



Everything you have ever seen fits in just **three boxes** — and every **human-made** thing began as something from the other two. People can never make anything out of **nothing**.



Fig. 1 — the three boxes: **living** (left), **natural Earth** (middle), **human-made** (right). Every made thing began as something from the first two. *Nothing from nothing.*

WORDS TO KNOW



living / biological — alive, once alive, or made by living things



natural Earth — never alive, not made by people — even air and water



human-made — people built it from a raw material



raw material — the natural stuff a thing is made from, like this log



technology — all the steps and thinking it takes to make something

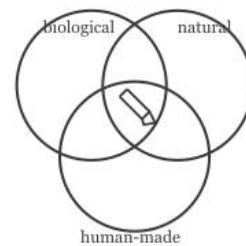


Fig. 2 — the **pencil** sits where all three circles **overlap**: wood + graphite + human shaping.

WATCH FOR THIS

- Find something that was **once alive but isn't now** — “what’s the clue that it lived?”
- Find one **made thing** near you and name **what it’s made of** — “and what was *THAT* before?”
- Spot the **air and the water** — “which box? *Natural Earth* — the two everyone forgets!”