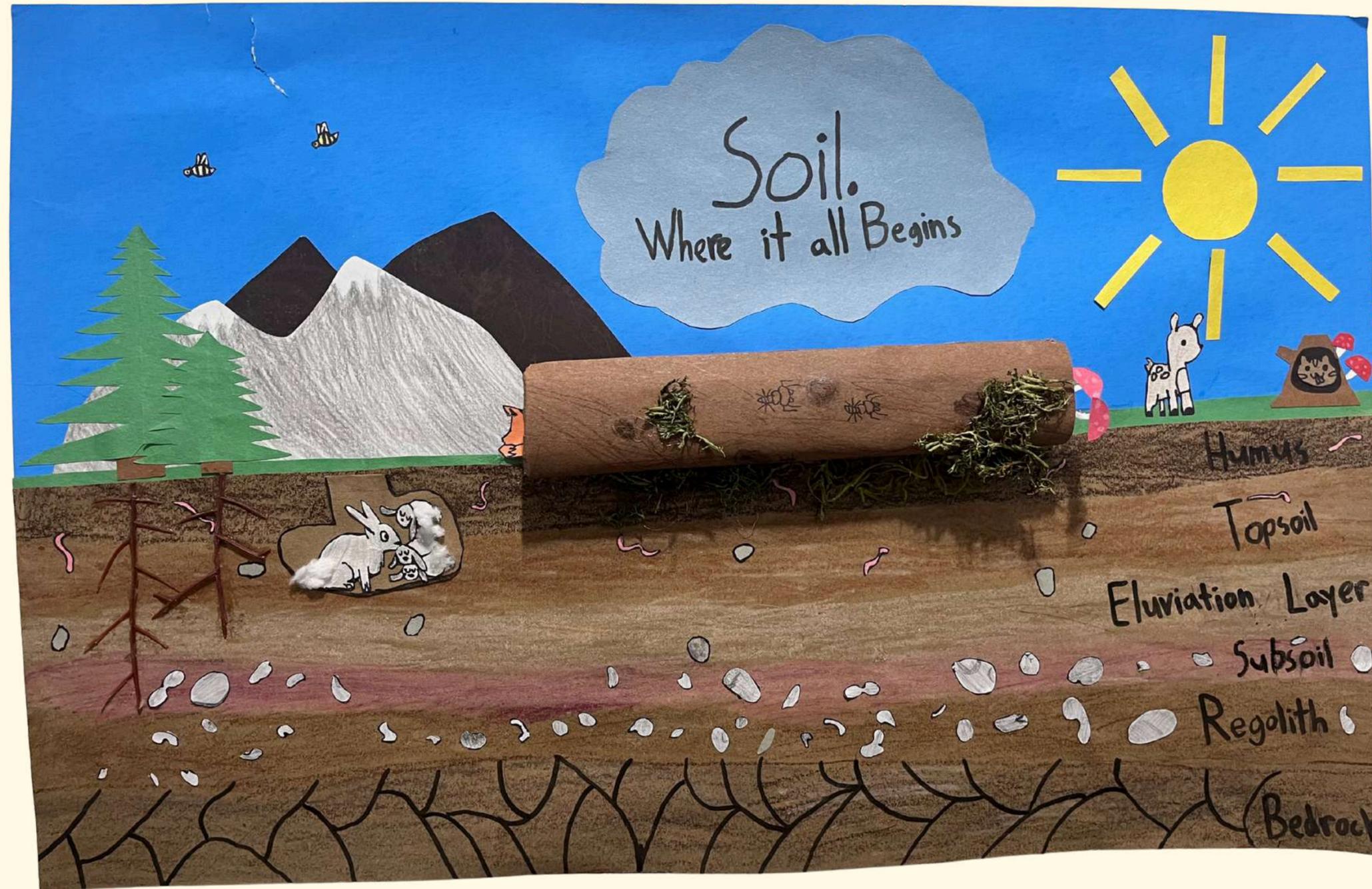
# GRADES 4-6

# 1ST PLACE

MACKENNA HERRILD, 5<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

GORDON L WILSON ELEMENTARY

BARABOO



# GRADES 4-6 2ND PLACE

LAINA MANI, 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY INTERMEDIATE

RIVER VALLEY

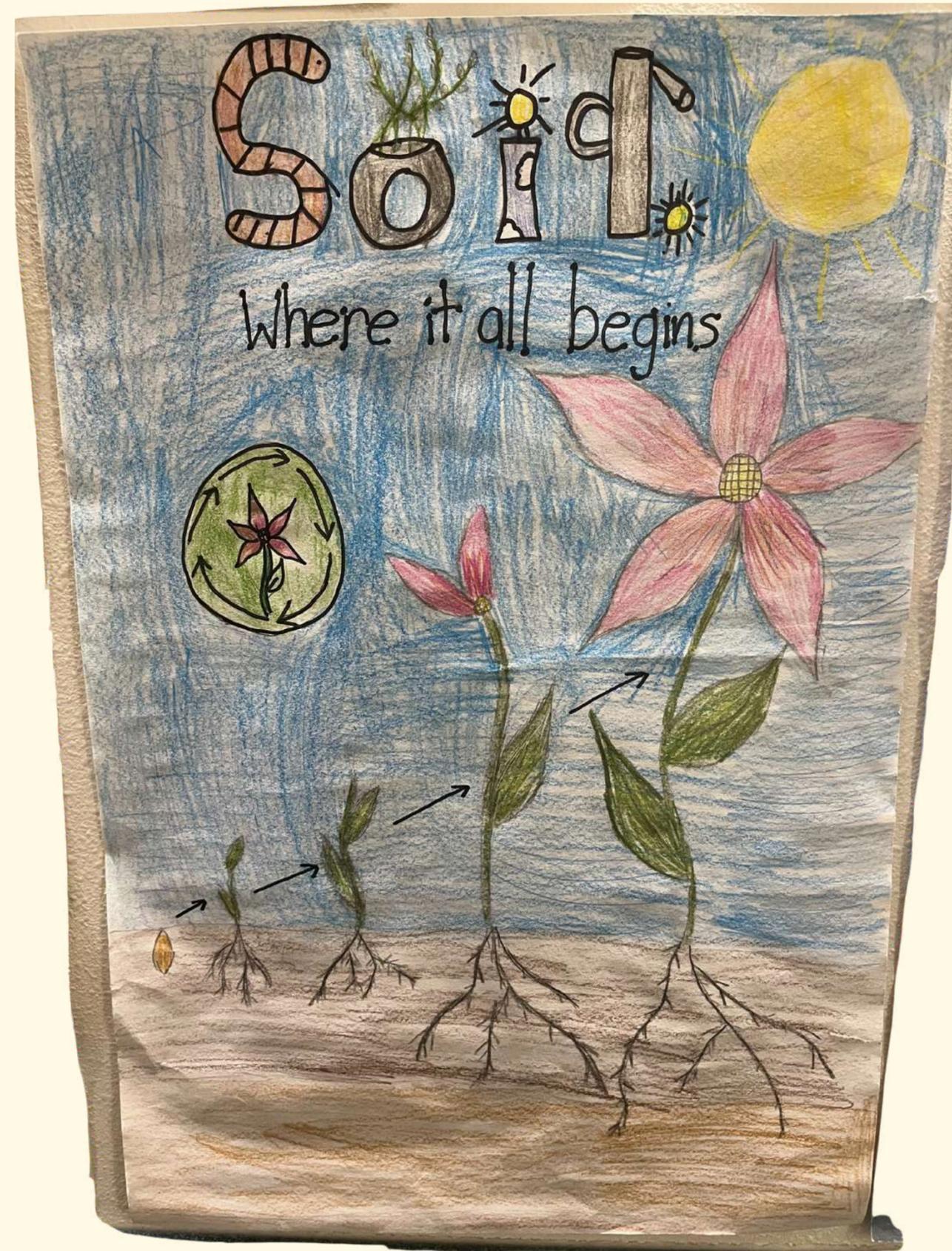


# GRADES 4-6 3RD PLACE

HADLEE WEISS, 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY INTERMEDIATE

RIVER VALLEY



# GRADES 4-6 4TH PLACE

MATEO MENDEZ, 4<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY INTERMEDIATE

RIVER VALLEY



# GRADES 7-9 1ST PLACE

ALEXANDRA HERRILD, 7<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

JACK YOUNG MIDDLE SCHOOL

BARABOO



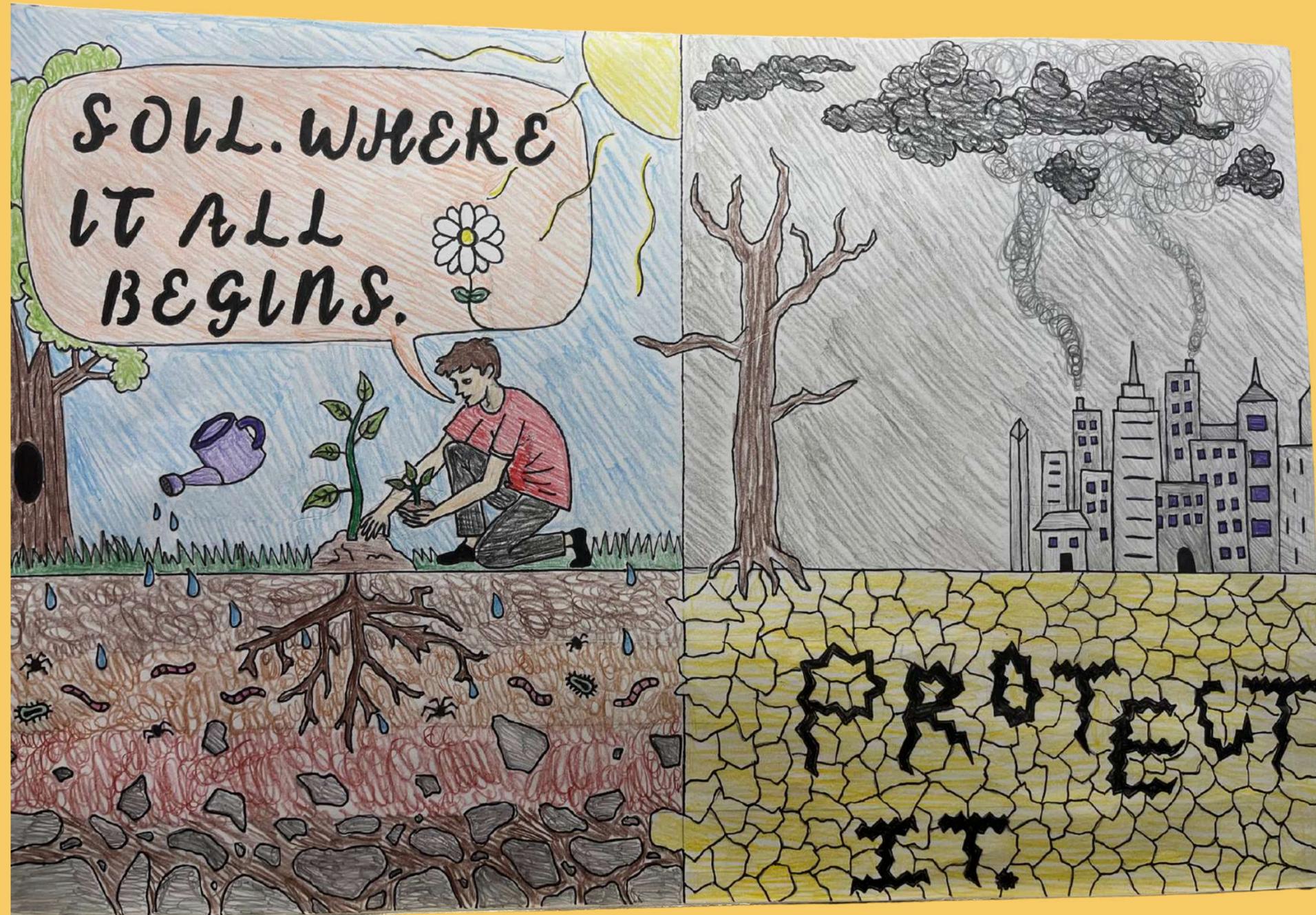
# GRADES 7-9

# 2ND PLACE

AUBREY ANLIKER, 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

RIVER VALLEY



# GRADES 7-9 3RD PLACE

ELLE OSBORN, 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

RIVER VALLEY



# GRADES 7-9 4TH PLACE

CAMRYN FERGUSON, 9<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

RIVER VALLEY

## Soil.

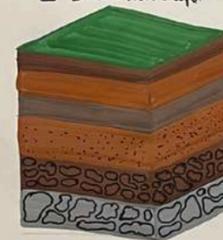
### Where It All Begins

#### Soil Layers

1<sup>st</sup> O - Organic Layer    2<sup>nd</sup> B - Subsoil

3<sup>rd</sup> A - Top Soil    4<sup>th</sup> C - Parent Rock

5<sup>th</sup> E - Eluviation Layer    6<sup>th</sup> R - Bedrock

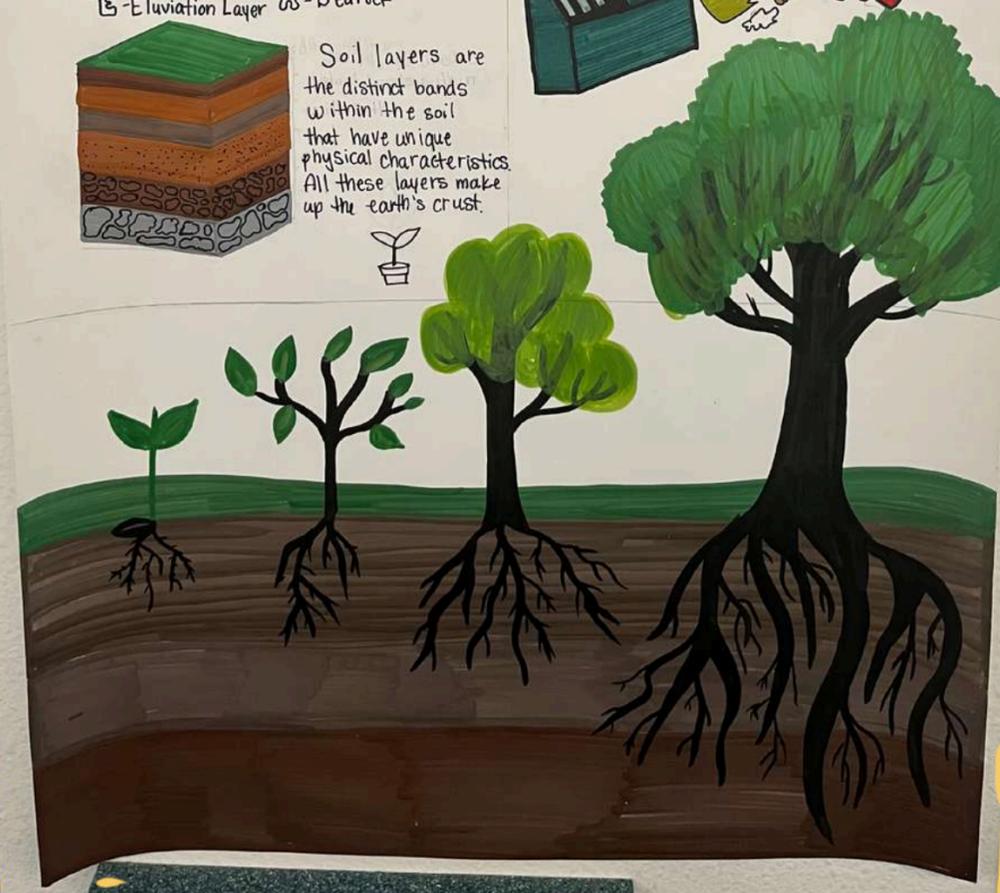


Soil layers are the distinct bands within the soil that have unique physical characteristics. All these layers make up the earth's crust.



#### Trash

Trash impacts our environment by polluting soil by leaching toxins, heavy metals, and microplastics, reducing fertility, contaminating crops, and harming ecosystems.



# GRADES 10-12 1ST PLACE

LILLY BOWAR, 11<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

RIVER VALLEY

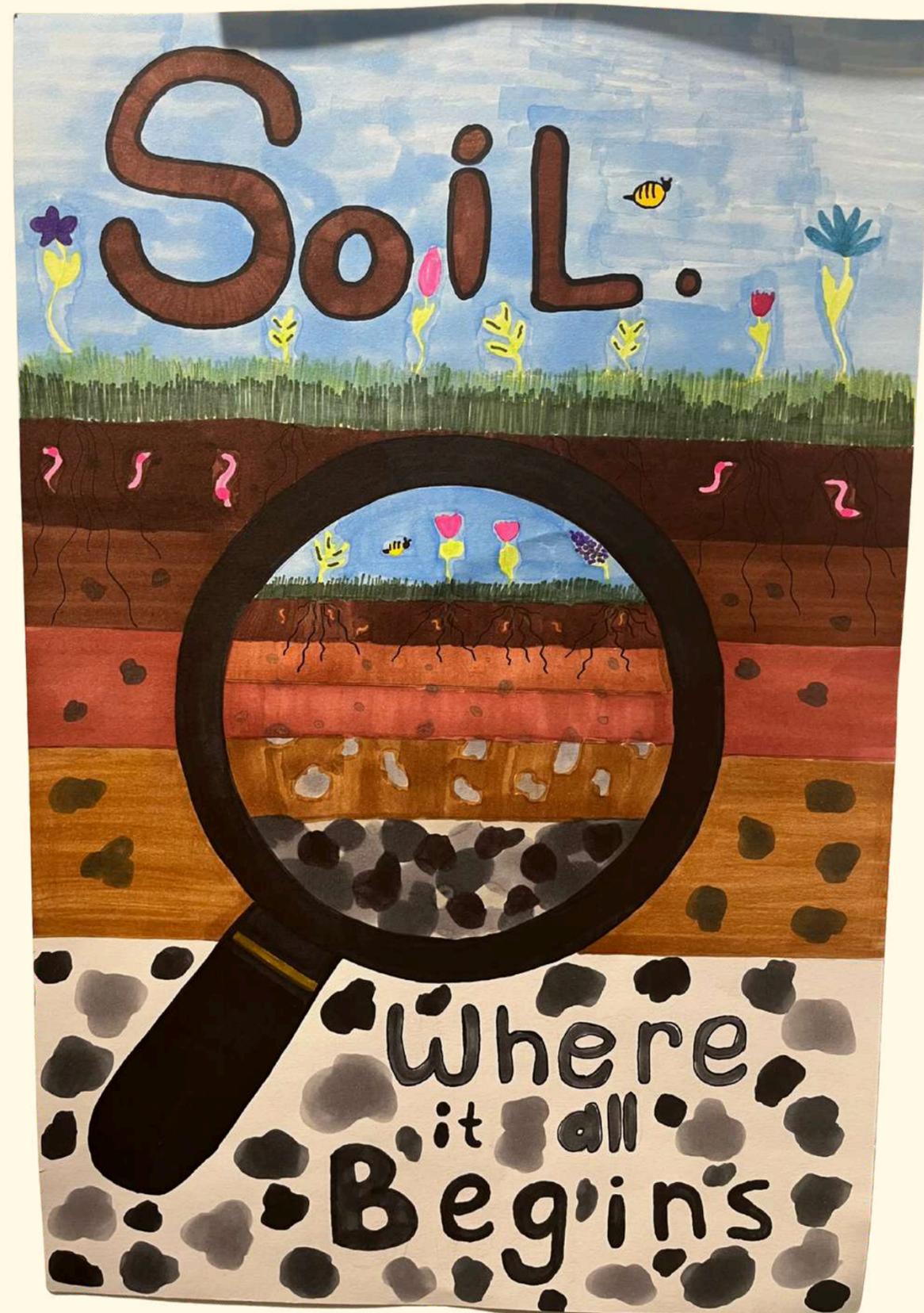


# GRADES 10-12 2ND PLACE

ASHLYNN HANNAH 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

RIVER VALLEY

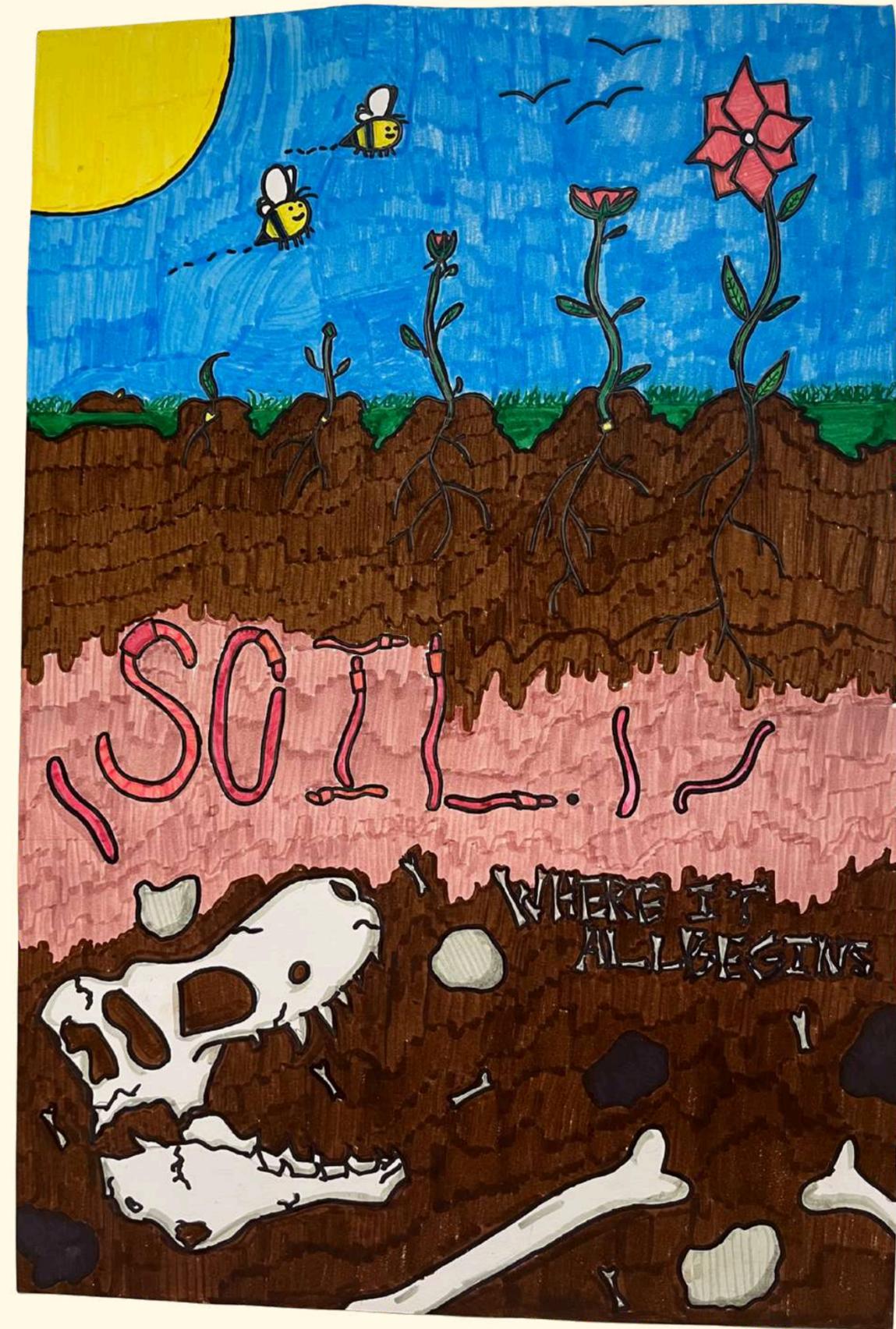


# GRADES 10-12 3RD PLACE

AUBREE CHRISTAIN 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

RIVER VALLEY



# GRADES 10-12 4TH PLACE

QUINN BALLWEG 12<sup>TH</sup> GRADE

RIVER VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

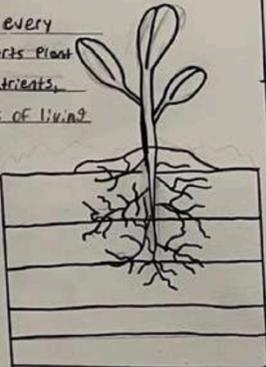
RIVER VALLEY

## Life's First Chapter is Written Beneath The Ground

"To forget how to dig the earth and tend the soil is to forget ourselves." - Mahatma Gandhi

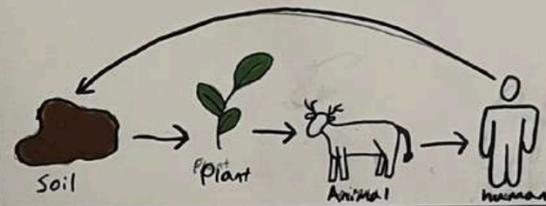
### Soil Where it all begins.

Soil is the starting point for every ecosystem on earth. It supports plant growth, stores water, recycles nutrients, and provides a home for millions of living organisms. Without healthy soil, crops can't grow, animals can't survive, and ecosystems collapse.



### The story of growth:

Plants grow in the soil: The soil gives plants the food and water they need to grow.  
Animals eat the plants: Animals get their energy and nutrients from plants.  
Humans eat plants and animals: We rely on both for food, energy, and health.  
The cycle continues: When plants and animals die, they break down and return nutrients to the soil, helping new plants grow again.



### Soil under threat:

Problems that affect our soil:

Erosion:

Pollution:

Over-farming:

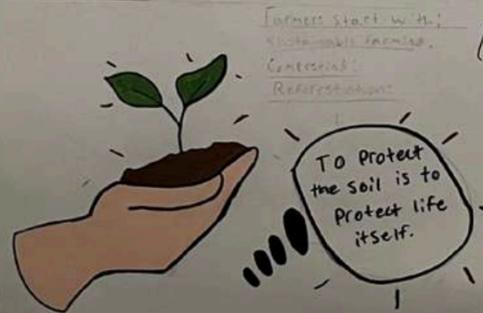
Deforestation:

"Our story can't continue if the foundation fades."



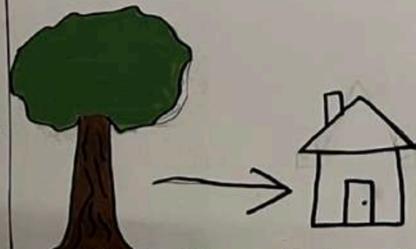
### Protecting the Story:

We need to protect the soil because it grows our food, supports animals and plants, and keeps our environment healthy. If we damage the soil, we lose the resources we need to survive. Protecting soil protects our future.



### Every Living Thing Depends on Soil.

From trees: Paper, pencils, furniture, houses, cardboard boxes.  
From crops: bread, cereal, clothes, cooking oil.  
From animals: Dairy products, wool, meat, eggs, leather.  
From plants: Rubber, soaps, medicines.



### Our call to Action:

- Plant trees
- Compost
- Farm smart
- Stop erosion
- Recycle







# OTHER GREAT SUBMISSIONS!



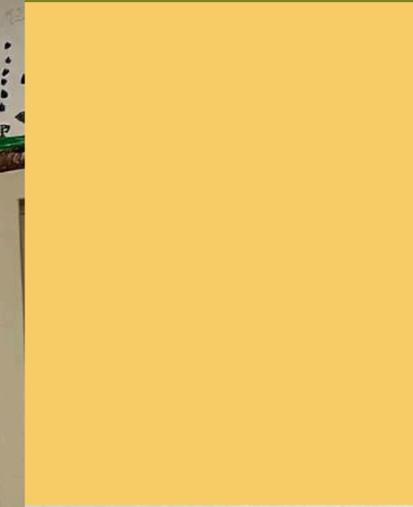
Conference Room Occupied 249

CONFERENCE ROOM

# OTHER GREAT SUBMISSIONS!



# OTHER GREAT SUBMISSIONS!

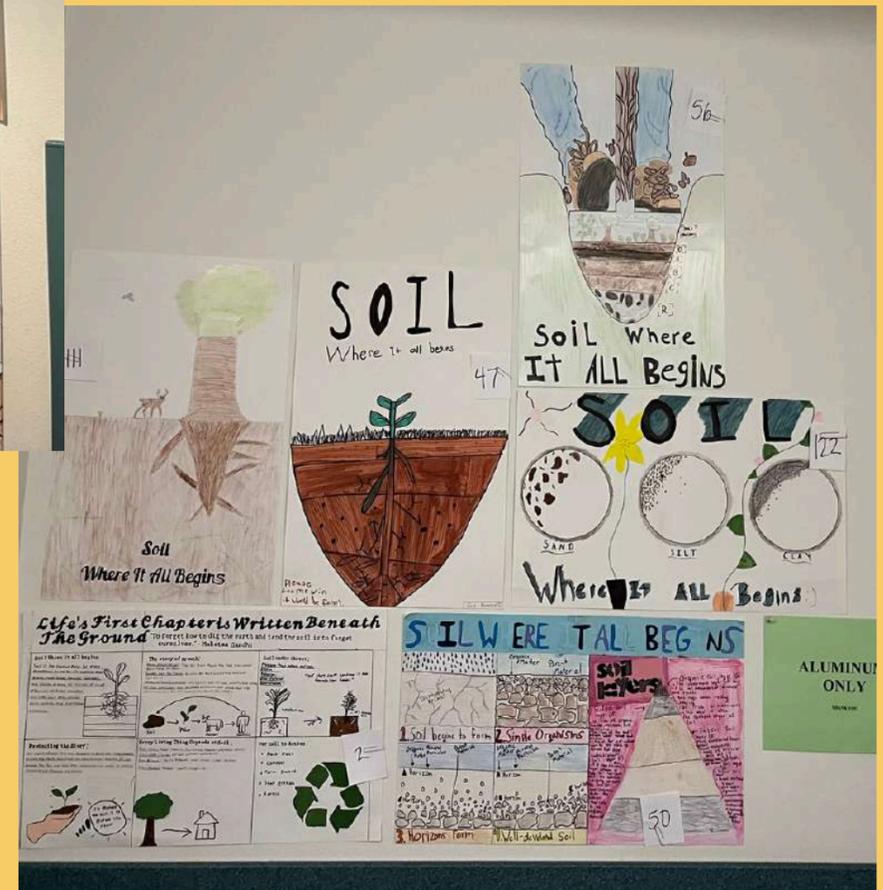




# OTHER GREAT SUBMISSIONS!



# OTHER GREAT SUBMISSIONS!



ALUMINUM ONLY