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## **STUDENT HANDOUTS**

## READING COMPREHENSION

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- Enter item CC5778
- Enter pass code CC5778D for Activity







1.0 lb./p-mi ½ lb./p-mi ¼ lb./p-mi almost 0 lb./p-mi

a) public bus
b) bicycle
c) passenger train
d) average car with one person in it
e) average car with two people in it
f) average car with one person in it
h) commercial jetliner

2. Circle the word TRUE if the statement is TRUE or Circle the word FALSE if it is FALSE.
a) Commercial jets emit the least amount of CO<sub>2</sub> per person because they carry so many people.

TRUE FALSE
b) Hybrid cars generate electricity as they come to a stop.

TRUE FALSE
c) Telecommuters never work for big companies.

TRUE FALSE
d) The footprint of bus passengers depends on how many people are on the bus.

TRUE FALSE
e) Proper tire inflation affects the fuel efficiency of a car.



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Reducing Your Own Carbon Footprint CCP5778-4

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📦 Reading Passage

NAME:

## **Your Travel Footprint**

ost people increase their carbon footprint when they travel because most vehicles emit CO<sub>2</sub> and other greenhouse gases. There are basically three ways to reduce your travel footprint: travel more efficiently, travel less, and

travel under your own power.

First let's compare the efficiency of some different kinds of transportation. An average American car with one person in it emits a little over one pound of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile. Commercial aircrafts are about the same, based on pounds of CO<sub>2</sub> per passenger-mile (the miles flown divided by the number of passengers). The footprints of trains and buses are about half that size, but it varies a lot depending on how full they are.



educe your carbon toot print by traveling mo efficiently and traveling less

So you can shrink your travel footprint by taking public transport, but there is a lot you can do to make driving a car more efficient too. The easiest way is to put more people in the car. If three people are in the car, each person's footprint is one-third as large (do the math). **Hybrids** are cars that are partly electric powered and partly gasoline powered. The electricity is generated and stored in batteries when the brakes are applied. Hybrids give off about one-half pound of CO<sub>2</sub> per mile. Also, some ordinary economy cars are just as efficient as hybrids.

Any car can be made more efficient by proper maintenance and driving habits. Regular tune-ups and proper tire inflation help. Reducing the weight by taking things out of the trunk that don't need to be there

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NA	ME:	After You Read  Your Travel Footprint
3.		ngle person driving a car alone has one of the largest travel footprints. cribe two ways the footprint of transportation by automobile can be reduced.
	a)	
	b)	nsions & Applications
Trai	ins, pl	anes, and buses all have carbon footprints because they burn fossil fuels which emit ch of these also has a secondary, indirect footprint caused by activity that makes these vehicles possible. Choose two of these means of transportation and for each cribe three sources of a secondary footprint.
	a)	First vehicle:
		2.
	b)	Second vehicle:





## Calculating Your New, Improved Carbon Footprint (continued)

#### **Changing Your Travel Habits:**

eduction in lbs./yr.

tons

lbs./yr.

Replace travel by powered vehicles with travel under your own power Use the formulas at the top of page 15 to estimate the reductions Convince the person who drives you to maintain their car better for reduction of 6% of the result from the equation for car travel. Convince someone in your household to telecommute (a reduction for them-not for you).

Convince the person who drives you around to buy a more f efficient car. Use the formula for car travel and change the

miles per gallon figure to that of the car you hope they buy

**Total Travel Reductions:** 

**Changes to Everything Else:** 

Buy fewer goods. Estimate the amount by which you expect to reduce your spending and multiply it by 6 to get leduced lbs. of CO<sub>2</sub>. Reduction due to composting: 240 lbs./yr. Reductions for recycling: 140 lbs./yr. for cans, 40 for glass, 220 for paper, and 40 for plastic.

20 lbs. reduction for every tree you plan

Total Reduction for Everything Else **Grand Total of All Reductions:** 

Divide the grand total by 2000 and write the answer here: Subtract from the Grand Total result from the footprint calculator

and write your new carbon footprint here: tons You may be wondering how accurate these footprint calculations were. Clearly this is not exact science. Many people have designed carbon footprint calculators, all based on different assumptions and guesses, and all of them give different answers. This calculator is a combination of other calculators. An attempt was made to match it to the lifestyle of an

average American grade school or middle school student. It is important to understand that comparisons of footprints are more dependable than the tons of CO<sub>2</sub> calculated. For example, the value of 19 tons for the average American footprint certain than the statement that it is 4½ times the world average. Likewise, if you calculate that you can reduce your footprint by one-third, that is likely to be true, even if the size of your footprint is questionable. Look at it this way: An inaccurate bathroom scale can't tell you your true weight, but it can tell you that you lost 10% of your weight.

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## **Word Search**

Find all of the words in the Word Search. Words are written horizontally, vertically, diagonally, and some are even written backwards.

combustion climate pesticide organic photovoltaic vegetarian hybrid fertilizer / compound oxygen natural gas carbon footprint telecommu carbon methane molecule greenhouse effect global ther atom

G	Α	В	С	D	Е	F	С	0	М	В	U	S	T	I	0	N
L	N	٧	Е	G	Е	Т	А	R	L	A	N	Н	Q	Χ	R	R
0	G	I	Н	I	J	К	R	L	М	N	E	С	Υ	0	Р	Е
В	S	T	T	С	А	R	В	0	N	R	I	G	U	٧	N	Z
А	W	Ι	Х	U	Υ	Z	0	A	M	А	Е	В	O	Α	D	I
L	Е	Y	F	G	М	Н	Z	Ш	T	N		٦	Η	K	Ш	L
Е	М	В	N	0	Р	M	F	L	W	R	S	T	T	U	٧	I
D	G	R	Е	Е	N	H	0	U	S	Е	Е	F	F	Е	O	T
I	W	Ι	Х	Υ	Z	V	0	С	А	М	В	С	D	Е	1	R
С	F	D	G	Н	0	ı	Т	Е	Е	J	К	М	L	М	N	Е
I	N	0	Р	T	Q	R	Р	L	S	L	0	T	U	V	Α	F
Т	W	×	Q	7	Z	А	R	0	В	T	Е	С	D	Е	G	F
S	G	Н	Н	١	С	L	I	М	А	T	Е	T	J	K	R	L
Е	Р	М	N	0	Р	D	N	U	0	Р	М	0	С	Q	0	R
Р	S	T	U	V	N	А	T	U	R	А	L	G	Α	S	W	Х

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# Comprehension Quiz

### Part B

- 3. Which of these parts of your personal footprint is most difficult to reduce?
  - A the part caused by traveling
  - the part caused by the food you eat
- the part caused by government activities
  - the part caused by heating and cooling your home

### Part C

### Answer each question in complete sentences.

Explain how human activities are changing Earth



2. Define carbon footprint.

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Explain why using electric applia nces increases your carbon footprint.



Tell four ways you can reduce the carbon footprint of the food you eat.



Explain why bus passengers have lower travel footprints than car passengers, even though buses emit more CO<sub>2</sub> than cars.



**SUBTOTAL:** 

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## **Choose Eco Friendly Homes**



Carbon Neutral Home



**Eco Friendly Home** 





# Your Travel Footprint

3. A single person driving a car alone has one of the largest travel footprints. Describe two ways the footprint of transportation by automobile can be reduced.

## Extensions & Applications

Trains, planes, and buses all have carbon footprints because they burn fossil fuels which emit CO<sub>2</sub>. Each of these also has a secondary, indirect footprint caused by activity that makes travel by these vehicles possible. Choose two of these means of transportation and for each one describe three sources of a secondary footprint.

a) First vehicle:

b) Second vehicle:

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(Answers will vary.) The footprint of an automobile can be reduced by (any two) carpooling, proper tire inflation, proper maintenance, driving at a low speed, driving at a constant speed, removing unnecessary weight.

#### Across

- 1. molecule
- 5. carbon
- 6. carbon footprint
- 10. telecommuting
- **12.** pesticides

#### Down

2. carbon dioxide

3. herbicide

**6.** climate

7. fossil

4. vegetarians

5. carbon cycle

- Answers will vary.)
  - vehicle: Train Energy to mine

Extensions & Applications

- 2. Energy to smelt steel for train cars and tracks
- 3. Energy to manufacture train
- b) Second vehicle: Pla
- airport
- c) Alternative answer:
  - 1. Energy to mine metals
  - 2. Energy to smelt
  - 3. Energy to build highways
- **11.** gas

# 





