



A HOT TOPICS NEWSPAPER SUPPLEMENT FROM



**IDAHO FALLS
EARTH DAY
COMMITTEE**

Bechtel BWXT Idaho
Idaho Cleanup Project - CWI-WG
Department of Environmental Quality
INL Oversight and Radiation Control Division
Idaho Fish and Game

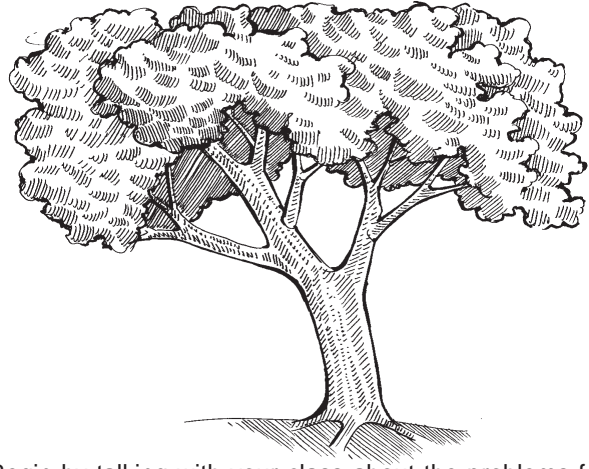
Be a Planet-Protector

We are so lucky to live on Planet Earth. The Earth gives us what we need to live – mainly air, water, sunlight, and food. So it's important that we take good care of the Earth so that we can keep living here happily for a long time. What does it mean to take care of the Earth? It means that we all must do our part to protect what matters on Earth – the air, the water, the animals, the planet itself.

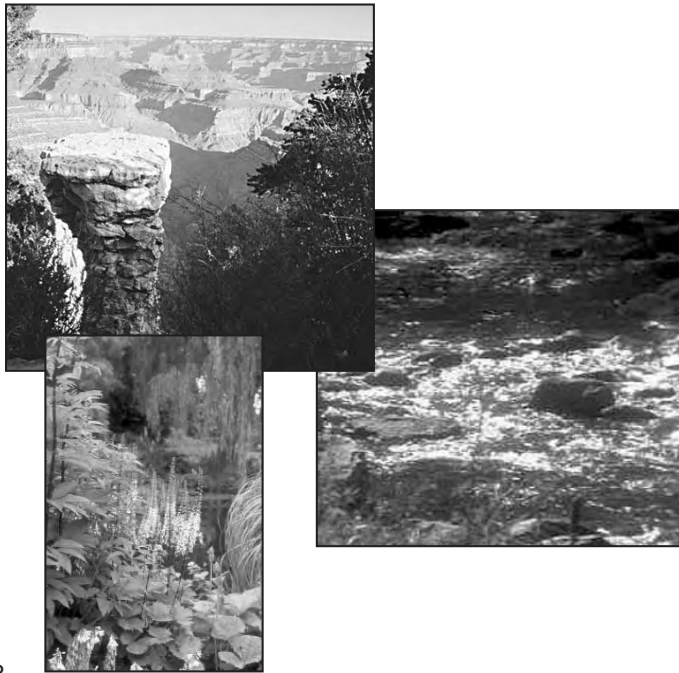
It's a big job and it takes the work of each person to keep the Earth safe from harm. The good news is that you can help. You can do your part if you understand how to be a good citizen of the planet. Why does it matter if kids know how to take care of the Earth? Because today's children are tomorrow's leaders.

That means you! When it comes to saving the Earth, everyone counts. The work begins with you. The small part that you can do today will make a big difference for all of your tomorrows.

This special newspaper section will help you understand the dangers that face the Earth's air, water, and land and what you can do to be a planet-protector.



Begin by talking with your class about the problems facing the Earth today. On these lines, write what you think the main problems are. Then talk about how you think those problems can be solved.



NEWS OF THE EARTH

*Learning Standard:
understanding the
environment*

**Find some good news and
some bad news about the
Earth in today's news-
paper. Write a few sen-
tences about your
findings.**



This Hot Topics section was:
Written by Debby Carroll
Edited by Ken Bookman
Layout Design by Jeanine Reilly
Illustrated, in part, by Zach Horn
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Add it Up!

Are You A Friend to the Earth?

Take this page home and read the questions with your family.

1. If you remembered to turn off the light when you left a room, you get 5 points.

2. If your family has a vegetable garden, you get 10 points.

3. If you planted a tree this year, you get 5 points.

4. If anyone in your family bought a product in a foam container this week, you lose 5 points.

5. If you visited a place like a park this week, you get 5 points.

6. If you threw any trash on the ground this week, you lose 10 points.

7. If your family recycles newspaper, you get 10 points.

8. If your family recycles cans and bottles, you get 15 points.

9. If you rode a bike to get somewhere, you get 5 points.

10. If you picked up any litter in the street, you get 5 points.

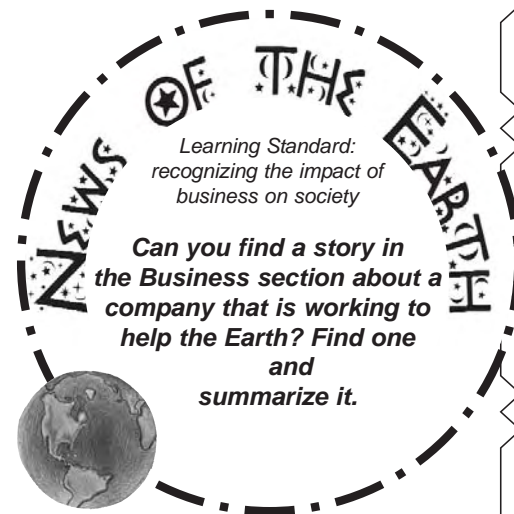
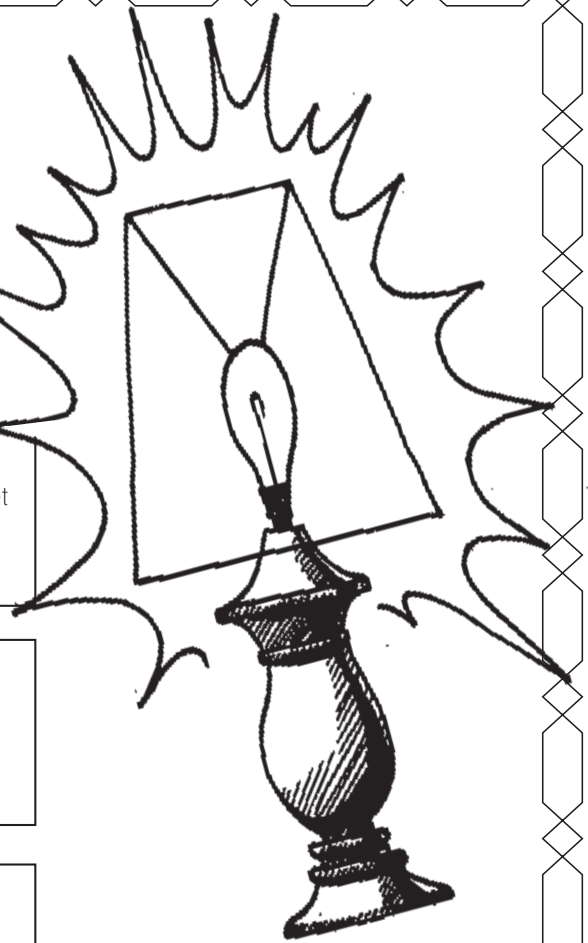
11. If you left the television on even when you weren't in the room, you lose 5 points.

12. If you turn off the water while you brush your teeth, you get 5 points.

13. If you used both sides of a sheet of paper before you threw it away or recycled it, you get 5 points.

14. If you had someone drive you somewhere that was close enough to walk, you lose 5 points.

15. If you bring your lunch to school in a paper bag that you throw away each day, you lose 5 points.



How did you score?

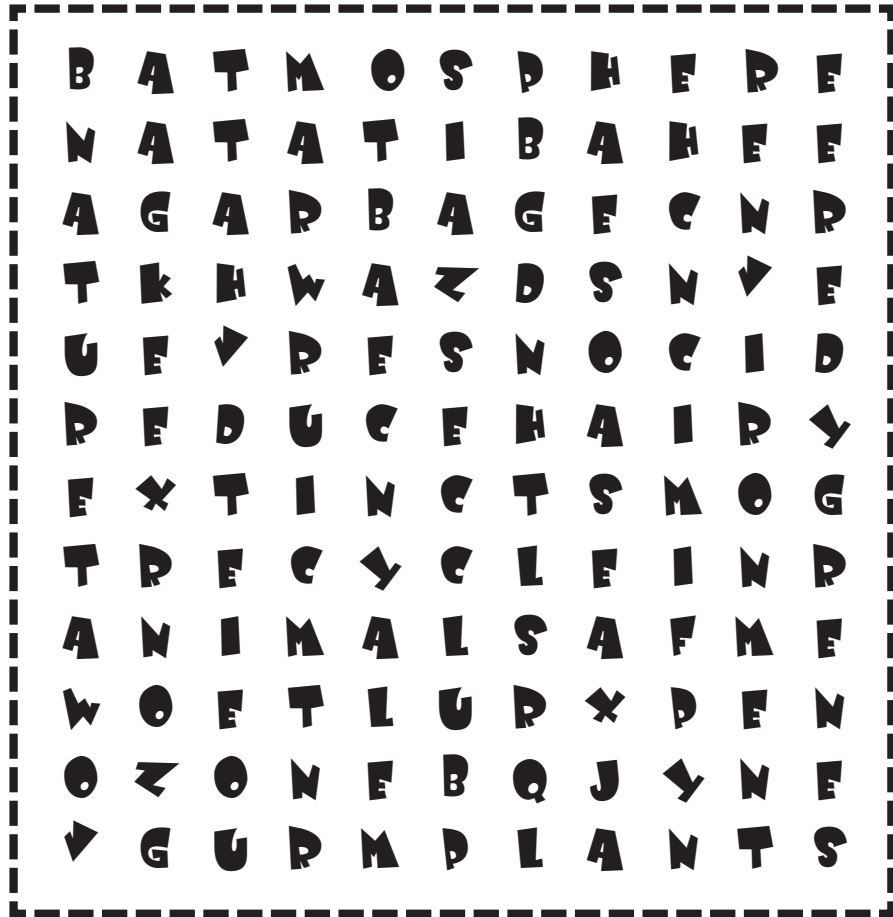
If you and your family scored more than 50 points, you are good Earth buddies. If you scored lower, did you get any ideas about how you could do a better job?

WALL OF WORDS

Find the following words in the word search.

- | | |
|-------------|---------|
| air | nature |
| animals | ozone |
| atmosphere | plants |
| conserve | recycle |
| energy | reduce |
| environment | reuse |
| extinct | smog |
| garbage | trash |
| habitat | water |

Pick 5 of the puzzle words, write what each means and draw a picture about it. Hang your pictures on a bulletin board to create a "Wall of Words" about saving our Earth.



Example

Word- Ozone

Definition- a colorless gas with a chlorine-like odor formed by an electric discharge in oxygen



Know-the-Earth Words

Match each of these words to its meaning by drawing a line from the word to the correct definition. Use a dictionary if you need one. When you are finished, choose five of the words and write a sentence for each.

Atmosphere
Trash
conserve
Garbage
Environment
smog
Recycle
energy
Pollution
Habitat
Extinct
Nature
Ozone

- To use carefully and avoid waste
- The conditions that surround us
- Contamination of soil, water, or the atmosphere by the discharge of harmful substances
- The gas or air surrounding the Earth
- A colorless gas in our atmosphere
- Food waste
- The area where something lives
- The world of living things and the outdoors
- Material thrown away
- Fog that has become mixed and polluted with smoke.
- Usable heat or power
- No longer living
- To use again



*Learning Standard:
 understanding the meaning
 of scientific terms*

**Skim today's newspaper to
 see whether you can find
 any of these Earth words.
 Tell why the words you
 find are in the news-
 paper.**

Air Pollution

What is Air Pollution?

Air pollution refers to the tiny particles in the air that can hurt us and make us sick. Pollution can ruin the part of our atmosphere that keeps us from getting too much sun. That protective part is called the ozone layer. Without a good ozone layer, people and plants will get too much sun, and that's bad.

Where Does Air Pollution Come From?

All over the world, fuels like oil and coal are burned to run factories, machines, and all forms of transportation. The burning of these fuels creates bad things in our air, such as smoke. Also, some of the items we use every day, such as hair spray, paint, cleaners, and windshield washers contain chemicals that pollute the air. There are also other businesses that add to the problem. Some factories, for example, use chemicals that pollute our air and water. Cars also add to the pollution problem by burning gasoline. That burning puts bad smoke into the air.

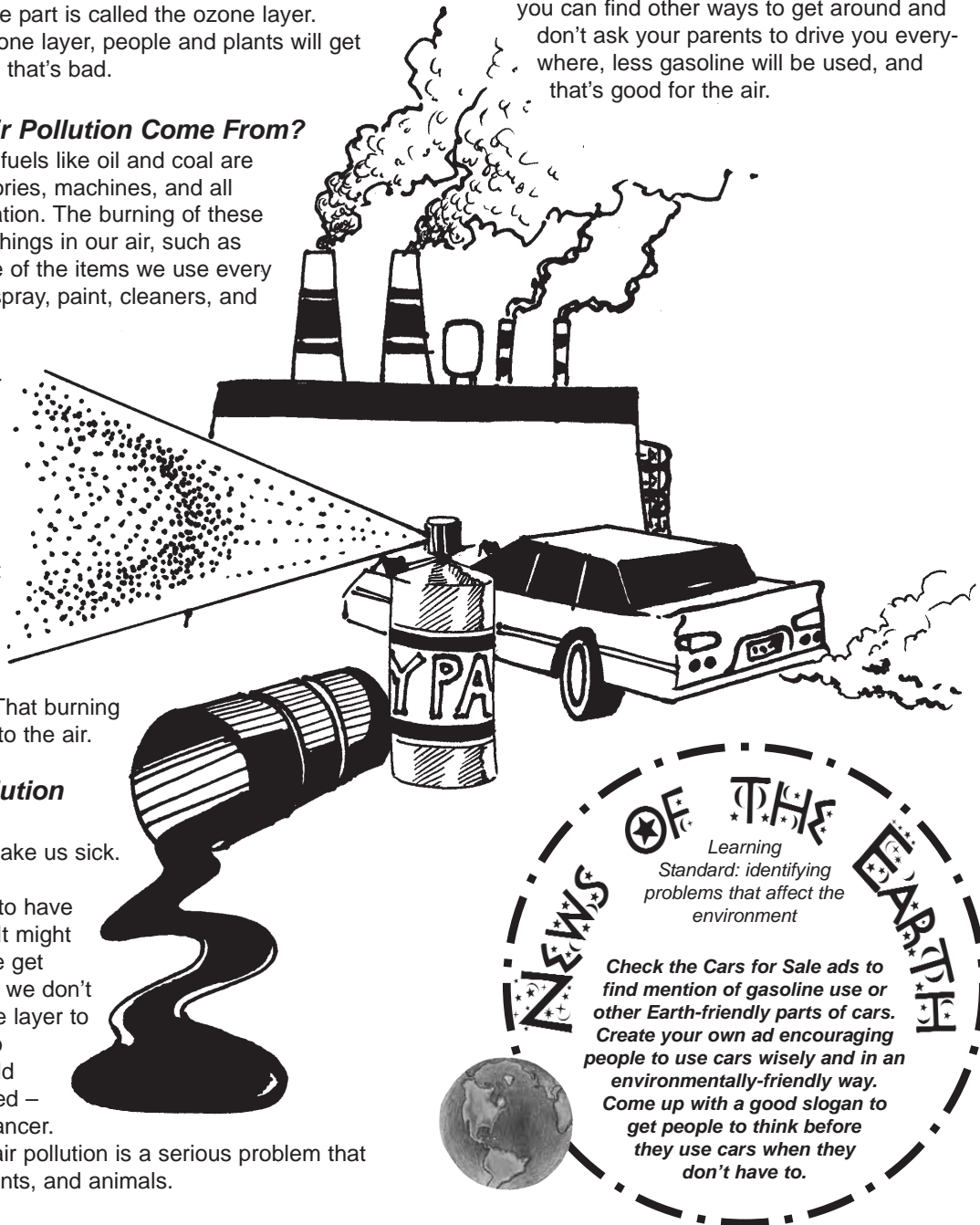
Why is Air Pollution Bad?

Air pollution can make us sick. It can cause people to have trouble breathing. It might make some people get lung cancer. And if we don't have a good ozone layer to protect us from too much sun, we could get badly sunburned – or even get skin cancer. You can see why air pollution is a serious problem that can kill people, plants, and animals.

What Can Be Done About Air Pollution?

Congress has passed laws for businesses that cause air pollution. Gasoline to run cars and other machines, for example, has been changed so that it burns cleaner and won't put as much pollution into the air.

Kids can help, too, by using products that are labeled Earth-friendly or environmentally friendly. And, if you can find other ways to get around and don't ask your parents to drive you everywhere, less gasoline will be used, and that's good for the air.



Litter: waste in the wrong place

We often throw things away after we have used them. But where is "away"? When items we get rid of go "away" to the wrong place, those things are called "litter." Litter is waste that went astray instead of away. Trash left in a place it doesn't belong, like on the floor or on the street, is litter. We have a system to take care of our trash where it can get collected and handled. When we leave it anywhere else, it becomes litter because it cannot be handled in the right way.



Talk with your class about littering. What is it? Where does it come from? Are there any places in or around school where litter can be found? You might want to take a walk with your class around the school to look for litter. Look, or observe, to see what the litter is. Keep a record of each piece you see and decide whether it comes from people or from Nature. For each piece, decide whether it could have been used again or used in any other way instead of becoming litter. Also talk about what you think happens to litter when it rains.

Decide as a class on the best plan to solve the litter problem around school. Are there enough trashcans so that people won't just toss it anywhere? Note where the trashcans are and decide whether they are in the best place. Find out what happens to the trash at school. Does your school have rules about littering? What do you think they should be? Write some school litter rules here.

Litter isn't just messy. It can hurt and even kill animals. Each year, broken glass cuts some dogs and cats. Birds and other animals choke or are strangled by plastic drink rings and bags. Sea animals are hurt by trash that

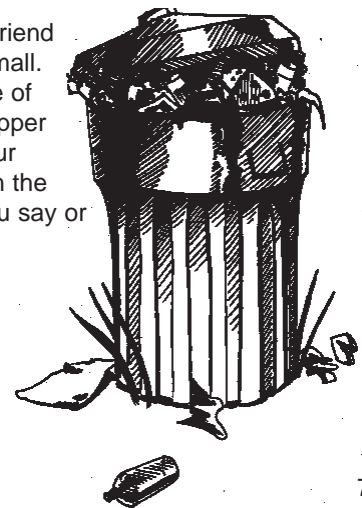
gets washed into oceans, lakes, and streams. All of this litter is created and dumped by people. Who do you think are the worst "litterbugs" – kids or adults? Why?

Read and Think

You can read books and poems about the litter and garbage problems that will help you understand more. One book, *The Wartville Wizard* by Don Madden, is about people who are dumping their trash by the side of the road. A poem by Shel Silverstein, "Sarah Cynthia Sylvia Stout Would Not Take the Garbage Out," talks about the problem of garbage. You may also enjoy *The Great Trash Bash* by Loreen Leedy. Read one of those and talk about what they mean.

Role-play

Imagine that you and a friend are walking around the mall. Your friend takes a piece of gum and throws the wrapper on the ground. Later, your friend throws the gum on the ground, too. What do you say or do?





Earth-Awareness Activities to Get Your Community Involved



Create posters to teach people the importance of not littering.

Watch the film *The Lorax*, which can be rented from most video stores. It can be shown in class or in an assembly. Talk about the lessons the story teaches.

Have each student in the school carry a personal trash bag for a week to see how much trash he or she produces

Hold a rap contest to see who can write the best rap about saving the Earth.

Each day, post or announce an interesting fact about the Earth or environment.

Write letter editor about environmental suggestion community

Create a list of books about the Earth and display it in the school library. Write reviews of the books for other students to read.

Make bird feeders and put them outside the school.



Take a field trip to a sewage-treatment plant, sanitary landfill, zoo, arboretum, or nature center.

Make signs for each classroom in the building to remind people to turn out the lights and turn off the water when not in use.



Hold a schoolwide art exhibit with works about the environment.

Organize a group of people, with adult supervision, to volunteer to clean up a place in your community – a park, a roadway, or the schoolyard.



Hold a schoolwide "Earth-friendly" picnic using foods from the Earth served on recyclable materials.

Begin recycling programs in your school.

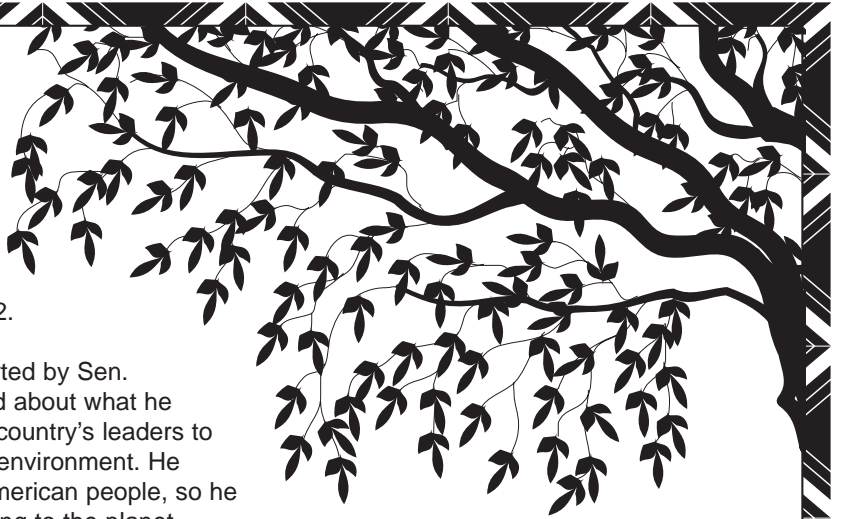
Plant flower seeds in cups and plant them outside the school when they are ready.

Do a garbage study from cafeteria waste cans at the end of a typical school day. Think of ways to reduce the amount.

Encourage teachers to duplicate on both sides of papers.



The History of Earth Day



Americans Care about Earth

We celebrate Earth Day each year on April 22. Why do we need a special day for this? Here's the story behind Earth Day. It was started by Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. He was worried about what he saw happening to the planet. He wanted the country's leaders to take seriously the problems of the Earth and environment. He knew that those leaders might listen to the American people, so he had to let the people know what was happening to the planet.

But he wasn't sure about the best way to reach millions of people. Then the idea came to him to hold a big protest about the bad things happening to the Earth. He hoped that once the people got involved, the leaders would, too. He set up the first Earth Day for April 22, 1970.

Suddenly, telegrams, letters, and phone calls poured in to Sen. Nelson's office from all across the country. The American people really did want to show their concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air. They were very excited about the big event.

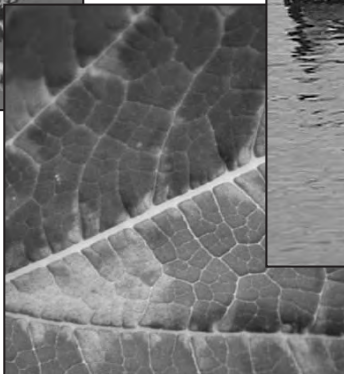
Earth Day Every Day, Every Year



News began to spread. Newspapers and television news carried stories about Earth Day from coast to coast. On that day, more than 20 million people gathered in parks, cities, and towns all over the country to show their concern for the Earth and to tell our country's leaders that the environment mattered to people. That day, Americans began the work to save the Earth for future generations – for you! Each



year, Earth Day was celebrated again, and the world really did change. Laws to protect the environment were passed and groups were formed for the same reason. Recycling programs began. Kids in schools learned about the environment for the first time.



*For more information online,
visit www.earthday.org*

1..2..3..

ways you can help

Every year, Americans use millions of feet of paper towels. They buy 500 million disposable (throwaway) lighters. Every day, Americans use 35 million paper clips. You can see that it would make a difference if each person cut back just a little bit on the items thrown away.

When it comes to taking care of the Earth, there are three "R" words that really make a difference. Those are:

RECYCLE:

This means to use the materials again to make a new product. Paper, for example, can be made into new paper products.

REUSE:

This means you use the material over again, either for the same purpose or for something else. For example: An empty soup can makes a good container for nails.

REDUCE:


This means you use less of some materials than before. For example: If you use both sides of a sheet of paper instead of only one side, you are reducing the number of pages you need.



NEWS OF THE EARTH

Learning Standard:
understanding use of recycled products

Here's one way you can recycle something into a new use. You'll need some sheets of newspaper (the colorful Sunday comics are great for this), an envelope, and a glue stick. Carefully take apart the envelope and study how it is folded and glued into the shape of the envelope. After you take it apart, put it on your sheet of newspaper and cut the newspaper to the same size and shape of the envelope. Following the pattern of folding and gluing, make a new envelope out of the newspaper sheet. Recycling art tip: Look around your house for other materials that you can use in an art project. Your class may want to collect such materials (magazines, shoeboxes, wrapping paper, file folders, junk mail, etc.) to use at school. Check with your teacher or art teacher to see if a collection would be good.



Three R's chart



Directions: Look at the item in each box. Decide whether it should be **recycled, reduced or reused**. Write your choice on each line. Look around your classroom for a few more items you can add to the chart.

paper _____	soda can _____	rubber tire _____	cereal box _____	plastic bags _____
water _____	glass jar _____	popsicle sticks _____	milk carton _____	styrofoam _____
item: _____	item: _____	item: _____	item: _____	item: _____

NEWS OF THE EARTH

Learning Standard: recognizing the importance of recycling

Skim through the newspaper for examples of items that should be reduced, reused, or recycled. Make a collage of your findings and label each one with your choice of the best way to handle it.



Wonderful Water

Dive In!

Planet Earth is mostly water, and that's good because we use water every day in every way. We drink water. We swim in it. We wash with it. We water our plants. We use it to make everything from potato chips to computer chips.

The good news is that Earth has 100 billion billion gallons of water. That's a lot of water! Water is a natural resource. That means that water comes to us from the Earth. It's not something that is made by humans. We can't make more, so the water we have now is all we will ever have. But even though we have lots of water, we can't use most of it because most of it is salt water in the oceans. It costs a lot of money to remove the salt so that we could use the water. That's why it's so important for us to utilize the small amount of usable water very smartly. If all the Earth's water fit into a one-gallon bottle, the fresh water available for people would be slightly more than one tablespoon.

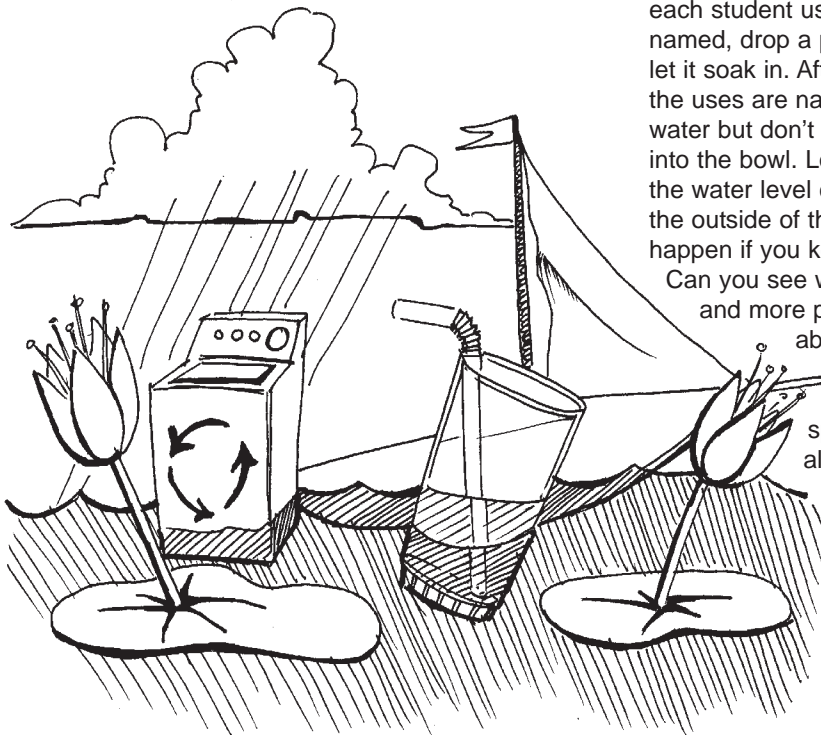
Splash Math

Do the water math and you will see how important it is to use water wisely. The average family of four people uses 243 gallons of water each day. How much is that for each person? Figure that out and then multiply that number by the number of people in your class to find out about how much water the kids in your class use each day. Then figure out how much that is for every kid in school. You can see that if each person in your school could find a way to use just one or two fewer gallons of water each day, it would make a huge difference in a year.

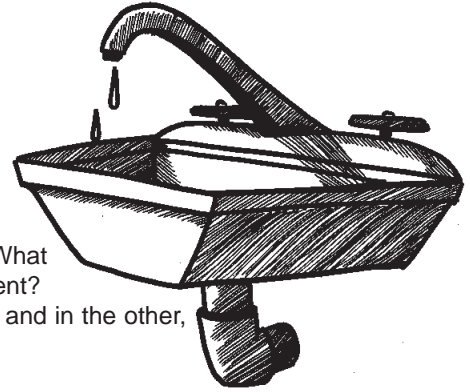
Here is an experiment you can try at school to help you understand how water gets used up. You'll need a big clear container, several small pieces of a sponge, water, a marker or masking tape, and paper towels

Pour about four cups of water into the container. Imagine that the container is the Earth and the water inside shows all the water on the planet. Use a marker to show on the outside of the container where the water level is at the beginning. Then, talk about the ways we use water. Take turns talking about the ways each student used water today. As each way is named, drop a piece of the sponge into the water and let it soak in. After all of the sponges are used, or all of the uses are named, take the sponges out of the water but don't squeeze them out. Put the sponges into the bowl. Look at the big container and see how the water level changed. Mark the new water level on the outside of the container. What do you think would happen if you kept thinking of new ways to use water?

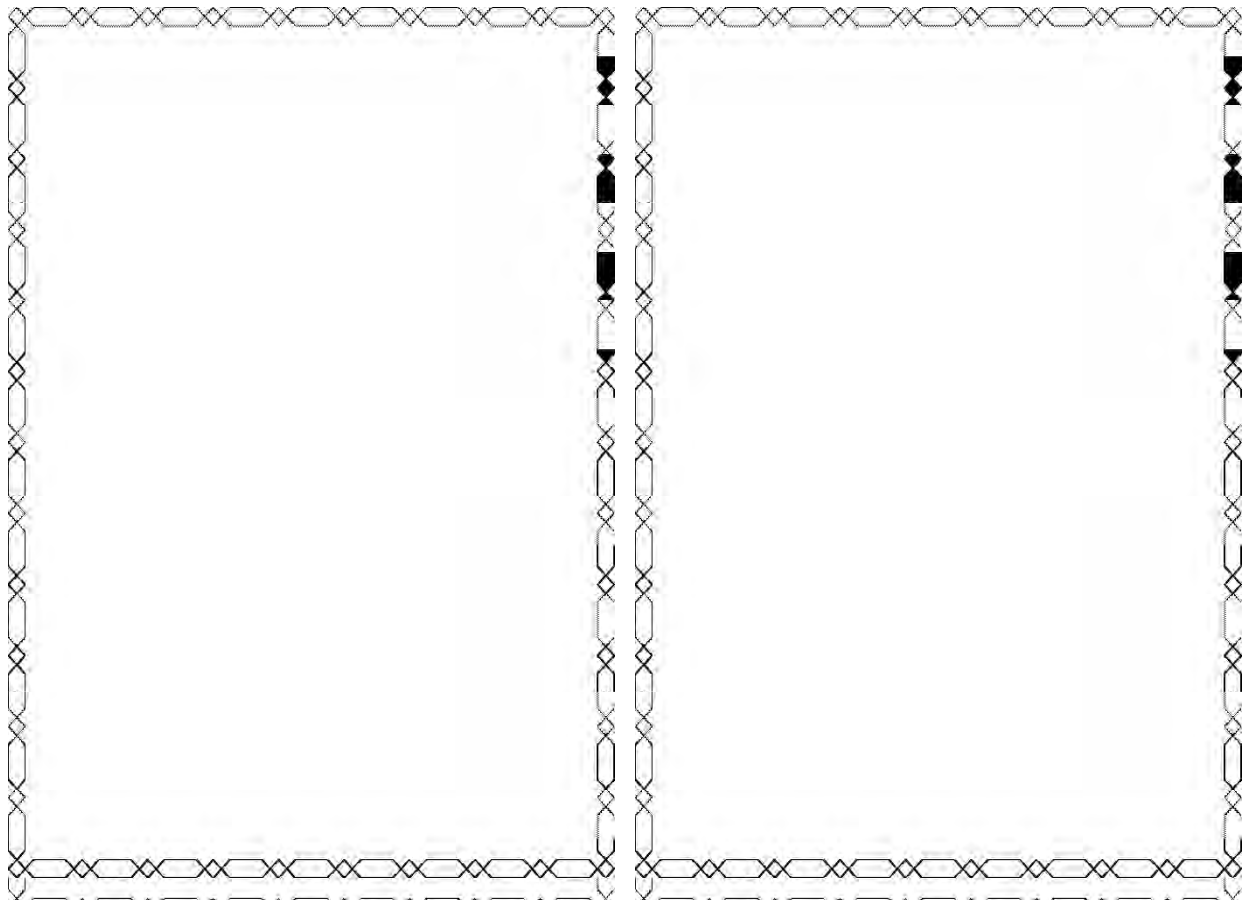
Can you see what happens to our water as more and more people use it? Then take turns talking about the ways in which each person could have used less water today. As each way is named, squeeze one sponge back into the big container. After all of the water-saving ways are described, mark the water level again and talk about how it changed. Does the water level go back to where it started? Why?



water-wise



Why is it important to you to be careful about the ways you use water? What one thing have you learned about using water from the sponge experiment? Here are two picture frames. In one frame, draw one way you use water and in the other, show one way you can save water.



Do you know another way people waste a lot of water? It's waiting for the cold water to get warm by letting cold water go down the drain without using it. Take a class survey to find out how many people waited for the water to warm up this morning as they got ready for school. See if you can figure out a way to find out about how much water that wastes. Then, talk about ways to solve that problem.

EASY EARTH SAVERS FOR YOU



PLANT A TREE

Plant a tree or grow a garden. Plants turn carbon dioxide into the oxygen we need to breathe. Trees also help keep the soil from washing away. They give animals like birds and squirrels a place to live. Or, you can grow plants inside on your windowsill.



RIDE YOUR BIKE

If you don't have far to go, try riding your bike or walking instead of getting a ride in a car. You'll save energy, cut down on air pollution, and you'll be healthier, too.



SAVE ELECTRICITY

Turn off the lights when you leave the room. Turn off the radio and television when you're not using them.

SAVE WATER

Turn off the faucet off while you're brushing your teeth. Take shorter showers. Time yourself and then try to take a minute or two off of your time. Keep a pitcher of water in the refrigerator instead of running water to get it cold whenever you want a drink.



KEEP THE EARTH BEAUTIFUL

Help keep the Earth beautiful by helping to keep your neighborhood clean.

RECYCLE

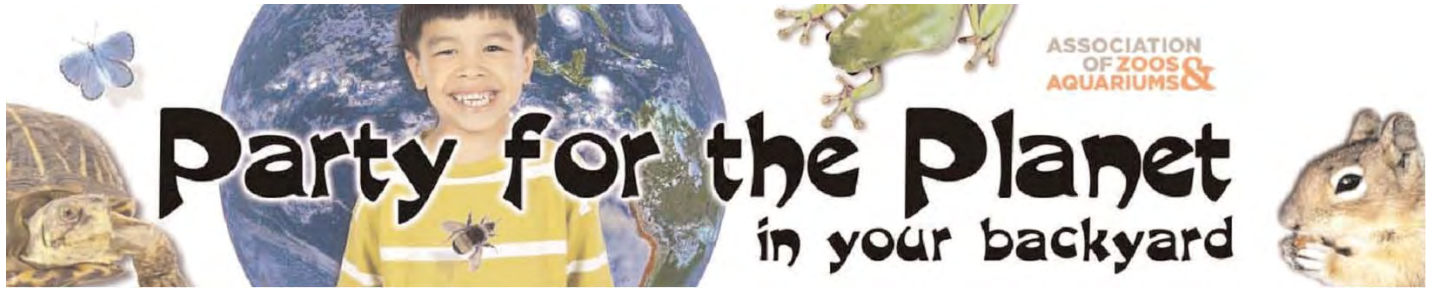
Recycle cans, bottles, and newspapers.



paper

aluminum

glass



Party for the Planet in your backyard

Our own local birds and animals often become so familiar to us that we take them for granted, not realizing our everyday choices and actions affect their habitats and populations.” - Dot Siegfried, AZA



Create a Butterfly Garden

- ◆ Water, flowers and lots of sunshine in an area protected from the wind are all you need to create a butterfly garden!
- ◆ Check your lawn at different times during the day to see which area receives the most sun. Like most insects, butterflies need sunny spots to warm up.
- ◆ Avoid using pesticides around these plants. Butterflies are affected by pesticides as much as pest insects.
- ◆ Butterflies prefer areas with dark moist soil and protection from the wind.
- ◆ Provide butterflies with water. A shallow container with fresh water will work.
- ◆ Be sure to include plants for all life stages. This means nectar plants for adult butterflies and host plants for caterpillars.



Good Butterfly Nectar Plants and Caterpillar Host Plants for Idaho

Dill	Dahlia
Fennel,	Asters
Parsley	Butterfly bush
Bee Balm	Lilac
Coneflower	Zinnia
Marigold	Snapdragons
Salvia	Cosmos
Day Lily	Impatiens
Mallow	Mustard
Phlox	

Good Web Resources:

www.enature.com - Go to their "Native Gardening" section to learn more about what to plant and what not to plant in your area.

www.audubon.org - Click on "Audubon at Home" on the menu bar at the top of the page to see their 'Healthy Yard' resources.

Where have all the Butterflies Gone?

Due to loss of habitat, butterflies are rapidly disappearing. Wild flowers are often confused with weeds and wiped out with herbicides. Butterflies depend on these flowers. When the flowers die, butterflies have no food or place to lay eggs.



Butterflies are also very sensitive to air pollution. Even a little carbon monoxide from car exhaust can affect butterflies.



What Else Can I Do To Help the Butterflies?

- ◆ Learn about the butterflies in your area. Keep a journal of the different species you see in your garden.
- ◆ Try to buy organically grown food at your local market. Those butterfly friendly foods are produced without the use of pesticides or chemical fertilizers.
- ◆ Make your backyard wildlife friendly by including sources of food, water and shelter like bird houses, rocks and plants.
- ◆ Support organizations that are active in butterfly research and conservation.
- ◆ Use natural insect-controls such as predatory insects. Ladybugs and praying mantises are nature's pest control. As carnivores, they feed on many harmful insects and serve as great protectors of your garden. Ladybugs and praying mantises are naturally occurring and can be ordered from local garden centers.
- ◆ Share your knowledge and enthusiasm about nature with others—knowledge is most powerful when shared!
- ◆ Reduce carbon monoxide by walking, biking or riding with friends.
- ◆ Visit www.nwf.org to learn more about Backyard Habitats.



For more information about Tautphaus Park EdZOOcation Programs, check out the website at www.idahofallszoo.org or contact Wendi Stewart, 612-8418, stewart@idahofallszoo.org



Creating Wildlife Friendly Families



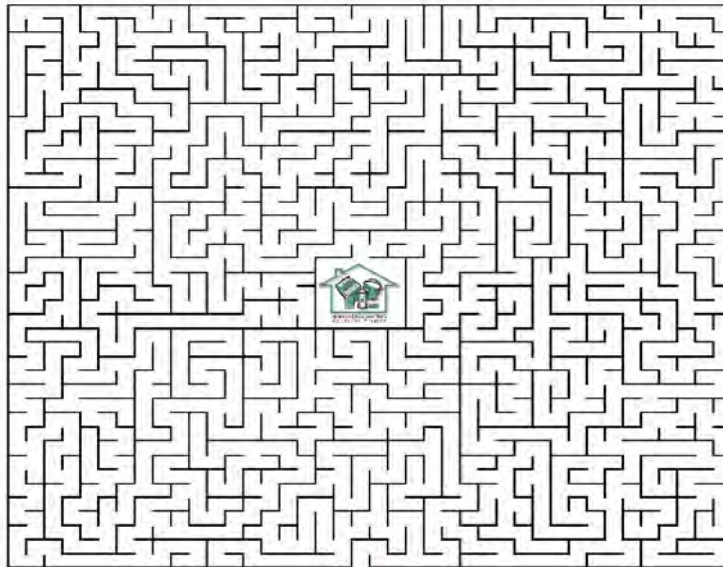
Talkin' Trash



Household Hazardous Waste

Some work around the home may require products that contain hazardous components. These commonly used products include certain paints, cleaners, stains and varnishes, batteries, used auto products (motor oil and antifreeze), and lawn care items (fertilizer & pesticides). When disposed of improperly, these products become household hazardous waste.

Americans generate 1.6 million tons of household hazardous waste a year. When this waste is disposed of improperly, it can cause injury to sanitation workers, contaminate wastewater treatment systems, or leak from landfills into ground water. Improper household hazardous waste disposal includes emptying the contents down the drain, onto the ground, into storm drains, or inappropriately placing in the trash.



Because household hazardous waste can be dangerous, you should always use, store, and dispose of materials containing hazardous waste safely by following both the handling and disposal instructions on the label. When possible dispose of these products through a local collection program. More than 3,000 collection programs for household hazardous waste currently operate in the United States.



Help Sparky get his Household Hazardous Waste to the Collection Facility.



One way to reduce problems from household hazardous waste is to use nonhazardous or less hazardous products. People can do this by learning about alternative products that are available and choosing those that are less toxic. If you must use products with hazardous components, use only the amount you need. Leftover products can be shared with neighbors; donated to a business, charity, or government agency; or given to a household hazardous waste collection program.



Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program

If your community doesn't have a Household Hazardous Waste Collection Program, have your parents ask your local officials to start one.

Bonneville County will host its first Household Hazardous Waste Collection Event on May 12, 2007. For more information see the website below:

www.ifearthday.com/HHW

For more information on alternatives to Household Hazardous Waste visit the following websites:

<http://www.marc.org/Environment/SolidWaste/pdfs/safercleaning.pdf>

http://www.deq.idaho.gov/waste/assist_citizen_comm/hazardous_waste_guide_1999.pdf

Fish and Game



NIE Insert Provided by:

Bechtel BWXT Idaho
 Idaho Cleanup Project - CWI-WG
 Department of Environmental Quality
 INL Oversight and Radiation Control Division
 Idaho Fish and Game

Celebration

Tautphaus Park and Tautphaus Park Zoo
Saturday, April 22, 2006
10:00 am - 4:00 pm
(Zoo hours 1:00 - 4:00 pm)
www.ifearthday.com



Plan now to attend the annual Earth Day Celebration on Saturday, April 28, at the Tautphaus Park Zoo and Hockey Shelter. Enjoy a day of live music, conservation education, games, crafts and displays by local clubs and organizations. Zoo admission will be free for children 12 and under, with a paying adult and participation recycling one of the following:

- ♦ Grocery bag of aluminum cans
- ♦ Cell phone
- ♦ Computer printer ink cartridge
- ♦ Used Coat
- ♦ Athletic shoes (no metal)
- ♦ Used Bike
- ♦ Used Childrens Book

Demonstrations
 (Recycling, water-wise landscaping, proper disposal methods, and other earth-friendly activities)
Entertainment
Raffle
Crafts for all ages
For the latest information, check out ifearthday.com



Made Possible by:

