



Love the Earth!



Why care?

What do **animals**, **plants** and **people** all have in common? They all need food, water and a clean environment to thrive!

The **Earth** is an ecosystem. "Eco" is a word for "home" and "system" means working together. Our land, air, water, plants, animals, and people are just some parts of this ecosystem. When something happens to one part of the ecosystem it often affects another part.

What can you do to help keep our Earth clean? Start by writing down things you do on a regular basis that might "help" or "harm" the Earth.

Fold a piece of paper in half then open it. On one half, write down 5-10 activities you do on a regular basis. Think about how you travel, what you eat, what you use, and what you throw away. On the other half of the paper, write the words "Help" and "Harm." You have to decide which items on your list harm or help the environment. Draw a line from each item on your list to either the "Help" or "Hurt" word.

Share your paper with your parents and talk about things you might change to move the item from "hurt" to "help." Each of us can do something to help our earth.



The air we share

Air is what allows every living thing to prosper or weaken depending on how clean or dirty it is. When plants are exposed to polluted air, they don't flourish. When we breathe dirty air, it can make us sick and hurt our heart and lungs. Each day we take about 20,000 breaths of air! So, it's important to make every breath count.

Here are some ways you can help the air:

- * Remind your parents to not idle their cars.
- * **Recycle** everything you can!
- * Ask your parents to arrange a carpool with your friend's parents when going to the same place.
- * Turn off the lights when you leave a room.



Be wise with water

Did you know that without **water**, life would most likely not exist? Read these facts and *then unscramble the two word phrase below.*



- * 70% of the earth is covered by water and most of it is too salty to drink.
- * Of all the water on earth only 1% is fresh water available for use.
- * Water is the only substance that can be found in three different physical states: solid (ice); gas (water vapor/steam); and liquid.

Help conserve water by following these steps:

- * Never leave the faucet running when brushing your teeth.
- * If you notice a dripping faucet, tell your parents so they can fix it.
- * Short showers use less water than a full bath.

Unscramble:

v o n c e r s e t a r e w

Your Answer:

— — — — — — — — — —

Try this at home!

Valentine Gifts

Reuse plastic or glass bottles to create unique one-of-a kind gifts. Glue decorative items such as paper, strings, stickers, and buttons to the container. You can create anything—from a beautiful vase to a desk pen holder. Use your imagination and have fun!



Valentine Cards

Instead of buying valentine cards, make homemade cards. Look around your house for ribbon, magazines, scraps of paper, etc. Use arts and crafts supplies you already have, like glue, scissors, glitter, and so on. You will have fun making the cards and those who receive a card will surely enjoy it!



Receive 10 points!

Take a picture of your recycled valentine craft and send it to the club address on the back, or e-mail a picture of it to spokaneenvirokids@gmail.com to receive 10 points!

Community Calendar

February

12 I Love Clean Air Day!, Mobius Kids, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m., hands on activities, participating club members earn 15 points. Admission fee.

March

20 Spring Equinox - Special activity to earn 10 points. Email or mail us a list of 10 things you see outside that were dormant (not growing) or migrated (not here) during winter. For example, robins, daffodils, etc.

April

16 Earth Day Celebration in Downtown Spokane. Date and location not confirmed at time of printing.

30 Arbor Day Compost Fair, Finch Arboretum, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Protect our Natural Resources: *Reduce, Reuse and Recycle!*



Things we use every day come from the Earth. Did you ever stop and think, “where did my clothes come from?” Your cotton t-shirt comes from cotton plants. The plastic used in so many products, from food containers to DVDs, comes from oil drilled from the Earth. Even money comes from a natural resource. Dollar bills are made from paper, which comes from trees. Coins come from metals which are mined from the Earth.

The Earth has limited resources, and it’s important to conserve them for future generations. You and your family are probably already doing some of these things, such as:

- ♣ Recycling all that you can. Questions? Call the Recyclings Hot Line, 625-6800 or visit www.solidwaste.org.
- ♣ Buying items with less packaging. For example, a large container of juice instead of a lot of small, throw-away boxes.
- ♣ Taking your own shopping bags to the store.
- ♣ Donating your toys and clothes when you have outgrown them.

ENVIRO-FACT:

We breathe over 2,000 gallons of air every day! (a plastic milk jug is one gallon - just imagine breathing 2,000 milk jugs full of air!)



Envirokids’ Club members can earn points by completing activities in this newsletter and by participating in other events. The points can be used for COOL prizes. Your newsletter mailing label indicates how many points you have. For a list of prizes you can earn, visit: www.spokaneenvirokids.org.

Weather Wonders

Changing weather and storms help the earth and its atmosphere clean itself. Wind, rain and snow help push out the dirty, stale air and leave behind fresh, clean air. It's a natural cleansing process.

There are many ways to show you love the earth. Get outside and enjoy nature. Even if it's cold, there is so much to do and see in the winter.

1. Take a walk - maybe with a dog.
2. Play in the snow – go sledding, make a snowman or build a snow fort.
3. Fill a bird or wildlife feeder and watch who comes to visit.
4. Visit a city or state park and go for a hike.

The Spokane area gets its share of wild winter weather. It can get cold, snowy and icy. Here are some important safety tips.

1. Remember to dress for the weather. Don't forget your coat, gloves, boots and hat when you go outside.
2. If you get too cold and wet, go inside to warm up and dry off.
3. Be careful on ice and try not to fall.
4. Check the weather forecast to plan for the day.



Crossword Puzzle

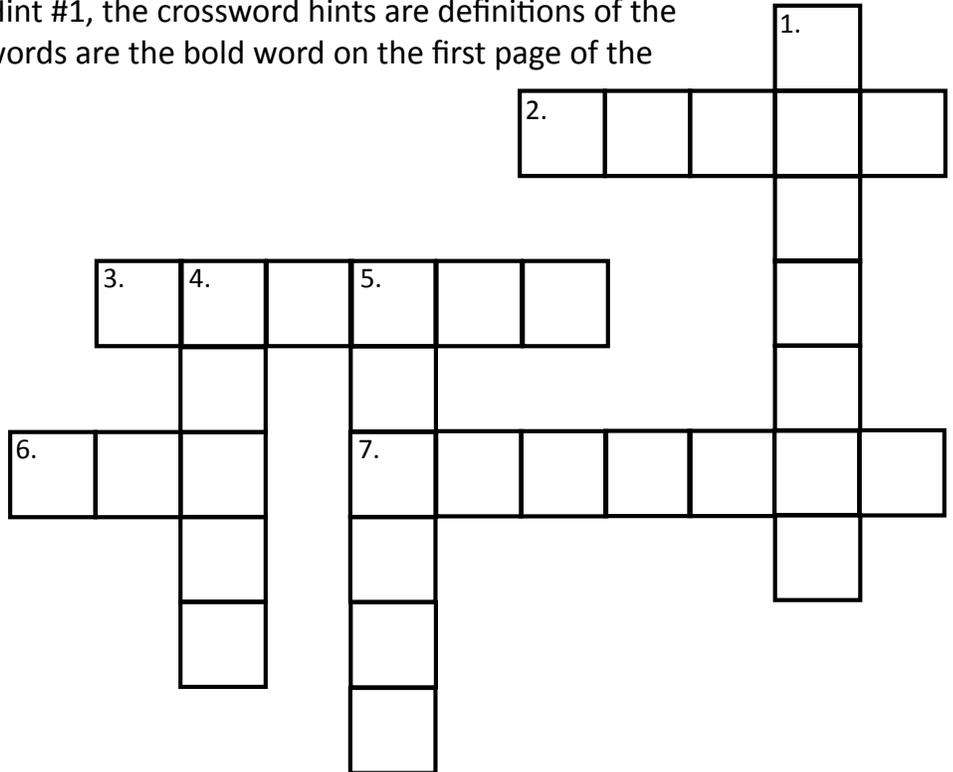
Complete the crossword puzzle. Hint #1, the crossword hints are definitions of the words in the puzzle. Hint #2, the words are the bold word on the first page of the newsletter.

DOWN

1. To reclaim for futher use.
3. Another word for human.
5. Living organisms, usually growing in soil.

ACROSS

2. Transparent, ordorless fluid that we drink.
4. The planet we inhabit.
6. The earth's atmosphere.
7. Living things that are not a plant or human.



2011 Recycling Calendars

Be in the know all year - get your free calendar by calling the Recycling Hot Line, 625-6800. Leave a clear message with your name and address, and one will be sent to you.

Water can be found in three physical states. What are they?



EnviroKids' Club

EnviroKids' Club
c/o National Weather Service
2601 N. Rambo Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224

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Happy New Year!

EnviroKids'... caring for the Earth

EnviroKids' Club provides its members with information and activities to explore aspects of the environment: air, water, weather, garbage and recycling, plants and animals. The Club is open to all kids living in Spokane County who are in grades K-6. There are currently about 300 club members.

Club members receive a newsletter in the mail four times a year. The newsletter contains activities to complete and ideas for activities at home or in the community. Kids who are interested can complete activities and/or participate in some of the events to earn points. Earned points can then be used to trade-in for prizes. Members need to participate in at least one activity per year to receive newsletters. For more information, visit www.envirokidsclub.org.

To earn points, mail your completed activities by March 31, 2011 to:

EnviroKids' Club
c/o National Weather Service
2601 N. Rambo Rd.
Spokane, WA 99224

Complete the activities in the newsletter, fill in this form and send it back to us to earn your points! If you have a friend or sibling who is interested in joining the EnviroKids' Club, just copy this page for them to send in and they will be added to our mailing list.

Name: _____ Age: _____ School: _____

Home Mailing Address: _____

E-mail Address: _____ Phone: _____

My child has permission to participate in EnviroKids' Club activities that I accompany him/her to and permission is granted to use his/her photo that may be taken at such event, for promoting the Club (newsletter, flyers, ads, website, etc.)

Parent Signature. *Please print name, then sign and date*

EnviroKids' Club Sponsoring Agencies: National Weather Service, Spokane County Water Resources, Spokane Regional Clean Air Agency, Spokane Regional Solid Waste System, Spokane River Forum, Washington State Department of Ecology and West Valley Outdoor Learning Center.

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