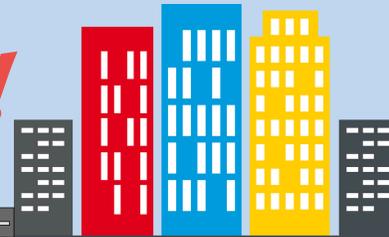


# ROOTS TO THE RESCUE!



## ROOTS: THE HIDDEN HEROES

Just like superheroes protect their cities, roots are the heroes of the land, protecting it from runoff. **Runoff** happens when rain or melted snow can't soak into the ground and flows over the surface. Plants help stop runoff because their roots absorb water and hold the soil in place.



If the ground has grass, trees, or shrubs, the roots of these plants soak up water, reducing runoff. But if there are no plants, the water carries soil away, causing erosion. **Erosion** happens when water washes the soil away.

Sometimes, the soil becomes too full of water. This is called **saturation**. When the ground is saturated, it cannot absorb more water, so the extra water runs off.

Runoff can flow into streams, rivers, and lakes. But too much runoff can cause flooding or carry dirt and pollution into the water.



Plants and their roots slow runoff, absorb water, and protect the land from erosion! Who knew these underground heroes were right below our feet!

# ROOTS TO THE RESCUE!



**Directions:** You will visit two different places outside. As you explore, look at the ground and plants around you.

**Ask yourself:**

- Are there lots of plants, trees, or shrubs?
- Is there just dirt?
- Is the ground flat or on a hill?
- Can you see signs of water?
- Is the land covered with grass?

## SITE OBSERVATION 1

WHAT CAN I SEE?

WHAT DO I WONDER?

WHAT DO I THINK?

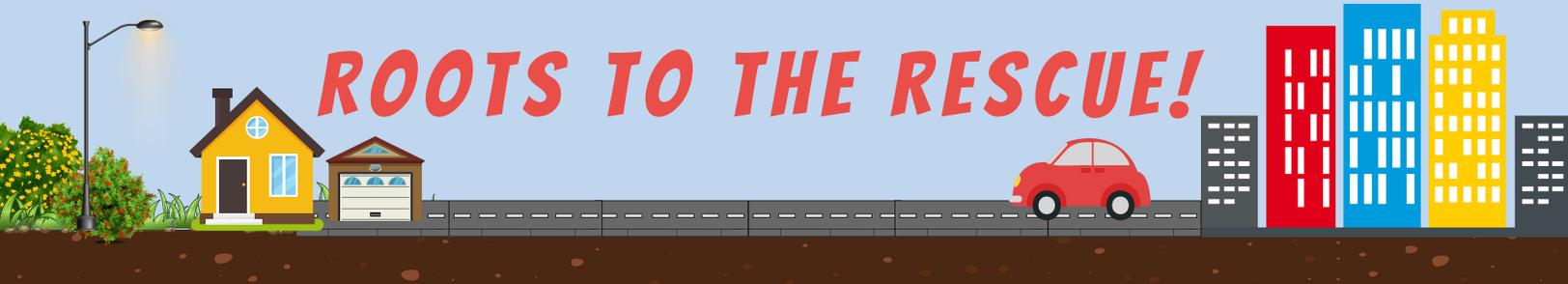


**DRAW IT**



PHOTO TAKEN  
**YES OR NO**

# ROOTS TO THE RESCUE!



## SITE OBSERVATION 2

WHAT CAN I  
SEE?

WHAT DO I  
WONDER?

WHAT DO I  
THINK?



**DRAW IT**



PHOTO  
TAKEN  
YES OR NO

After exploring outside, how did the plants' roots act like heroes in protecting the land?

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