



FUN RECYCLING  
ACTIVITIES  
AND IDEAS



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# Make a Birdhouse

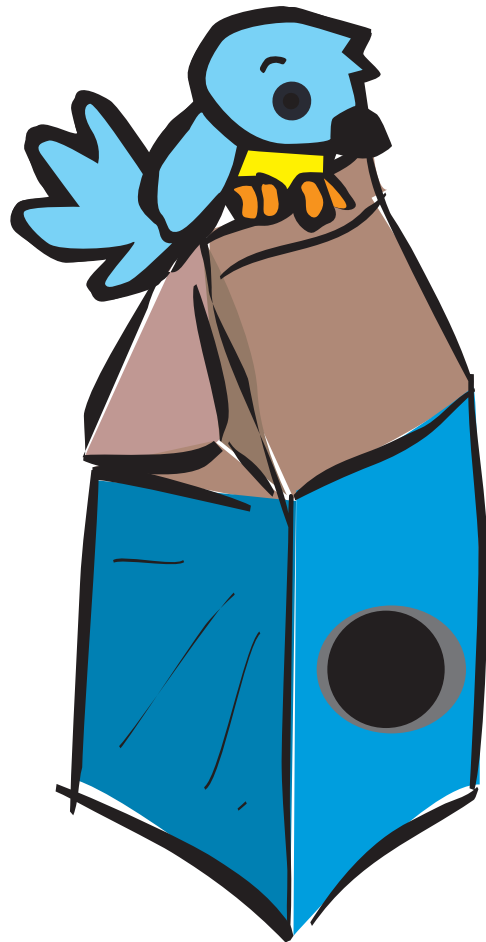
A lovely one-season birdhouse made from recycled household materials

## WHAT YOU NEED:

- Milk carton
- Stapler and staples
- Masking tape
- A soft cloth, rag or chamois
- Brown shoe polish
- Scissors or a knife
- Twine

## WHAT TO DO:

1. Clean and dry the milk carton thoroughly.
2. Staple the top of the carton shut.
3. Tear off small pieces of masking tape and cover the entire carton with the pieces of tape.
4. Using a soft cloth, rub brown shoe polish all over the tape. This will give the carton a rough, bark-like finish.
5. Cut a hole (WITH ADULT ASSISTANCE) about 4" above the bottom of the carton. The hole should be approximately 1" to 1 1/2" in diameter. This hole is for the birds to get in and out of the house.
6. Poke a few drainage holes in the bottom of the carton and two ventilation holes in the top of the carton.
7. Poke a hole through the top of the feeder, string a piece of twine through the hole and hang your feeder on a tree.



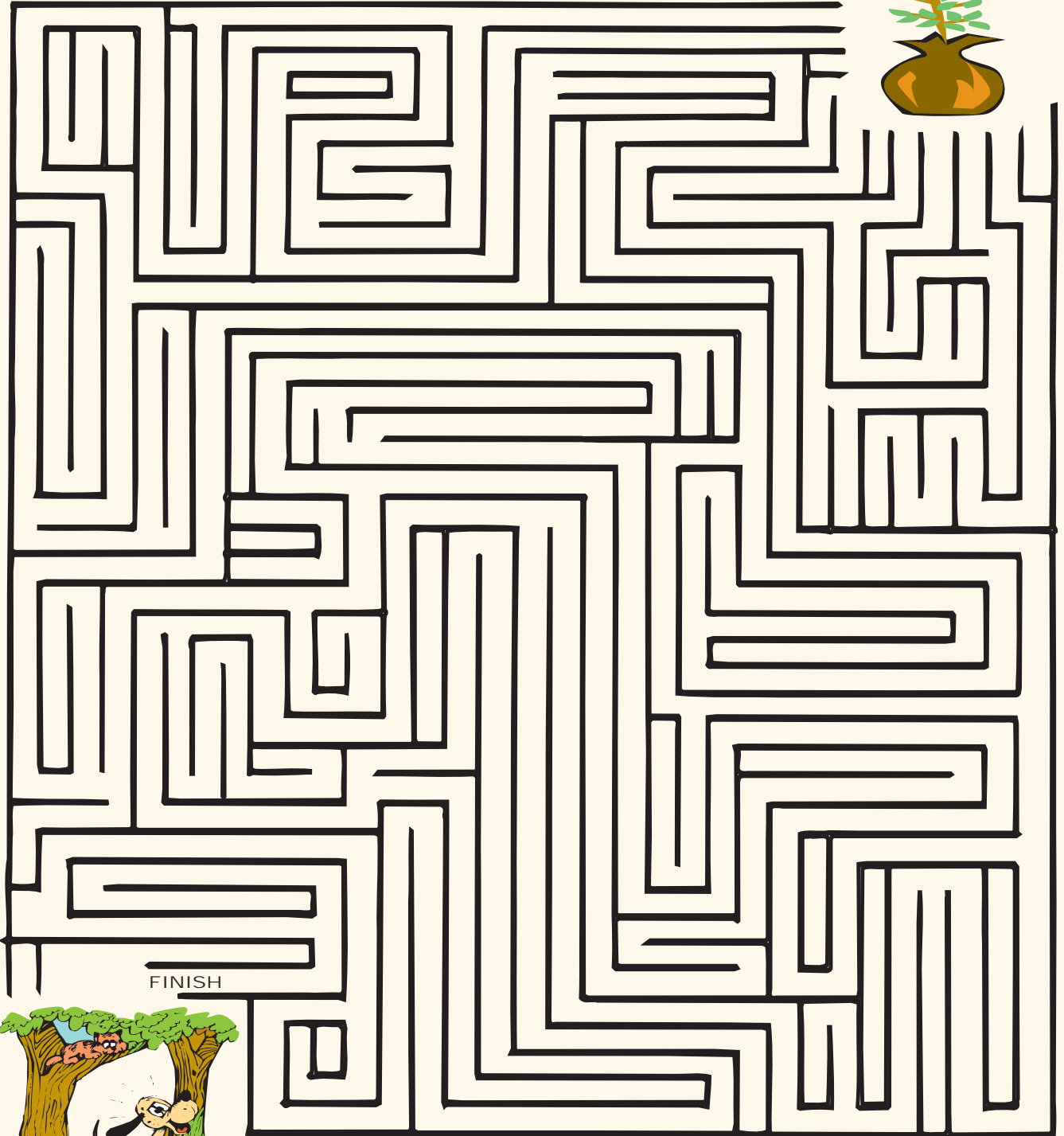
Please note: Plastic milk container can be used for birdhouses too.



# "Be a Tree Saver" Puzzle

BE A TREE SAVER

START



FINISH





# Make your own compost!

A compost is another way to recycle. It's like making a cake called a compost pile. In a covered container mix equal parts "browns" like dead leaves, twigs or straw and "greens" like cut grass, fruit and vegetable trimmings and coffee grounds along with air, water becomes adequate "food," or raw organic material, for the worms, bugs and bacteria that help decompose everything into nutritious soil.

After some time, your compost pile will completely mix together. It's time to add your compost pile with the other soil around your home. It will add nutrients to the earth and keep waste out of landfills and waterways.

Can you think of other ways to use composted soil?

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# Make a Rain Saver!

Another way to recycle is to make a Rain Saver. Instead of using water from the faucet or tap, use the water saved from the last rain. Find a sturdy container and place under the rain gutters around your house. Use this water for your thirsty plants, gardens, or outdoor clean ups.

Can you think of other ways to use rain water?

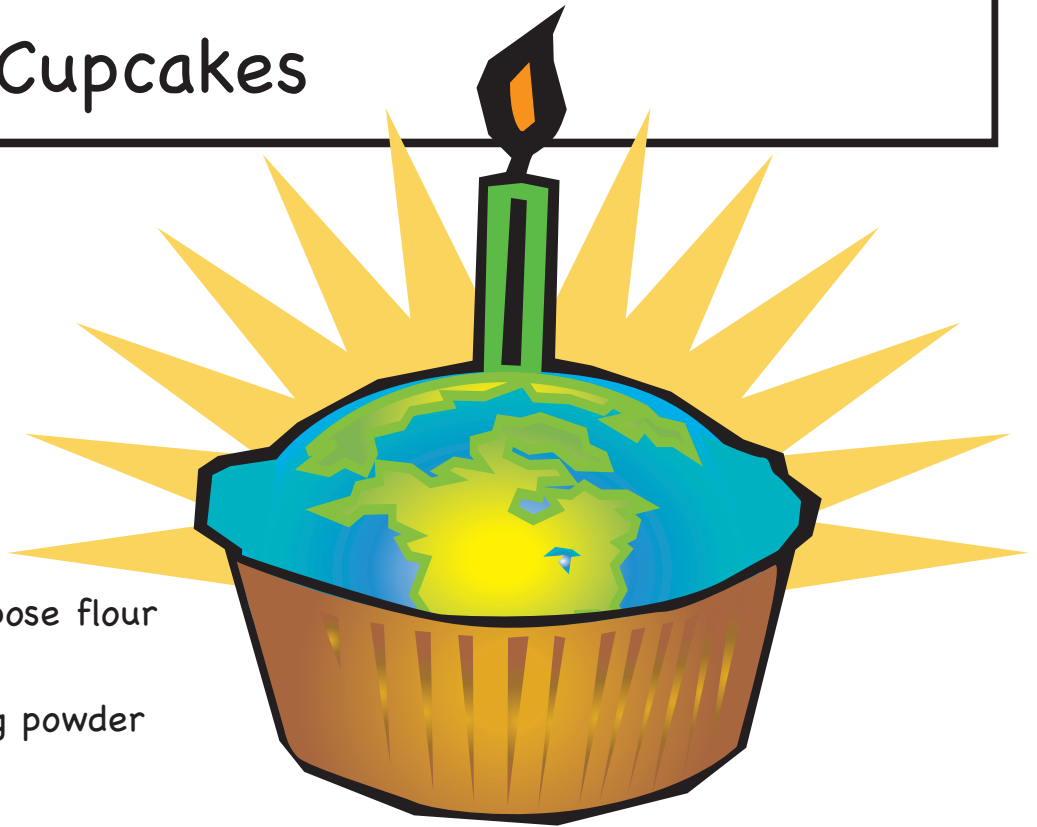
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# Earth Cupcakes



## INGREDIENTS

- 2 1/4 cups all purpose flour
- 1 1/3 cups sugar
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 cup shortening
- 1 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 2 large eggs
- Green and blue frosting

## EARTH CUPCAKE RECIPE DIRECTIONS

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line cupcake pans with paper liners. Combine flour, sugar, baking powder, and salt in a large mixing bowl. Add shortening, milk, and vanilla. Beat for 1 minute on medium speed. Scrape side of bowl with a spatula. Add eggs to the mixture. Beat for 1 minute on medium speed. Scrape bowl again. Beat on high speed for 1 minute 30 seconds until well mixed. Spoon cupcake batter into paper liners until 1/2 to 2/3 full. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool 5 minutes in pans then remove and place on wire racks to cool completely. Once cupcakes are completely cooled, decorate the top with green and blue frosting to represent continents and oceans.



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# Understanding the Rainforest

## THE RAINFOREST CANOPY

The very top of the rainforest is called the "canopy." Trees in the rainforest must grow rapidly to reach the sun at the canopy. Some trees grow to 150 feet tall. There is sunlight, wind, rain and variations in temperature here. Tree frogs, fruits, flowers and the animals that eat them live here.

## THE RAINFOREST UNDERSTORY

The rainforest "understory" is the area between the canopy and the forest floor. It is very hot, very damp, and the air is very still during the day. Birds and butterflies live between the canopy and the forest floor.

## THE RAINFOREST FOREST FLOOR

The bottom of the rainforest is called the "forest floor." Many soil-loving insects live on or near the forest floor. Seeds fall from the canopy to the forest floor where many animals eat these seeds and insects.







# Rainforest Word Search

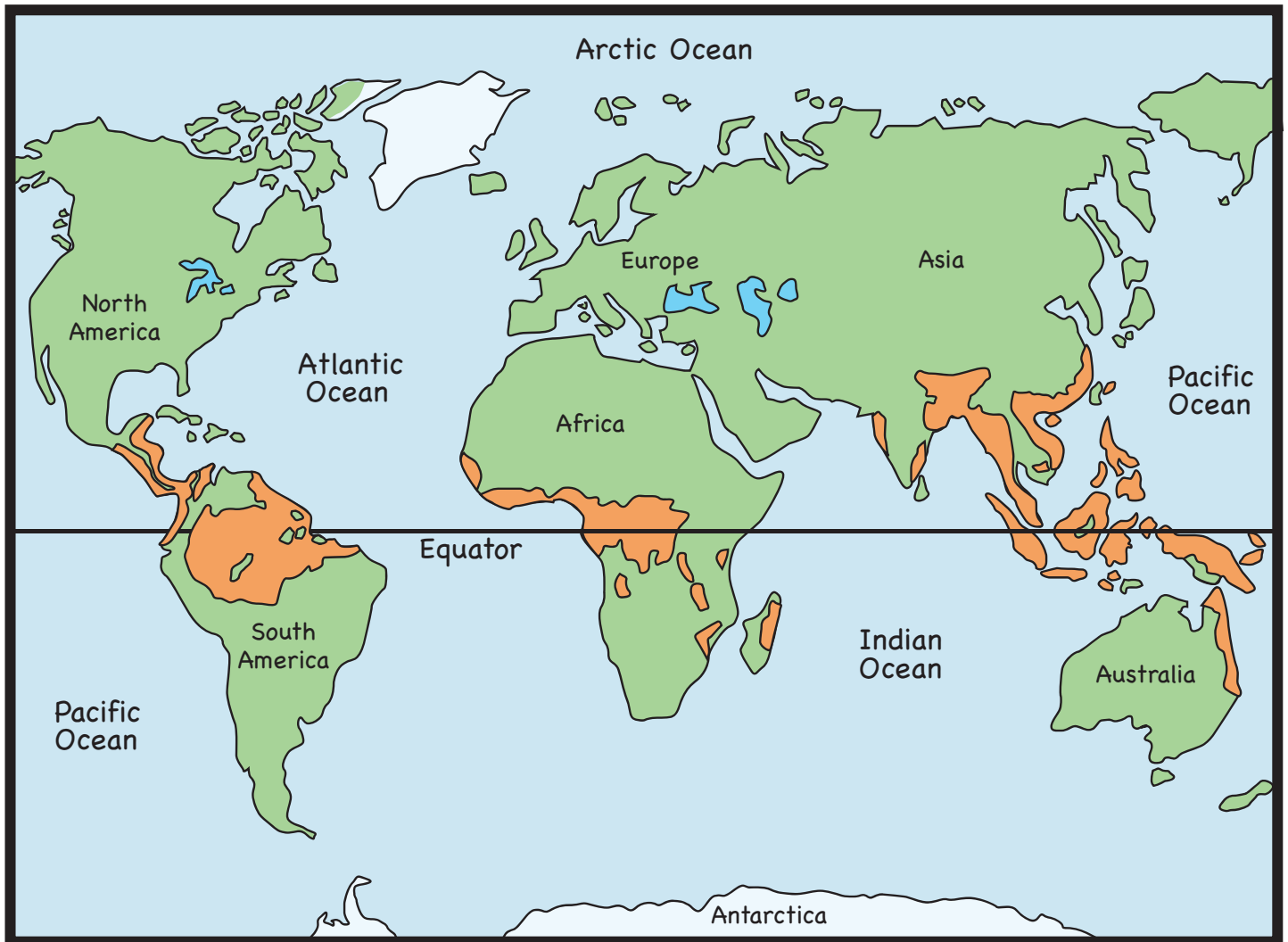
AMAZON  
TREES  
CANOPY  
BREATHE  
RAIN  
OXYGEN  
PLANTS  
PARROTS  
SAPLINGS  
DEFORESTATION

t r e e s o d l s s j a f w t  
k c c o r x l l a k b c r s i  
u c m p n y e y b i a a w p g  
b o r f s g b t r m x n g l p  
u n s c x e n i e s b o z w q  
r j r i w n d l a s a p i w s  
a a o b h e u c t a o y u t x  
i c p l a n t s h i e a r p n  
n o n f e g b h e m l n e l i  
o w s a p l i n g s x t i w z  
n c j b n e u e n a r s u s p  
i c m o e s d b r e a t h e r  
q o r f t g b k j r r l p e d  
s j d i w p d l p a r r o t s  
k s b a k p s a w i s d u s o  
u c y e t b a v a n o s r p a  
m d e f o r e s t a t i o n b



# Map of the World's Rainforests

The map below shows the location of the world's tropical rainforests. Rainforests cover only a small part of the earth's surface - about 6% (percent), yet they are home to over half the species of plants and animals in the world. More than half of the world's rainforests are located in three countries on three continents.

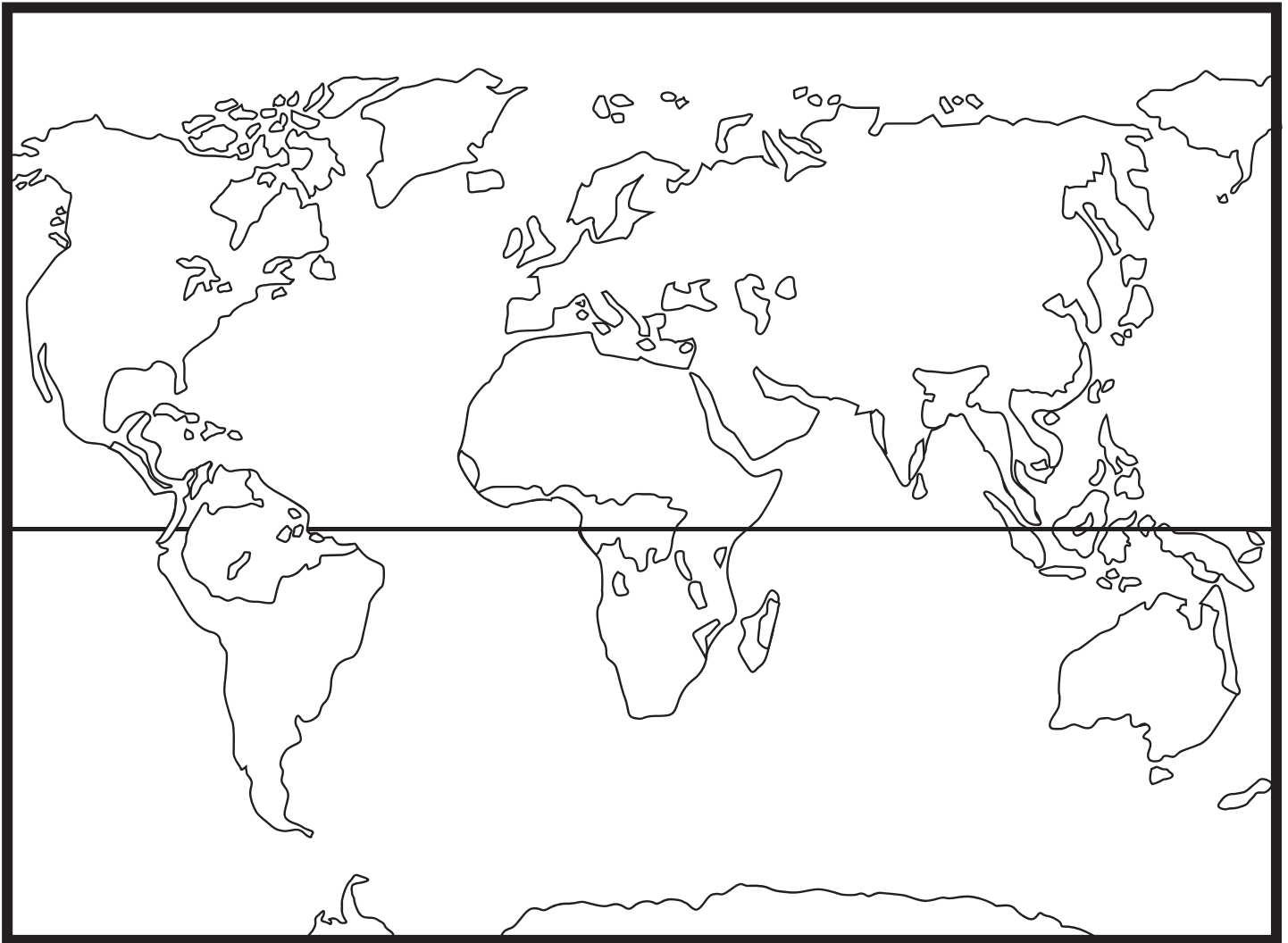


 Rainforests of the world



# Color Your Own Rainforests

Pick your own colors for the world map. Be sure to pick a good color for the rainforests.



Rainforests of the world



## Did You Know?

Facts about deforestation:

- 1.5 acres of rainforest are lost every second.
- Over 34 square acres of rainforest are burned every 23 seconds.
- Up to 78 million acres of rainforest are destroyed every year.
- 80-90% of Earth's remaining rainforest is predicted to disappear by the year 2020.
- Deforestation is the second principal source of atmospheric carbon dioxide, contributing 25% of carbon emissions to our atmosphere.

Learn more about some of the causes of deforestation:

- Logging
- Cash Crops & Cattle Ranching
- Fuelwood
- Large Dams
- Mining
- Tourism
- Overpopulation

Learn more by going online:

[www.rainforesteducation.com](http://www.rainforesteducation.com)  
[www.ClimateProtect.org](http://www.ClimateProtect.org)  
[www.StopGlobalWarming.org](http://www.StopGlobalWarming.org)  
[www.rainforestconservation.org](http://www.rainforestconservation.org)  
[www.slwcs.org](http://www.slwcs.org)  
[www.EverGreen.edu](http://www.EverGreen.edu)  
[www.ourforests.org](http://www.ourforests.org)  
[www.worldwildlife.org](http://www.worldwildlife.org)  
[www.Conservation.org](http://www.Conservation.org)  
[www.wilderness.org](http://www.wilderness.org)  
[www.heartofthehealer.org](http://www.heartofthehealer.org)  
[www.mongabay.com](http://www.mongabay.com)  
[www.conservationrainforesttrust.org](http://www.conservationrainforesttrust.org)  
[www.forests.org](http://www.forests.org)  
[www.funedesin.org](http://www.funedesin.org)





# Fun Energy Conservation Activities and Ideas

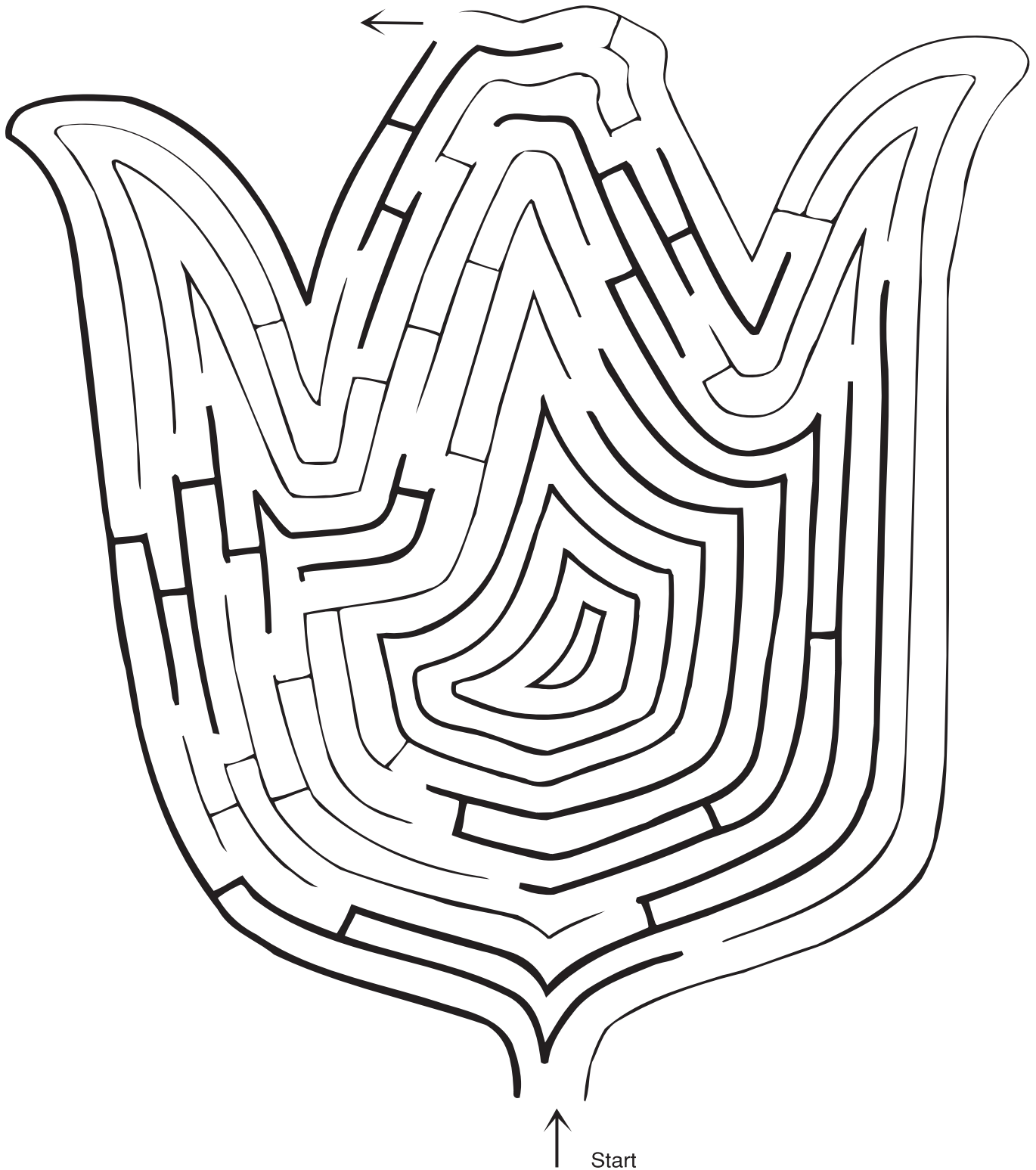


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# Flower Power





# How Long Does It Take?

In three glass bowls, fill almost to half with dirt. Bury in each a slice of apple, a small piece of aluminum foil and a piece of a plastic bag. Position these items so that they are visible through the glass. Keep a journal and track their decomposition rate.



Apple Slice



Plastic



Aluminum Foil



## Did You Know...

- An apple core takes 2 months to decompose.
- Plastic can take up to 50 years to decompose.
- It can take 80-100 years for an aluminum can to decompose.



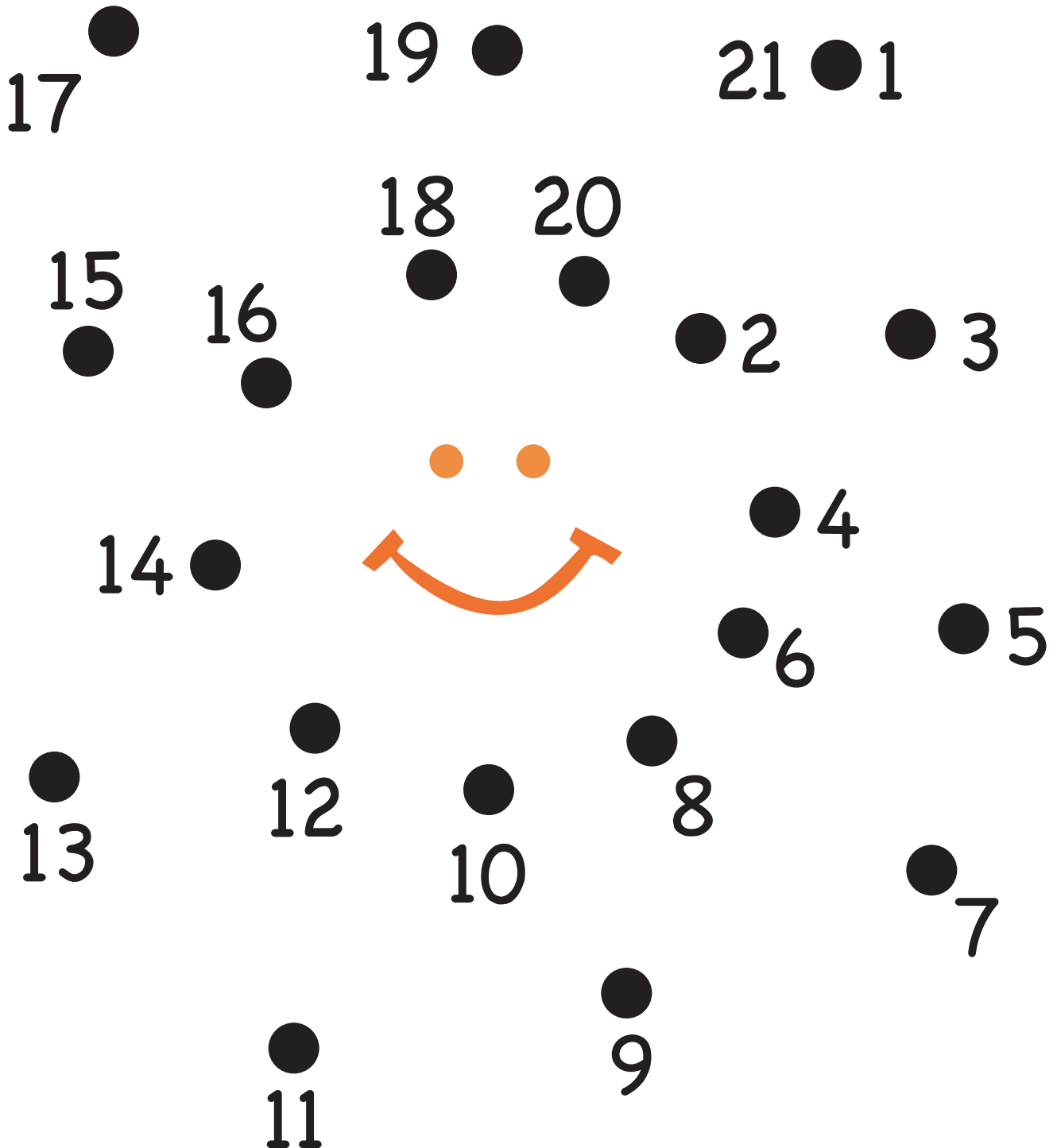
This is why aluminum and plastic are ideal for recycling.

And, Styrofoam can take as long as 500 years to decompose. That's a lot of hamburger containers in our landfills!



# Connect the Dots!

Connect the dots and find out what is our main source of energy.







# Be an Energy Super Sleuth



Complete this list and be a smart energy sleuth on the trail of wasted energy.

1. Lights: How often do you turn lights off when you leave a room?

- A.  Almost Never
- B.  Sometimes
- C.  Always

2. Light Bulbs: Count the number of compact fluorescent light bulbs (CFLs) you have in your house.

- A.  No CFL bulbs
- B.  1-4 CFL bulbs
- C.  5 or more CFLs

3. Furnace Filters: Ask your parents when they last changed or cleaned the furnace filter.

- A.  Never
- B.  1-3 times a year
- C.  4 or more times a year

4. Thermostat: At what temperature do you set your thermostat when your are home and awake?

In heating seasons (winter):

- A.  73° or more
- B.  70°-72°
- C.  69° or less

In cooling seasons (summer):

- A.  74° or less
- B.  75°-77°
- C.  78° or more

5. Cooking: How often does your family keep the lids on pots and pans when cooking meals?

- A.  Almost never
- B.  Sometimes
- C.  Always



6. Electricity: Search your house for the Energy Star® symbol.

(Hint: electronics or appliances)

How many did you find?

- A.  No Energy Star® labels found
- B.  1-2 Energy Star® labels found
- C.  3 or more Energy Star® labels found

7. Laundry: What water temperature do your parents wash clothes?

- A.  Mostly HOT water
- B.  Mostly WARM water
- C.  Mostly COLD water

8. Hot Water Use (Shower): How much time do you spend in the shower?

- A.  15 minutes or more
- B.  10 minutes
- C.  5 minutes

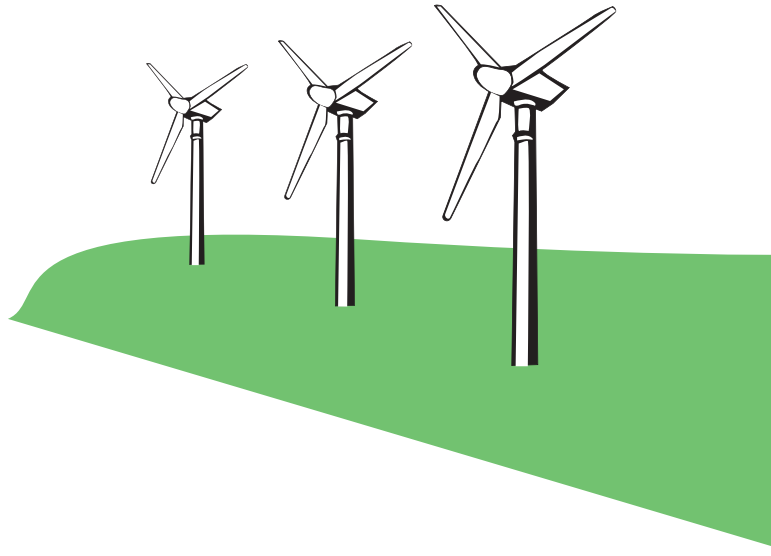
SCORE: Most answers are "A": You are wasting energy  
Most answers are "B": Your on your way to conserving energy  
Most answers are "C": Congratulations, you are doing an excellent job conserving energy



## Did You Know?

### Wind Power

Making electricity from wind power has been around for a long time. When the wind turns the blades of a windmill, it spins a turbine inside a small generator to produce electricity. Wind farms are built in flat, open areas where the wind blows at least 14 miles per hour.



### Solar Power

“Solar” is the Latin word for “sun” and it’s a powerful source of energy. In fact, the sunlight that shines on the Earth in just one hour could meet world energy demand for an entire year! We use solar power in two different ways: as a heat source, and as an energy source.

### Hydro Power

“Hydro” means “water” in Latin. Hydro power is made from flowing water. Dams control the power of the big rivers. The amount of water flowing through the dam is controlled depending on the weather and how much electricity people need.

