

Fact Sheets for Kids - The Environment

Fact Sheets for Kids help children understand related community issues. For more fact sheets, go to www.HandsOnNetwork.org/FamilyVolunteering/ServiceLearning.



Saving the Environment!

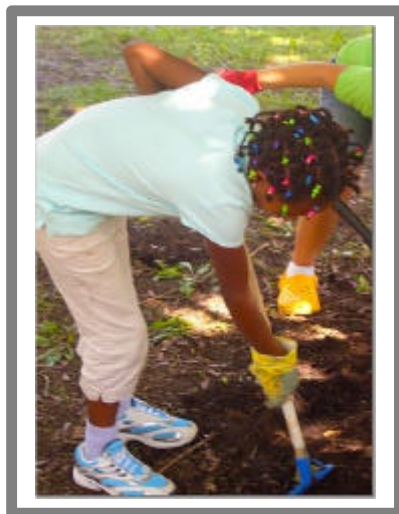
Concerned Students Make Environment-Friendly Changes

Meet LAURA – Laura has decided to *walk or ride her bike* instead of asking her mom for a ride when she wants to go to the neighborhood park or library. Plus walking or riding a bike is *healthy!*

Meet JOHN – John *plants trees* with his dad in their yard. They both support the local project in their neighborhood to plant trees and clean a neglected park.

Meet ALLISON – Allison helps her parents with *recycling* cans and bottles. She is saving the money she earns to donate to their community environmental action group.

Meet KYLE – Kyle asked his parents to change all the light bulbs in their house to CFL bulbs to save electricity and money! He also reminds them to *turn off* lights, televisions, and computers.



What is the environment?

The environment is the world around us. The air we breathe, water we drink, plants we eat, and wildlife we watch are all a part of it. Our environment is very fragile. Dirty air, water, and food can make people sick and kill wildlife. It is important to protect our environment in order to live happy and healthy lives. Everyone can lend a helping hand to keep things clean!

Problems and Solutions

Keeping the environment clean is a challenge! But, when we work together, we can overcome challenges and accomplish a lot. Here are some problems and possible solutions for keeping our environment clean. Remember that you personally can help keep the environment clean, especially if you work with others.

Global Warming

Problem: When people burn fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas it creates harmful smoke. Fossil fuels are burned to create electricity, warm our homes, and drive our cars. This contributes to the *greenhouse effect*, which is the process of Earth collecting heat from the sun and not returning it to outer space. When the environment gets too warm it can change the weather, kill plants and animals, and melt the ice caps.

Solution: You can help by turning off lights you are not using, taking shorter showers, and recycling. Since our cars also produce harmful smoke, you can help by walking, or taking public transportation.

Deforestation

Problem: Deforestation is the process of trees in the forest being cut down. Entire forests are wiped out by logging companies. The logs are used to create things such as paper, furniture, and homes. Forests produce fresh air and serve as homes for plants and wildlife.

Solution: An easy step to solving deforestation is to recycle paper. The more paper we recycle, the fewer trees are cut down. Planting trees in your neighborhood is also helpful.

Garbage and Litter

Problem: Littering happens when people throw their garbage on the ground instead of putting it in a trash can. Litter pollutes rivers, hurts plants, and kills wildlife. Too much garbage can also hurt our environment because dumps and *landfills* fill up too quickly.

Solution: Recycling and putting garbage in proper garbage cans helps keep our environment clean and healthy. When we recycle it puts less garbage in our dumps and landfills.

Use a trash can!

How Can You Help?

- ? Tell family and friends to switch to CFL bulbs
- ? Join with other families to clean a local park, cemetery or beach
- ? Organize a can and bottle recycling drive and donate proceeds to a local environmental organization or nature center
- ? Use reusable grocery bags