

Our Environment

Discussion

Ask the pupils to explain what **'their environment'** is.

Read 'Sharon Finds the Environment'.

Collect pictures and photographs of different environments i.e.

the seaside
a city
the park
villages
the local area

Use the pictures for discussion and display. Look at all the positive and negative aspects in the pictures.

Talk about the ways in which people spoil the environment:

litter
pollution
new buildings
graffiti

Read the story 'Sharon Cleans Up'.

Discuss with the pupils ways of keeping their environment nice:

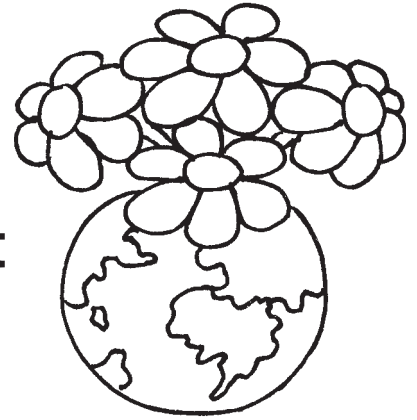
planting trees
litter in bins
recycle bins

Ask them if they are aware of any of these things in their own area.

Activities

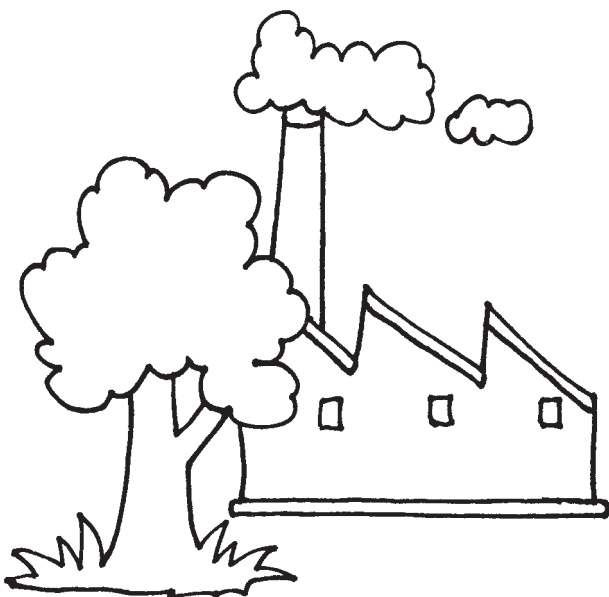
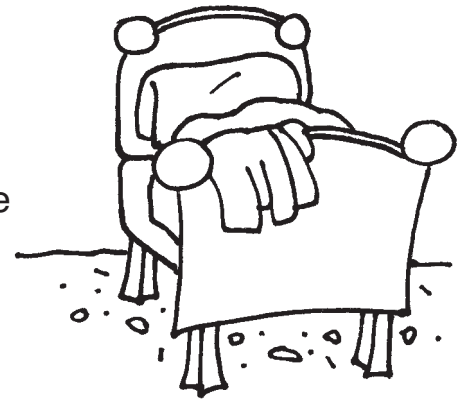
1. Retell 'Sharon Finds the Environment' in their own words.
2. Retell 'Sharon Cleans Up' in their own words.
3. Read the poems and develop a class or individual poem.
4. Sharon Cleans Up sheet – Herman with his rubbish.
5. Sharon Cleans Up sheet – fill in the missing pictures.
6. Colour in The E is for Environment.
7. Add the story to 'Sharon Finds the Environment'.
8. Design a 'Save the Environment' poster.
9. Add the recycling objects to the bins on 'Recycling Your Rubbish'.

Sharon Finds the Environment



One morning Sharon woke up, and she wanted to find the environment. Miss Clark, her teacher, had told her that people need to keep the environment clean. But to keep it clean, Sharon had to find it first. Since it was Saturday, she had plenty of time to look.

When she got out of bed, she decided to look under the bed. It was dusty under there. But where was the environment?



Sharon went to the window. She looked out at the trees in her neighbour's yard. She smelled something a little smoky and funny in the air through the open window. Maybe it was from the factory in town. It didn't smell good.



Then she went into the hall. Ugh, the smell of her dad's cigarette. But if she was going to find the environment, she'd better hurry up.

She washed her face and combed her hair. She brushed her teeth and watched the water rush from the tap and swirl down the drain. Where did it all come from? Where did it go?



Then she went to the kitchen. Her mum was washing some fruit for breakfast. Weren't they clean enough to eat? Mum was always telling her to wash her hands.

When she had eaten, she went outside to look really hard. She hadn't walked far when she met Herman, a talking squirrel, who asked her what she was looking for.

'I'm looking for the environment. Have you seen it out here?'

Herman looked confused. 'I was going to ask you if you'd seen it inside your house. I seem to have misplaced it myself.'

Herman winked at Sharon, but she couldn't think why.



'Well, where do you usually look?' Sharon asked.

'Oh, I don't,' Herman said.

'Well then, how do you ever find it? And if you don't find it, how do you keep it clean?'

'I don't look because the environment seems to be almost everywhere we are,' Herman said.

Sharon looked to the right and the left. She looked up. She looked down. She looked right at her feet.



'Where?' she said. 'Where is it now?'

'You're working way too hard. You've got to sit down,' Herman said.

She sat down. 'Where is it right now?' Sharon said, whispering, as if it might sneak away.

'Begin by taking a deep breath,' Herman said quietly.

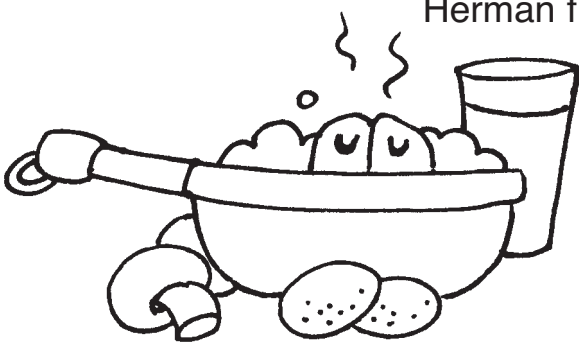
She took a deep breath and said, 'There, now tell me where the environment is.'

'Well, the air that you breathe is part of it.' Sharon sat up straight.

'Do you mean I've been breathing the environment all my life?'

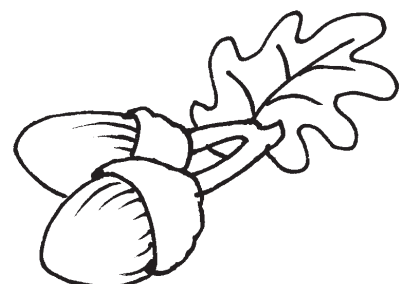


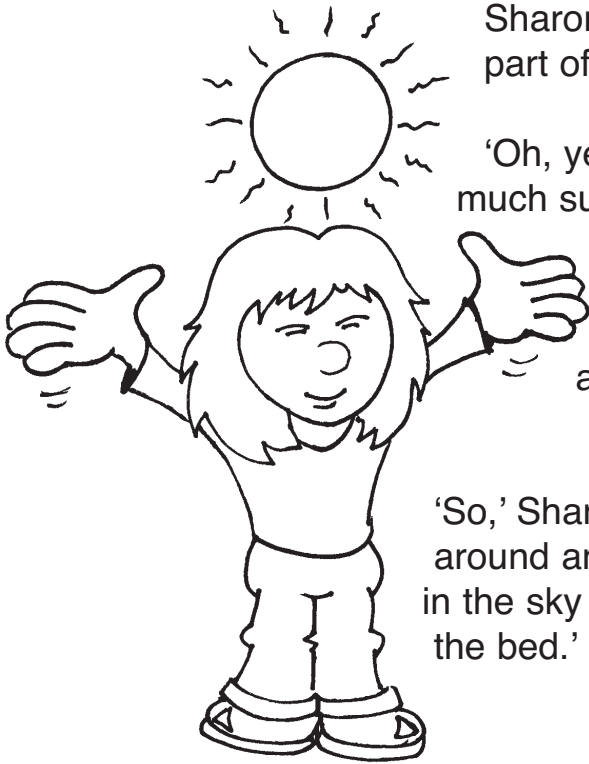
Herman flicked his bushy tail. 'Oh, yes. And did you drink a glass of water before you came outside? That's more of it. And the food you ate for breakfast.'



'And the dust under the bed!' Sharon said.

'The environment is just about everywhere you look,' Herman said, as he nosed for acorns under a nearby tree. 'These acorns are part of it, and I must say, they taste pretty good. The environment is the air, the water, the soil, and food we eat. In fact, it's everything around us.'





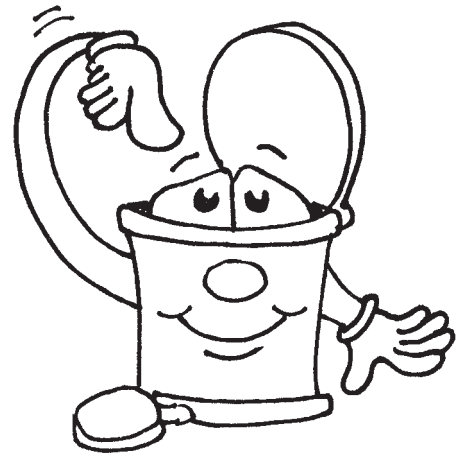
Sharon thought and thought. 'I bet the sun isn't part of the environment!'

'Oh, yes it is,' Herman said. 'And you can get too much sun. You can get sunburn or even get sick, from too much. That's why we squirrel's build nice deep, shady nests. And though you don't have anything as nice as a nest, at least you have a house.'

'So,' Sharon said, standing up and slowly turning around and around. 'The environment is everywhere, in the sky and in the ground, in the water and under the bed.'

'And we can all help by remembering that,' Herman said.

'We must be careful about what we throw out and where we put rubbish, and what we pour down the drain.'



'We should wash our hands before we eat, and recycle newspapers and plastic bags,' Sharon said.

'That would be good,' Herman said. 'And by taking really yucky things like old cans of cleaners and paint to a special place, they won't make the environment dirty and make people and animals ill.'

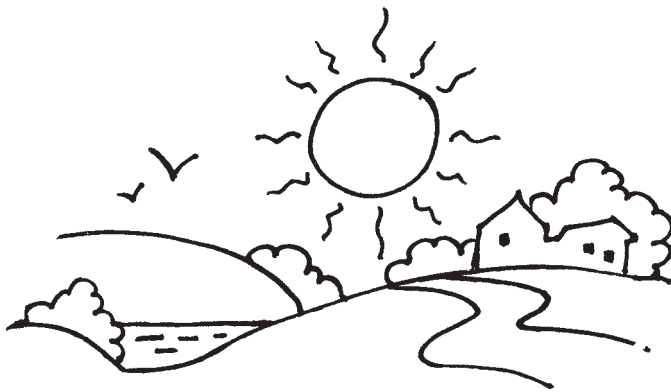
'Gosh, that's an awfully big job, to clean the whole environment,' Sharon said.

'That's why it takes nearly everyone, everywhere, all the time,' Herman said.

'I'd better get busy then,' Sharon said. 'I'll see you later.'



Herman made a chattering sound to say goodbye and scrambled up a tree. Sharon walked along feeling the breeze against her skin, thinking that the environment was nearly everywhere. She didn't have to look anymore. But the environment was huge. It was the whole sky, the oceans, the mountains, and all of the towns, all around the world. So keeping it clean seemed like such a big job.



Sharon thought it might take all morning . . . or all day. . . or even all week.

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Name _____

Sharon Finds the Environment

Fill in some of the story next to the pictures.

