

REDUCE-REUSE-RECYCLE

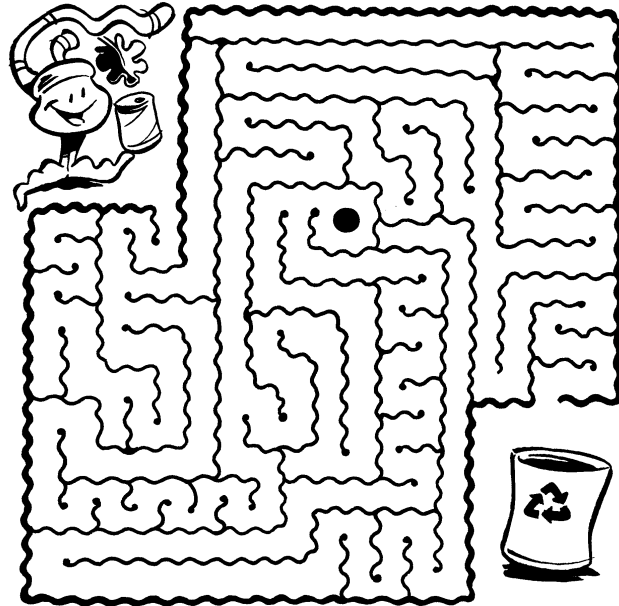


Our modern world is filled with places to see and things to do. Since we're always "on the go" these days, being able to buy convenient, disposable products has become very important to us. Think about all the things we throw away: packaging for toys and electronics, bags we carry home from the store, all sorts of liquid containers such as milk cartons,

shampoo bottles and soda cans. We use paper for boxes, for our computer printers, our office copiers and our school work.

Manufacturing disposable products requires the use of natural resources and energy. Transporting them to stores uses more energy. Then they end up as trash when we've finished with them. As our population grows, the problem grows. The people who will inherit the Earth from us will also inherit the problem.

It's important for all of us to reduce, reuse and recycle the products we buy. For example, grown-ups could bring reusable cloth shopping bags to the store instead of using up the store's paper or plastic ones. We can choose recycled paper products to reduce our need to cut down trees. And, of course, we can simplify our lives so we don't need so much stuff in the first place!



Help Rooty find his way to the recycling bin so he can recycle an aluminum soda can!

Sources for this article: www.rustletheleaf.com/earthdaybook.html

WHY EARTH DAY?



On April 22, 1970, the first Earth Day was celebrated in the United States. It is estimated that 20

million people celebrated the first Earth Day. Since that time, Earth Day has become a worldwide event that is celebrated by more than half a billion people.

Why is Earth Day important? Because it reminds us of our personal responsibility to protect and defend the purity and safety of this beautiful, wonderful planet.

The founder of Earth Day, Senator Gaylord Nelson (1916-2005), was a man who believed in every person's right to clean water, soil and air. In the 1960s, Sen. Nelson became very concerned about the ways in which our government and industries were using natural resources (water, trees, minerals) and creating new chemicals and technology—yet not dealing with the pollution they were causing as part of those activities.

For years, Sen. Nelson talked to government, business and educational leaders, trying to find a way to get people to pay attention to what was happening to the Earth.

To his credit, Sen. Nelson's passion and dedication paid off. Because of him—and the work of many millions who joined him in celebrating Earth Day—important laws were passed to change the way industry and government use natural resources and dispose of pollution. In 1995, Sen. Nelson was awarded The

Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest honor given to a civilian in The United States. On that day, then-President William Jefferson Clinton said these words:

"Twenty-five years ago...Americans came together for the very first Earth Day. They came together to make it clear that dirty air, poison water, spoiled land were simply unacceptable. They came together to say that preserving our natural heritage for our children is a national value. And they came together, more than anything else, because of one American—Gaylord Nelson...As the father of Earth Day, he is the grandfather of all that grew out of that event—the Environmental Protection Act, the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act...In the 1970s, when a river was so polluted it actually caught on fire, Gaylord Nelson spoke up. He insisted that Americans deserved the safety that comes from knowing the world we live in will not make us sick...He inspired us to remember that the stewardship of our natural resources is the stewardship of the American Dream..."

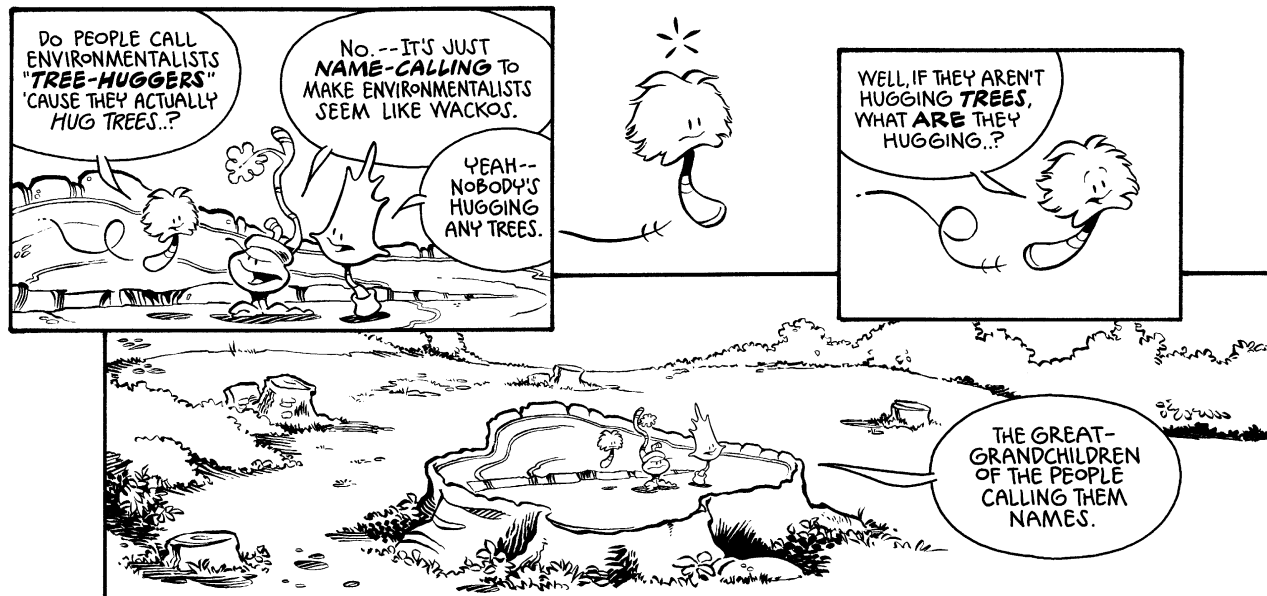
Although millions have followed in Sen. Nelson's footsteps, we are far from achieving his dream of a clean, poison-free environment. Our abuse of natural resources and our creation of pollution is still going strong, and it will take the work and dedication of all of us to change it. You can do your part by learning more about the environment and pollution, and then acting on that knowledge.

It is the hope of the creators of Rustle the Leaf Environmental Comics—and our sponsors, Citra-Solv, LLC.—that you will become the next person to join this cause. Celebrate life. Enjoy the Earth. And always remember Senator Gaylord Nelson: one single person who made an amazing difference.

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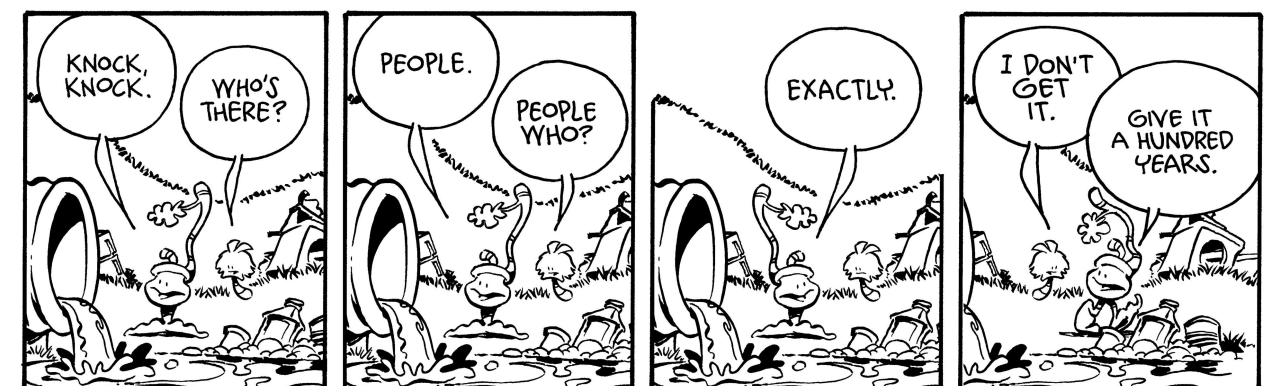
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GLOBAL WARMING

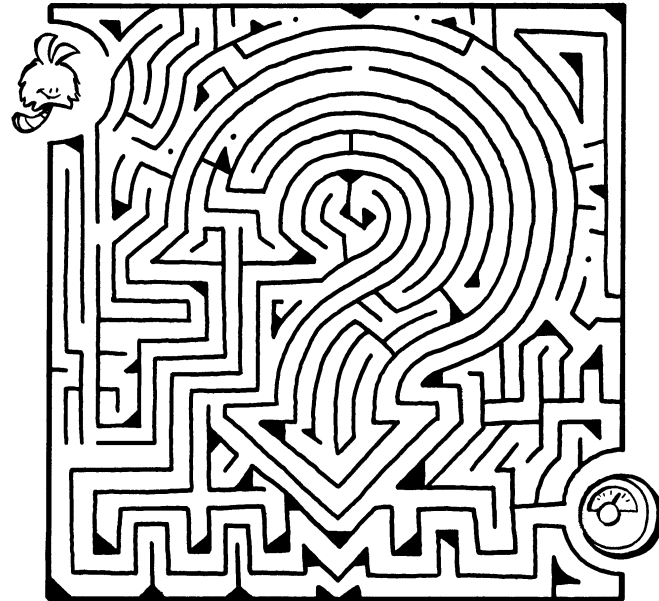


A little over 100 years ago, the invention of gas-powered engines changed the world. Many of the very hard, time-consuming jobs that had been done by people could now be done by machines. Next, gasoline engines were put into carriages, and the age of the automobile was born.

These days, the use of gasoline and diesel fuel for engines, and the use of coal and natural gas in furnaces has created more comfort and convenience than humans have ever experienced.

But there's a consequence for burning all that fuel. The exhaust gasses contain carbon, which gets trapped in the atmosphere. As more and more carbon gets trapped, the temperature of the Earth's surface heats up as well.

Although a warmer planet may sound nice, it's actually a very bad thing. Natural climates and ecosystems get interrupted, putting all types of plants and animals at risk. The polar regions begin to melt, causing worldwide disruption of weather patterns that humans have depended on to survive. Because the world's population continues to grow, it is important that we develop alternative fuels that do not create carbon gas. It's also important that we reduce the amount of fossil fuels used in everyday life.

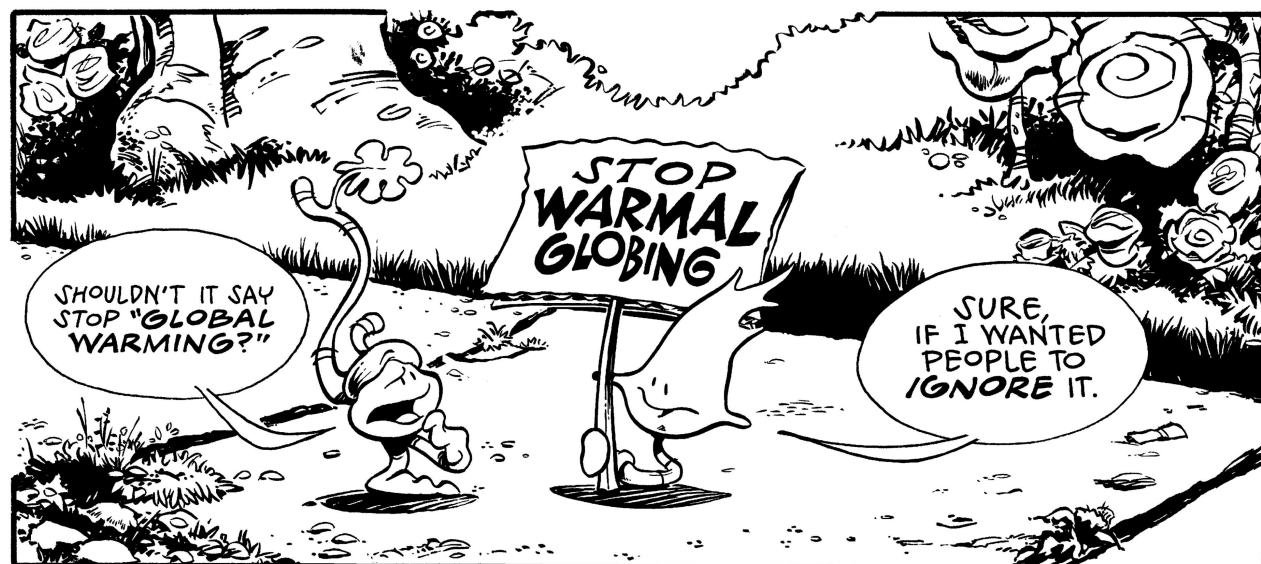


Help Dandy reduce Global Warming and also conserve energy by turning down the furnace thermostat!

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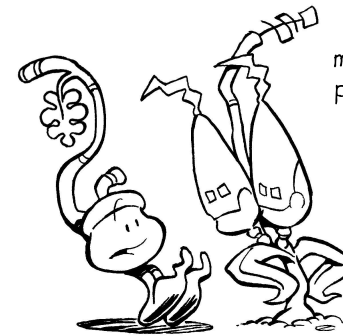
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GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD



For every development in modern science, there is a potential risk that must also be considered. This is especially true for a growing science that involves modifying the DNA of plants used for food. The people who profit from these genetically modified (GMO) plants say they are good because they can be

more resistant to insects or can have vaccines grown right into them to help children in developing nations. But many scientists worry about what we don't know about GMO plants.

For example, it was recently admitted that lab rats being fed a type of GMO corn experienced kidney mutations and altered blood chemistry. The GMO corn they were being fed had already been approved by the government for human food!

Even more troubling is the fact that, in the US, food products containing GMO plant materials are not labeled.

In other countries, GMO foods have to be labeled, and some countries have outlawed the growing or selling of GMO crops altogether, because their pollen has drifted into fields and mutated other plants. Although modern inventions are wonderful, we must always be sure that we don't put people at risk for the sake of profits or convenience.

WORD SEARCH GENETICALLY MODIFIED FOOD

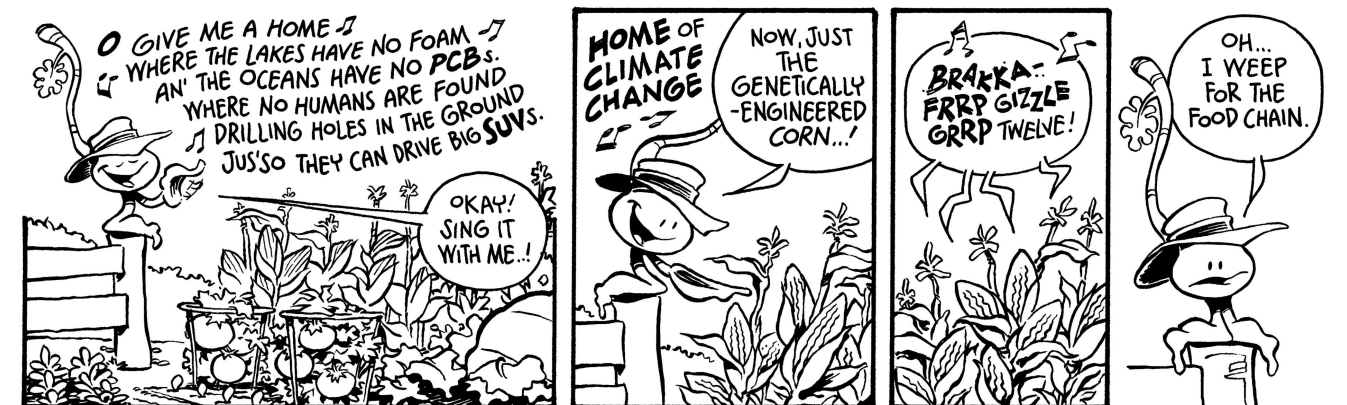
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WORD SEARCH (Puzzle contains no word spaces): All Natural, Altered Blood, Bayer, Cross Contamination, Demand Disclosure, Dow, DuPont, Food, Genetically, Inaction By FDA, Kidney Mutation, Modified, Money, Monsanto, Not Labeled, Not Tested, Organic, Pollen

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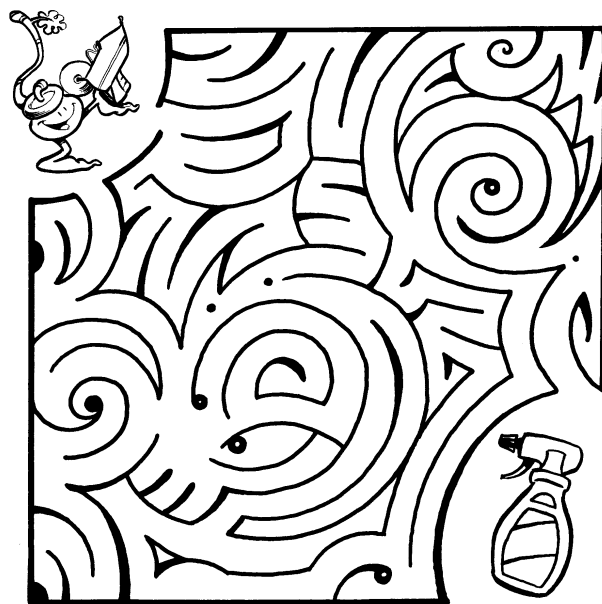
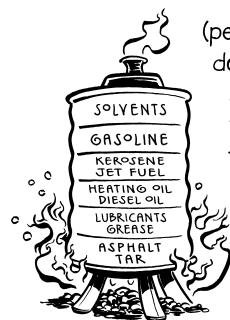


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PETROLEUM POISONS



You may not know it, but the crude oil (petroleum) that gets pumped out of the Earth doesn't just end up in cars or school buses. Before it's of use to anyone, crude oil has to be refined with heat. As crude oil is heated to different temperatures, different chemicals (distillates) separate from the petroleum. These petroleum distillates have many different uses. Some become fuels for gas or diesel engines, others become fuels for heating homes and schools. Others are combined with other chemicals to create cleaning solvents, paint, pesticides or even plastics. As different as the uses for petroleum distillates are, they all have one thing in common: they're poison. Why would companies use poisons in consumer products? Because they work very well, and because they're considered inexpensive. However, people who think of these products as inexpensive aren't adding in the cost of cleaning up the pollution or human health problems they cause. There are many natural alternatives to petroleum distillates. Ask grown-ups to choose natural cleaners and other products that don't contain petroleum.



Help Rooty find his way through the maze to price the petroleum-based cleaner with its REAL long-term cost.

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FOSSIL FUELS



There's a lot of talk these days about how burning fossil fuels causes global warming (which is true, by the way). But something that isn't talked about very much is how the world's natural deposits of petroleum are running out.

As world populations continue to grow, and large nations like China and India become more modern, the demand for petroleum becomes greater and greater.

Very soon, there will come a point when all the petroleum deposits and all the equipment available to process that petroleum won't be able to keep up with the world's demand. That point is called "Peak Oil," and it will change the way everyone in the modern world lives and works.

Over the next 50 years, as petroleum becomes even more difficult and more expensive to get out of the ground, there could be a worldwide energy crisis. The solution is to get our government and business leaders to start investing in conservation technologies such as hybrid cars, and alternative energy sources such as solar power, which is always available and greatly reduces pollution.

WORD SEARCH

PEAK OIL

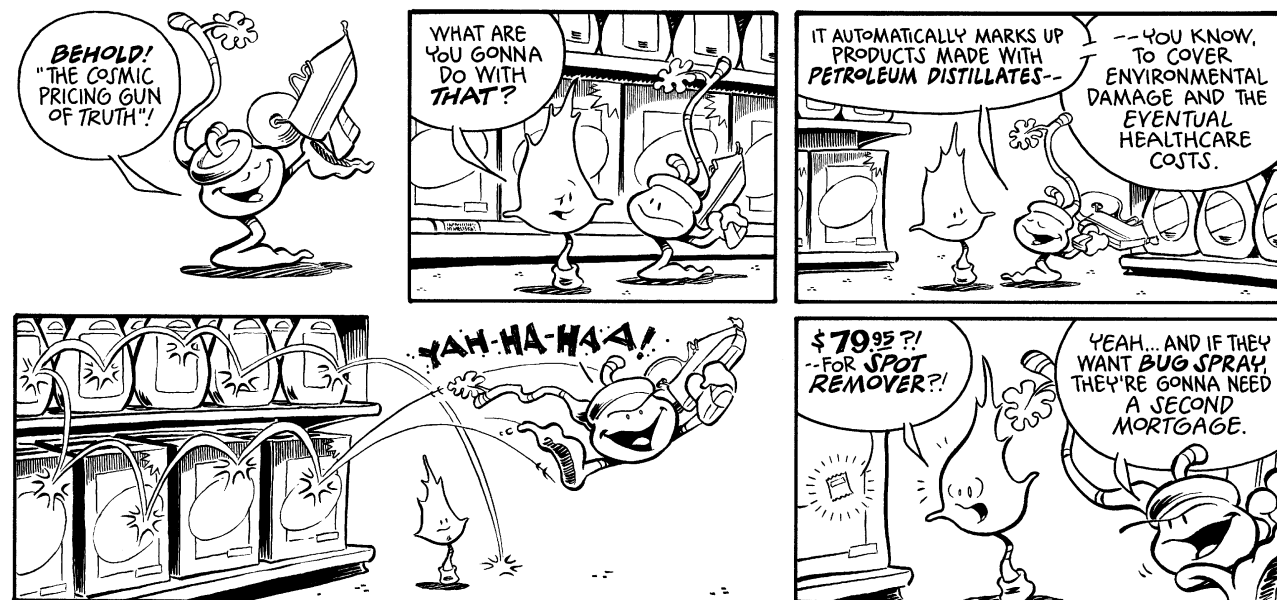
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U	B	B	Q	P	H	C	U	T	N	E	M	G	S	Y	I	L	A	E	
Y	M	U	T	G	D	D	D	L	X	F	C	C	T	P	K	Y	O	G	

WORD SEARCH (Puzzle contains no word spaces): Alternative, Capacity, Cheap Oil, Coal, Demand, Economy, Energy, Fossil Fuel, Natural Gas, Per Barrel, Petroleum, Plastics, Pump, Running Out, Supply, SUV, Transportation, Underground

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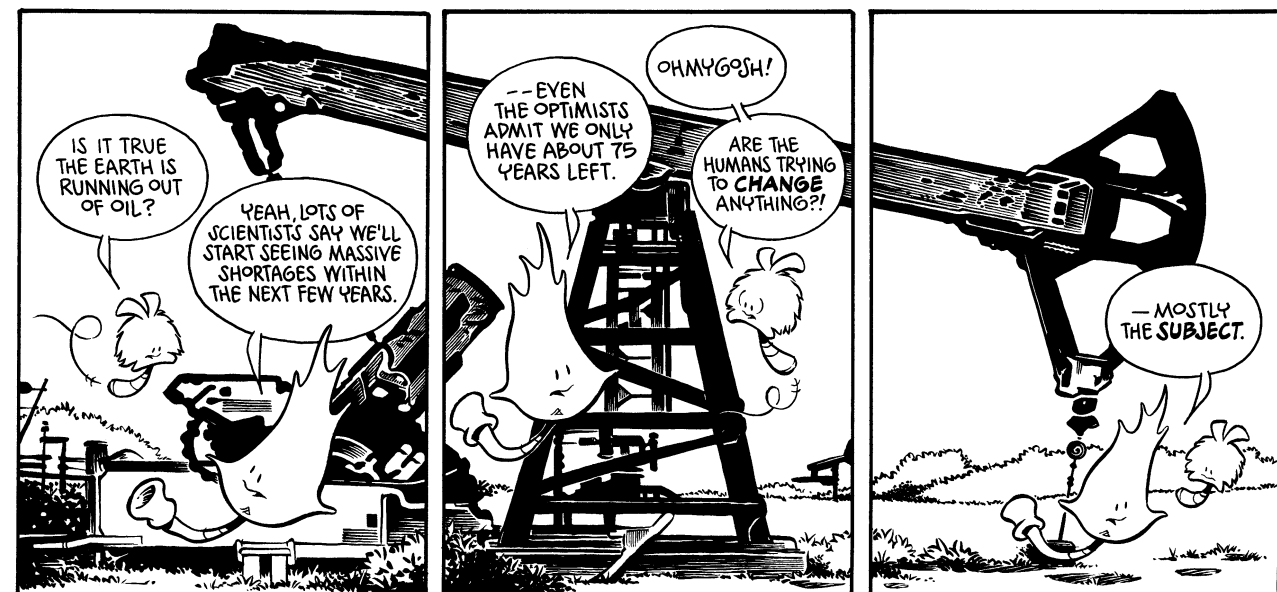
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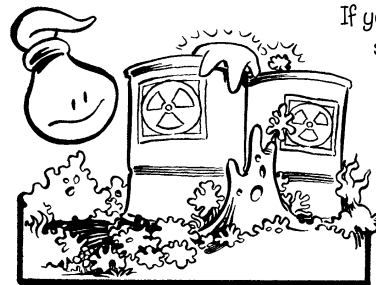
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OCEAN POLLUTION



If you've ever visited the sea shore, you have probably been amazed by the size of the ocean. Because the oceans are so big, humans have made the mistake of believing they are a safe place to dump things. And we're not just talking about trash.

Since the beginning of the industrial revolution, humans have been using the oceans as a place to dispose of manufacturing chemicals, scrap materials, garbage, and even the radioactive waste from nuclear power plants and nuclear-powered ships.

Without clean, healthy oceans, very bad things start to happen. Populations of fish and other aquatic life die off. People who depend on aquatic life for their jobs and their food begin to suffer. And the consequences will be worse as people are directly exposed to chemicals and radioactivity. In the past few years, more and more beaches have been closed because the ocean water is toxic to swimmers, surfers and boaters.

The oceans are huge all right—but they are not big enough to be the dump for the human race. We must keep them clean!

WORD SEARCH OCEAN POLLUTION

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

WORD SEARCH (Puzzle contains no word spaces): Alien Species, Chlorine, Coral Reef, Dumping, Garbage, Lead, Mangrove, Mercury, Oil Spills, PCBs, Pesticides, Plastic, Rubbish, Sewage, Styrofoam, Toxic Waste, Waste Water

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CHLORINE



Since the discovery of how to inexpensively separate it from salt back in the 1890s, chlorine has become a building block in thousands of products. In fact, 1% of all the energy now used on Earth goes into making chlorine.

Companies that make chlorine tell us it's good because chlorine keeps our drinking water safe. But less than 5% of all the world's chlorine is used for this. The rest is used to make plastics, bleaches, pesticides, chemicals and other products. The problem is, all these other products make thousands of tons of toxins (poisons), which are dumped into our soil, atmosphere, water supply, and even end up in our body tissues.

Most chlorine is used to make plastics or bleach paper. One of the most toxic plastics is polyvinyl chloride (PVC), which is used for everything from household plumbing pipes to shower curtains to packaging for toys. At every stage of its life cycle—while it is made, while it's being used and after it's thrown away—PVC causes pollution.

In other parts of the world, the use of chlorine for many products and chemicals is being stopped. But in the US, the industries that make money from chlorine have used their influence with our government to keep it legal—and in our lives.

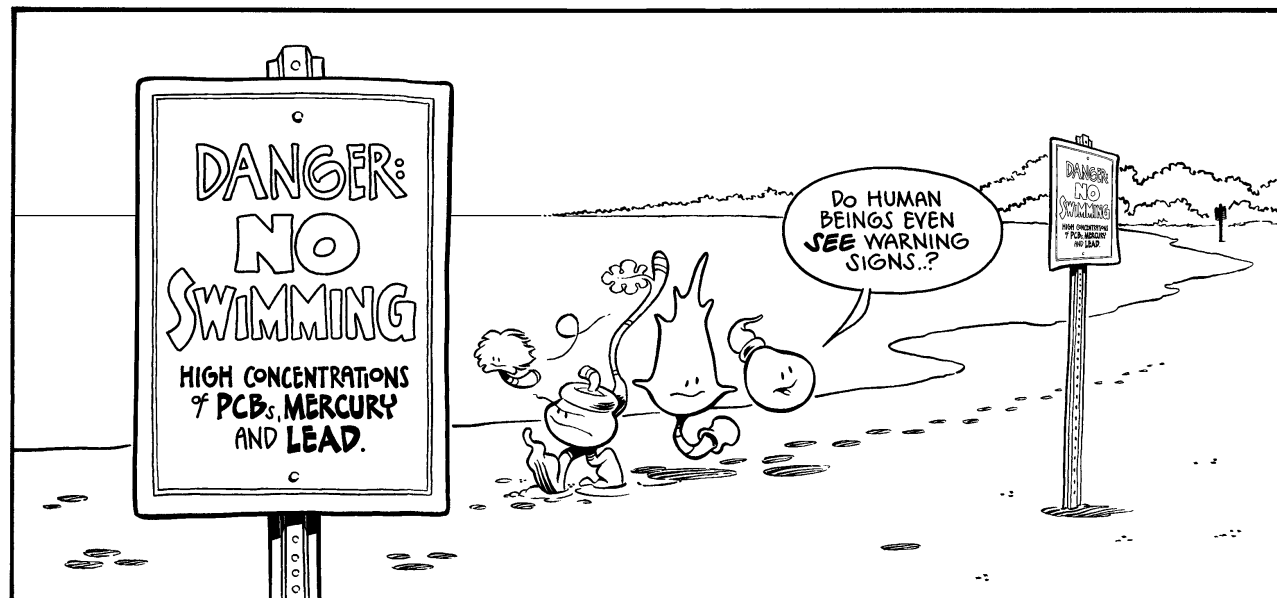


Help Paige mail a letter to her Congressperson about the health risks and dangers of chlorine pollution.

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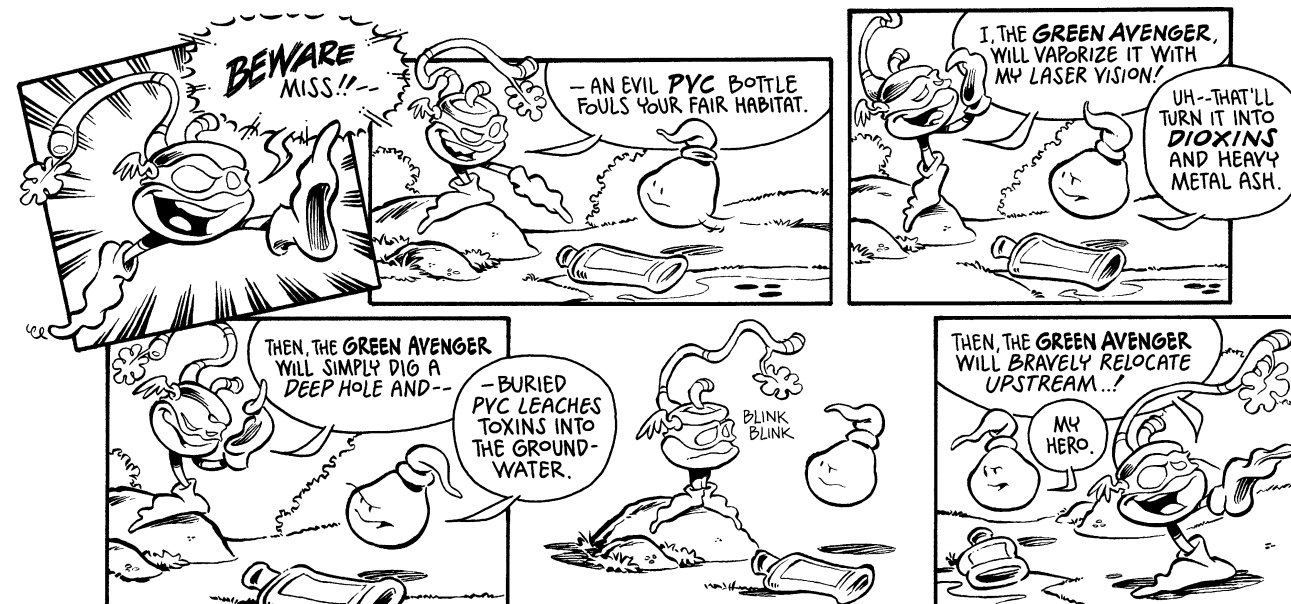
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