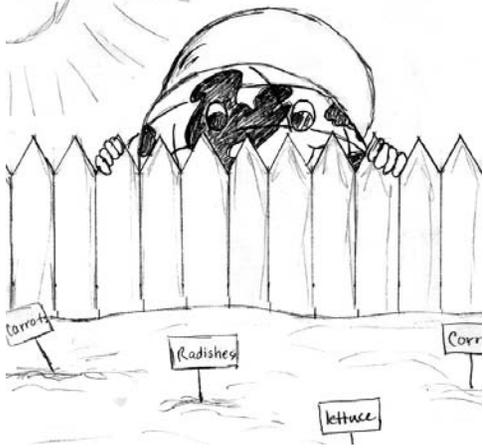


Let's talk about LAND

On the Way to Earth Day

Hi. I'm ED the Earthman. Did you know if land becomes dirty (contaminated), the water and air could become dirty too? The contaminated water can also travel underground (groundwater) for miles. Fish and birds can get sick if their homes (habitats) become dirty.

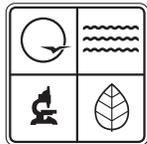


We need soil to grow our food. Animals also need soil to grow their food. Land can become dirty because something dangerous (toxic) was spilled on it. That can change what we eat or drink.

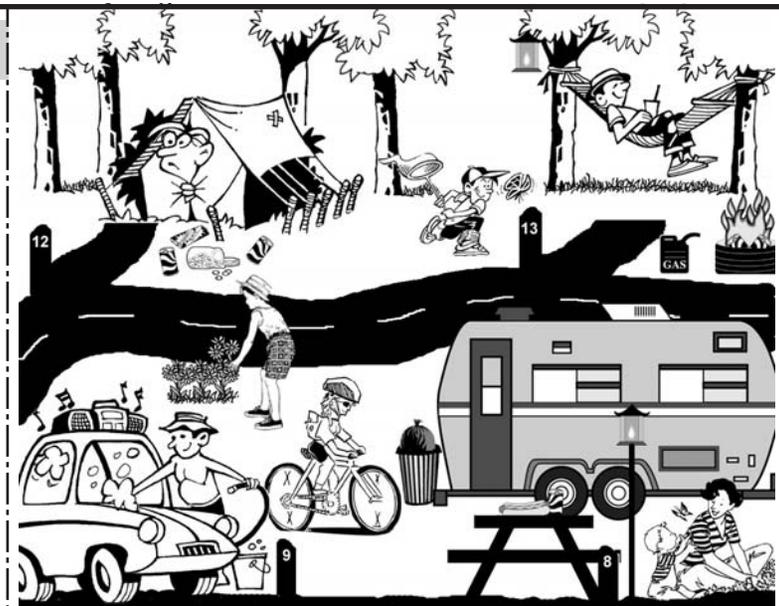
When land is harmed by a toxic material, dust can carry that material into our homes. When we breathe air that is dirty, it can harm our body. We can protect the land from toxic materials by helping people understand how dangerous it is to harm the land. Scientists can help clean land where toxic materials have been left behind (abandoned), spilled or buried. This land is known as a brownfield. The clean land can then be used for offices, homes or parks.

Some places on the land are protected so toxic materials can be buried (landfilled) there. Scientists design landfills to protect our air and water. Garbage is often hauled to landfills. We can also recycle paper, metals and plastics so they can be used again, instead of sending them to landfills.

If you would like to learn more about land and waste issues, call the Department of Natural Resources at 1-800-361-4827 or visit our Web site at www.dnr.mo.gov.



Missouri Department of Natural Resources



Leave No Trace - Circle everything wrong in the picture above.

Help respect land and others. When visiting a State Park do not: use a tent with too many stakes, litter, catch animals, hang a lantern or hammock in a tree (it can damage the tree), use gas to start a fire, put cans or plastic in a fire, wash the car in a park, listen to loud music, pick up rocks or pick flowers.

ED the Earthman says...

1. Ask adults not to pour used oil, antifreeze or other toxic materials on the land.
2. Urge your family to buy products with recycled content.
3. Collect paper, metal and plastics at home to recycle.
4. Start a worm bin to reduce organic (leaves, grass or food) garbage. Then use the compost in your backyard.
5. Plant trees or grass in your yard to prevent soil erosion.
6. Help plan a family trip to learn about geology (layers of the earth made from rock and soil).
7. Visit state parks to see why clean, wild land is valuable.

Look for these words in your newspaper!

Garbage
Land
Landfill
Pollution
Recycle
Toxic

✓ Check these Web sites out!

- Eco-Kids Recycling Activities* - www.futuresolutionsinc.com
- Neills Geology for Kids* - www.geocities.com
- S.K. Worm on Soils* - www.nhq.nrcs.usda.gov/CCS/squirm/skworm.html
- Wastes Kids Page* - www.epa.gov/epaoswer/osw/kids/index.htm

