



TN RECYCLING COALITION

EDUCATION & OUTREACH TOOLKIT



TN RECYCLING EDUCATIONAL TOOLKIT

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WHO WE ARE

The Tennessee Recycling Coalition (TRC) is a non-profit partnership of private business, federal and state agencies, cities and counties, non-profit organizations, trade associations, educational institutions and individuals.

THE MISSION OF TRC

- Promote the state-wide adoption of waste reduction and recycling
- Provide information and education
- Partner to address waste issues in the state

HOW THE MISSION IS FULFILLED

- Promoting and encouraging recycling and waste minimization throughout the state of Tennessee at all levels.
- Providing forums for information exchange and networking.
- Providing recognition to organizations and individuals who demonstrate excellence in recycling and waste minimization programs and initiatives.
- Establishing and maintaining relationships with national, state, local agencies, and other organizations.

SPONSORED BY:



IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:

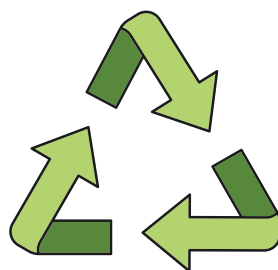


WHAT IS RECYCLING?

Pages 4-10



**Recycling takes little effort
on your part but makes a big
difference to our community and
impacts our world.**



WHAT IS RECYCLING?

Recycling is the process of taking waste and converting it into a new material, rather than disposing of it in a landfill. Materials that can be recycled include glass, paper, cardboard, plastics, electronics, rubber tires, textiles, and metals, as well as food that can be used for compost. When materials are recycled they are left curbside or delivered to a collection center where the materials are sorted and sent to the appropriate recycling facility.

BENEFITS OF RECYCLING

- Reduces the amount of waste sent to landfills and incinerators
- Conserves natural resources such as timber, water and minerals
- Increases economic security by tapping a domestic source of materials
- Prevents pollution by reducing the need to collect new raw materials
- Saves energy
- Supports manufacturing and conserves valuable resources
- Helps create jobs in the recycling and manufacturing industries in the United States

WHERE ARE MY RECYCLABLES PROCESSED?

There are several methods for collecting recyclables, including curbside collection and drop-off centers.

After collection, recyclables are sent to a material recovery facility to be sorted (MRF), cleaned and processed into materials that can be used in manufacturing.





COMMON ITEMS THAT YOU CAN RECYCLE ARE:

- Newspapers, magazines, white paper
- Aluminum, plastic, and glass drink containers
- Steel cans
- Plastic laundry detergent bottles, water bottles, plastic food trays
- Cardboard

Recycled materials are also used in new ways such as recovered glass in asphalt to pave roads or recovered plastic in carpeting and park benches.

When you recycle your homework it is recycled, baled, and made into paper towels and tissues.

NEW PRODUCTS MADE FROM RECYCLED MATERIALS

You help close the recycling loop by buying new products made from recycled materials. There are thousands of products that contain recycled content.

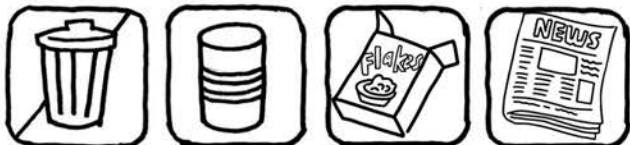
RECYCLING FACTS

Recycling reduces energy consumption and keeps objects from being wasted.

1. Aluminum cans in the landfill can take 500 years to even begin to change form.
2. There is no limit to the number of times aluminum can be recycled.
3. If paper is not recycled, it takes 500,000 trees to produce the Sunday newspapers alone, every week.
4. By recycling just the Sunday newspaper, 75,000 trees are saved. 250 million trees would be saved if all newspapers were recycled all year.
5. The average American uses about 680 pounds of paper a year for various purposes. Most of it is not recycled.
6. When more people recycle less energy is used and the greenhouse gas emissions are reduced.
7. More than one million sea creatures are killed each year because of the plastic bags that are thrown into the ocean.
8. It takes roughly 450 years for a plastic bottle to begin decomposing, and then still up to 80 more years to decompose.
9. An adult-sized fleece jacket can be made from 25 recycled PET bottles.
10. Making paper from recycled paper reduces the related contribution to air pollution 95%



VOLUNTEER TO RECYCLE



RECYCLE RIGHT

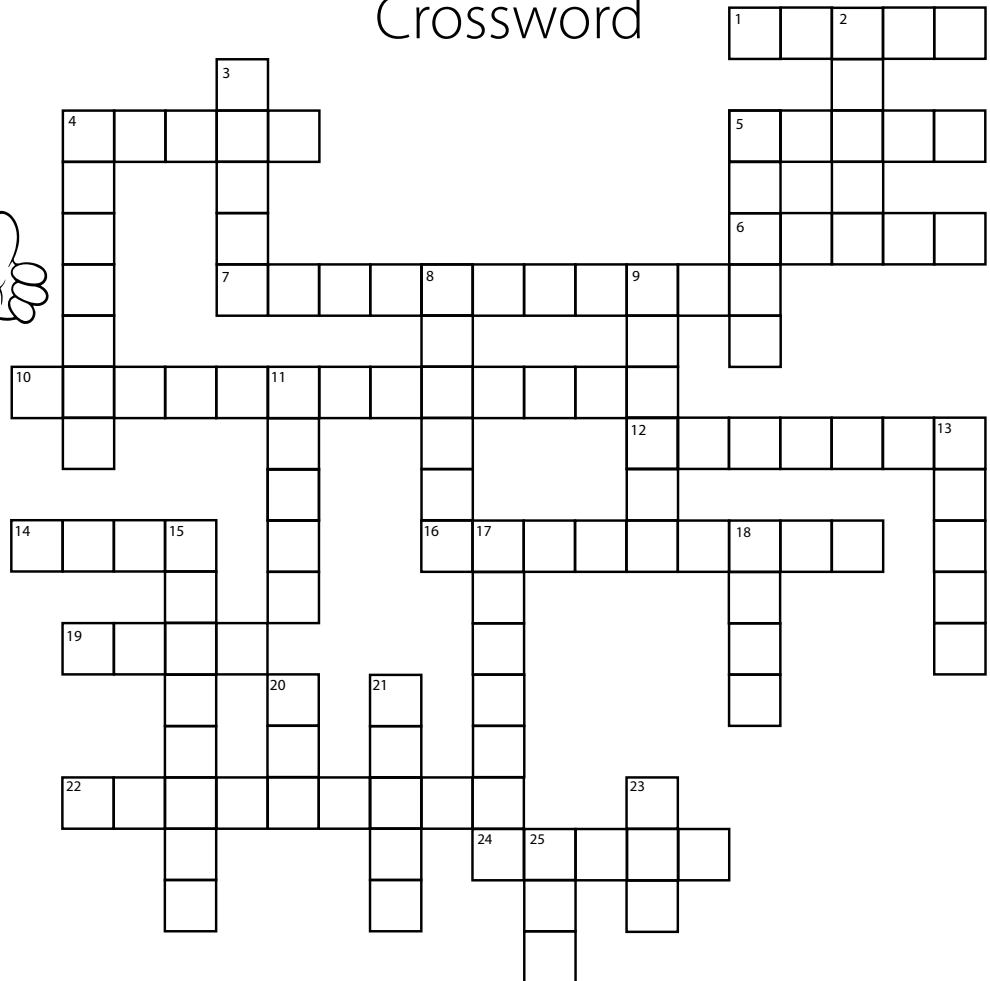
Name: _____

Date: _____



Let's RECYCLE!

Crossword



ACROSS

1. Toxic vapors
4. Made from trees
5. Essential fluid
6. Energy from the sun
7. Surroundings
10. Capable of being decomposed by bacteria
12. Use in a new way
14. Oil is an example of this
16. Environmental habitat
19. Recyclable metal tins
22. Discharged substances
24. Poisonous

DOWN

2. Aluminum, iron, and copper are all examples.
3. Use again
4. Made from oil
5. Fail to make use of
8. Use less
9. Some sources of this are renewable
11. Sand is the main ingredient
13. We've only got one
15. Method of waste disposal
17. Organic fertilizer
18. Might be recycled to make a playground surface.
20. Methane and butone are examples.
21. Important layer is the earth's atmosphere
23. Animals inhale it
25. Used to make gasoline

WORD BANK

Biodegradable	Paper
Fuel	Plastic
Reduce	Landfill
Environment	Cans
Waste	Emissions
Metal	Ozone
Fumes	Compost
Solar	Ecosystem
Air	Tire
Oil	Ecosystem
Toxic	Gas
Earth	Toxic
Recycle	Energy
Glass	

RECYCLING GAME CHALLENGE



WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

- Three totes
- Three signs labeled plastic, paper, cardboard.
- Three bags of clean recyclables, paper, plastic, cardboard.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Divide students in groups and place bins out for students to see with signs taped on them.
2. Spread bagged recyclables out on the floor and line students up in front of recyclables.
3. Explain instructions on sorting recycling in correct bins.
4. Tell them when to start the game.



WOOD RECYCLING

WHY WOOD IS GOOD



RENEWABLE



CLEAN



RECYCLABLE



BEAUTIFUL



LONG-LASTING



STRONG



GREAT FOR CONSTRUCTION



SOUND INSULATING



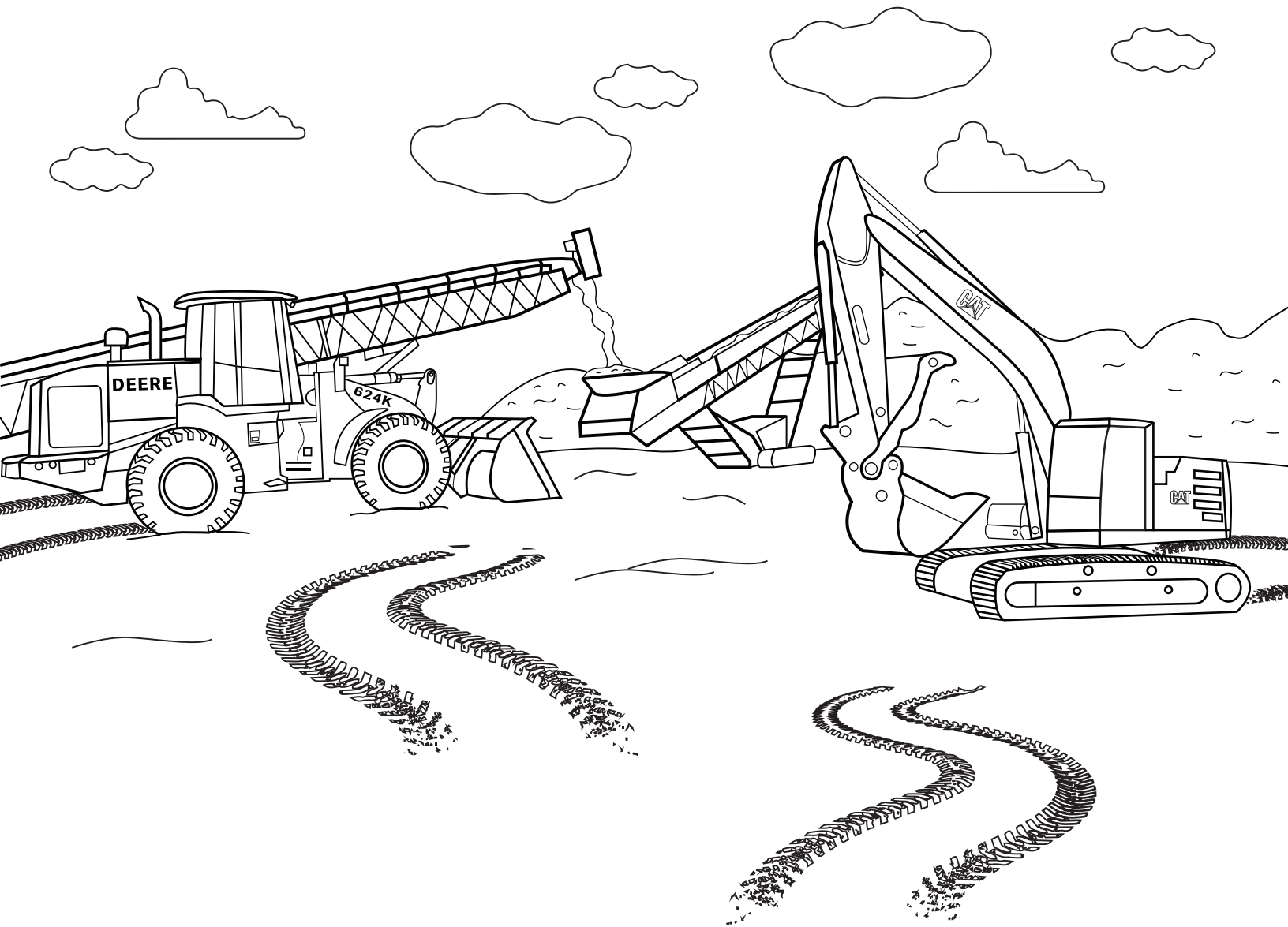
THERMAL INSULATOR



ENDLESS USES

**WOODU
CHOOSE**
and for carbon - 10 points

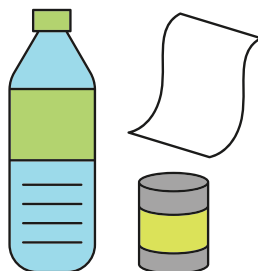
- ✦ The process by which clean waste wood, containing no contaminants or hazardous materials such as glue, lead paint, asbestos or creosote, are ground into chips and used to make new products
- ✦ Tree branches, stumps, pallets and clean scrap wood from construction sites are all examples of clean waste wood



**Wood recycling can help reduce energy costs,
help divert materials from a landfill, and make
new products out of virgin materials.**

LITTER PREVENTION

Pages 16-19



LITTER PREVENTION



Litter is an enormous burden to the state both financially and ecologically. Every year litter costs the state over fifteen million dollars, and contaminates natural habitats. Research has shown that littering comes from people intentionally throwing their trash on the ground, and unintentionally mismanaging their waste.

About 85% of littering is the result of individual attitudes. Changing individual behavior is key to preventing litter. Nearly one in five, or 17%, of all disposals observed in public spaces were littering. The remainder (83%) was properly discarded in a trash or recycling receptacle.

**AT THIS VERY
MOMENT,
THERE ARE
100 MILLION
PIECES OF
LITTER ON
TENNESSEE
ROADWAYS.**



LITTER COMING TO A GUTTER NEAR YOU



ACTION

- CAN IT!** Put your litter where it belongs in the litter bin
- TAP OUT!** Instead of bottle water, use tap water and reusable bottle
- CLEAN UP!** Even if it is not yours, pick up the litter and throw it away, the animals will thank you
- REUSE IT!** Instead of plastic bag at the store, reusable bags can store more items and do less damage to the stormwater system



Litter Is Killing Our Wildlife

Annually, the RSPCA receives over 7,000 phone calls about litter-related incidents. Their officers regularly rescue pets, farm and wild animals trapped or hurt by discarded litter.

With many pet and farm owners going direct to vets, and many injured wild animals never being found, it is estimated that this figure is just the tip of the iceberg.



It's costing taxpayers **over half a billion pounds a year** to clear the streets of England – let alone parks and other public spaces.



Marine litter has a large impact on the marine environment as more than 1 million birds and 100,000 marine mammals die each year from becoming entangled in or ingesting marine litter.



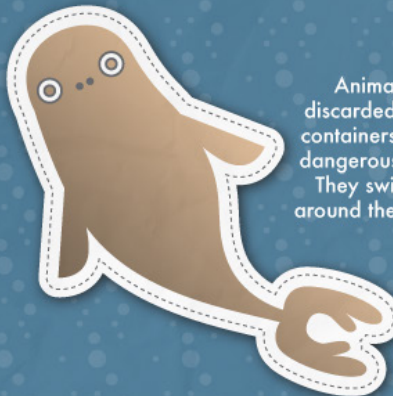
of Fulmars in the North Sea have plastic in their stomachs which can lead to a loss of physical condition resulting in breeding failures and in severe cases death.



Turtles have been known to ingest plastic bags as they resemble jellyfish while floating in the water.

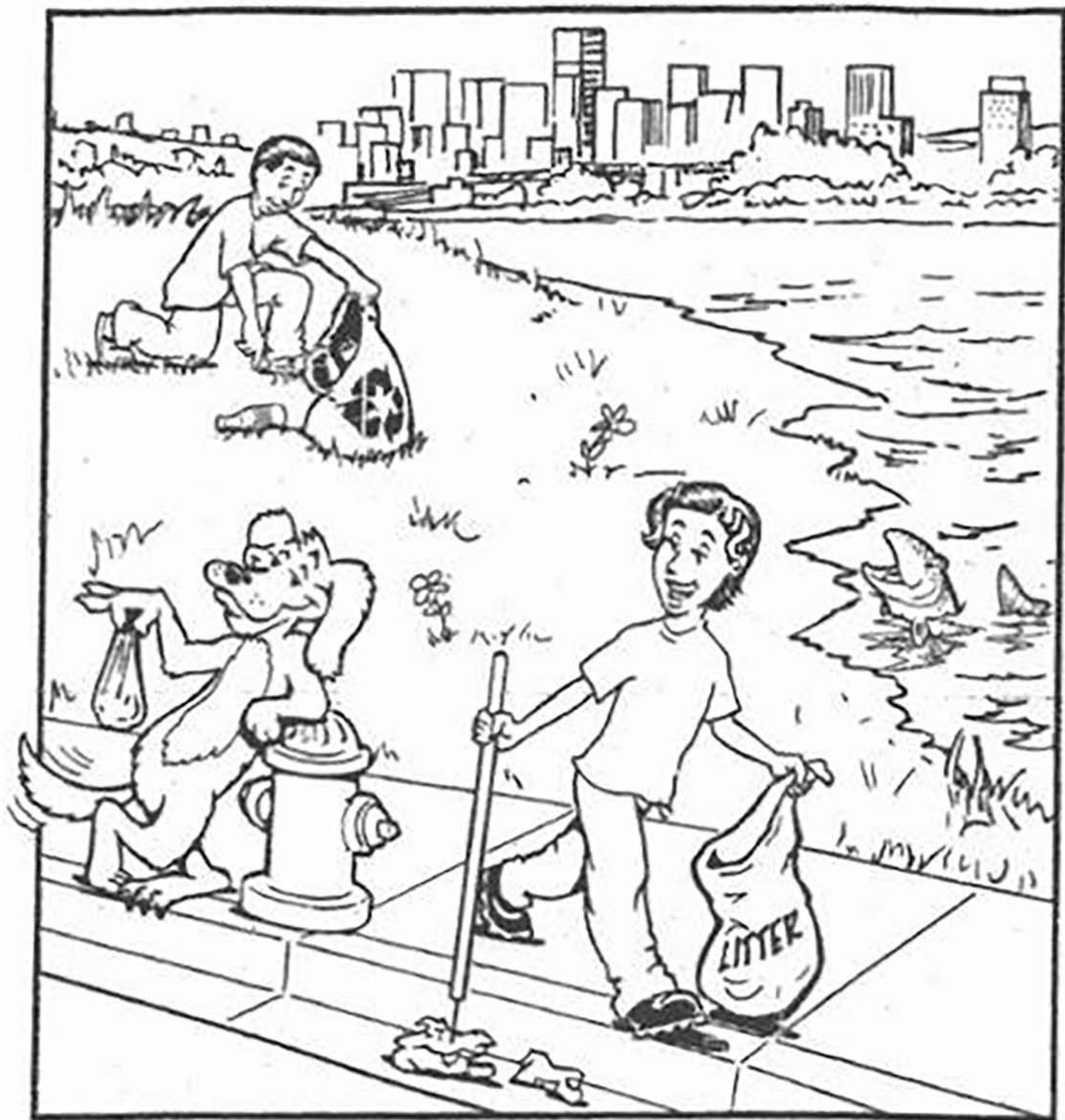


Animals can often become entangled in discarded ropes and nets or trapped in plastic containers. Plastic strapping bands can also be dangerous for inquisitive animals such as seals. They swim through the bands catching them around their necks and as the animal grows, the bands cut into their skin.





Directions: What do you observe happening in the scene below?
Talk with a buddy or grown up and color together!



Help protect our water and wildlife! Pick up after your pet and dispose of waste in the trash. Take part in community creek, lake or shoreline cleanups. Always throw your trash in a garbage can. Remember to reduce, reuse, recycle and rot!



LITTER PREVENTION ROCKS!!!

W S K F E I W B W S B T F P I
G R O Z H J O U A L Q R D U W
Y O A P V T I V T A H A C M R
D A B P T D O B E M F S C X O
J Y W L P L Z I R I O H M U G
J G E D T E A G W N E I E G W
H S O S A Z R W A A R J U N J
W O T F W O H S Y E N H S X O
S T R A W S R R T E U H O X W
Q F Z Q L O T T Z T U V T P C
O U Y A M H I U R F P G T N N
E U D P G L A N S L Y A G A E
P U N A E L C B I Q X K P A Y
I M X D N R I F M L C V Z E I
U K G N O F V C C G V V Z T R

ANIMALS
FOOD
PAPER
TRASH

BOTTLES
GUM
ROADWAY
WATERWAY

CLEANUP
LITTER
STRAWS
WRAPPERS

**NOBODYSM
TRASHES
TENNESSEE**

TENNESSEE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORTATION



1. There are currently 100 million pieces of litter on Tennessee's State Roadways.
2. All litter eventually finds its way to a waterway.
3. Litter is harmful for animals and wildlife.