

Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ride the Wild Leaf Cycle - A

1. Read the story about the leaf cycle. Then use what you've learned to number the maple leaves to show the correct order of steps in the leaf cycle. Color the leaves in autumn colors.
2. Cut the leaves out and glue them where they belong on the leaf cycle on activity sheet B.

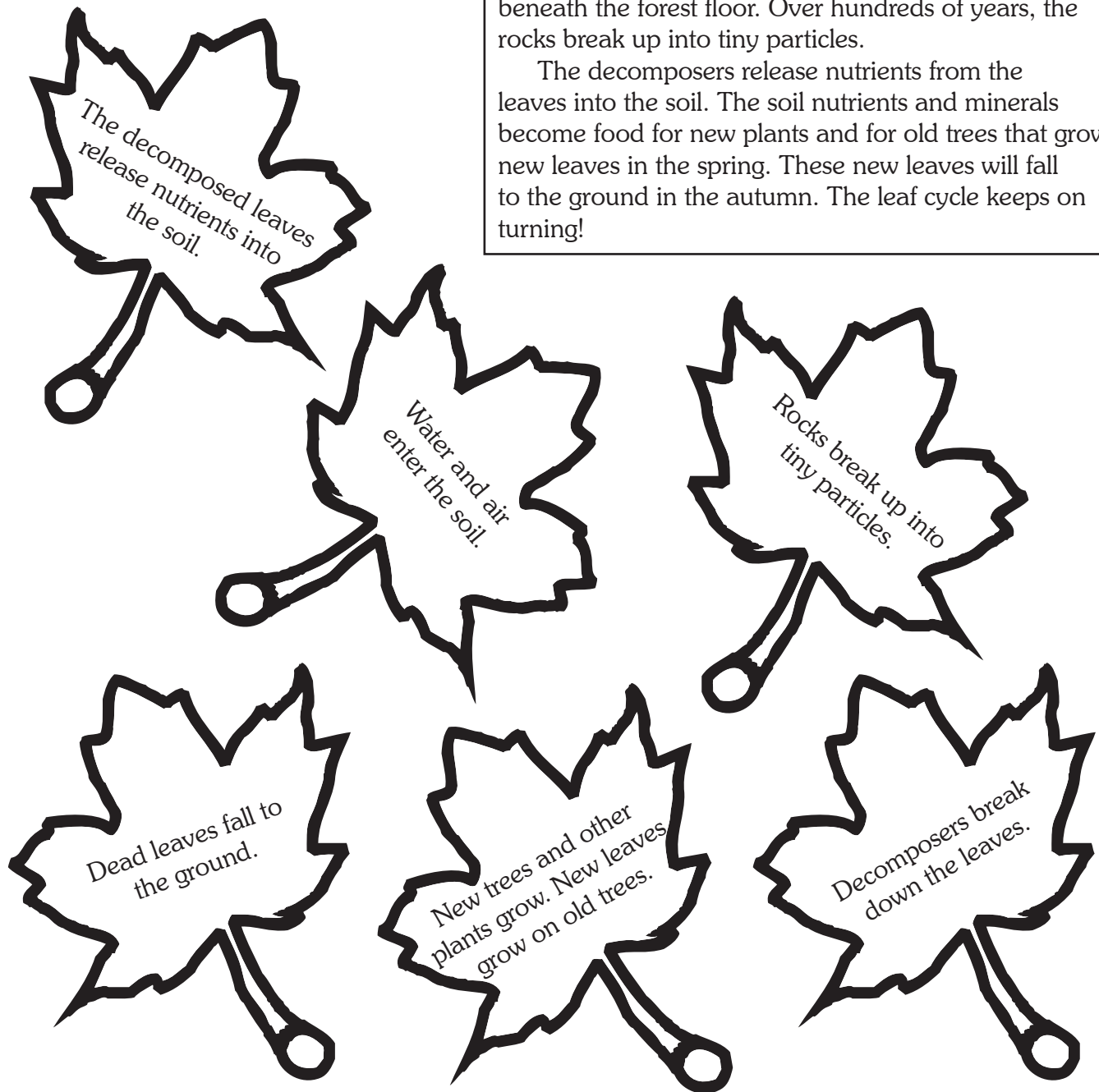
### The Leaf Cycle

What happens to leaves when they fall to the ground in the autumn? In the forest they go for a ride on the leaf cycle.

After leaves fall to the ground, decomposers go to work, breaking the leaves down into food for the soil. Rain and snow provide water. Water and air enter the soil and help the decomposers do their work.

Minerals in the soil come from rocks buried deep beneath the forest floor. Over hundreds of years, the rocks break up into tiny particles.

The decomposers release nutrients from the leaves into the soil. The soil nutrients and minerals become food for new plants and for old trees that grow new leaves in the spring. These new leaves will fall to the ground in the autumn. The leaf cycle keeps on turning!



Name \_\_\_\_\_

## Ride the Wild Leaf Cycle - B

Color the picture. Cut out the leaves from activity sheet A and glue them in the correct place below. You may turn the leaves any way you wish to make them fit.

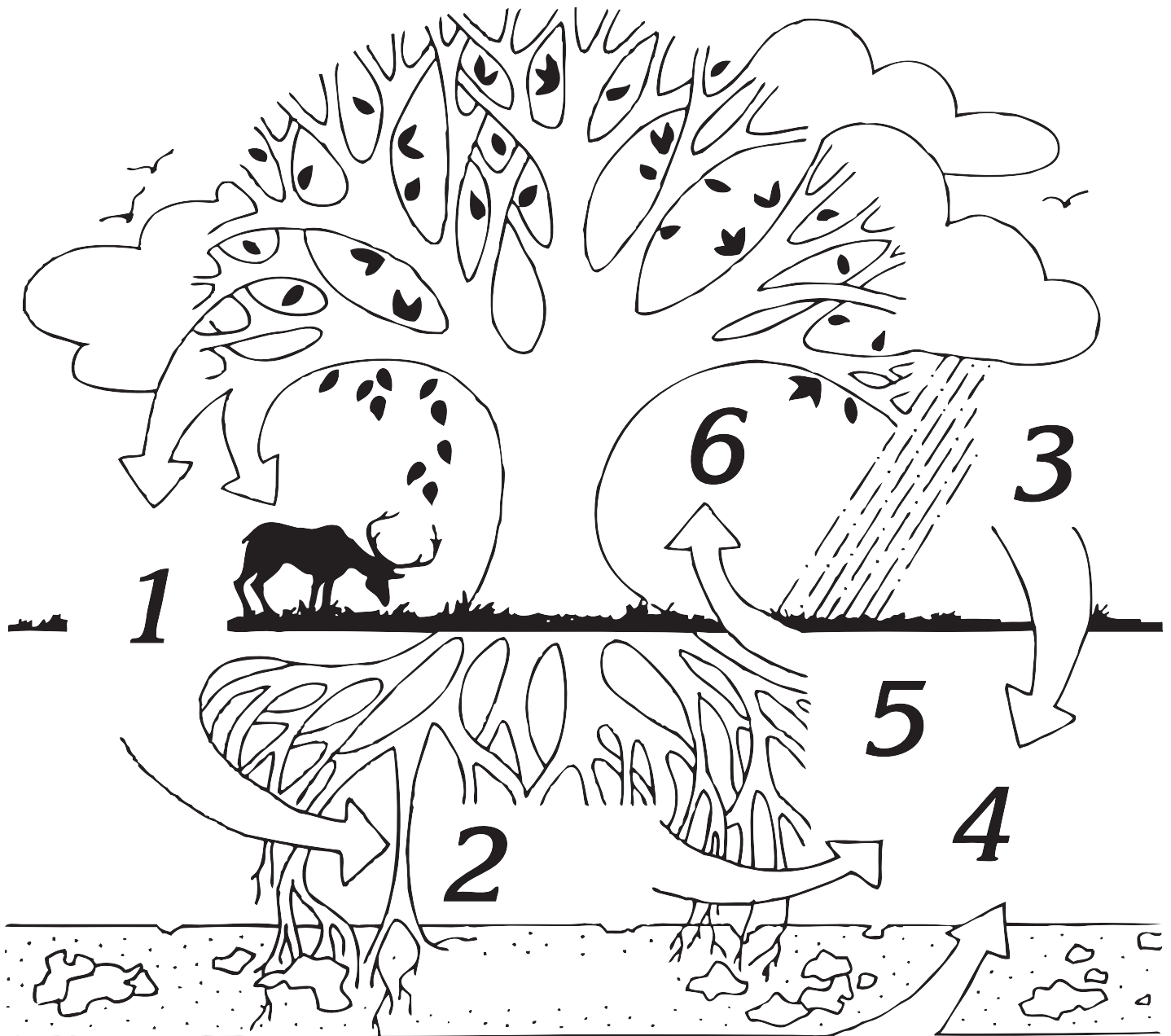


Illustration adapted from a lesson by the USDA Soil Conservation Service.