

**Activity Sheet 1a**

**Comprehension- Is the soil alive? (pg 39-43)**

**A) Answer the following questions in complete sentences.**

1. Pierre Rabhi is a farmer and an environmentalist. State one way in which he cares for the environment.

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2. How does Mr Rabhi make compost for his farm?

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3. Explain why Mr Rabhi's plants would continue to grow well even when there is little rain.

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4. Describe the importance of earthworms to a farmer.

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5. Explain why farmers would resort to chemical fertilizers on their crops.

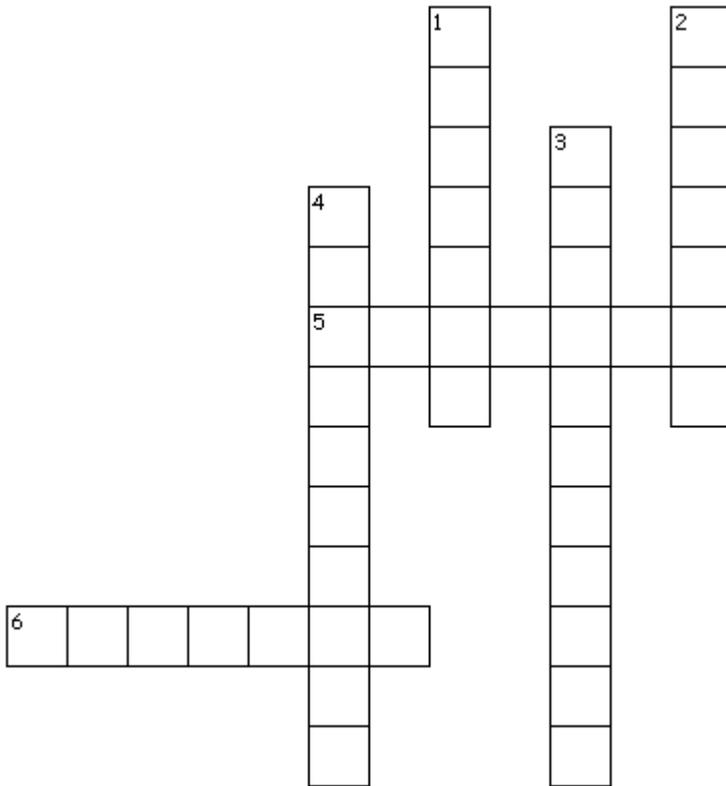
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6. State 2 benefits of using natural fertilizers.

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### Activity 1b- Vocabulary

The answers can be found in the story. Can you solve the puzzle? Have fun!



#### Across

5. pure, not made by humans
6. without using chemicals

#### Down

1. to add dirty and harmful substances to the land
2. weak and easily destroyed
3. so small that it cannot be seen with our naked eyes
4. all people who were born about the same time

#### Comprehension and Vocabulary

1. He does not use chemicals in his land. Instead, he uses organic methods that are closer to the way nature works.
2. He gathers vegetable peelings, straw and rain water into a big pile and leaves it to rot for about 2 to 3 months. This pile will decompose slowly and become compost which can then be used as fertilisers.
3. The compost can hold a lot of water and this helps the plant roots not to dry out, even when there is no rain.
4. Earthworms help to move soil around as they dig. Air and water can then pass through the soil effectively.
5. Using chemical fertilisers is an easy way to get rid of fungi and insects which attack the crops.
6. Many kinds of vegetables can be grown easily when natural fertilisers are used. The soil is also natural and alive with living creatures such as earthworms.

#### Vocabulary – Crossword Puzzle

Across 5) natural 6) organic

Down 1) pollute 2) fragile 3) microscopic 4) generation