

TODAY IS EARTH DAY

WAYS TO CELEBRATE
EARTH DAY
EVERY DAY

KEEP OUR
OCEAN CLEAN
& OUR PLANET
GREEN!

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WELCOME HOME



Everyone has a place where they live and feel good. You have your room. An ant has an anthill. A tree has the soil from which it grows. All these places are located on the planet Earth, our shared home. Earth is a pretty wonderful place. As far as we know, life exists nowhere in the universe except on Earth. It has the air that we breathe, water to quench our thirst, and sunlight that warms us no more or no less than we need.

Planet Earth is like a magic garden in a fairy tale, a place of a thousand wonders. But also like in a fairy tale, where Good is troubled by Evil, things have started to go wrong here. Regrettably, this wrong is often caused by humans. We don't know how to treat Earth properly. We are used to having everything just as we like it. We go everywhere by car and aeroplane, and we fill our bathtubs to the brim with hot water.

We forget that these actions must be redeemed somehow. Hello Earth! We must change our behaviour.

BUT HOW?

Fortunately, a solution can always be found. And do you know what the best thing is? That we don't have to think too hard about how to help our sick planet – because we know it already!

Many things can only be changed by adults; you will help them with this when you are older. But you can start on some things right away, even if you're still a tiddler. This book will show you how, by advising you on what to do to keep Earth the magical place we know and love today. So, what do you say? Shall we make a start? There really is no time to waste!



WE KNOW WHAT TO DO. NOW WE MUST MAKE A START!





A rainforest filled with bright-coloured plant life and all kinds of animals, a meadow in bloom, buzzing insects, a rippling, fish-filled, silvery river, a tree on your street: all this are nature. Our natural world is incredibly diverse, beautiful and unique. If we were to lose it, we would never create another. We must do all we can to keep it – especially as our lives depend on it.

The trees and plants allow us to breathe. The rivers give us water. We grow food in the ground. And it goes without saying that we can't conjure up good food from a desert or wasteland.

A rainforest filled with bright-coloured plant life and all kinds of animals, a meadow in bloom, buzzing insects, a rippling, fish-filled, silvery river, a tree on your street: all this are nature. Our natural world is incredibly diverse, beautiful and unique. If we were to lose it, we would never create another. We must do all we can to keep it – especially as our lives depend on it. The trees and plants allow us to breathe. The rivers give us water. We grow food in the ground. And it goes without saying that we can't conjure up good food from a desert or wasteland.



WHAT CAN BE DONE?

NATURE



NATURE

Fortunately, people have begun to realize the importance of nature and how much the world would struggle without it, and so they – some of them, at least – try to protect it. These people clean up dirty places, plant new trees, take care of animals, strive to create patches of shrubbery between large fields, and – most important of all – encourage us to be kind to agricultural land. Sometimes they just let the nature be – because often, if we give it the time and calm it needs, it will heal itself.

HOW LONG IT TAKES TO DECOMPOSE

 14 days	 5 months	 7 years	 15 years
 25 years	 50 years	 100 years	 1000 years

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

MAKE FRIENDS WITH NATURE

Nature is the source of many incredible experiences, as you will know if you have ever examined a beetle, climbed a tree, or built a house on a moss floor with leaves and sticks. You will also know that beetles and trees are our friends. We look after our friends.

TREAT ANIMALS AND PLANTS WITH CONSIDERATION

Why? Because they are living things. Because they make nature beautiful, varied and healthy. And because every beetle or plant has an important job in the vast cycle of nature.

LEAVE NO TRACES

OK, a shoeprint in the mud will harm no one and nothing. But it is bad to leave behind things that have no place in the natural world. Even the smallest item of litter can do harm. How? By remaining in it for several human lifetimes, all the while poisoning the soil and water.

TAKE CARE OF NATURE

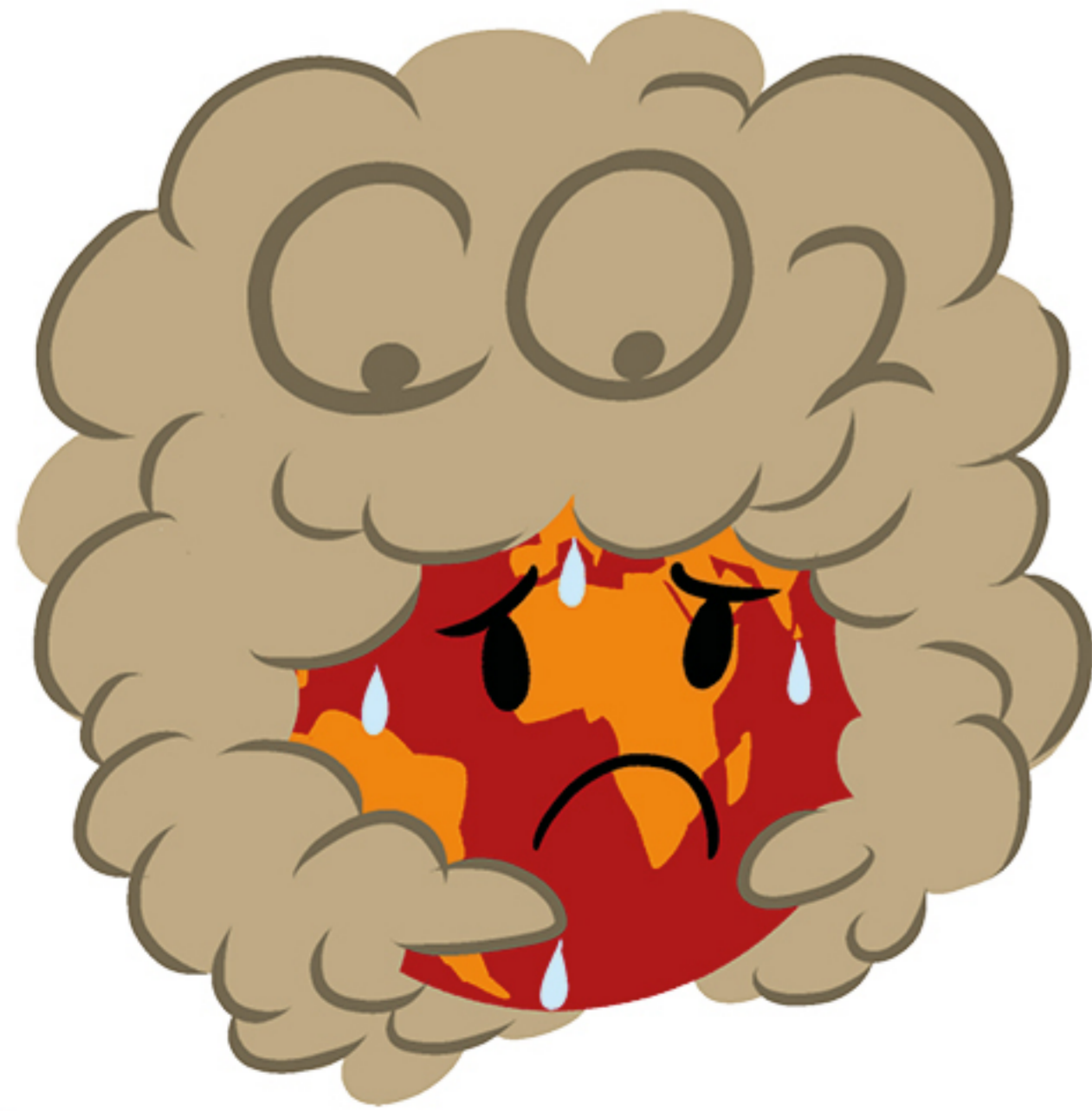
... by watering flowers, helping your parents plant a tree, or cleaning up mess in the forest, to name just a few things.



AIR

Breathe in, breathe out, breathe in, wheeze, wheeze!!! Wheeze, breathe in, wheeze, wheeze, breathe out, wheeze. It goes without saying that we can't live without breathing. But why do we keep sneezing and wheezing? Why do we struggle to breathe? And why are there so many cars around? Because everyone needs to get somewhere, deliver or collect something, or get something done, and this is achieved most quickly and comfortably by car. But what about all the yucky fumes that cars so happily release into the atmosphere? Add to these clouds of smoke from chimneys - and there are loads - and it's obvious why we wheeze. It's a wonder we don't suffocate!

Air pollution is a really big problem - so big that we've given it a special name: smog. Sometimes you can actually see it! Even if you can't see or smell it, it doesn't mean that it's not there. Air pollution is a sneaky thing, you see. That there is so much of it is caused by various gases which are harmful when there are lots of them together. And there can be no doubt that there are lots: think of all the emissions from cars and aeroplanes, and from factories that are forever making things. You should know which we need to be most careful about: carbon dioxide, also known as CO₂.



WHAT CAN
BE DONE?



AIR

Air pollution is a huge problem that a lot of people work to solve – ordinary mortals as well as scientists, politicians and environmental activists. Although people have different ideas about how improvements can be made, one thing is for sure: the fewer harmful gases released into the air, the better the atmosphere and general health of our planet. In fact, it's as clear as day.

WHAT CAN YOU DO?

GO ON FOOT OR BY BIKE WHENEVER YOU CAN

In so doing, you will cause no pollution. What's more, you will stretch your legs.

TRAVEL BY PUBLIC TRANSPORT OR WITH SEVERAL PEOPLE IN ONE CAR

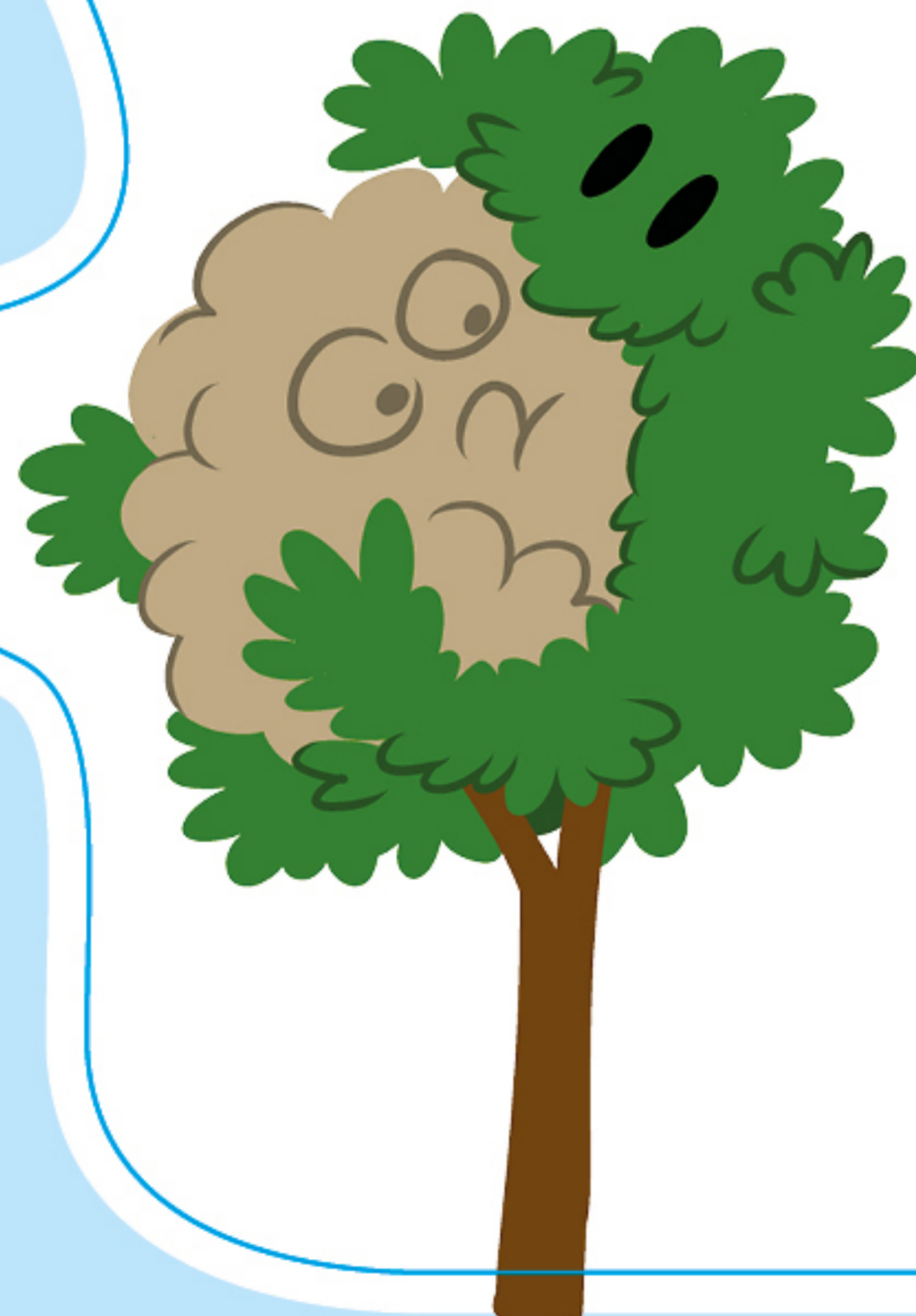
Why take several cars when you can all get into one? Or take a train, which contains many more people! In so doing, you will cut down on harmful gases. What's more, in company you will have more fun.

HELP TO PLANT AND PROTECT TREES

Trees, plants and seaweed produce oxygen for us to breathe, as well as absorbing harmful CO₂ in the atmosphere. This is why you should plant and protect trees. In so doing, you will help the planet and beautify your surroundings. Let it be green!

THINK ABOUT WHAT YOU TRULY WANT

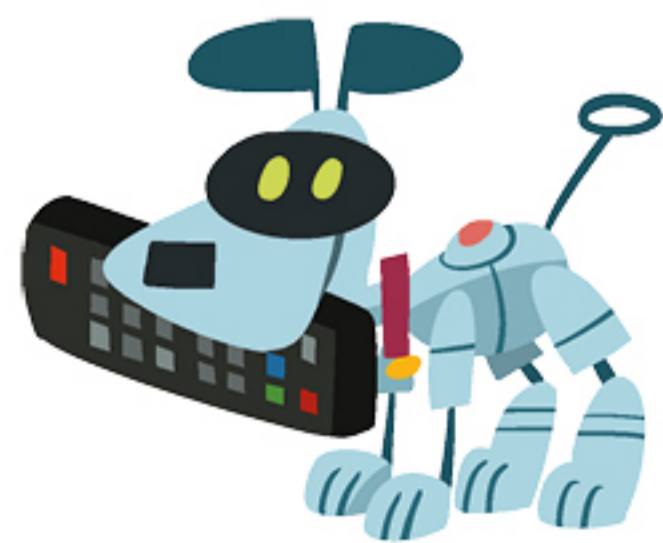
The making and transportation of all kinds of things create a lot of harmful gases. This is why a toy made in a nearby workshop is better than one that has travelled halfway across the world. And if you don't really need it, don't buy it.



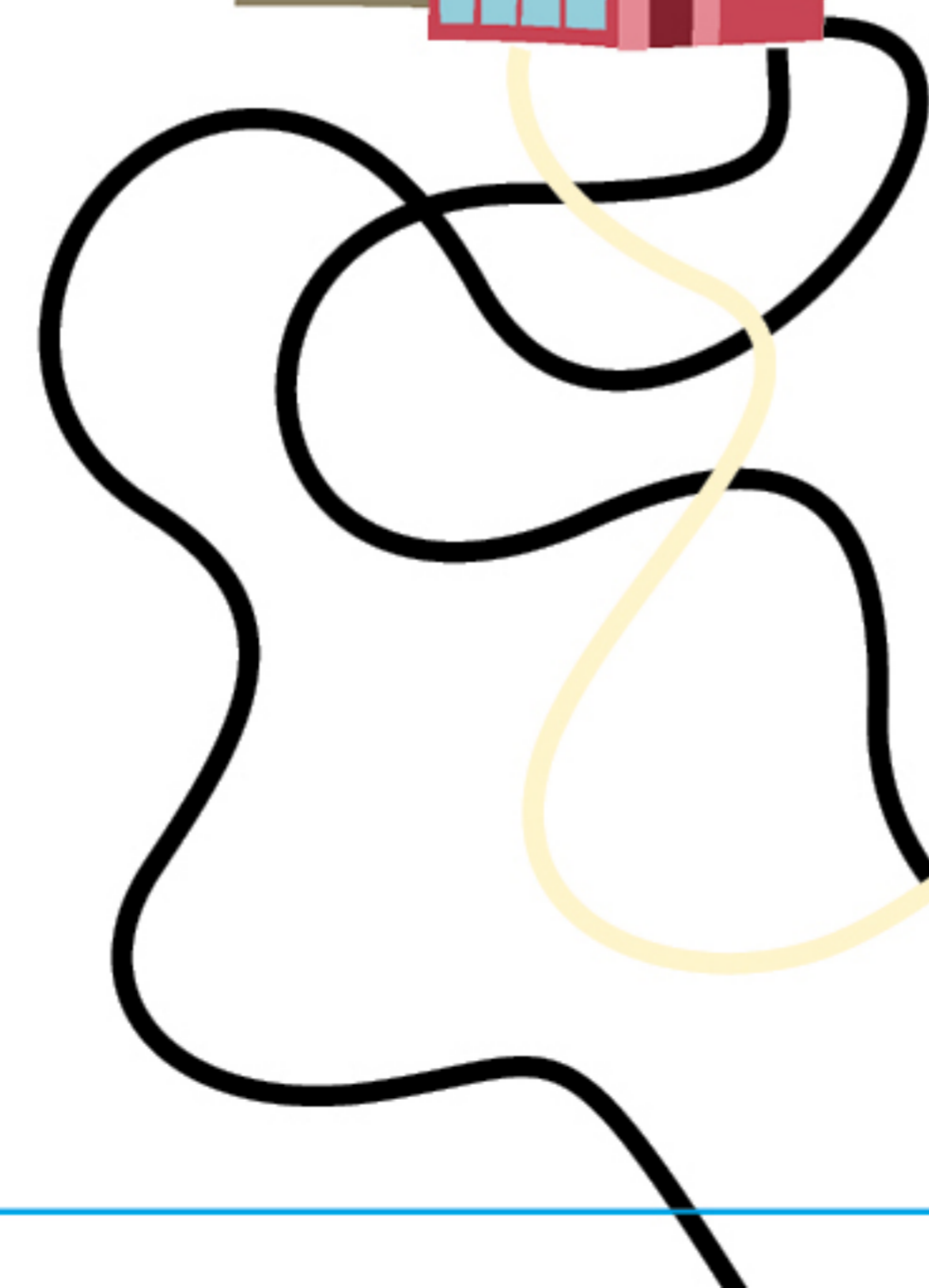
ENERGY

I flick a switch and the room lights up and the TV comes on. As for my robotic dog, he barks and jumps up. How is all this possible? Is it magic? Of course not: it is the work of energy. Energy cannot be seen, yet it drives all kinds of things, such as your washing machine, fridge, car and battery-powered toys. In the past, quite a long time ago now, we used the energy of our muscles or of natural elements. A horse pulled a cart, and water turned the millwheel to grind wheat into flour. Today, we have things much easier – we are surrounded by many clever devices that do our work.

But where does all this energy come from? Does it fly about in the air? Unfortunately not, although ... We get most of it from fossil fuels, i.e. oil, natural gas and coal. We must mine these from Earth's depths, by complicated processes which damage the natural world. Although these fossil fuels took many thousands of years to form, one day they will run out, because we are using them up. This is not the only problem they present us with. We get their energy by burning them at power plants – which, as you may have guessed, pollutes the atmosphere. Wheeze! We should take great care with our energy use.



**WHAT CAN
BE DONE?**



ENERGY

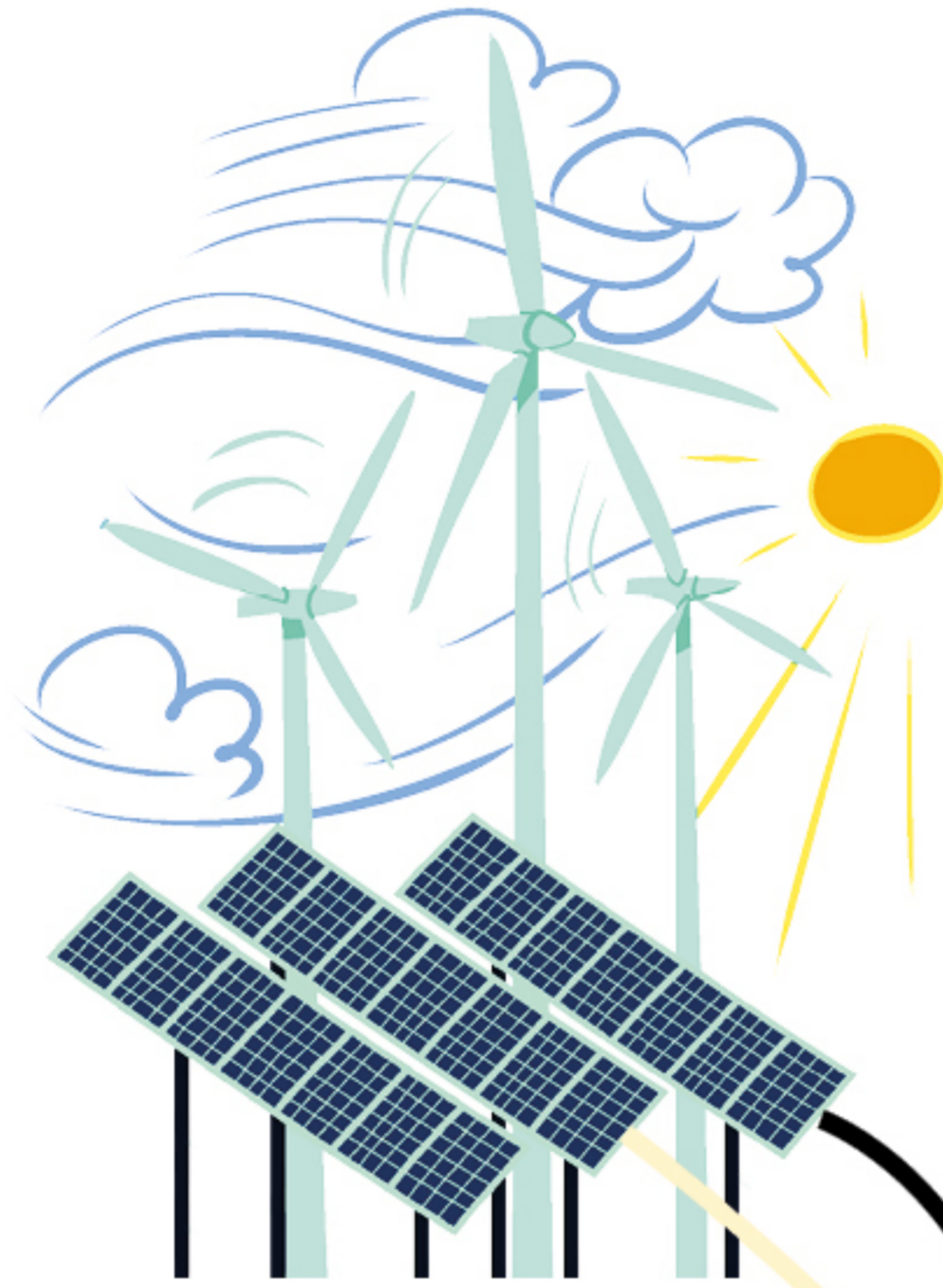
The simplest course of action is to conserve energy. Did you turn off the light in your bedroom? Please go and check. Sources of energy are very valuable, and our environment pays a huge tax for them. Yet ways in which we can save energy are surprisingly numerous. It is good to use energy-efficient devices and to switch off lights when you leave a room. It is not good to use any of these wonderful devices for no good reason. As for the very best thing, did you know that energy really does fly about in the air? It's true! All we have to do is catch it! For this, we build wind, hydro and solar power plants, allowing us to use renewable sources to produce energy. Long live wind, sun and water!

SWITCH OFF LIGHTS WHEN YOU LEAVE A ROOM

The best light is daylight. Of course, we must switch on a light after it gets dark. Mostly, one light is enough, so why switch on a table lamp and an overhead light? Why is the light on in the unoccupied bathroom? Did you forget to switch it off?

SWITCH OFF AND UNPLUG APPLIANCES NOT IN USE

All devices consume energy, even when switched off! It is not enough to turn the device off: only by unplugging it from the power supply can you be sure that no scrap of energy will go to waste. But remember that some things – like fridges – must always be connected to the power. Things like TVs, electric kettles and mobile-phone chargers should be unplugged.



USE APPLIANCES WISELY

Heat up only as much water as you need, and always put a lid on the pot. Don't keep opening the fridge door – there's nothing going on in there. Follow this advice and you'll save lots of energy and the planet will thank you.

DO YOU NEED IT?

The making and transportation of even the smallest things uses up a lot of energy. So ask yourself: Do I really need this?



WHAT CAN YOU DO?

NOW WHAT?

So, what are you going to do first? I shall make sure that I switch off the lights when I leave the room. That's a thing I often forget to do ...

It occurred to me that we sometimes treat our planet badly because we don't know how to treat it well. Or that we simply fail to realize that our behaviour causes harm. Maybe our laziness is the problem. As the case may be, if everyone behaves with consideration and does what they can to help, success can be achieved – and Planet Earth will continue to be a wonderful place where humans, ants and trees alike can have a great life, a home for everyone ... Isn't that worth the effort?

When I say everyone, I'm including you. You, too, are important; you, too, can do your bit. Having read this book, you can tell your parents and friends what you have learned from it. And you can follow its advice. It's best to start with a few things to do and gradually add more. It won't always be easy, but it will be fun, of that you can be sure!

DOING YOUR BIT MAY MAKE YOU INTO:

A LOVER OF WATER WHO REFUSES TO WASTE A SINGLE DROP

A DETECTIVE SEARCHING FOR LOCAL FOODS



A SCIENTIST STUDYING ANIMALS AND PLANTS

A HERO FIGHTING FAST-BREEDING WASTE



WASTE SORTING CONSULTANT

A HUNTER STALKING UNSWITCHED-OFF LIGHTS AND APPLIANCES



CLEAN AIR CONSULTANT

A REPAIRER OF BROKEN TOYS



PLEASE SPREAD THE NEWS

AND MANY MORE THINGS BESIDES. IT REALLY IS UP TO YOU!

Above all, you should think of yourself as a friend to Planet Earth. Keeping the planet healthy and happy is truly worth the effort.



TODAY IS EARTH DAY



WHAT'S WRONG




WHAT'S RIGHT



He-e-elp!!! Our planet is pleading with us. It has stabbing pains in its side and is struggling for breath. In fact, it hurts all over. Human conveniences are causing all the trouble. This needs to change! Are we up to the task? Of course we are! But we must stop sitting on our hands. We must get started. To heal Earth, we must know how to treat it properly, and certainly better than we have been doing. This good treatment depends on every one of us. For the healing processes to begin and our planet to be made well again, we must show a little understanding and exercise a little care. So, shall we make a start? There's no time to lose!

FUN,
SHAPED PAGES
HOW TO IMPROVE
WHAT, AND
WHY

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