ECO-LESSON
ZERO
WASTE

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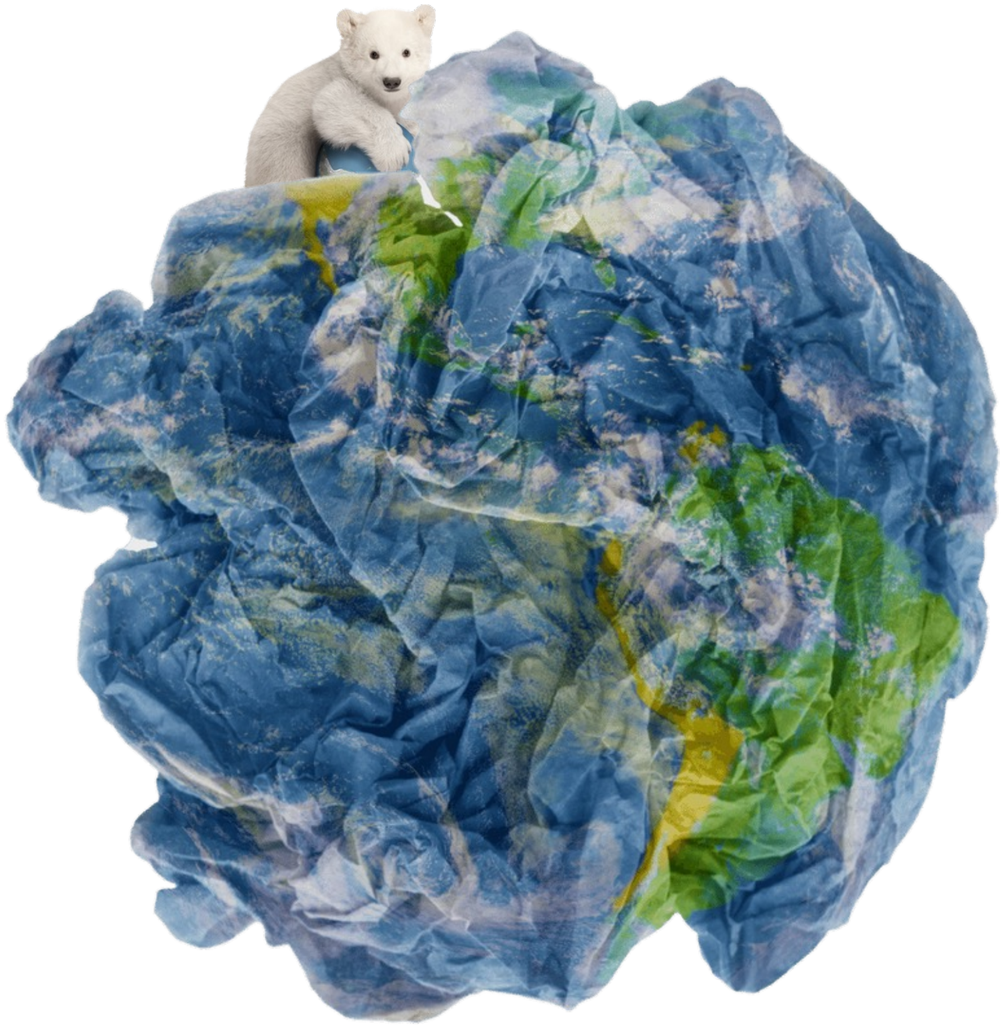
WHY DO WE URGENTLY NEED TO REDUCE OUR WASTE?



Answer: TO PROTECT THE PLANET AND OUR HEALTH! FIND OUT HOW TO DO IT!

AT THE END OF EACH ECO-LESSON YOU'LL FIND A VARIETY OF ADDITIONAL MATERIALS: PRACTICAL ADVICE; COMIC STRIPS THAT YOU CAN LAUGH AT, BUT ALSO LEARN SOMETHING FROM; RECIPES, IDEAS FOR INDEPENDENT ACTIVITIES, GAMES, ETC.

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WHAT IS WASTE?

AND WHY DO WE CALL IT WASTE AND NOT RUBBISH?

We intentionally use the word “waste” because it is the “scientific” name for rubbish.

We treat the rubbish bin scientifically - as a bank of recyclable materials.

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WE ARE DROWNING IN RUBB...

... IN WASTE!

regg Segal '7 Days of Garbage'

Every Pole generates 329 kg of waste per year.

That's more than 1316 kg for a family of 4:
about the weight of a small elephant!

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WHAT IS AN ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT?

Every object requires an enormous amount of energy and raw materials to manufacture, package and transport it.
Waste is generated at every stage of its life.

THIS IS CALLED ITS ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT.

LET'S TRACE THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT OF OUR RED CAR:

5 WASTE BIN

1 MANUFACTURING

4 SHOP

2 PACKAGING

3 TRANSPORT

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WHAT IS THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

OF EVERYDAY OBJECTS

Every time you buy a new pair of jeans or a toothbrush (or a car), you repeat the same production cycle.

Each time, this involves a lot of waste and chemical pollution which is harmful to our health.

32 kg of raw materials and 8,000 l of water were used to produce 1 pair of jeans (weighing 600 g)

The production of 1 toothbrush (weighing 5g) involves as much as 1.5 kg of waste!

1 car (weighing 1 tonne) requires 70 tonnes of different materials!

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PACKAGING

TAKES UP A THIRD OF YOUR WASTE BIN!

The materials used for product packaging are mainly plastic, paper, metal and glass. They are used to make cans, bottles and all kinds of disposable bags and trays.

Some of this waste can be recycled, but (as we already know) huge amounts of natural resources and energy have already been used to produce it, so recycling is not enough.

To protect our planet and slow down climate change, it is even better not to use it.

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SOMETHING MUST CHANGE!

WE NEED TO ACT TO PROTECT NATURE!

Even if you decide to make just one small change, the most important thing is that you are doing something! It may seem a little overwhelming at times, but remember that with this small change you are setting an example for others.

You never know who you may inspire, or who will want to follow you. Small changes made by many people lead to big effects!

WASTE = being wasteful

ECO-LESSON ZERO WASTE

FOR TEACHERS
ECO-LESSON 1: WHY DO WE URGENTLY NEED TO REDUCE OUR WASTE?

THE WASTE CRISIS The increasing number of people, consumer lifestyle, focus on ever newer things have caused us to drown in waste. Every Pole produces 329 kg of waste per year, that's more than 1316 kg for a family of four.

1/3 of the waste bin is taken up by packaging (cans, bottles and all kinds of disposable bags, boxes and trays). The materials they are made of are mainly plastic, as well as metal and glass. Some of this waste can be recycled, but this is not enough, as natural resources and a lot of energy have already been used to produce them.

THE ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT Waste is generated at every stage of a product's life. Every product requires a huge amount of energy and raw materials to produce, package, transport, store and dispose of it - this is called the ecological footprint. We are only seeing the tip of the iceberg of the problem. Here are examples of the ecological footprint of several items of everyday use:
1 toothbrush (50 g) - 1.5 kg of waste
1 pair of jeans (600 g) - 32 kg of raw materials + 8000 l of water
1 car (1 tonne) - 70 tonnes of various materials

How can we minimise the impact of our consumption on the exhaustion of natural resources? By reducing waste and not wasting resources - in other words, zero waste activities. This is the so-called **5Rs: refuse - reduce - reuse - repair - recycle**. It is important to apply them in **this order**. We'll tell you more about it in the next eco-lesson.

Zero waste is a lifestyle whereby we consciously try not to waste resources and generate as little waste as possible, thereby not polluting the environment. Zero waste is now a globally recognised movement. Its members advocate eco-friendly alternatives and are aware of their own impact on the environment. They deliberately use the word **WASTE rather than rubbish**. Rubbish is associated with something worthless**.** Waste is a valuable resource and raw materials can be recovered from it.

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Famille presque ZERO DECHET for ever

The beautiful illustrations used in the materials are by Bloutouf (www.bloutouf.fr). We took our inspiration from the children's book ,'Les Zenfants presque Zero Dechet'. Its authors are Benedicte Moret (that's Bloutouf!) and Jeremie Pichon, authors of the book and blog ,'Famille presque Zero Dechet'.

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