

Articles and Activities about Protecting the Environment #2

Products, Reforestation, and the Ozone Layer

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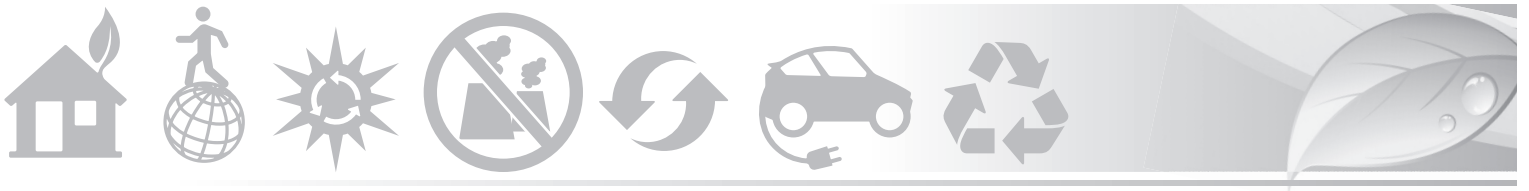
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Buying Environmentally Friendly Products

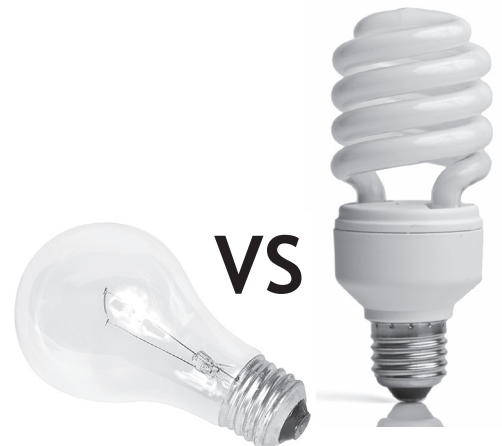
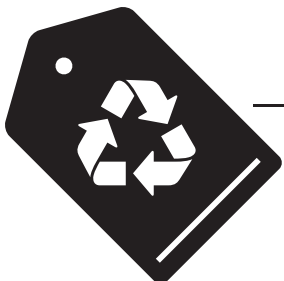


It may seem that you can't do much to help the environment on your own, but a simple way to support others who are making big changes is by buying their products. For instance, many companies use recycled material to make things (newspapers are usually printed on recycled paper). Look for the universal recycling sign (the three green arrows) to identify something that has been made from recycled material.

Companies that make these products need money in order to continue to do things to help the environment. This is where we come in. We can make a difference by buying their products and supporting their efforts. A simple way to begin is shopping for school supplies. Make sure to buy non-toxic crayons, cardboard or paper folders instead of plastic ones, and recycled notebook paper. You can also buy recycled bottles, toilet paper, stationery, and other materials. More places recycle glass than plastic, so buy glass bottles when you are able. When packing a lunch, put your food in reusable airtight containers instead of wrapping them in plastic or tin foil.



Another eco-friendly purchase is choosing to buy compact fluorescent light bulbs instead of normal incandescent ones. Compact fluorescent bulbs use much less energy than regular bulbs, and they last significantly longer, which means lower electric bills and less damage to the environment. You can even help the environment by choosing to buy organic food instead of food that has been grown using chemicals and harmful pesticides (you will learn more about this later in this book). By choosing to buy eco-friendly products, you are playing a big part in helping the environment.





Activities



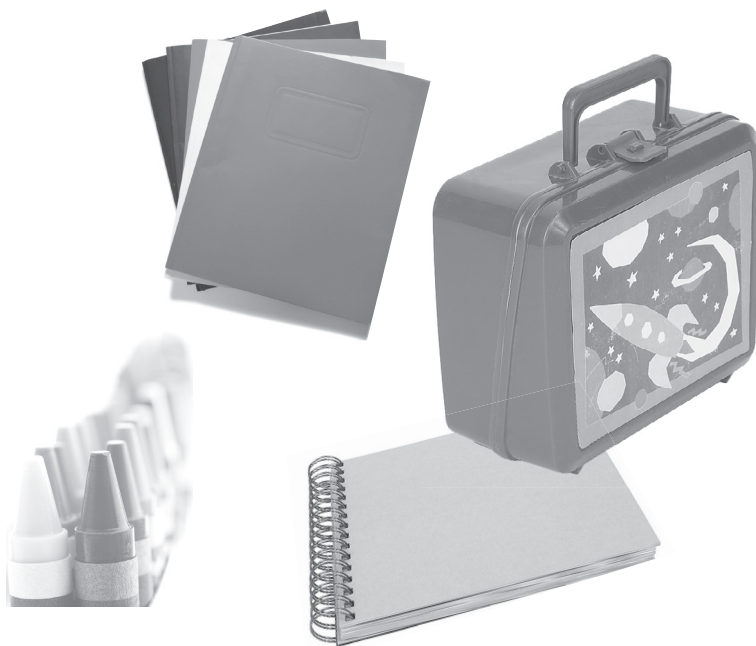
Make eco-friendly stationery! While e-mail is more eco-friendly than regular mail, nothing can take the place of receiving a hand-written letter. Make sure it's eco-friendly! For this project you will need: recycled paper, colored pencils or crayons, and leaves. Try going on a nature walk and having students collect several leaves for themselves. Give each student two pieces of paper and several leaves. Place the leaves in a pattern underneath the paper and use colored pencils or crayons to make leaf rubbings (crayons often work better for rubbings). Once students have created their eco-friendly stationery, direct them to write letters to friends or family members. Urge them to include what they've learned about the environment!



Break the class into teams. Direct the teams to examine their school supplies for environmentally friendly products. These could include notebooks printed on recycled paper, non-toxic markers, or reusable lunch containers (in place of paper or plastic bags). Allow each team to reveal their lists to the rest of the class. Create a master list to be displayed in your classroom.



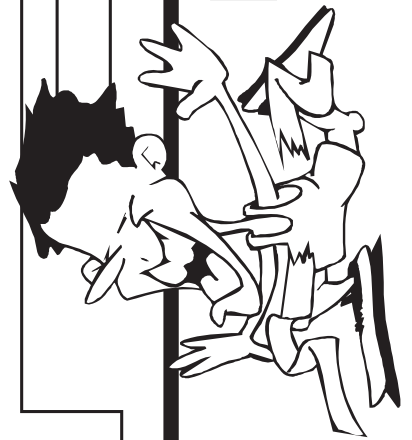
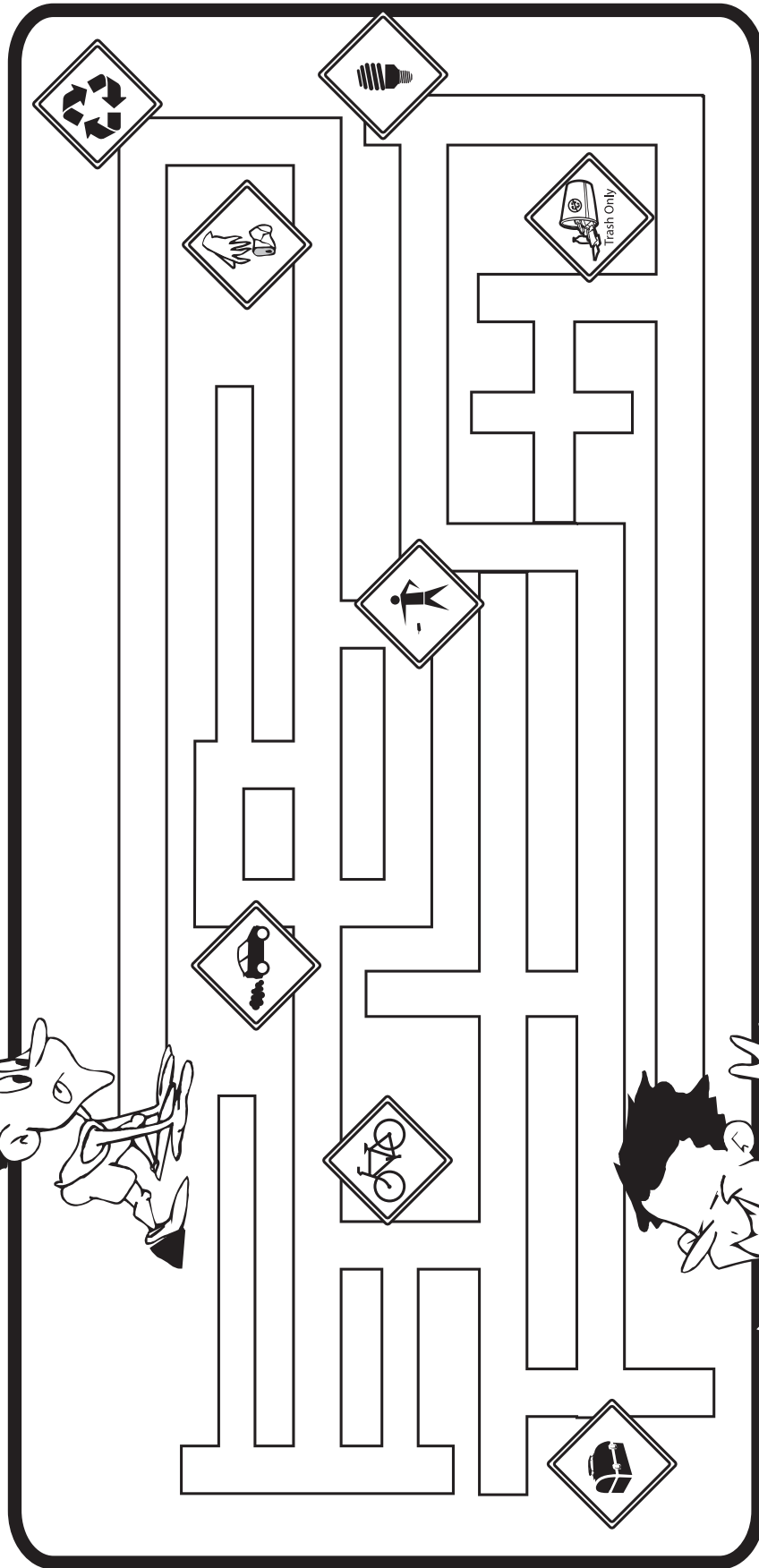
Hand out copies of the *Go Green!* maze on page 11. This activity can be used as an in-class activity or for a fun homework assignment. After students have completed the maze, hold a brief discussion about the activity. Why did students choose the paths they chose? Talk about each image, encouraging students to explain why each is eco-friendly or not.



Go Green!



Start



Finish