

make your mark

On

# The Environment

live on

## Who helps?



**Meet LAURA** – Laura has decided to **walk or ride her bike** instead of asking her mom for a ride when she wants to go to the neighborhood park or library. Plus walking or riding a bike is **healthy!**

**Meet JOHN** – John **plants trees** with his dad in their yard. They support the local project in their neighborhood to plant trees and clean a neglected park.

**Meet ALLISON** – Allison helps her parents with **recycling** cans and bottles. She is saving the money she earns to donate to their community environmental action group.

**Meet KYLE** – Kyle asked his parents to change all the light bulbs in their house to CFL bulbs to save electricity and money! He also reminds them to **turn off** lights, televisions, and computers.

## What is the environment?

The environment is the world around us. The air we breathe, water we drink, plants we eat, and wildlife we watch are all a part of it.

## What harms the environment?

**Global warming** is when the Earth gets too warm, changing the weather, killing plants and animals, and melting the ice caps. When we use electricity, heat our homes, and drive our cars, we are contributing to global warming.

**Deforestation** is when forests are cut down faster than the trees can grow back. It contributes to global warming, world hunger, and destroys habitats. Using paper and things made of wood leads to deforestation.

**Litter** is trash that is not thrown away in the right place. Litter is bad for the environment because it has chemicals that harm plants and animals. Animals can also become tangled in it or eat it.

## Facts

- The Brazilian Amazon is the world's largest tropical forest. Every year 6,500 square miles of it are deforested. (NSF, 2009)
- 30 years ago, there were 32,000 breeding pairs of Adélie penguins on Antarctica. Now there are just 11,000. (IPCC, 2007)
- Teens and young adults, ages 16-24, are the biggest litterers and tend to litter more when they are in a group.

## How can you help?

Tell family and friends to switch to CFL bulbs.

Join with other families to clean up a park or beach.

Organize a can and bottle recycling drive and donate proceeds to a nature center or environmental organization.

Use reusable grocery bags.



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