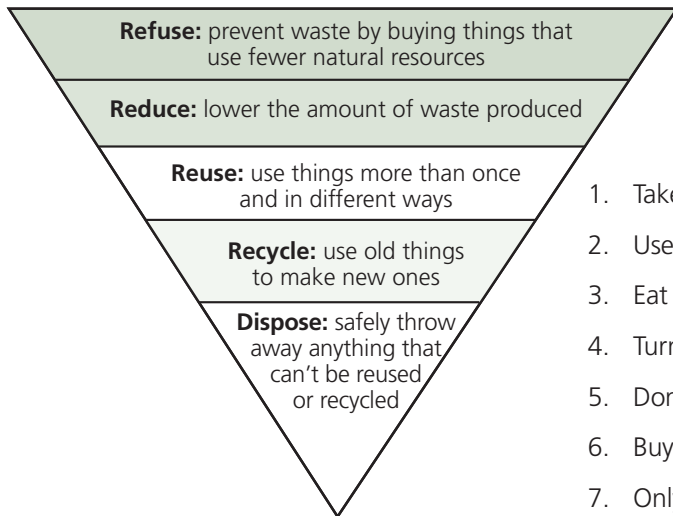# YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The whole planet is like a web. It's all connected! Everything we use in our daily lives comes from some kind of natural resource. When we buy new things, throw away old things, or make things on our own, like new buildings, we are using up natural resources. This is harmful to the biodiversity of our planet. For example, deforestation to create the lumber for new buildings leads to the destruction of habitats for monarch butterflies and caribou.

Animal Saver Vocabulary

Biodiversity: the variety of life forms on our planet

Natural resource: materials from the earth that support life

Hierarchy: system of ranking or organizing things

The Waste Hierarchy

The Waste Hierarchy helps us think about small ways to take better care of our planet.
We need to do more of the actions at the top of the hierarchy to protect the ecosystems and habitats where animals live.

Refuse: prevent waste by buying things that use fewer natural resources

Reduce: lower the amount of waste produced

Reuse: use things more than once and in different ways

Recycle: use old things to make new ones

Dispose: safely throw away anything that can't be reused or recycled

Changemaker Actions

Match each action below to where it belongs on the Waste Hierarchy. Then use the space at the bottom of the sheet to write one action you plan to take for each part of the hierarchy.

1. Take shorter showers. _____
2. Use both sides of paper. _____
3. Eat less meat. _____
4. Turn off electronics when they aren't in use. _____
5. Don't use single-use plastic. _____
6. Buy products with the least amount of packaging. _____
7. Only buy what you need. _____
8. Carry re-usable water bottles. _____
9. Safely dispose of non-recyclable trash. _____
10. Donate outgrown clothing to shelters or thrift stores. _____
11. Collect rainwater to use in watering plants. _____

Complete each sentence by describing how you will help animals and the environment:

- I will refuse by _____
- I will reduce by_____
- I will reuse by _____
- I will recycle by_____

Share your ideas with your family! Choose one Changemaker action you can all try together for at least one week to make a difference!