

# Eco-footprint FunSheet

You leave **footprints** in sand when you are at the beach, right? You also have an eco-foot print but you can't see it.

Think for a second about all the different things you use in your daily life. **What you eat, wear, how you get around.**

Your eco-footprint **measures** the area of land and water it takes to provide the things you use every day. Consider all the resources you need from our planet to provide all the things you use.



## Climate Change

Every time you use **fossil fuels**, like gasoline for your family car, you create carbon dioxide or CO<sub>2</sub>. Think of CO<sub>2</sub> as **energy waste**. It's what's left over after you use fossil fuels. Carbon dioxide is a **greenhouse gas**, which **traps heat** and causes the Earth's temperature to rise. You can't see CO<sub>2</sub> but is given off or "emitted" all around us. Ocean water and forestland suck in (or "sequester") some of the CO<sub>2</sub> we produce but we don't have enough forestland to account for all of the CO<sub>2</sub> we emit, so a lot of it ends up in the atmosphere, and causes "global warming" or "**climate change**".



### Can YOU make a difference?

Every day, you can make decisions that reduce your eco-footprint. How you get from place to place, what you eat and drink, what you do at home, the stuff you buy... **YOU CAN** make a difference!

### Did You Know?

By turning off the tap while you brush your teeth, you can save up to **30 liters of water each day**. That's almost **7 bathtubs of water a month!**



**Flip over for more!**

### Mini Quiz

1. How much water does it take to make everything that goes into one hamburger?

- A. 2,500 liters (18 bathtubs)
- B. 400 liters (3 bathtubs)
- C. 40 liters (1 water cooler)
- D. 1,000 liters (8 bathtubs)



### True or False

2. Climate change is accelerating **species loss** on Earth, and by the end of this century, as many as **one in six** species could be at risk of **extinction**

### Picture This...

All of the food that is wasted in the U.S. each year could fill up **730 football stadiums**.

### Picture This...

Americans throw away **35 billion plastic water bottles** each year. If you laid all of those bottles on their side, end-to-end, they would go from the U.S. east coast to the U.S. west coast *and back* **800** times!



### Did You Know?

More than **1 million plastic bags** are used every **10 seconds**. When plastic bags aren't recycled, they can end up in the ocean. Unfortunately, when they're in the water, they look just like jellyfish, which are a favorite snack of sea turtles. When they eat plastic bags, it can be deadly. Bring your own bag!



### Mini Quiz

3. How many gallons of water does it take to make one pair of blue jeans?

- A. 40 liters (1 water cooler)
- B. 400 liters (3 bathtubs)
- C. 4,000 liters (30 bathtubs)
- D. 11,300 liters (83 bathtubs)



### Eco-Footprint Word Search

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

CLIMATE  
 DIFFERENCE  
 EARTH  
 EMISSIONS  
 FOOTPRINT  
 RECYCLE  
 REUSE  
 SEQUESTER  
 WASTE  
 WATER

### True or False

4. Leaving your car engine on without driving (this is called "idling") also gives off CO<sub>2</sub> which contributes to global warming.