

Additional Resources

Grades K-5

Bluebird Reading Resources

Fiction

Amelia Bedelia is for the Birds by Herman Parish (robin nest)

**Baby Bluebird, Please Come Home* by Amma Lee (pre-K)

Bird Builds a Nest by Martin Jenkins

**Bluebird* by Lindsey Yankey

**Blue Sky Bluebird* by Rick Chrustowski (realistic fiction)

**Bluebird Summer* by Deborah Hopkinson (realistic fiction)

Have You Heard the Nesting Bird? Words by Rita Gray / pictures by Kenard Pak

Jabber the Steller's Jay by Sylvester Allred / illustrated by Diane Iverson (example of another blue bird)

**Ricki's Birdhouse* by Monica Wellington (with birdhouse plans in the back) (realistic fiction)

Nonfiction

Birds - A Question and Answer Book by Isabel Martin

Birds by Trudi Strain Trueit

Birds and their Feathers by Britta Teckentrup

**Bluebird's Nest* by Dorothea Deprisco (pre-K)

Every Day Birds by Amy Ludwig VanDerwater

Feathers: Not Just for Flying by Melissa Stewart / illustrated by Sarah S. Brannen

Little Kid's First Big Book of Birds by Catherine Hughes (Nat Geo)

**What Bluebirds Do* by Pamela F. Kirby

Where Do the Birds Go: a Migration Mystery by Rebecca Olien / illustrated by Katie McDee

Wild Fliers by Martin and Chris Kratt (K-2)

*Designates a book mostly or entirely about bluebirds. Others focus on other species, but may be useful.

Essays about Eastern Bluebirds for young adults and adults:

Julie Zickefoose: *The Bluebird Effect: Uncommon bonds with common birds*

Julie Zickefoose: *Baby Birds: An artist looks into the nest*

John Yow: *The Armchair Birder: Discovering the secret lives of familiar birds*

Resources:

Backyard Birds by Karen Stray Nolting and Jonathan Latimer

Birds: A Fully Illustrated, Authoritative and Easy-to-Use Guide (A Golden Guide) by Herbert S. Him and Ira N. Gabrielson

Bird Guide of North America, National Geographic (contains good pages specific to eastern and mountain bluebirds)

Bluebirds Forever, Toops (1994)

Birds of Kansas by Stan Tekiela

Birds in Kansas, Thompson, et.al (2011)

Egg & Nest by Rosamond Wolff Purcell

A Field Guide to Western Birds' Nests by Hal H. Harrison

The Guide to Kansas Birds and Birding Hot Spots, Gress & Janzen (2008)

Nests by Sharon Beals

The Sibley Guide to Birds, 2nd Ed. (2014)

TECHNOLOGY - OPTIONAL VIDEOS

If you have access to technology in your classroom, here are a few educational videos you may wish to watch and/or show your class.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gSiH4fAXkl4> - Bird song identification

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W7_D0DopQW4 - Bird song identification

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z4RjLwn3hqw> - Bluebirds hatching

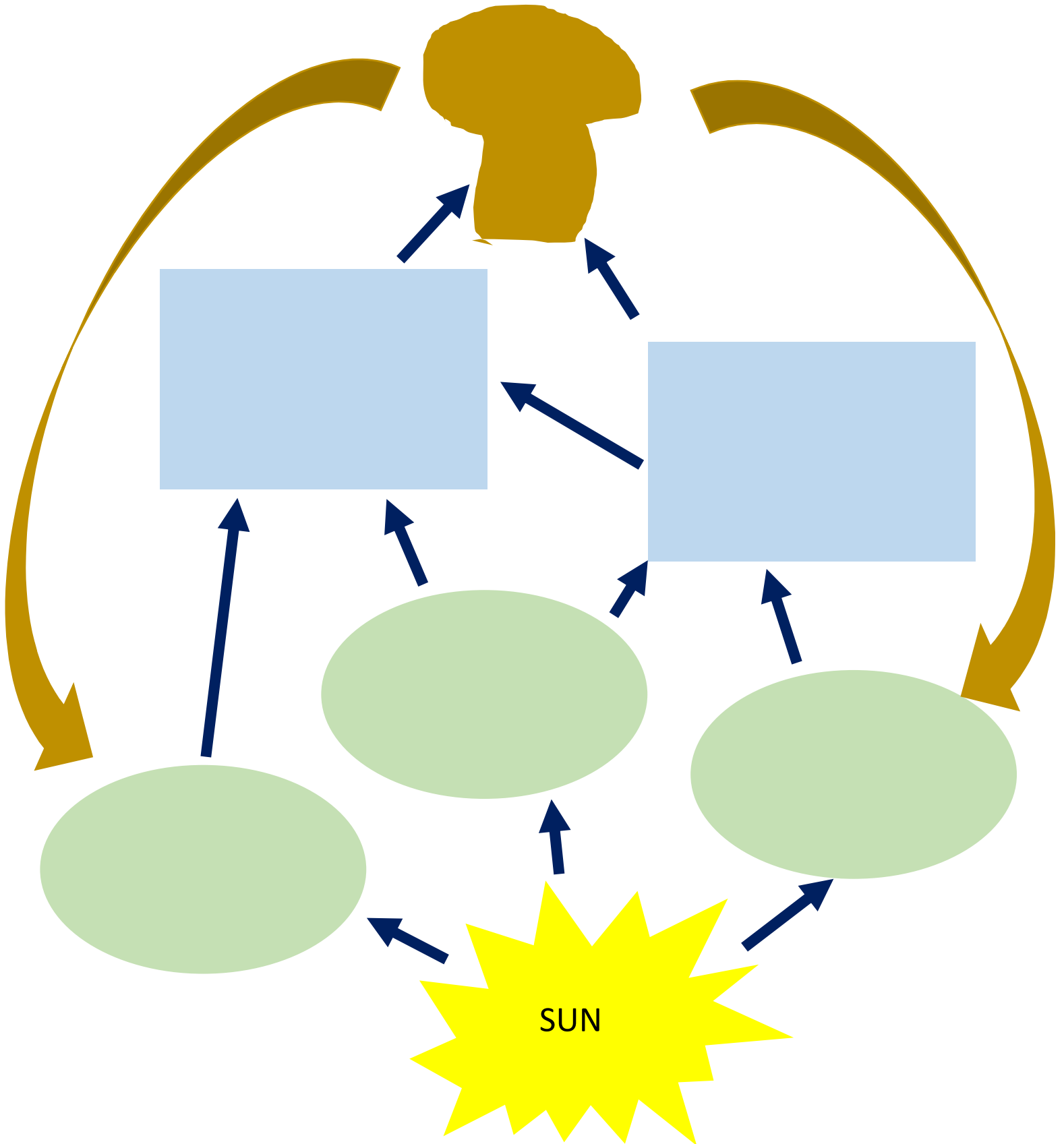
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eMWeQWGla0Y> - Tranquil birds singing (for relaxation)

<https://www.raptorresource.org/birdcams/decorah-eagles/> - Live stream of Eagles in Decorah, Iowa

<http://cams.allaboutbirds.org> - Various bird webcams

<https://www.audubon.org/birdcams> - Various bird webcams

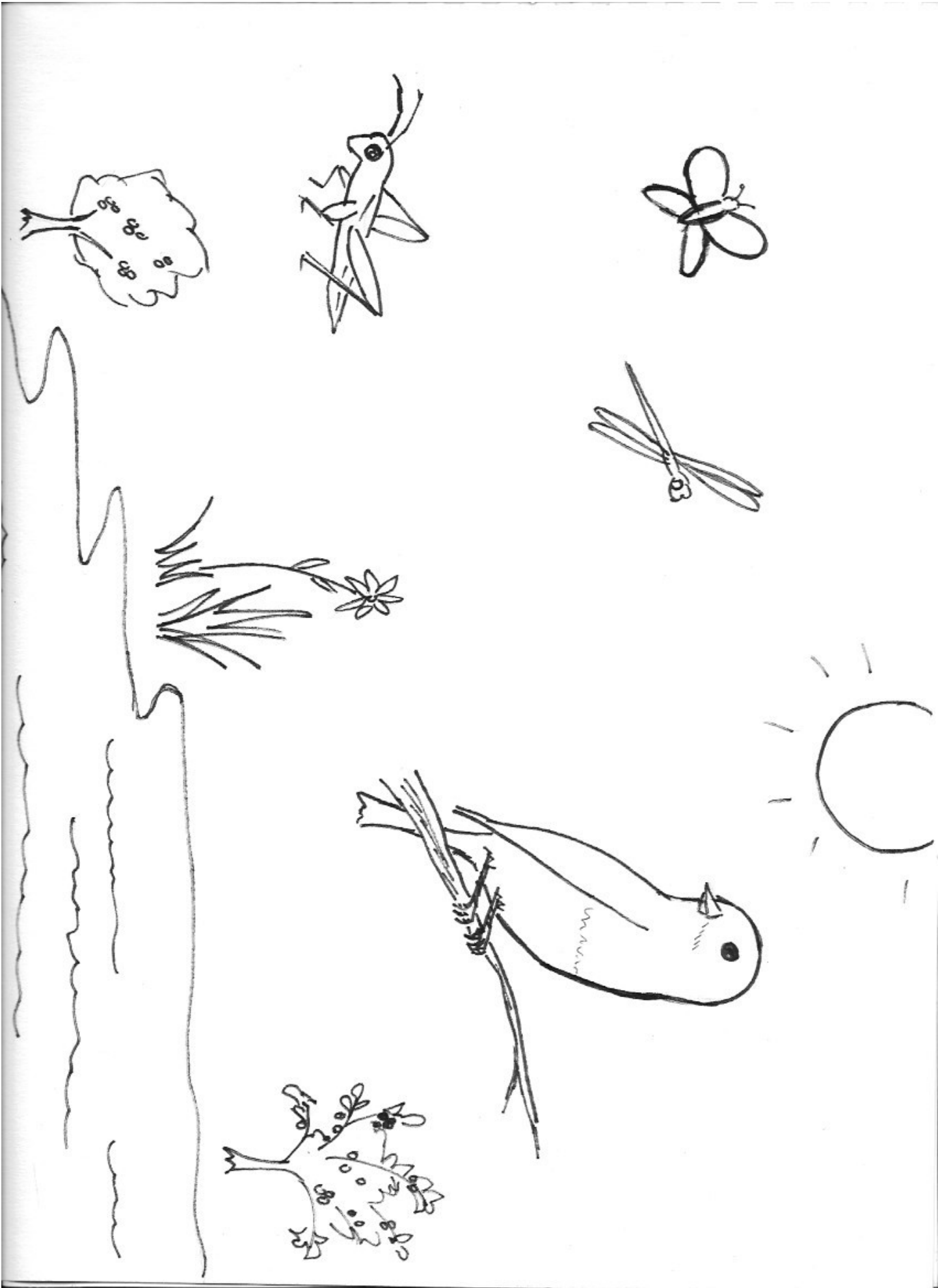
Create a Food Web



Name _____

Directions: Bluebirds eat insects and berries. Use a blue line to connect the bluebird below to all the things it might eat. Can you find any other animals that might eat insects? Circle them in blue. Many insects and other animals eat plants. Color the plants in green. Draw a green line from a plant to 4 things it needs.





Bluebird House Checklist

- Food and water:
 - Open space for hunting insects, prefer mowed or low grass
 - Berries nearby during season
 - Water source nearby

- Position and Condition:
 - Space at least 50 ft. around box
 - Boxes should be 100 yards apart or not within sight of each other as bluebirds are territorial.
 - Height: position the nesting box at a height that is comfortable for monitoring
 - Direction:
 - Ideally the entrance hole should face away from prevailing weather and away from direct sunlight. Direct sunlight can raise the inside temperature 5 degrees or more.
 - Entrance hole should face a tree or large bush within 100 ft. to provide a perch for the fledglings when they leave the nest.
 - Boxes should be light in color. Dark color can drastically raise the inside temperature.

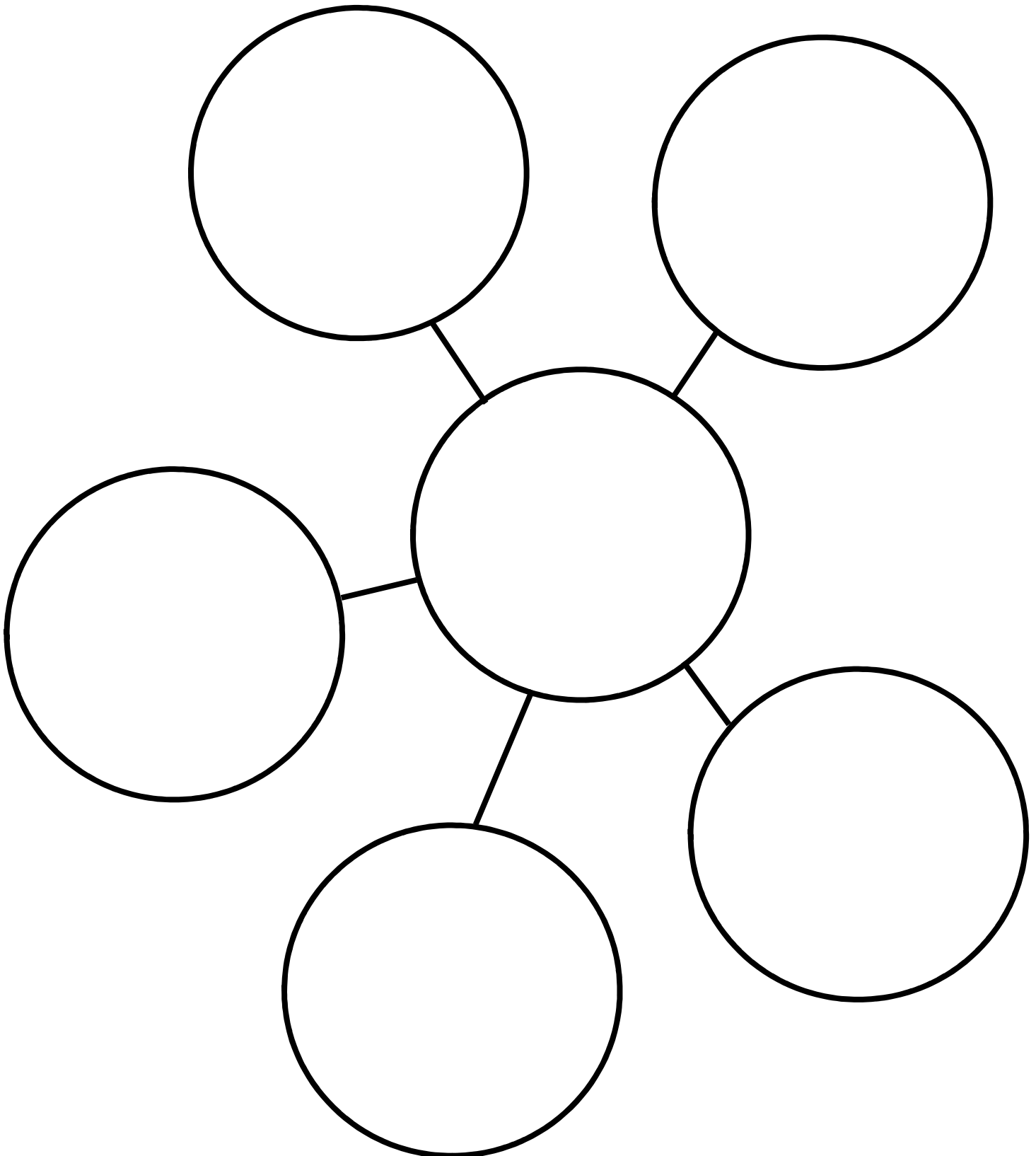
- Predators:
 - Predator guard is a must. A predator cage around the hole is a good addition.
 - No ants!
 - No wasps!
 - Watch out! Sparrows like the box close to buildings and Wrens like bushes close.

Some Invasive Plants in Kansas

Plant Name	Where is it from?	Why is it here?	Where can we find it?	What does it do to the environment?
Honeysuckle	Asia	It was planted for its pretty flowers.	It likes woods, especially in the Midwest and South.	It shades out the smaller native plants, keeps them from growing and produces many seeds.
Bradford Pear	Scientists created it in United States.	It was bred to grow in yards. It was not supposed to produce seeds.	Now it makes seeds and can spread to fields or woods.	They will form entire forests of pear trees, blocking out natives.
Garlic Mustard	Europe	People brought it to grow in gardens and eat.	Mostly it is in forests.	It sends toxin through the soil so other plants can't grow. It produces many seeds.
Winter Creeper		It was planted in gardens.	Mostly it is in forests, either on the ground or growing up trees.	When it grows on the ground, it forms a thick mat that will block other plants. Once it climbs trees, it will produce many seeds.
Musk thistle	Europe	Accidentally introduced.	It prefers fields, especially disturbed areas.	Spreads quickly because it has over 100,000 seeds per plant.
Purple Loosestrife	Europe/Asia	Brought as medicine.	It likes the edges of ponds.	Forms dense stands of plants. Also can mix with native yellow loosestrife.
Johnson Grass	Mediterranean	Brought as food for cattle.	It likes open fields.	It forms thick clumps that block out any native plants.

Name _____

Bluebird Graphic Organizer



Coordinate Graphing

Directions: Use the coordinate graph paper. Plot the following groups of coordinates and connect them in order using a ruler. Do not connect the groups together (although they may cross paths!).

X axis	Y axis
13	18
6	12
0	12
7	18
13	18
13	1
7	1
3	11

This next one will form a circle. Color it in black:

X axis	Y axis
5	10
7	9
7	7
5	8
5	10

X axis	Y axis
0	12
0	11
6	11
13	17

X axis	Y axis
7	12
13	1

X axis	Y axis
13	18
6	12
0	12
7	18
13	18
13	1
7	1
3	11

X axis	Y axis
8	2
11	2

Now place big dots at (10, 13) and (11, 14).

Create a background for your picture!

Name _____

Bluebird Coordinate Graphing

