

LETTERS



ECOKIDS RULE!!!

Dear Adam,

Pretty cool. Sorry I didn't say goodbye when you moved, but you left too fast! Biked by your house and you were already gone.

So do you like it down there? Sounds neat - go swimming every day and no homework. Well you can't visit me anytime - HAHA!

Write or send packages,
Jeff
Woodstock, Mass.

Dear Jeff -

So who did they put next to you in homeroom? It feels kind of weird that it's winter there. But where do you get this no homework idea? I get all my stuff from the Home Tutoring Service. And is my dad ever on my case if I don't do it. I'd like to see you be the only person in your class! The science people did let me do a few pollution experiments on the water here. Don't be too jealous, I have all this poetry to do and I can't dive with Dad till I finish.

Adam



From The Desk Of
Sandra Jean Kemmelman

Dear Adam,
Well Mrs Fitzpatrick said we should all write for our language Arts homework this week so I guess I should ask you some things like, how's the beach?

Sandra Kemmelman
Santa Cruz, California

P.S. Answer with some good stuff so I don't get in trouble.

Dear Sandra -

O.K., I'll do what you said in your P.S. The beach is really kind of depressing. We went for a walk the first morning. When I got back, I had these disgusting oil blobs on my feet. We keep a bottle of turpentine in this shelf on the dock and you wipe your feet with it. And there are some other weird things going on. My Dad's trying to track it all down. I'll write you guys when I find out more about it.

Adam Greene

Dear Adam
(Excuse my English.) It goes me very well to write, but I know the grammar is not so good still. I passed the holiday reading a book not very recent on the subject of whales. Have you sighted any whales? Is the hunting of whales still a practice there?

Natalie

P.S. Tu nous manques beaucoup, Adam.
Revons nous rendre visite aussitot que possible!

Natalie -

Find a new book. A lot of the old info on whales is wrong and has been changed over the last few years. Whales do spend time in the Caribbean in the warm waters, probably because of calving. Then they swim thousands of miles to cold Northern waters, which have a lot more food for them. Since a lot of the calves die on that trip, nobody quite knows why they do it.

Most whales that get hurt are injured when they crash into shipping lines. There's a lot more traffic on the water than there used to be. A couple of countries still hunt whales. Their story is they do it for scientific research. A whale can make them as much as a million dollars. So you figure it out. I know how it looks to me.

Adam

P.S. Take a look at The Plight of the Whales by J.J. McCoy or Rescue of the Stranded Whales by Kenneth Mallory and Andrea Conley.
P.P.S. Your English is good compared to my French.
P.P.S.S. Tell your Mom to send the certificate here instead of Massachusetts.

My friend Mr Adam,

I got the name of you from a friend, señorita Gonzales, from the Brazilian Green Organization. I am wanting to do a project in my school to make students be aware of what is to be happening to the rain forest. How do you think I can start a newsletter like this one? My Grandfather lived once in the rain forest and is very sad that it is making to disappear. I am wanting to make him feel happy again.

Your friend,
Teppi
Buenos Aires, BRAZIL

Dear Teppi:

I think it's a great idea to start your own newsletter! There's tons of stuff about the rain forest to write about - like what they call the 'defoliation of the earth' and what scientists think it will do to the atmosphere.

All you need to do is just write down what you want to talk about, copy it with a xerox machine, computer, or mimeograph, and then pass it out to people! My Dad even helps me take it around to places that have waiting rooms and stuff - like kids' doctor's offices. Maybe you could get some friends to help you write it and pass it out.

- Your friend, Adam Greene

P.S. I heard my Dad talking to some organizations in Brazil a couple of times on the phone. Who knows? Maybe I'll be able to help you with that newsletter in person real soon!

Adam, I changed the Combo - it's 9731/...
In any case, we can't set it free yet. Along with the oil, the soap removes the birds' natural oils that let them float. He needs to help clean up deposits from various spills and freighter leaks. He asked me to look at the aquarium on our back table. The water is covered with oil slowly sinking to the bottom. In the past, fertilizer has been dropped on oil spills by plane. The fertilizer creates an oil-eating bacteria that turns the spill into harmless chemicals. Dad's been working on a new solution. He handed me the flask and let me use the fertilizer solution on the oil. Wow, the oil disappeared right before my eyes! Dad thinks it might even be useful on the coral itself because the oil sinks to the bottom and really messes things up.
Now that you've gotten an idea of what we do here, we'll let you in on something special! If you look at the back wall of the Lab, you'll notice a keypad. That's to keep out unqualified personnel. However, we'll let you have access just for the day. Hand on the keypad and then enter the following number: 9731. The door will open and you can enter the Lab's treatment room. This is a facility for helping stranded and injured sea creatures. Look at the pool - you'll see that it's divided into two areas separated by a gate. If you look at the gate, you'll see it can be operated underwater by the animal. One part of the pool is "human-free." That means if the animal wants to get away from us and have some privacy, it can. However, the best part is the dolphin. He got brought in just a few days ago. Don't try to touch him, though (hand on the dolphin) because he's not sure of us yet. If you want to help in his treatment, first talk to the dolphin to get his attention. Then hand on the bucket of fish by the door. Now you have some dead mackerel, the dolphin's favorite food. However, make sure the dolphin is ready before you use the mackerel on him. If we can get the poor guy interested in life again and build up a little trust, he might get well!



http://www.replacementdocs.com



Dad called me over to look at the cardboard box we found in the bird who was shivering in mild solution. I used the soap rag very gently on the bird. Will the bird survive? It's hard to say. Sometimes being handled upsets the bird so much that it dies anyway.
The real business of the Lab is to fight the pollution in this area. For example, look at the chalk board on the back wall and you'll see some fairly Top Secret development that my Dad is doing for the government. He's helping with a sonar tracking experiment that will speed dangerous salvage operations. What is a typical morning like for me? Well, first I try to get my home study assignments done. Then I do a couple of things with Dad. For example, this morning Dad found a seagull covered with oil on the beach.
Your Our Lab! If any of you subscribers get down to this part of the Caribbean, stop by the Lab and visit us! The Lab's not fancy, but we do have some interesting things there. You can look at practically everything in it. For example, you might want to look at the books that he keeps above his computer to find the titles of some good stuff on ecology.

WARNING!!!! This is a guide to playing the first part of the game. If you are an experienced adventurer or want to figure it out for yourself, don't read any further.
I'll check to see if we can't do about this in public yet.
Adam!
Dad

ADAM'S ECOSYSTEM NEWS

Ocean Research Institute • St. Julien, The Caribbean

Jan.20, 7:15 A:M I'm eating my cereal when Dad gets an emergency call from the director of Ecology Emergency Network. We have a new assignment. The reef off the coast of St. Julien in the Caribbean is rapidly dying. Dad's to track down the problem and try to help before it's too late. We're to report right away. I finish my cereal.

9:15 A:M Dad calls my school, calls his assistants, calls the movers, etc., etc. I've been through this before, so I'm already in my room packing.

11:15 A:M The movers arrive - they know us by now - and start throwing most of our stuff into storage. Most of my clothes go, too. Who needs snow boots or ski equipment in the Caribbean? Besides our house is decorated in Early American Garage Sale, so who cares? I grab my gerbil cage, three boxes, and a suitcase and we go to the airport.

12:15 A:M Dad calls his assistants again from the airport waiting room and reads a list of things they're to send after us. Vending machine food stinks.

1:30 P:M We're on our way to the Caribbean. Airplane food stinks.
6:30 P:M Two jets and a pontoon plane later, we get into St. Julien. This island is definitely NOT a tourist attraction. On the surface everything looks okay, except for some random oil



globes on the beach. We check into the Lab and my Dad takes a few water samples. I write a letter to Jeff, since I didn't get to say goodbye. Then I go sit on the dock and wonder what's going to happen next.
Jan.23, 6:00 P:M I've been diving with Dad and looking at some of his books to identify the things I've seen. Hope you enjoy what I've included in this newsletter about it. We have a mystery guest now in the Lab pool. Read on and find out all about it! ECOKIDS RULE!!!!

A FISH Out of Water...

We're proud to be part of a stranding network in this area. The Lab has a treatment area, staffed by qualified veterinarians, licensed personnel, rescue equipment, and so on. Rescues are both very sad and incredibly cool. It really tears you up when one of the animals dies anyway. In spite of all we can do for their injuries, just getting entangled in a net or washed up on a beach is incredibly stressful for them. Some animals just seem to give up. Right now, we're treating a dolphin who was entangled in a net. His injuries aren't all that big, but he's given up on life. Unless we can get his interest, he'll probably die. We'll let you know how he does.

What should you do if you find a beached animal? First of all, remember that it is a wild animal who is hurt and confused. The animal may be diseased or dangerous because it is wounded. Be careful. Remember that seals and some other marine animals sometimes "rest" on the beach, or leave their youngsters while they hunt. A whale or a dolphin needs help, however, you can count on it. Call the police, an animal shelter, or other qualified helpers. Think of the swimmers dolphins have saved. Can't we do what they would do?

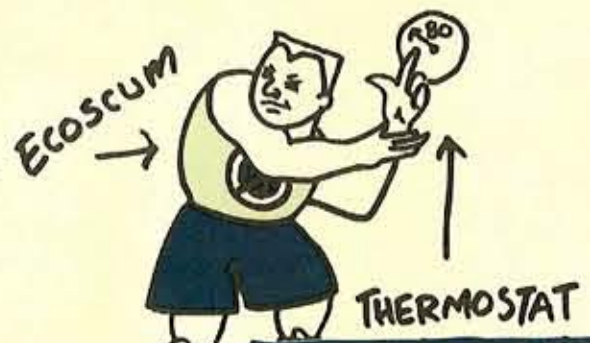


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Call this REEF EXPERTS™

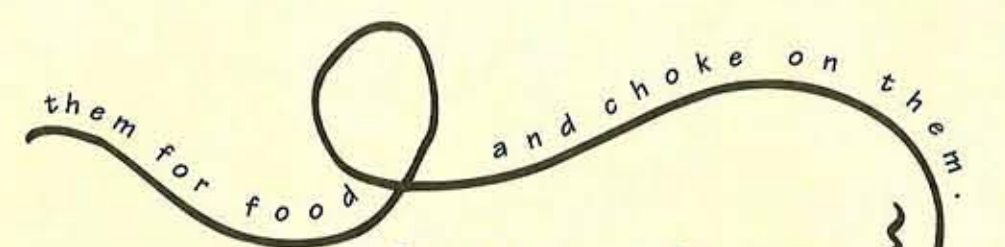
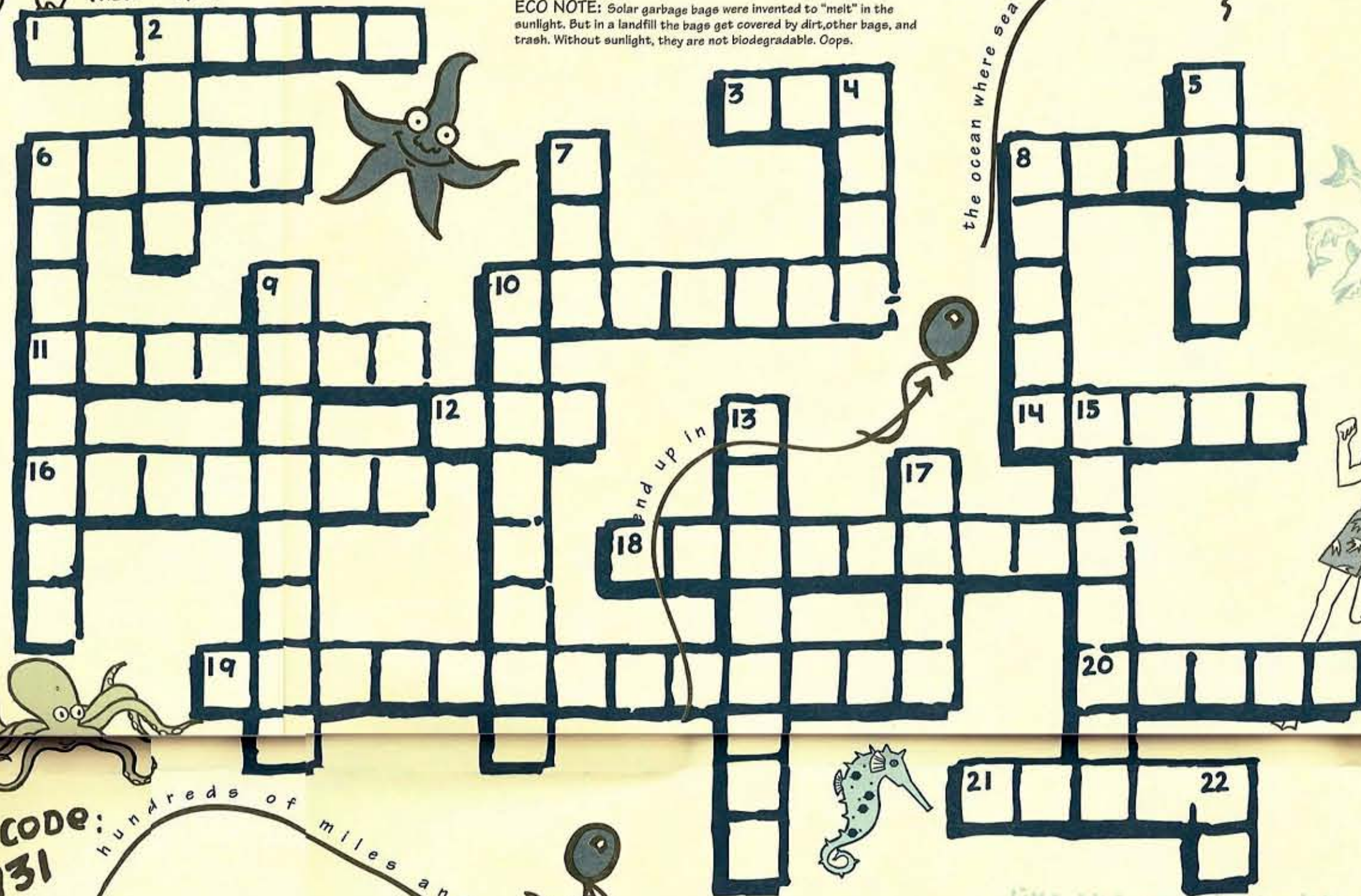
Mix & Match

- A**
- Its insides are like a big grocery sack, throws up what it can't digest.
 - Uses "borrowed" shells for its home.
 - One of the oldest organisms on Earth, can grow as tall as a man.
 - Found in the stomach of a sperm whale, a valuable substance used to fix oils in expensive perfume.
 - White and eerie, looks like a plant.
 - Inflates itself to scare off enemies.
 - Shy, territorial, capable of camouflage. Turns red with anger, white with fear.
 - Can regenerate its arms, loves to attach itself to old pilings.
 - Lives in the depths. Like many creatures who live in the dark, it produces some light.
 - Fish that has a spot on its side that resembles a "third eye." The "eye" confuses enemies about where to strike.
- B**
- Ambergris
 - Anemone
 - John Dory Fish
 - Octopus
 - Sponge
 - Sea Urchin
 - Hermit Crab
 - Lobster
 - Ghost Anemone
 - Moray Eel
 - Seastar
 - Flashlight Fish



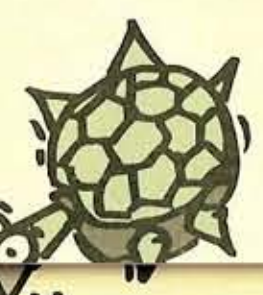
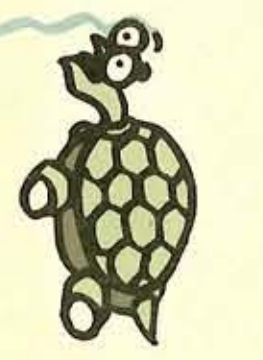
ecopuzzle

ECO NOTE: Solar garbage bags were invented to "melt" in the sunlight. But in a landfill the bags get covered by dirt, other bags, and trash. Without sunlight, they are not biodegradable. Oops.



Jokes

- "Did you hear about the salmon who couldn't understand a word you'd say?"
- "He was hard of herring!"
- "Do you know what happens if a piano goes out of tune underwater?"
- "You call the piano Tuna!"



HOW TO SAY:

- Narcissus (Nahr•SIS•us)
- Hippocrates (Hip•PAH•kru•teez)
- Olympia (O•LIM•pee•a)
- Epidermis (Eh•no•DER•emis)
- Gregarious (Gre•GAE•ree•us)
- Erroneous (Er•ROH•ne•us)
- Demeter (Dih•ME•ter)
- Cassandra (Kah•SAN•drah)
- Superfluous (Soo•PER•flew•us)
- Eluria (Ee•LU•ree•a)

Many odd creatures live on the coral reef. Match Column A to Column B. Draw a line from the creature or thing to its characteristic. You have several "red herrings", that is, extra answers. Look up these creatures and use some of their characteristics to make an item. Use the LOOK icon (eye on coral, etc.) in the game ECOQUEST to find other creatures and

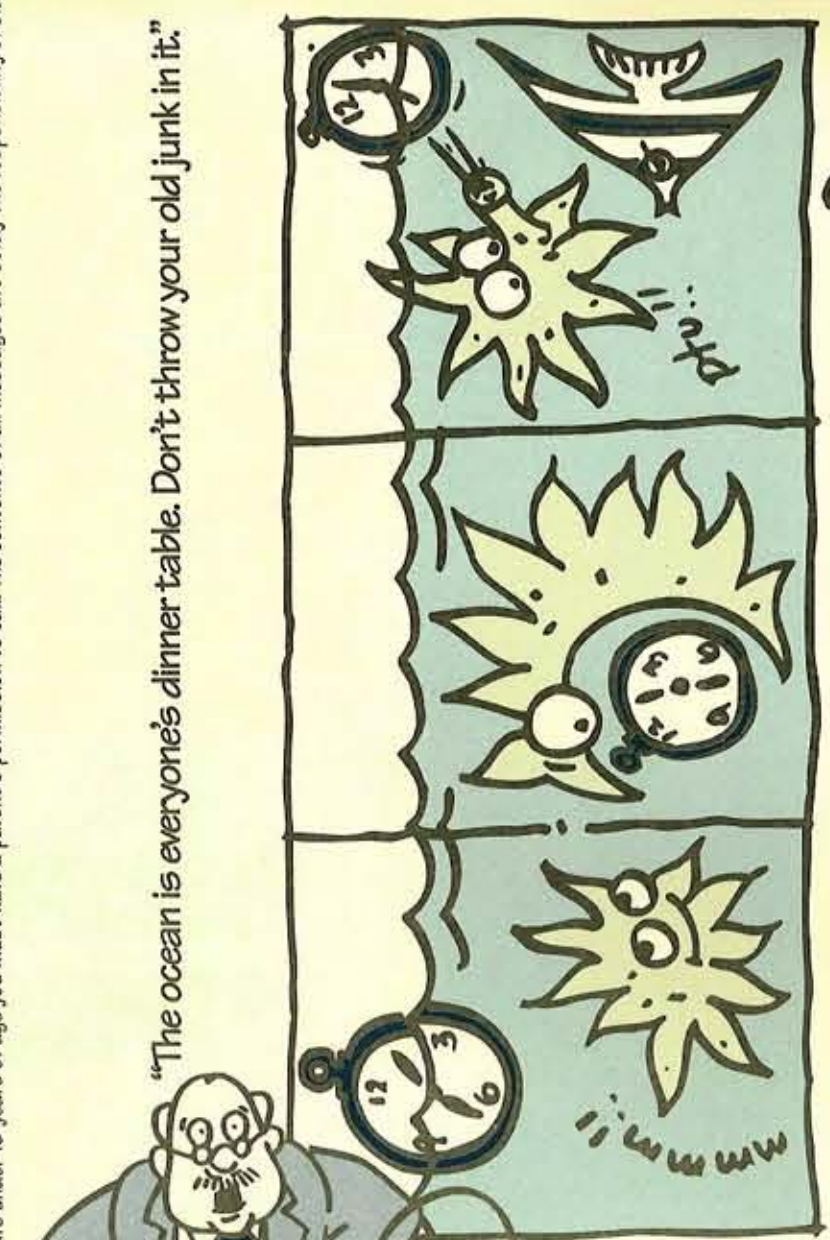
Secret code: 9731 hundreds of miles and

Across

- _____ your empty bottles, cans, and newspapers!
- Under the sea floor are vast deposits of crude _____.
- Sea urchins eat _____.
- Many tiny creatures build on top of each other to form colonies of bright color.
- "Man's friend," the _____.
- An _____ can digest only one thing at a time.
- _____ spills threaten both ocean and shore ecosystems.
- _____ bottles and cans should be recycled.
- Poseidon carried a _____ with which he could strike down his enemies.
- _____ threatens all the natural beauty and resources of our planet.
- Cetus is the name of a great whale king and also a _____.
- _____ waste should be disposed of properly. It threatens all ecosystems.
- We can fight pollution by promoting a _____ attitude.

Down

- A metal _____ over the propeller of your speedboat protects sea creatures from the blade.
- The beautiful _____ fish has spines that carry a deadly poison.
- Coral grows in _____ water near the ocean's surface. It needs light and water poor in nutrients.
- An ancient kingdom that sank under the sea.
- _____ Quest
- Popped balloons look like food to sea creatures. If they swallow a balloon, they will _____ on it.
- The God of the Sea. Sometimes called Neptune.
- Made of yellow nylon mesh, a _____ floats free in the water. It traps any creature that swims into it.
- Fertilizer _____ creates oil-eating bacteria.
- Large gentle "sea cow" who swims near the surface and is often injured by speedboats.
- Poachers use chlorine bleach to _____ tropical fish for sale to pet shops. The bleach kills coral and many other creatures.
- Say "_____" to illegal dumping!



ECO TIP:



ECO KIDS RULE!!!

Mirror Answers

1. Cans and travel balloons
2. Like the ones in the lab!! Good!!
3. Add "photosynthesis" OK?
4. Like the ones in the lab!! Good!!

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