

# Everything is Connected...

**...into life cycles.** Sassafras trees grow from seeds, to saplings, to enormous trees...which make more seeds. Great Crested Flycatchers start as eggs, which make way for hatchlings, and full-grown birds. Spicebush Swallowtail butterflies start as eggs, as well, but then turn into caterpillars, which move into chrysalises, before emerging as butterflies.

**...and into food chains.** Animals in a food chain rely on each other for

nutrients and energy. Great Crested Flycatchers eat caterpillars, the second life stage of the Spicebush Swallowtail butterfly. The caterpillars feed on the leaves of the Sassafras tree. Flycatchers can also help to spread Sassafras seeds around; they eat the seeds, then poop them out in new locations. The bird poop can even help fertilize the young seeds.

**Explore the connections.**

