OBSERVATION PUZZLE
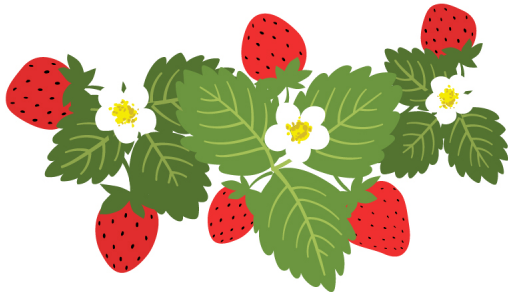## FOREST
Educational Eco Guide

Forests are amazing…

A forest is a place filled with trees. Trees are superheroes because they protect the world!

Trees clean the air as they breathe, and cool the planet so it won't get too hot. Tree roots clean rainwater, and hold onto soil so it won't wash away in storms. This keeps rivers and lakes healthy.

Forests are awesome because they provide homes for lots of animals, plants, insects, and people. Forests give us food and supplies like fruits, nuts, cinnamon, maple syrup, paper, furniture, and medicines.

But they are in trouble!

Deforestation:

Every day, people burn or cut down forests to build homes, farms, and roads. We log, or cut down trees, to make things like toilet paper and lumber.

Drilling & Mining:

We dig up oil and metal to make new plastic toys, clothes, and electronics. This causes pollution, getting land and water dirty and making trees and animals sick.

Climate Change:

We burn gas and coal to make energy for cars and buildings. But this makes the air dirty, making the planet hotter and drier. With less rain, trees can't get enough water to grow.

You can help!

Learn about wildlife

Do you know scientists can check the health of a forest by counting the types of birds or trees there? Find out which animals and plants live in your local woods. The more you know, the more you can help!

Use less plastic

Some trash is worse than others. Over time, cotton, paper, and wood will turn into healthy soil. But plastic pollutes forever. Bring a reusable bottle instead of buying juice boxes or plastic bottles.
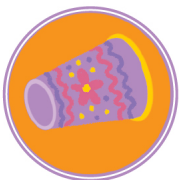
Look before you buy

Need something made of wood or paper? Look for the letters "FSC" (like on the box of this puzzle). This means it is from a sustainably harvested forest. Instead of cutting it all down, loggers take only some trees each year, so the forest stays healthy.

Choose to reuse

If we use things over and over, we won't need so much mining, drilling, and logging to make new stuff. Some places repair or reuse electronics, sports equipment, toys, clothes, etc. Find out how to reuse in your community, and swap things with other families!

Pick up litter

Trash is dangerous. Animals and birds get sick from eating it, or they get tangled and can't move or fly. Clean up to keep them safe.

Plant some trees

Don't have room to plant a tree at home? Give money to a conservation group that protects forests, or volunteer to plant or water trees on city streets or public land.

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