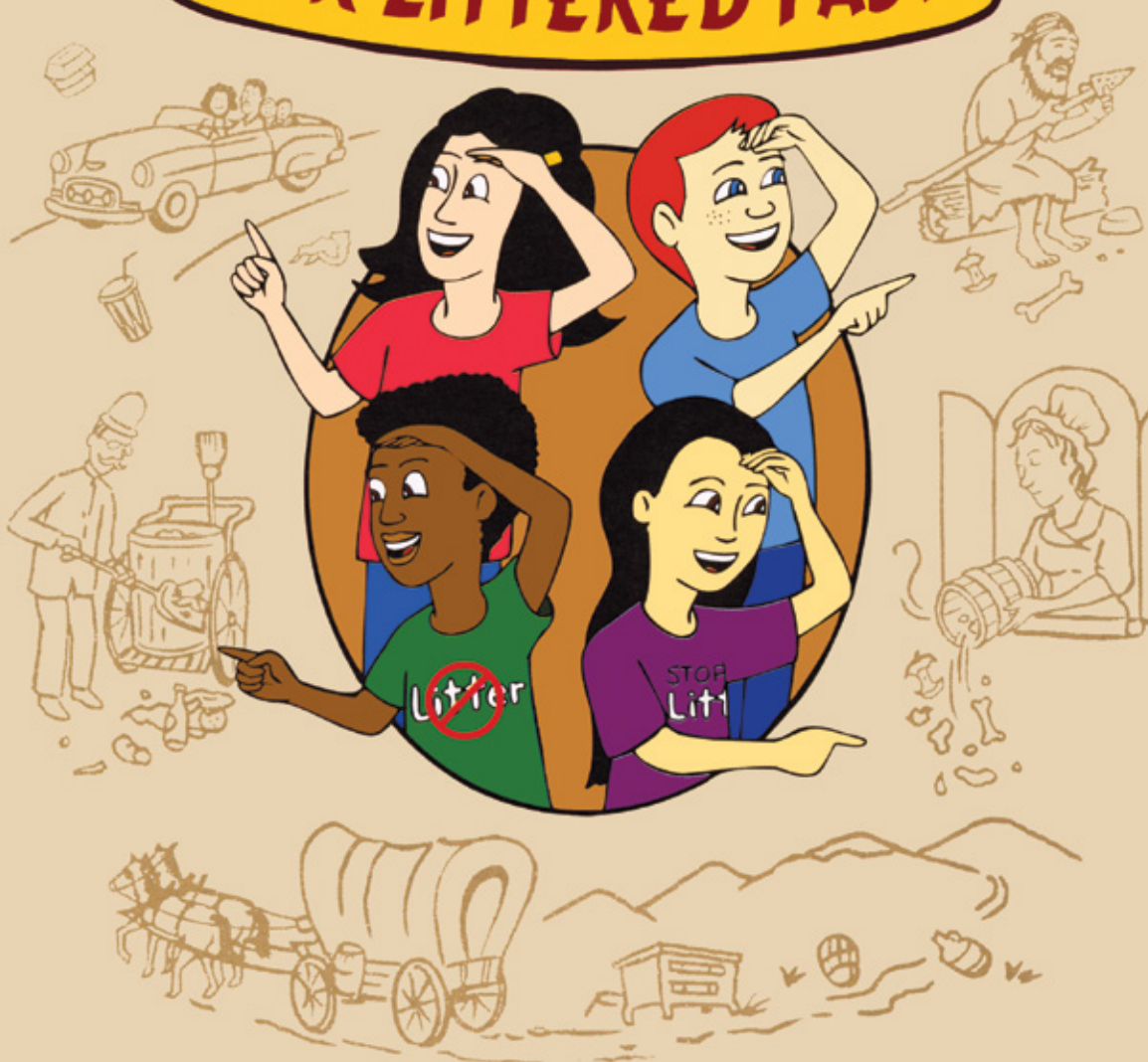


# OPEN YOUR EYES TO LITTER

## OUR LITTERED PAST



**A Fun and Informative Activity Book For Kids!**

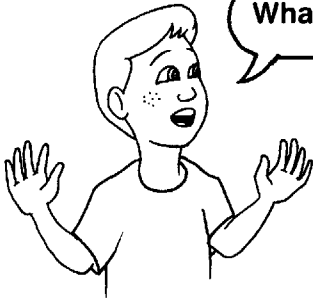
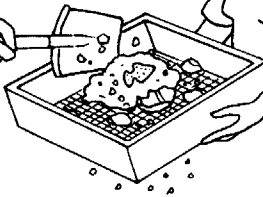
# OUR LITTERED PAST



Hi! We are archaeologists, scientists who study the past by digging up what people left behind.



Did you know that litter has been around since prehistoric times?



What is litter?



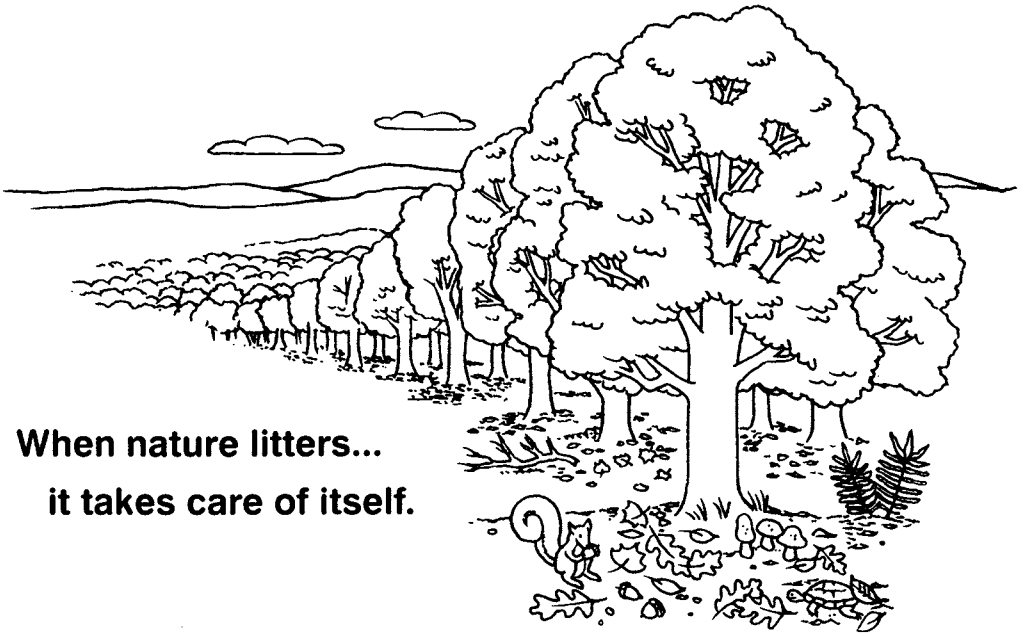
According to Webster's Dictionary, one meaning of the word "litter" is "things scattered about."



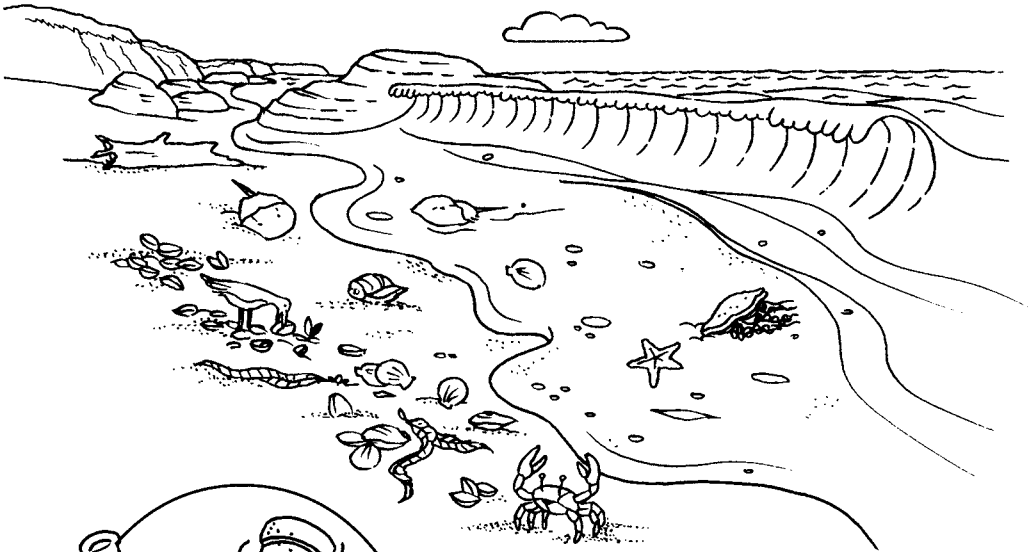
Today when we talk about litter we generally mean garbage that is out of place.



But it depends on *what* it is, *where* it is, and *how* it got there!



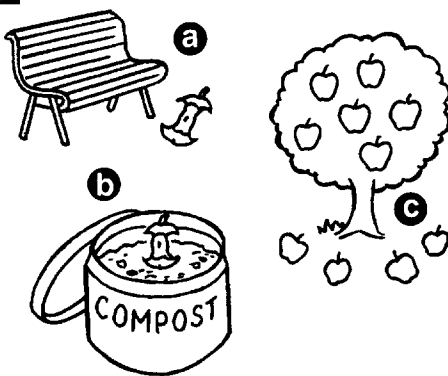

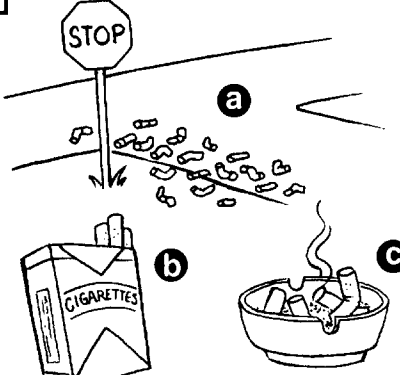

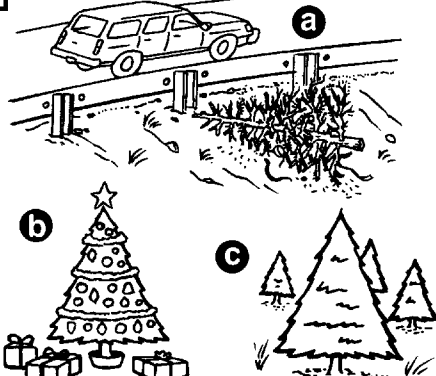
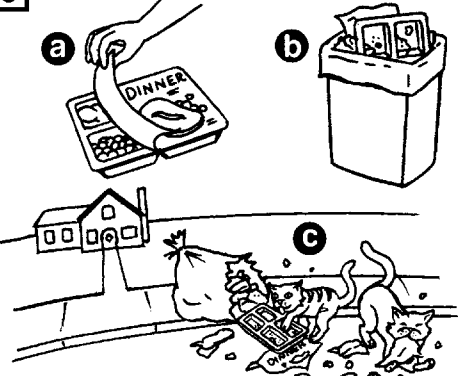
**When nature litters...  
it takes care of itself.**



**When people litter...  
it causes problems  
and has negative  
consequences.**

# Can you tell when something is litter?

In each box below circle the item *when it is litter*.

<p><b>1</b></p> 	<p><b>2</b></p> 
<p><b>3</b></p> 	<p><b>4</b></p> 
<p><b>5</b></p> 	<p><b>6</b></p> 

Answers: 1)a 2)c 3)a 4)b 5)a 6)c

## Litter has given us clues to the past.



Archaeologists study the life and cultures of ancient peoples. They carefully dig through layers of earth looking for things people left behind. Over the years we have learned a lot from litter.



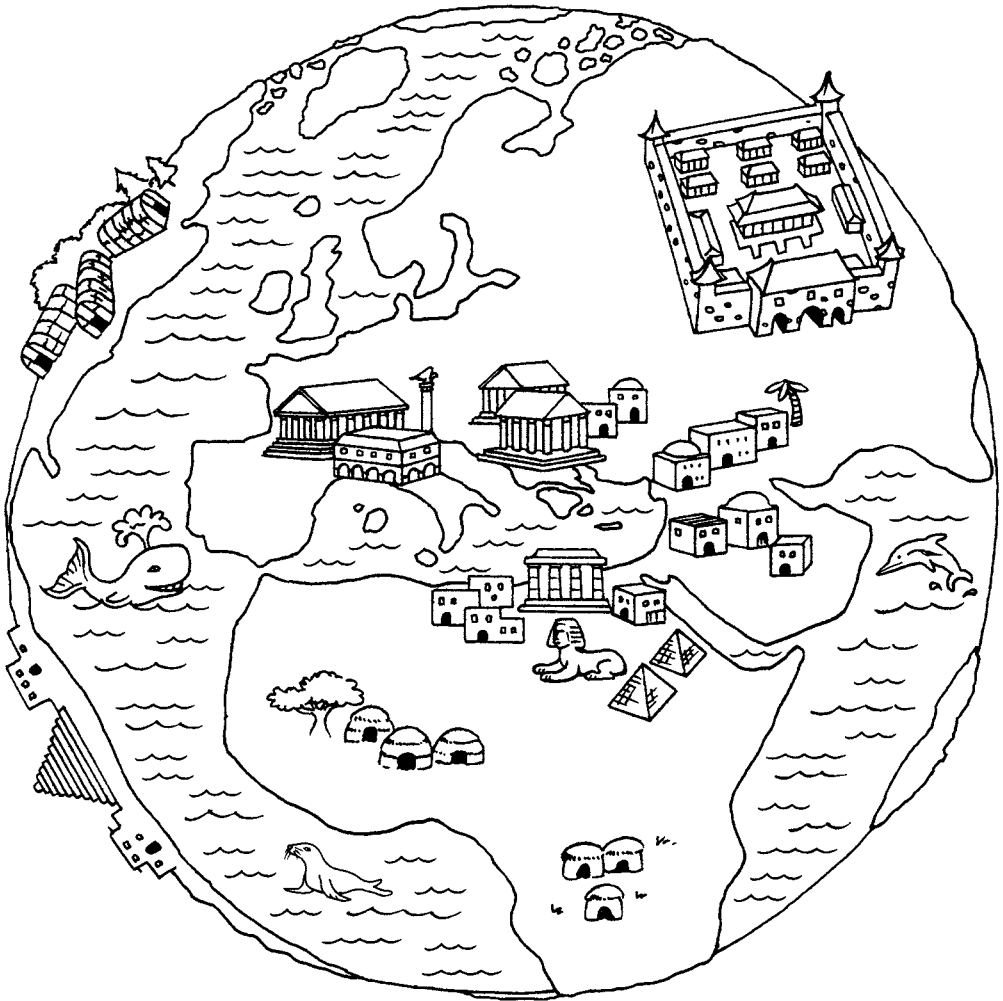
In the two pictures above can you find:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 9 spearpoints    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 broken shell necklace |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 broken bow     | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 apple core            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 broken pots    | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 fish skeleton         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> animal rib bones | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 egg shells            |

Some natural items decompose over time. Some don't.

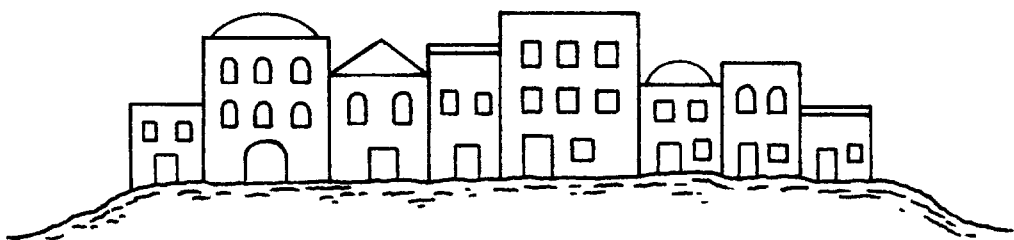
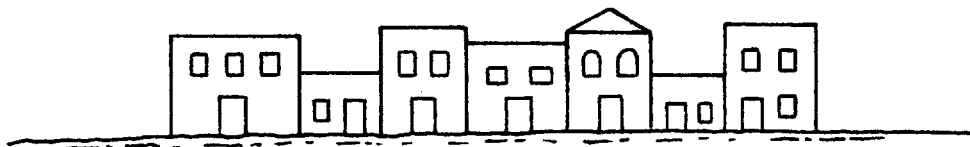


**About 10,000 years ago people began to live in villages and build cities.**



**When more people began to live in one place, litter really started to pile up and cause problems.**

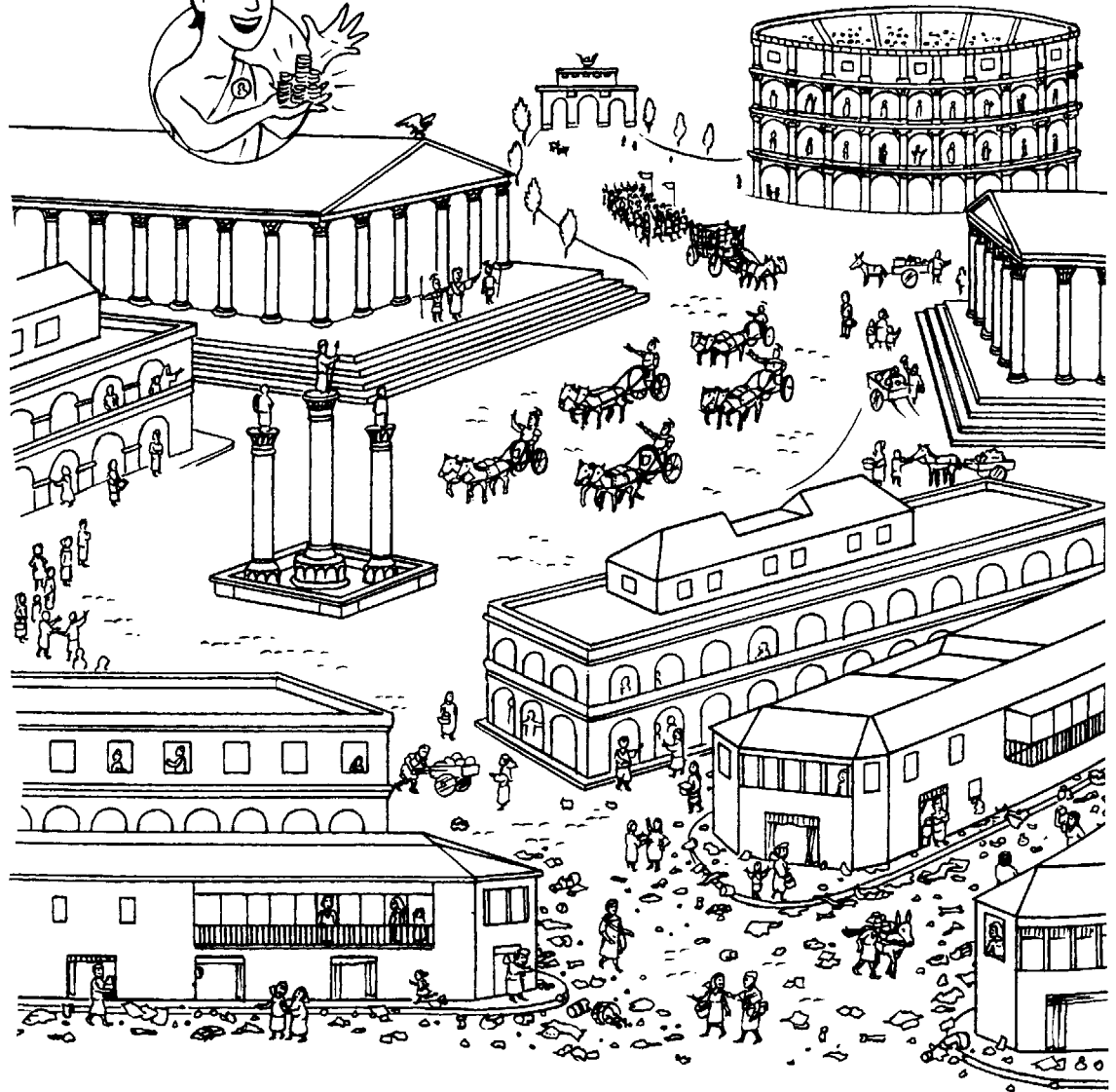
The floors of many early buildings were made of clay. It was common to leave food scraps and other things on the floor. When the floor got too cluttered and smelly they would cover it with fresh clay.



**WOW!**

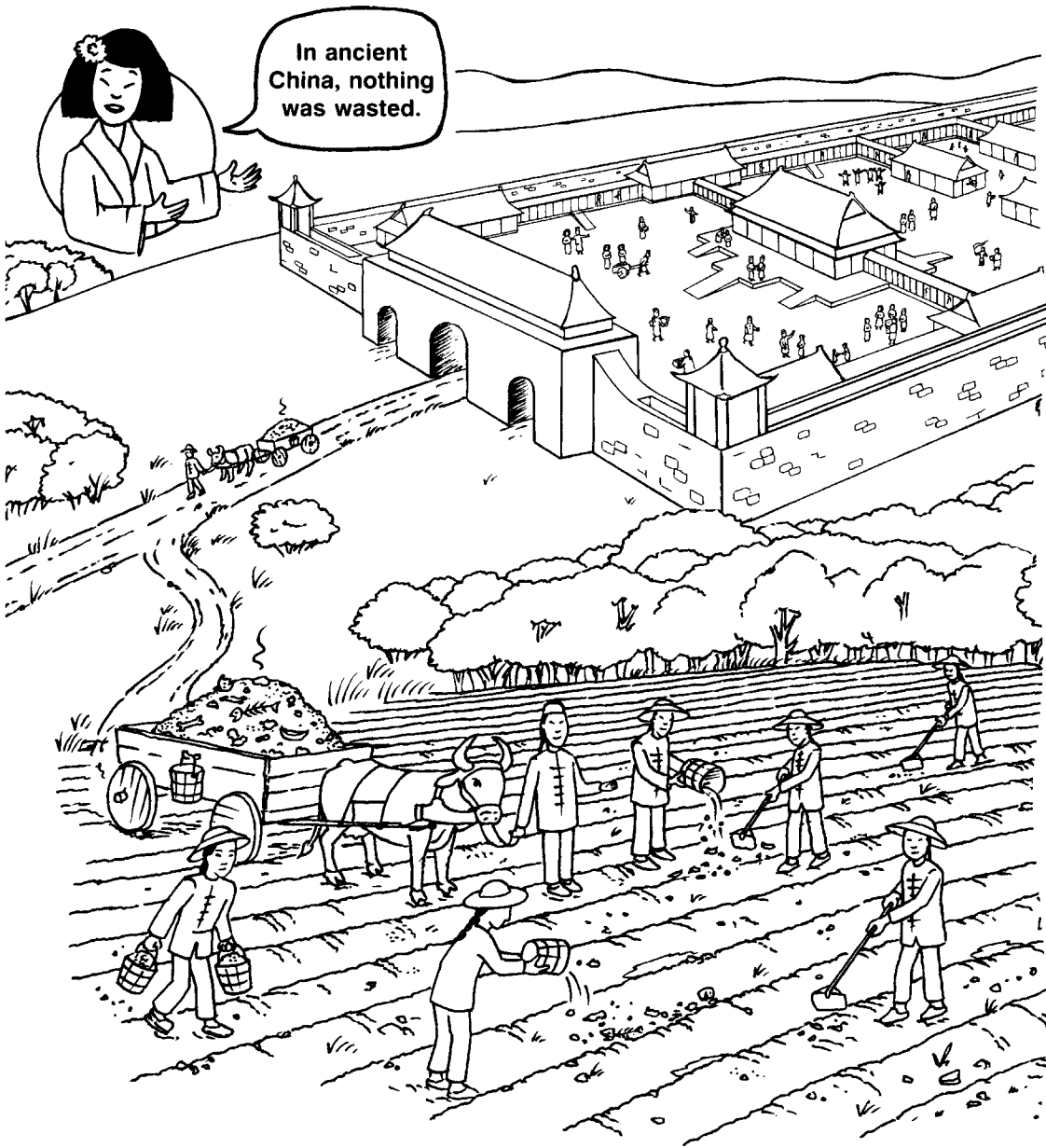
The accumulation of debris in the ancient city of Troy caused the city to grow 4.7 feet per century.

As years passed, the floors got higher and higher until the people had to raise the roofs and rebuild doors. Eventually the old buildings became foundations for new buildings.



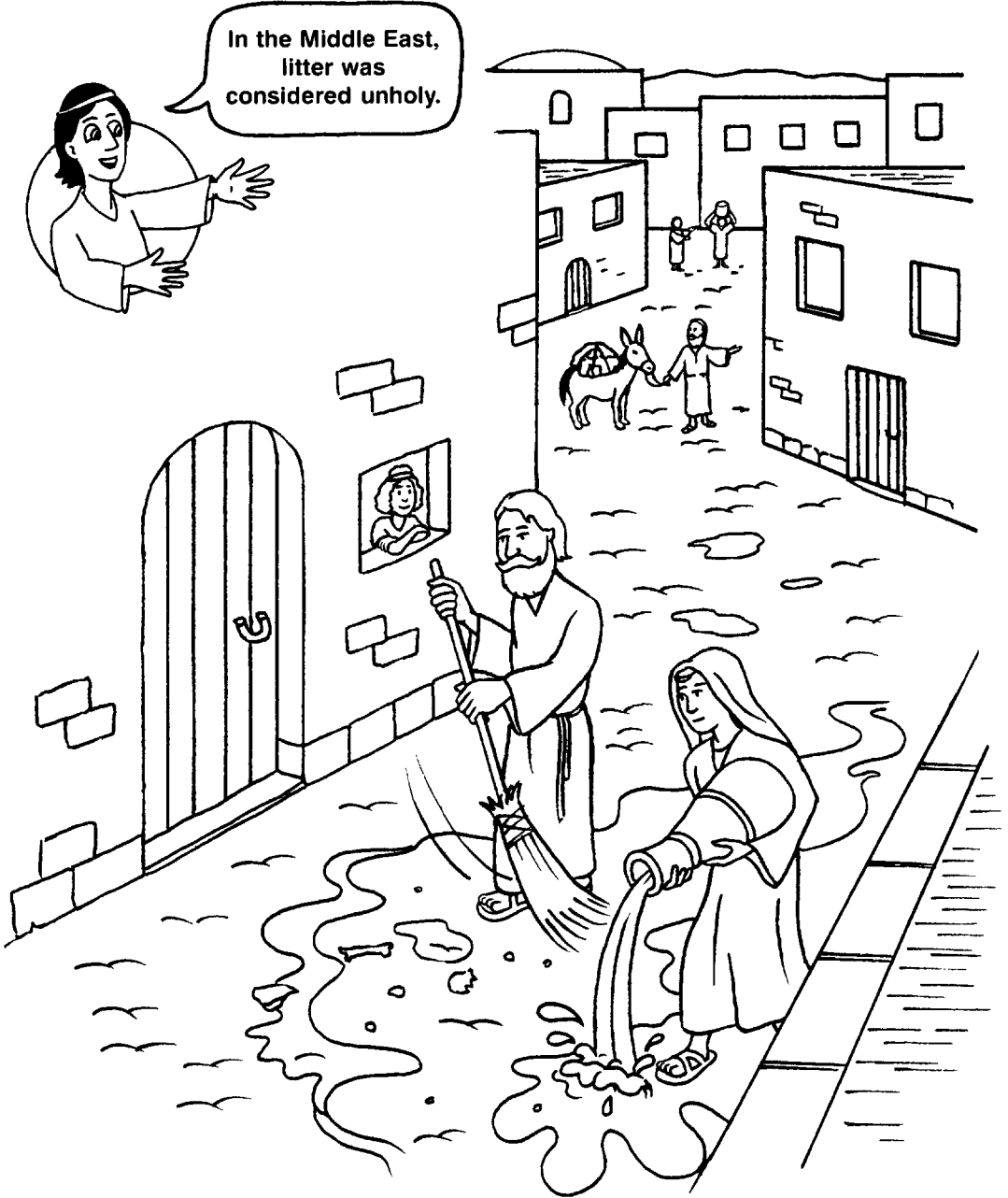
**In ancient Rome, the Emperor wanted to keep the streets clean near the government and business areas to show traders and travelers Rome's strength, wealth and beauty. However, it was okay for the streets where common people lived to be lined with litter.**





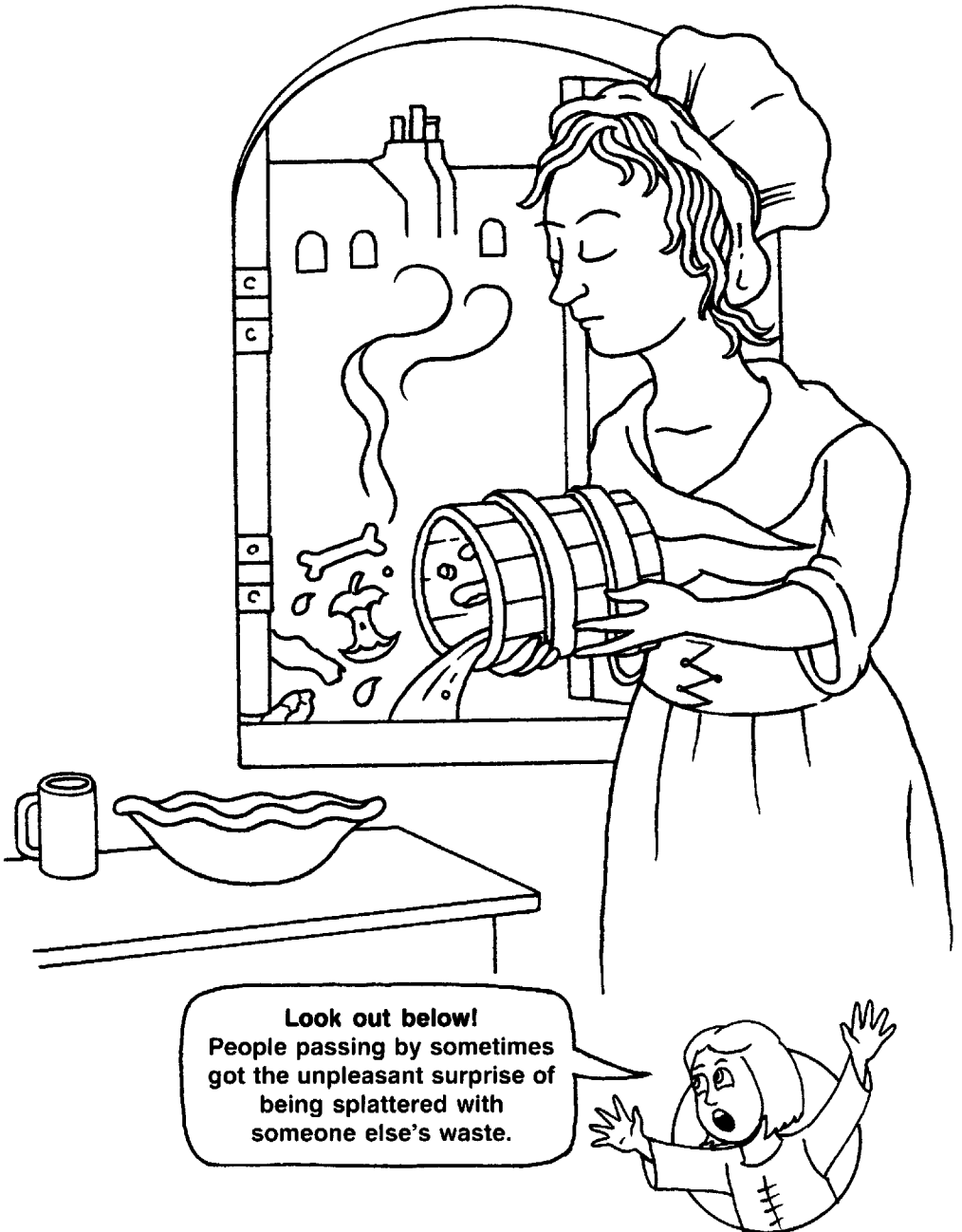
**The people of ancient China lived according to the idea that “man and nature be in one.” In cities and villages all wastes were degradable and used as fuel, food for animals or fertilizer for crops. Worn out items were repaired, reused or recycled.**

In the Middle East,  
litter was  
considered unholy.



**In ancient Palestine, the streets were flushed with water every day to help wash away any litter. This was done for religious reasons.**

**In past centuries, most people living in cities around the world threw their daily household and personal waste out the window onto the streets, sidewalks and gutters.**



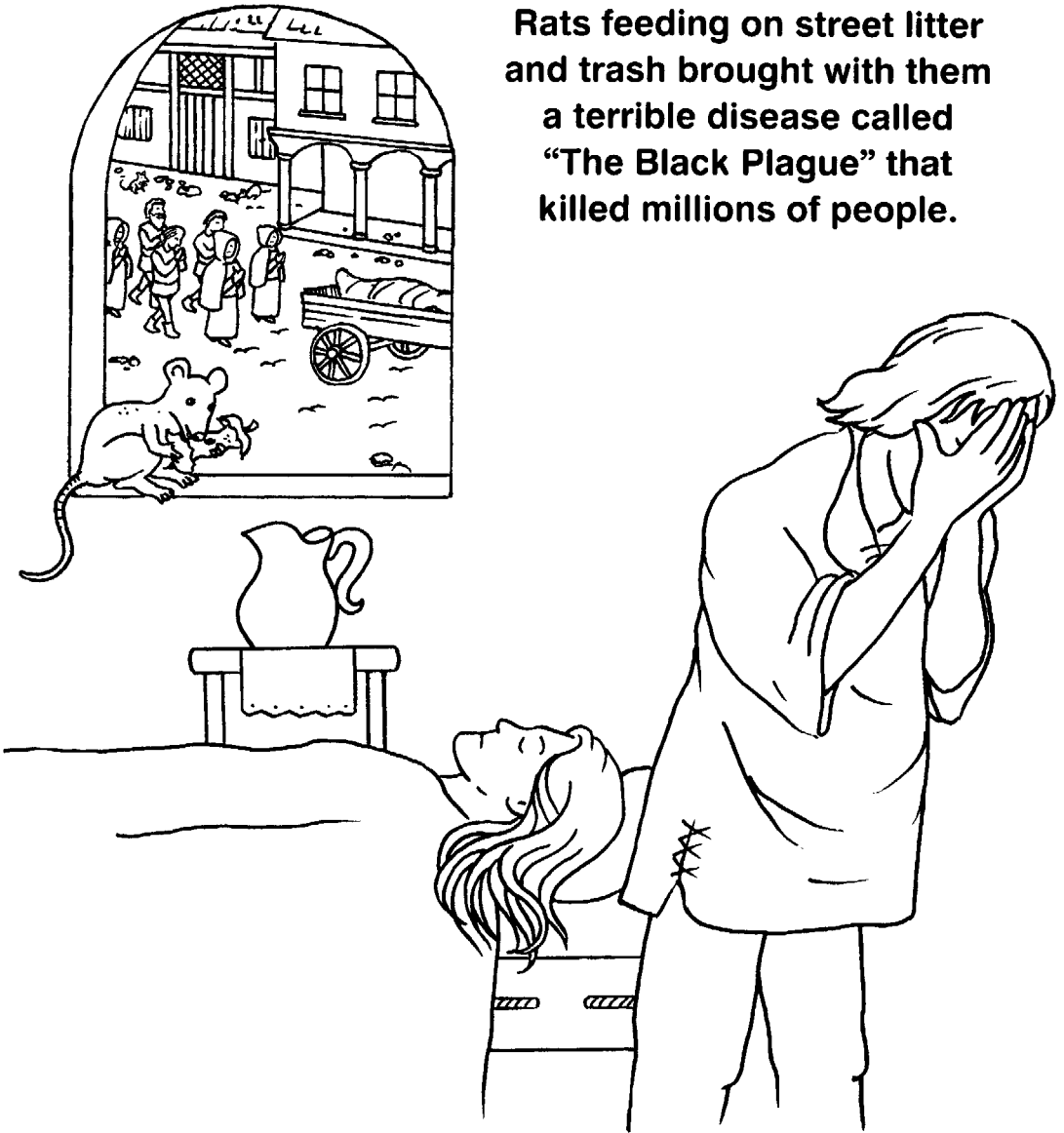
In Medieval times, cities like Paris and London were often littered with food scraps and other waste. This attracted roving animals looking for something to eat.



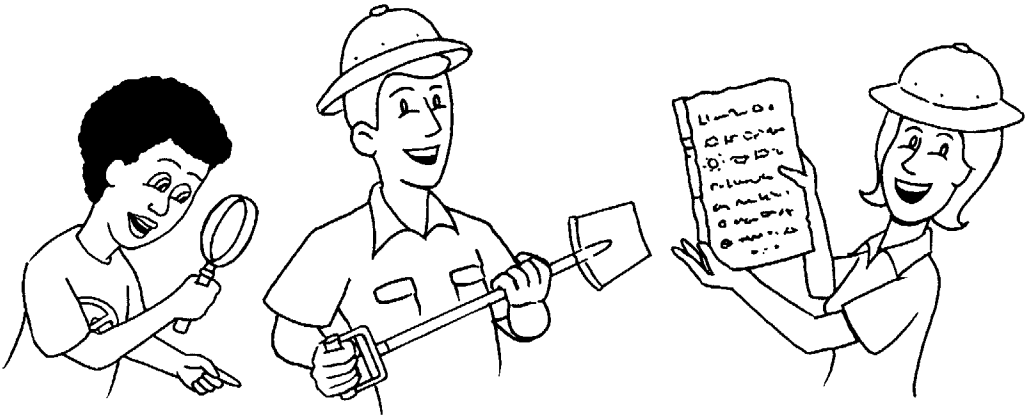
**WOW!**

In 1131 the son of King Louis the Fat was killed in a horse riding accident caused by an unattended pig. As a result, the French outlawed letting swine run free in the streets.

**Rats feeding on street litter and trash brought with them a terrible disease called “The Black Plague” that killed millions of people.**



**The cause of this disease was germs carried by fleas living in the rats’ fur. The people of that time did not know what germs were. They thought the disease was sent by God to punish them.**



# Dig through this puzzle!

Can you find these words from Our Littered Past?

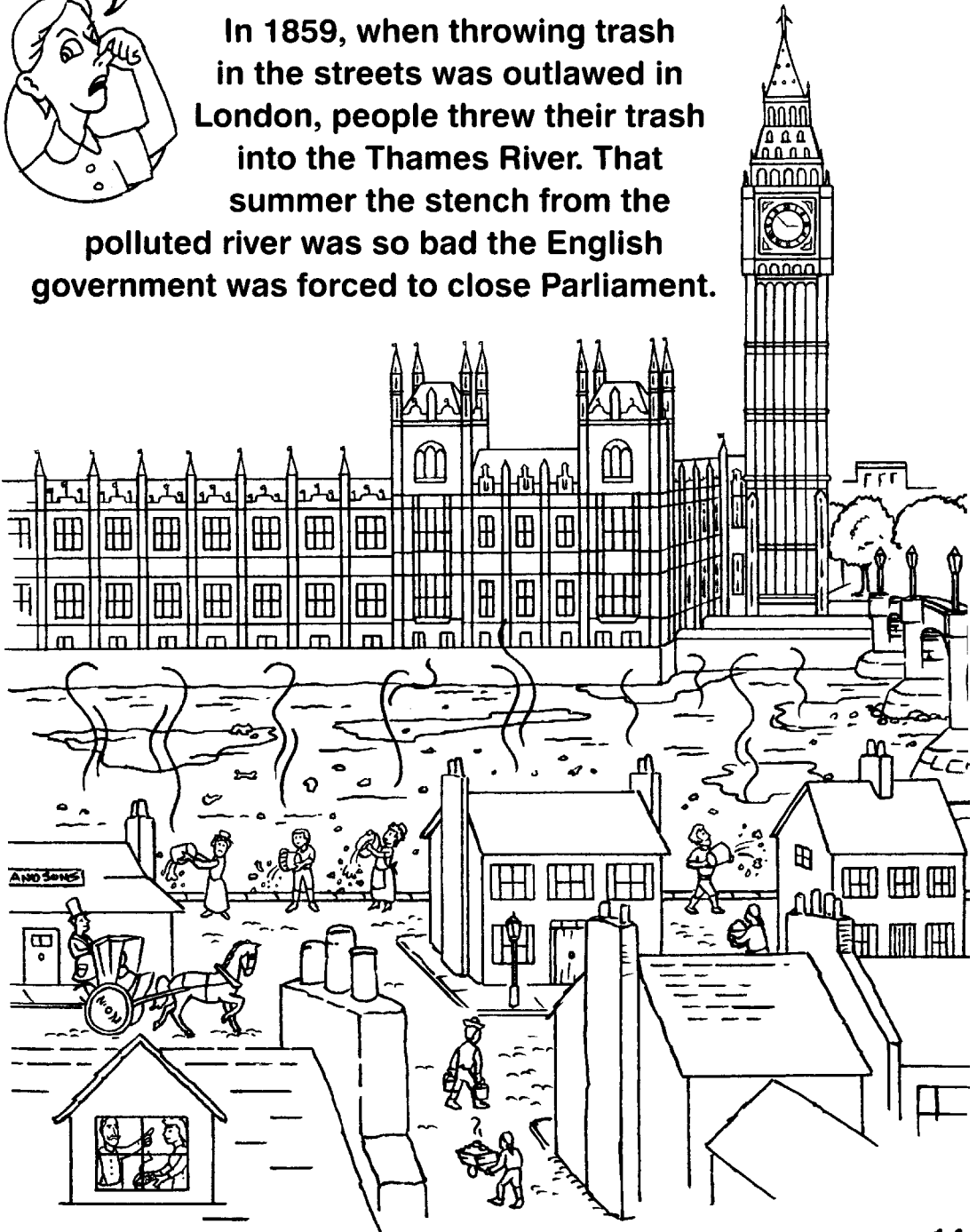
1. America
2. Archaeologist
3. China
4. City
5. Consequences
6. Culture
7. Disease
8. Environment
9. Garbage
10. Government
11. Litter
12. London
13. New York City
14. Palestine
15. Papers
16. Paris
17. People
18. Plastic
19. Problems
20. Recycle
21. Rome
22. Technology
23. Trash
24. Village
25. World



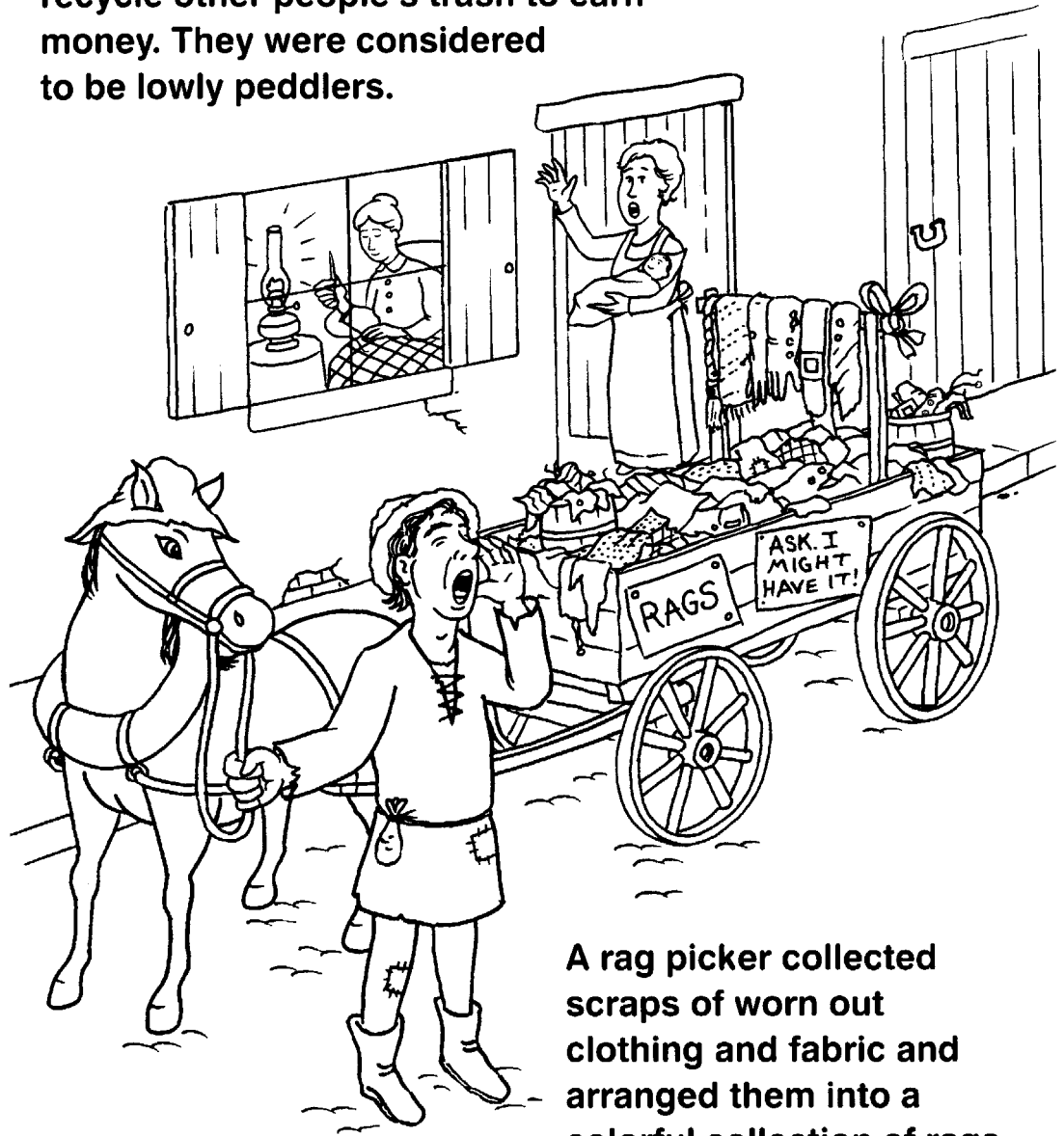
In England, litter  
caused a big stink!



In 1859, when throwing trash  
in the streets was outlawed in  
London, people threw their trash  
into the Thames River. That  
summer the stench from the  
polluted river was so bad the English  
government was forced to close Parliament.



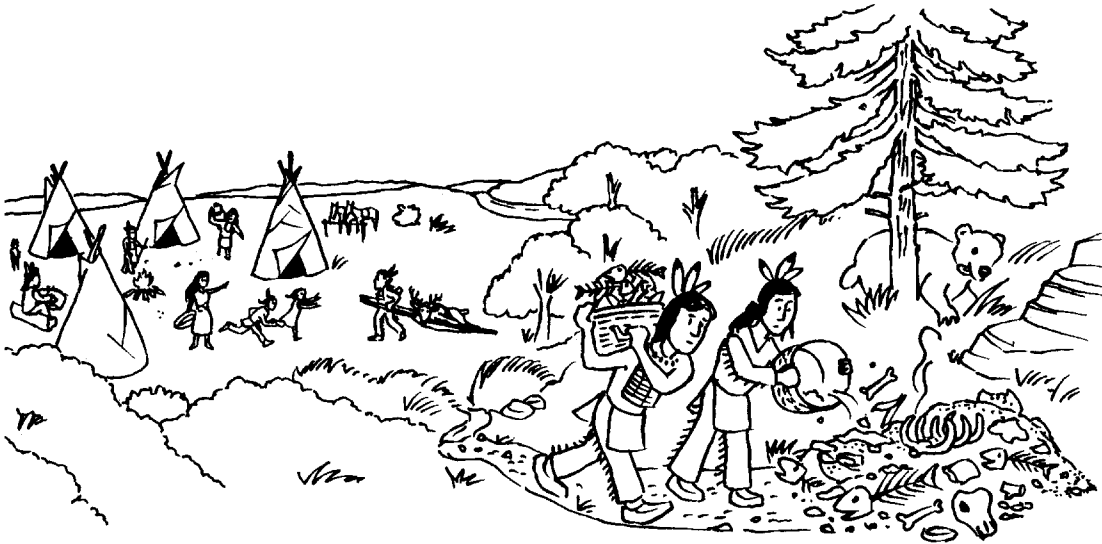
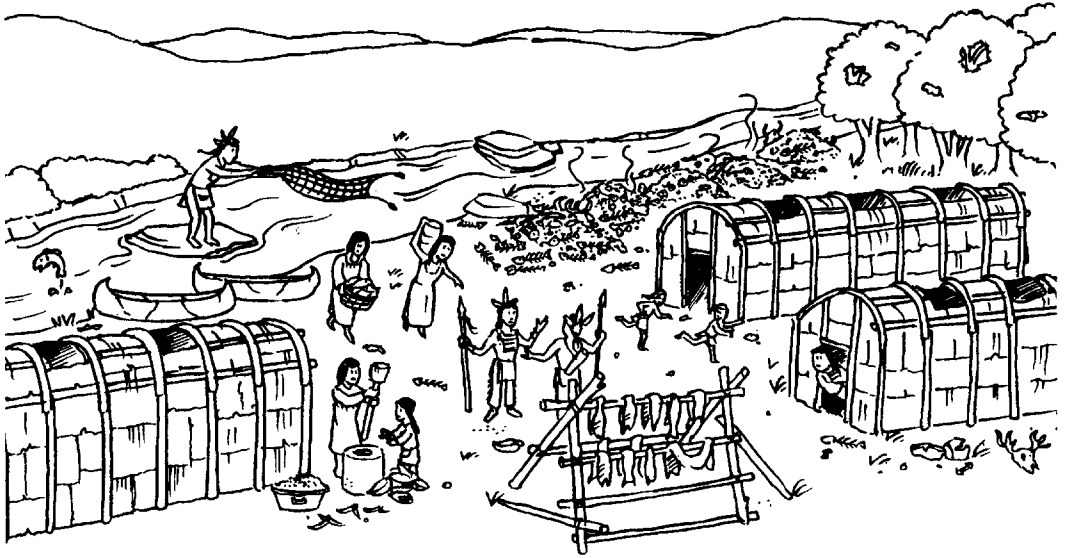
**“Rag pickers” were the first people to recycle other people’s trash to earn money. They were considered to be lowly peddlers.**



**A rag picker collected scraps of worn out clothing and fabric and arranged them into a colorful collection of rags. Then he walked the streets selling them for cleaning, mending, paper making and other uses.**



**Early native American tribes lived in different ways.**



**Some tribes let litter and trash pile up around their villages and camps, while other tribes chose to take it outside the village.**

As pioneers crossed America in covered wagons they left things along the trail when the journey became difficult.



Connect the things the early pioneers left  
along the trail and find your way west.



**Around 1850, the streets of New York City were piled almost knee high with litter, trash and manure.**



**Visitors often complained about the unbearable stench coming from the streets.**



**In 1895, Colonel George Waring, a veteran of the Civil War, was put in charge of a cleanup campaign for New York City.**



**Colonel Waring hired an army of cleanup men. He dressed them in white uniforms to show cleanliness and promote pride. These men were paid \$1.00 a day to keep the streets clean and litter free.**

# Do The Math!

Use your math skills to find Colonel George Waring's nickname.



**WOW!**  
Colonel George Waring became a loved and respected cleanup hero. When he died over 5,000 people attended his memorial service.

Complete each math problem and match the letter above it to the correct line below. Use the answers to solve the hidden message.

A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 9 \\ \div 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 4 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 30 \\ \div 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 19 \\ + 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 210 \\ \times 0 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ + 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 54 \\ - 35 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 1 \\ \times 1 \\ \hline \end{array}$

J	K	L	M	N	O	P	Q	R
$\begin{array}{r} 25 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 36 \\ + 64 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ \div 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ + 6 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ \times 5 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 42 \\ - 35 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 33 \\ + 25 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 2 \\ \times 7 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 15 \\ \times 2 \\ \hline \end{array}$

S	T	U	V	W	X	Y	Z
$\begin{array}{r} 17 \\ + 68 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 100 \\ \div 10 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 75 \\ - 12 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 7 \\ + 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 136 \\ - 42 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 3 \\ \times 4 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 27 \\ \div 3 \\ \hline \end{array}$	$\begin{array}{r} 81 \\ + 51 \\ \hline \end{array}$

\_\_\_\_\_

10      19      21

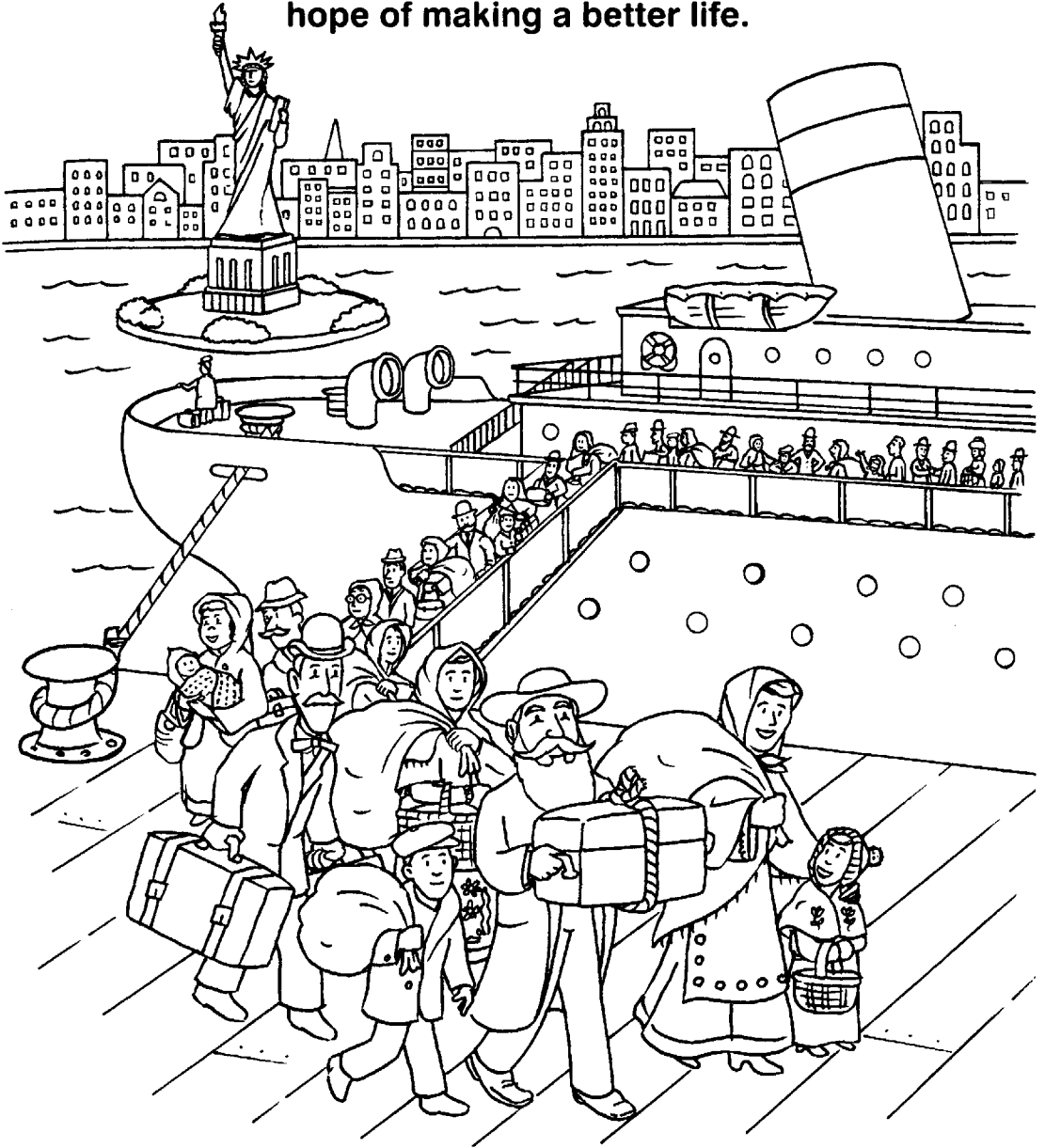
\_\_\_\_\_

6      58      7      85      10      4      21      7      0

\_\_\_\_\_

8      4      21      6      35      4      1      35      21      85      85

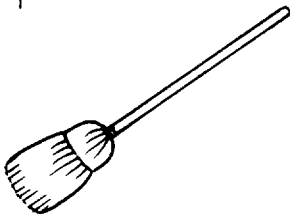
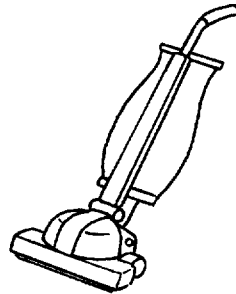
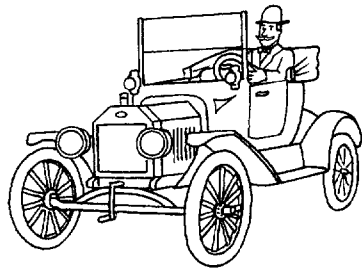
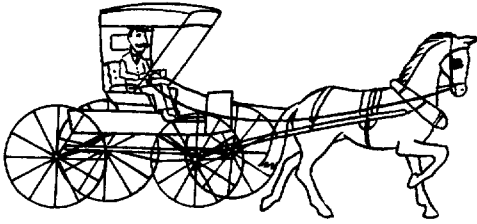
**As America rolled into the 1900's, millions of people from around the world arrived on its shores with the hope of making a better life.**



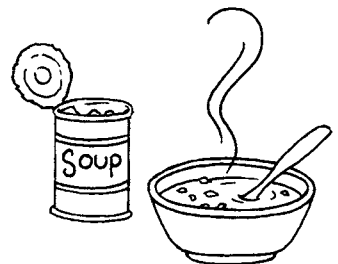
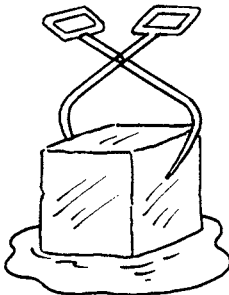
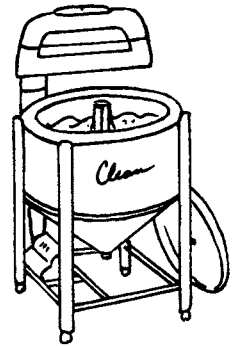
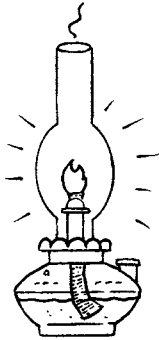
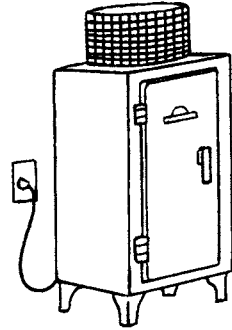
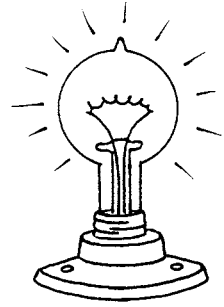
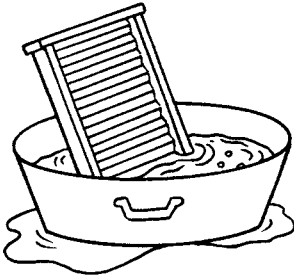
**Many people came from countries where resources were in short supply. Because of this, they weren't wasteful and made wise use of everything they had.**

**To meet the demands of a growing population, science and technology began producing all kinds of new products designed to make life easier.**

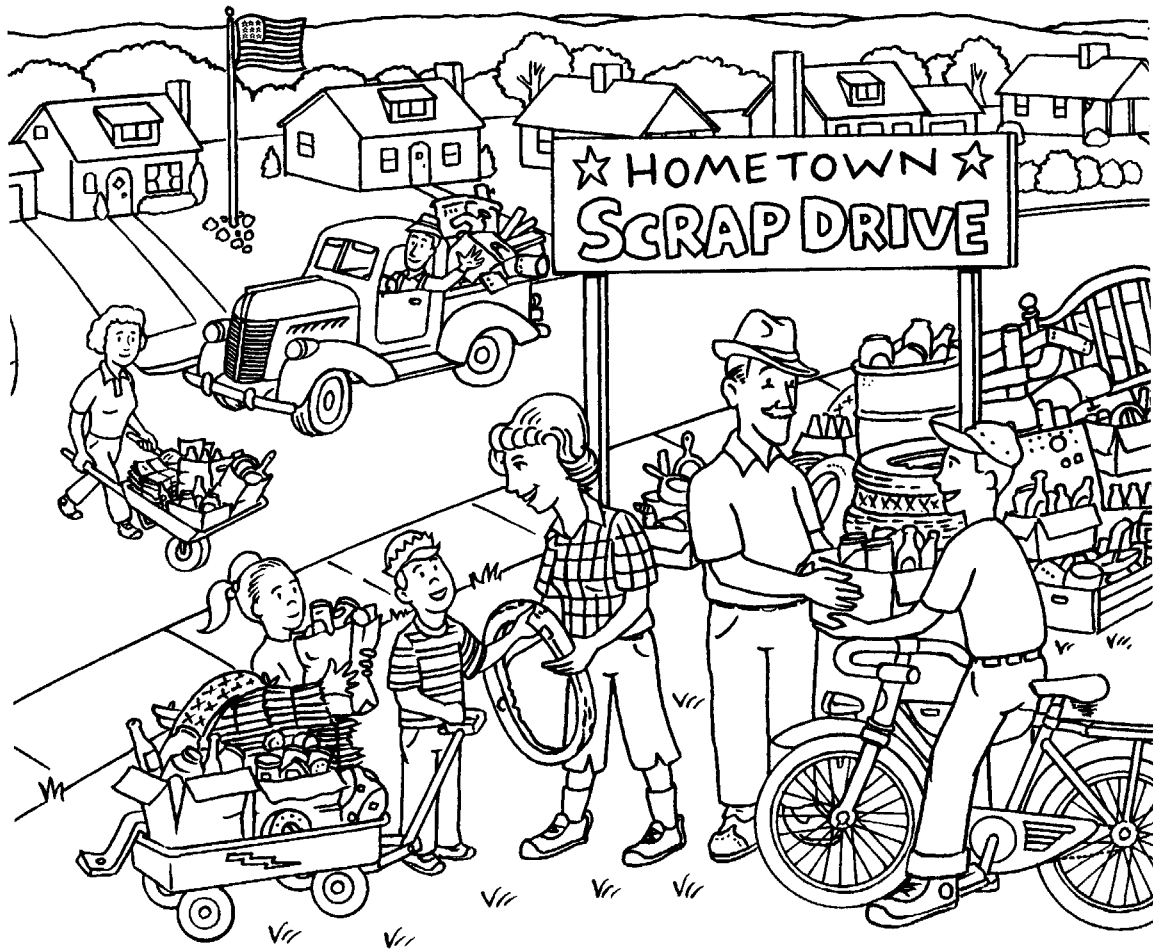
Match the old fashioned item on the left with the newer, more convenient and time saving product on the right that was designed to replace it.



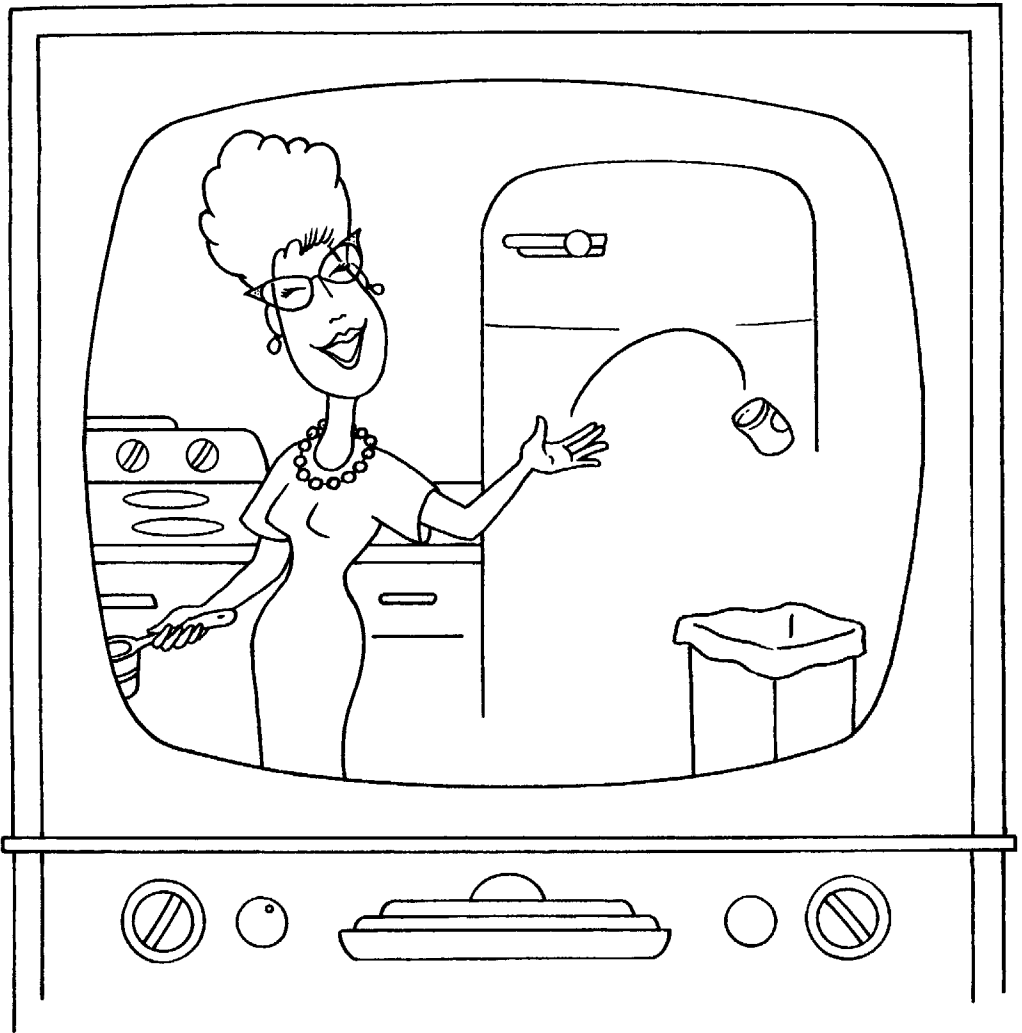




**The demands of World War II (1941-1945) made it necessary for all Americans to work together to preserve their freedom.**

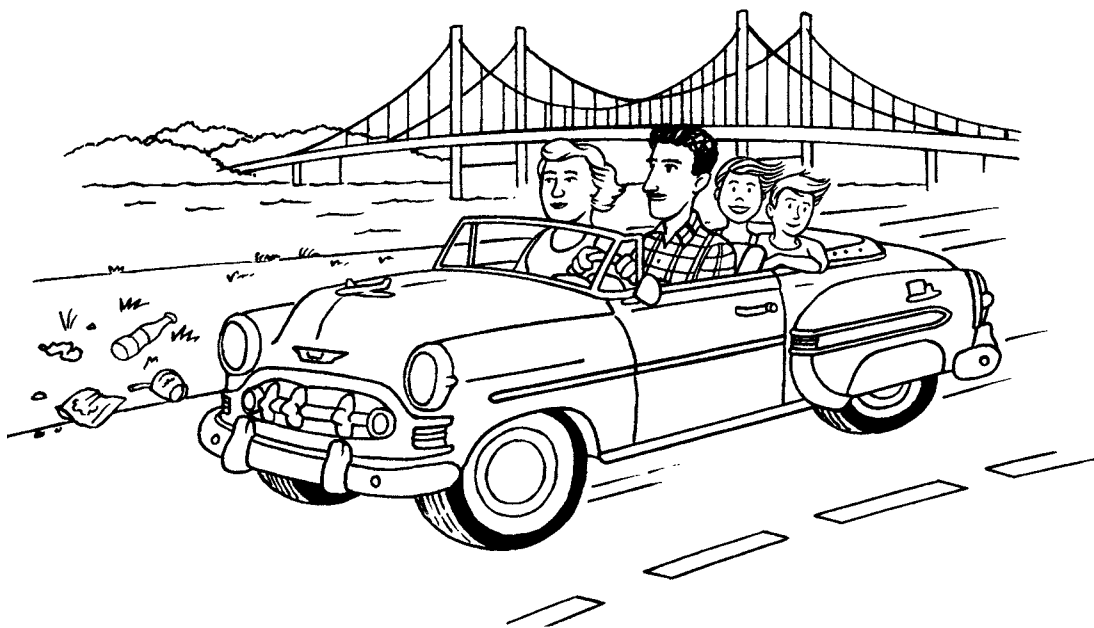


**People recycled and reused like never before. Entire neighborhoods had regular “scrap drives”, which collected everything from tin cans and scrap metal to old newspapers, glass and scrap rubber. These items were recycled into bullets, tanks, airplanes and other supplies for the war effort.**



**In the late 1950's, companies began to mass produce disposable products from newly-developed papers, plastics and light weight materials. Advertisements promoted the convenience of "just throwing away" products when you were finished with them. America was becoming a "throw away society."**

**These modern convenience products gave people more leisure time to visit friends, go on picnics and take vacations.**

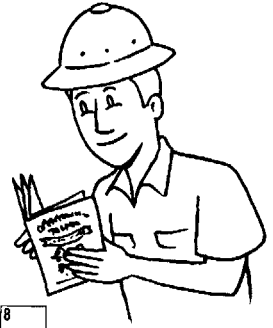
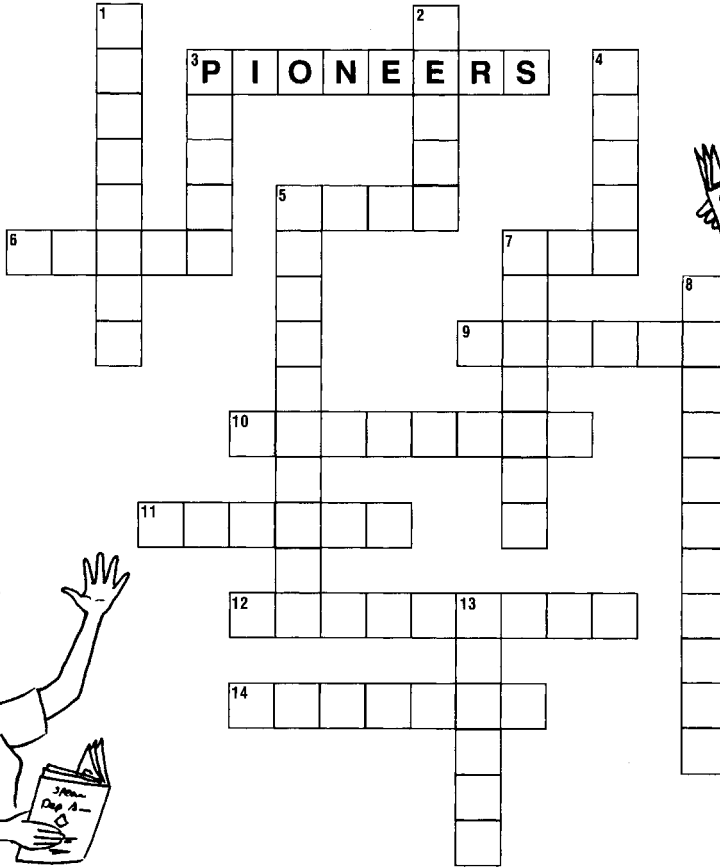


**To satisfy hungry people on the go, thousands of fast food restaurants began to spring up along America's growing network of roads and highways.**



**For convenience, these restaurants packaged their foods in disposable paper and plastics. Many of these disposable items ended up along the roads.**

# What Have You Learned?



## ACROSS

3. People who settle new lands
5. Curly tailed farm animals
6. WWII neighborhoods held a scrap \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_ people need to prevent litter
9. What you open your eyes to
10. Celebrated on April 22
11. This Colonel cleaned the streets
12. People who came before were our \_\_\_\_\_
14. If it is made by nature

## DOWN

1. First Lady, Mrs. Johnson's, nickname
2. Caused the Black Plague
3. People feel \_\_\_\_\_ for their litter-free city
4. Another name for bad odor
5. The number of people living in an area
7. Wild \_\_\_\_\_ ate the discarded food scraps in the streets
8. Before written history
13. River so polluted it shut down Parliament

**Answers**  
**Across:** Pioneers – Pigs – Drive – All – Litter – Earthday – Waring – Ancestors – Natural  
**Down:** Ladybird – Germs – Pride – Smell – Population – Animals – Prehistoric – Thames

**As litter began to pile up across America some people became concerned and took action.**

**In the 1950's,  
the Pennsylvania  
Roadside Council  
introduced "the litterbug"  
in one of the first  
anti-littering campaigns.**



**1950's**



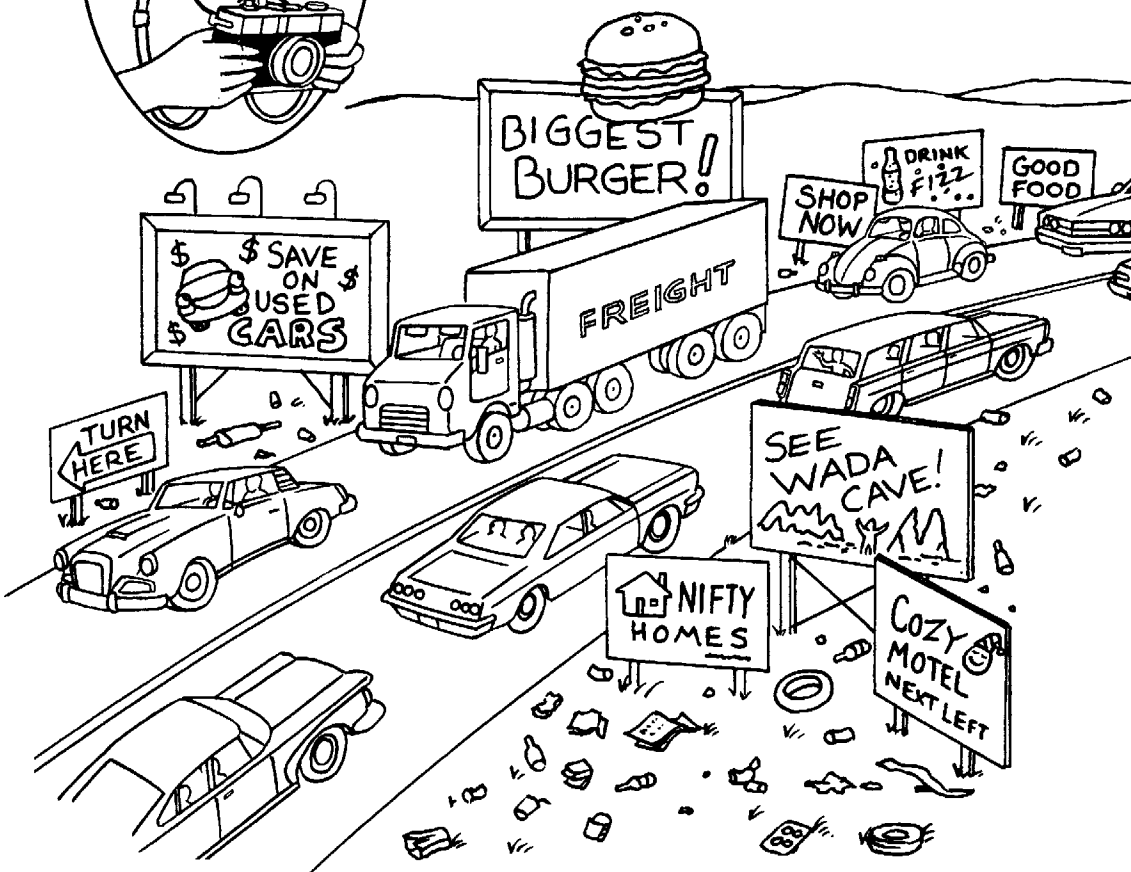
**Today**

**The Pennsylvania Roadside  
Council is now known as  
the Pennsylvania Resource  
Council. They have  
modernized "the litterbug"  
and continue to run  
anti-littering programs.**

**This was just the beginning...**



During the 1960s, Lady Bird Johnson, America's First Lady, was shocked by the amount of litter and trash she saw along America's roads and highways.



She documented the growing problem with her own camera and used her influence to start the first nationwide beautification campaign. This campaign discouraged the use of billboards, promoted roadside flower planting, supported the screening of junk yards and created anti-littering messages.

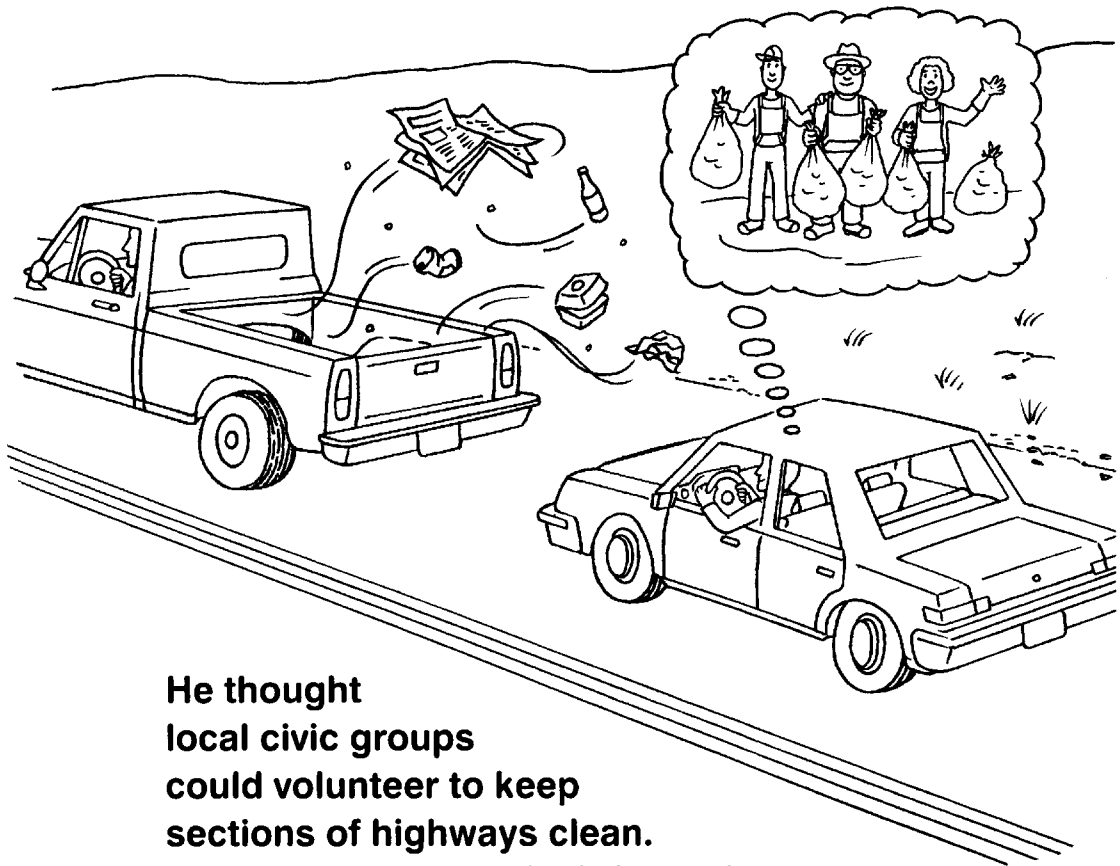
The American people were becoming more and more concerned about what was happening to their land, rivers, lakes and air. On April 22, 1970, Senator Gaylord Nelson founded the first Earth Day. He invited people to demonstrate their concerns for the environment all across the nation.



Since then Earth Day has brought people together every year to learn how to promote the conservation of our natural resources and focus on environmental problems.



**In the early 1980's, James R. "Bobby" Evans, an engineer for the Tyler District of the Texas Department of Transportation, followed a pick up truck with trash blowing out onto the road.**



**He thought local civic groups could volunteer to keep sections of highways clean. With the help of Public Information Specialist, Billy Black, the nation's first "Adopt-A-Highway" program was born. The Tyler Civitan Club was the first group to volunteer. They adopted 2 miles of Texas Highway 69 and remain active in the program to this day.**

**Today there's a roadside beautification program in every state across America. Through other local programs caring people are adopting trails, beaches, waterways, city blocks, parks and forests, and even airports!**



**KEEP  
PENNSYLVANIA**  
*Beautiful*



**pennsylvania**  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



**MICHIGAN  
COALITION  
FOR • CLEAN  
FORESTS**

Ridding Michigan Forests  
Of Illegally Dumped Trash



**Litter has provided a peek into our past and has caused problems throughout history. What will future generations learn from our litter? Open your eyes to litter. Educate others and volunteer to help keep your area litter-free.**

**YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**



### Great Places To Find Out More...

**Allentown Clean & Green**  
www.allentownrecycles.org  
Hotline 610-437-8729

**Cigarette Litter**  
www.cigarettelitter.org

**Earth 911**  
www.earth911.org

**First Energy**  
www.firstenergy.com

**Keep America Beautiful**  
www.cleansweepusa.org

**Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**  
www.keppabeautiful.org

**Michigan Coalition for Clean Forests**  
www.cleanforests.org

**PA Department of Environmental Protection**  
www.dep.state.pa.us

**PennDOT**  
www.dot.state.pa.us

**Pennsylvania Resources Council**  
www.prc.org

### Books and Videos:

**Garbage in the Cities**  
By Martin V. Melosi

**Rubbish!**  
By William Rathje & Cullen Murphy

**The History Channel**  
A video  
Modern Marvels – Garbage



# Kids' Litter Survey

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Age \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name of School \_\_\_\_\_

Grade \_\_\_\_\_ County \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does your family recycle? \_\_\_\_\_ What items? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Does your school have a recycling program? \_\_\_\_\_

What was the most surprising fact you learned from this book?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Do you ever feel peer pressure to litter? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, when and with whom? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

What do you think people 100 years from now will say about us and how we deal with our trash?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

*Please mail your survey to:*

**Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful**

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or go to our website [www.keppabeautiful.org](http://www.keppabeautiful.org)



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PROTECTION

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**Special Thanks to:**

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful staff for their time, talent, and effort

Shelly Radomski, Certified Elementary Educator

Illustration, Design and Layout: Mark Jackson

Keep Pennsylvania Beautiful is a nonprofit organization whose mission is empowering Pennsylvanians to keep our communities clean and beautiful. For more information call us toll free at 877-772-3673 or email us at [info@keppabeautiful.org](mailto:info@keppabeautiful.org)