

# Help our planet

LEVEL



## JULIE GOES GREEN



5 P.M. AT THE SUPERMARKET.

These strawberries look lovely!

STRAWBERRIES

ORGANIC

Yes, but strawberries aren't in season now. Let's choose autumn fruits.

APPLES

PEARS

Oh no! Where is my shopping bag?

Can I have a plastic bag, please?

LATER AT DINNER.

So, do the vegetables taste good?

Very good. We can water our plants with the cooking water.

You're right Julie.

Julie, can you take the rubbish out?

Yes, this can go on the compost.

Do you want to watch TV with us?

Yes, of course.

In a minute. I'm preparing my school bag.

Can I use this paper as rough paper? It's only got some printing on one side.



**1. True or false.  
Correct the false sentences.**

Julie...

- |   |                          |                          |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|
|   | T                        | F                        |
| 1 buys strawberries that are organic.         | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 does the washing up with the cooking water. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 puts fruit peel on the compost.             | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 puts new exercise books in her school bag.  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5 has a long bath before going to bed.        | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6 turns the heating down in her bedroom.      | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

**2. Julie does two things which are not good for the environment. What are they? Find them.**



## infoUK

### The great Pacific rubbish patch

In the North Pacific Ocean, there is a large area of plastic waste. It is a very big landfill and it's full of plastic bags and bottles. This area is very bad for wildlife, fishing and tourism.

### Responsible adolescents

A new generation of teenagers want to save the planet. One British teenager in ten wants to stop air travel for leisure. One in ten wants to stop the use of cars. Teenagers care about the environment. Here are some ways you can go green: turn lights off, turn computers and TVs off when you don't use them, walk to school or catch the bus, join an environment club at school, collect litter, eat vegetarian food once a week.



### and in Italy?

Are Italian teenagers interested in protecting the environment?

What are young people doing to help?

Do a class survey.

## THE ART OF RECYCLING

Did you know that recycling is creative?  
“Recycle Art” gives objects a second chance.  
We can all recycle our rubbish.

### Plastic



#### • Where does it come from?

It is a resin. It comes from crude oil, natural gas and charcoal.

#### • How much plastic is there in the world?

Nowadays, the production of plastic reaches 265 million tons.

#### • And when it's recycled?

Recycling companies make new products with recycling (packaging, bottles, pipes).

In the world we recycle 15% of all plastic.

Too little!

### An original polar bear

What can you do with torn  
plastic bags?

Make a polar bear!

There was one at London  
Zoo and it was 210  
centimetres high.



### High fashion

Designers are interested  
in paper. They use it as lace  
and cloth. The evening dress  
in the picture is an example  
of this fashion.

It's great, isn't it?

### Paper



#### • Where does it come from?

Paper comes from wood fibre. On average you need two tons of wood (that is 17 trees) to make a ton of paper.

#### • How much paper is there in the world?

The world produces more paper than plastic: 300 million tons every year.

#### • And when it's recycled?

Europe recycles 78% of paper. A recycled piece of A4 paper can become a magazine, a newspaper or a school book. At the end of its life it can become paper for packaging or toilet paper.



## Metal



### • Where does it come from?

You can find metal in rocks, but steel is a metal alloy made from iron and carbon.

### • How long does it last?

Metal is strong and it lasts a very long time. A can of soda can take 100 years to decompose.

### • And when it's recycled?

We recycle metal many times. We melt it and re-model it.

## An unusual penguin

An artist made this penguin with recycled metal – old bits of scrap metal, pans, bicycle brakes and other things. Metal is brilliant!



### 1. Complete the sentences.

- 1 You make plastic from .....
- 2 The percentage of plastic recycled in the world is .....
- 3 In the world there is ..... paper than plastic.
- 4 The percentage of paper recycled in Europe is .....
- 5 We can find metal in .....
- 6 We can recycle metal .....

### 2. In pairs. Look at "Recycle Art" on the Internet. Find an interesting work and tell your classmates about it. Give the following information.

- the name of the work
- who designed it
- when they made it
- what the work represents
- what recycled objects are in it
- where you can see this work

Bring in a photo of the work.



## infoUK

### Plastic houses

There are building companies in the UK that make houses from recycled plastic. They use thousands of recycled plastic water bottles. The houses are fireproof and waterproof and stronger than concrete. They put bricks on the outside of the plastic so that the houses look like normal houses.



### European prize winners

Members of the European Commission look at the quality of recycling in European countries. Austria shares the top place with the Netherlands. The UK is seventh in the classification of European countries.

### and in Italy?

Which place did the European commission give Italy? How can your country improve recycling? Do some research on the Internet.

## Schoolchildren are eco-citizens

*More and more schools are starting green projects on sustainable development. It's great when schoolchildren start their own projects and it's a guarantee for success. Here are some of their stories.*



### ■ Bill, year 9 from Liverpool

We chose the theme of "saving water." We had an exhibition about water and we also changed our habits regarding water. Because of the project, the school fitted self-closing taps and flow-control in the toilets.

### ■ Jane, year 8 from Newcastle

We organised different things in my school. I took part in a theatre workshop. It was about renewable energy.

The other students did various things showing how we can save energy. They installed software at school.

It turned all the school computers off when they were on stand by for a long period of time. The electricity bill went down 3%.



## info UK

### BREEAM UK

This is the UK environmental assessment method for sustainable buildings. Houses built in this way respect the environment and have good air quality, light and acoustics.

### Sustainable development week

Wales has a sustainable development week from 21<sup>st</sup> May to 27<sup>th</sup>. Schools make banners and schoolchildren choose themes like healthy eating and cycling.

There are events which include talks, walks, workshops and markets.

### and in Italy?

Are there sustainable development festivals in Italy? How do you promote it?



### 1. Answer the questions.

- 1 What kind of exhibition did Bill's school have?
- 2 What was the theatre workshop at Jane's school about?
- 3 What does the software in Jane's school do?
- 4 What did Milly's school do?
- 5 What are Mr Gregory's students involved in at school?
- 6 What does becoming eco-citizens mean for Mr Gregory?

## WHAT IS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT?

Sustainable development is when we continue to use resources to meet our needs, but we also preserve the environment. Sustainable energy can reduce poverty and develop the economy so that the world can live better now and in the future.



### ■ Milly, year 9 from Devon

We organised a forum about the environment and sustainable development. We, the students, organised every detail from A to Z. We watched documentaries and we put on a concert. It was great because we could say what we think and propose ideas. It was very clever.

### ■ Mr Gregory, Headmaster of Hughens College London

Students become very involved in these school projects on sustainable development. They want to do something now, so that the world can be a better place tomorrow. They are becoming eco-citizens. They are more responsible and open to the outside world.

*Now it's your turn*

## Eco-project

**Create an eco-project. Work in a small group. Look for ideas on the Internet. Plan your project and find your answers to these points.**

- 1 why this project is important: .....
- 2 what the objectives are: .....
- 3 who can participate in the project: .....
- 4 what it involves: .....
- 5 how long it will take: .....
- 6 what difficulties there may be: .....  
.....
- 7 what you need for the project: .....  
.....

**Present your projects to your teacher.**