

# 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



## 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?

Of course! Every day, you can make decisions that reduce your eco-footprint. In how you get from place to place, what you eat and drink, what you do at home, and the stuff you buy, there are many chances to make a difference!

## At Home

### 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!**

### True or False

1. A computer screensaver uses as much electricity as 4 regular lightbulbs.



### True or False

2. 25% of the electricity that your home electronics use comes from when the devices are turned off.

Flip over for more!

## Food & Drink

### Did You Know?

**40 hours** of meat production uses as much water as everyone in the world drinks in a year.

### Mini Quiz

3. 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

4. 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!**

## Shopping & Waste



### 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

5. 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)



## Transportation

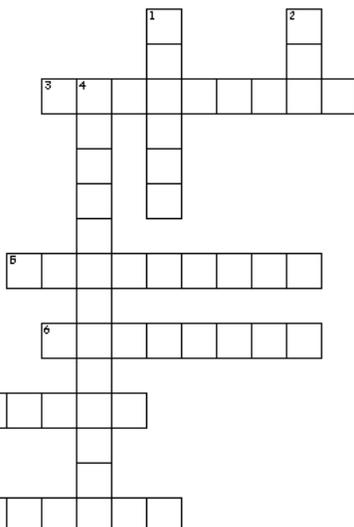
### True or False

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

### Did You Know?

In Denmark, **half of students** ages 10 to 16 bike to school.

### Eco-Footprint Crossword Puzzle



#### Across

- 3. Sea turtles mistake plastic bags for these
- 5. Sweet treat that uses a lot of water to make
- 6. All the food that is wasted in the U.S. each year could fill up 730 football...
- 7. A lot of the CO<sub>2</sub> we emit ends up here
- 8. When forests or ocean water suck in CO<sub>2</sub>, they...

#### Down

- 1. What it's called when your engine is on, but you're not driving
- 2. CO<sub>2</sub> is a...
- 4. Measure of land and water it takes to produce the things we use