Follow That Trail!

EPA

United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Solid Waste
and Emergency Response
(5305W)

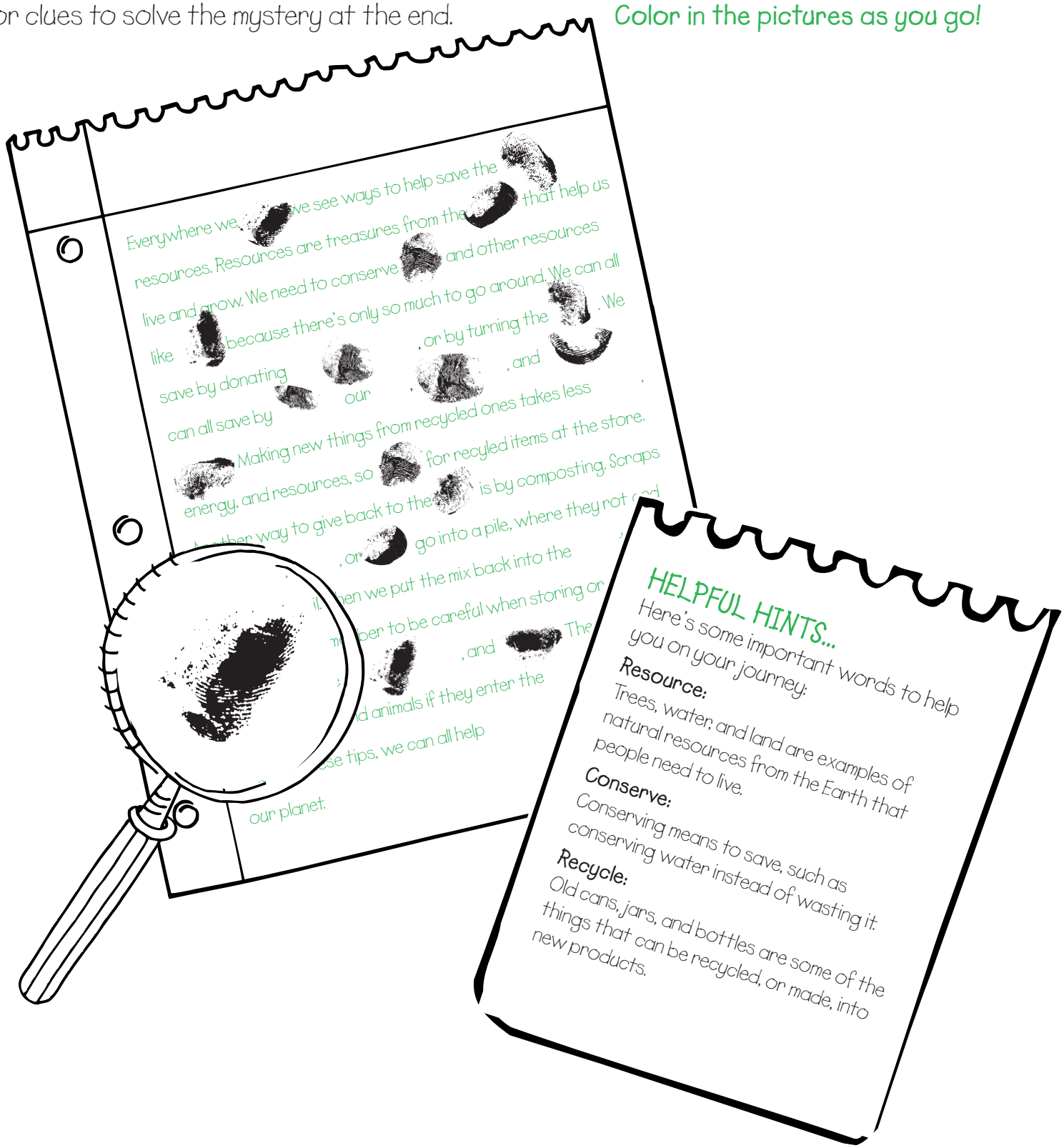
EPA530-K-98-001
September 1998
www.epa.gov/osw

Are You Ready to Be a Detective?

Look!

Someone dropped an important note, but sticky fingers wiped out some of the words. Follow the suspect's footprints around the house to learn more about the Earth and its resources, and to look for clues to solve the mystery at the end.

Color in the pictures as you go!

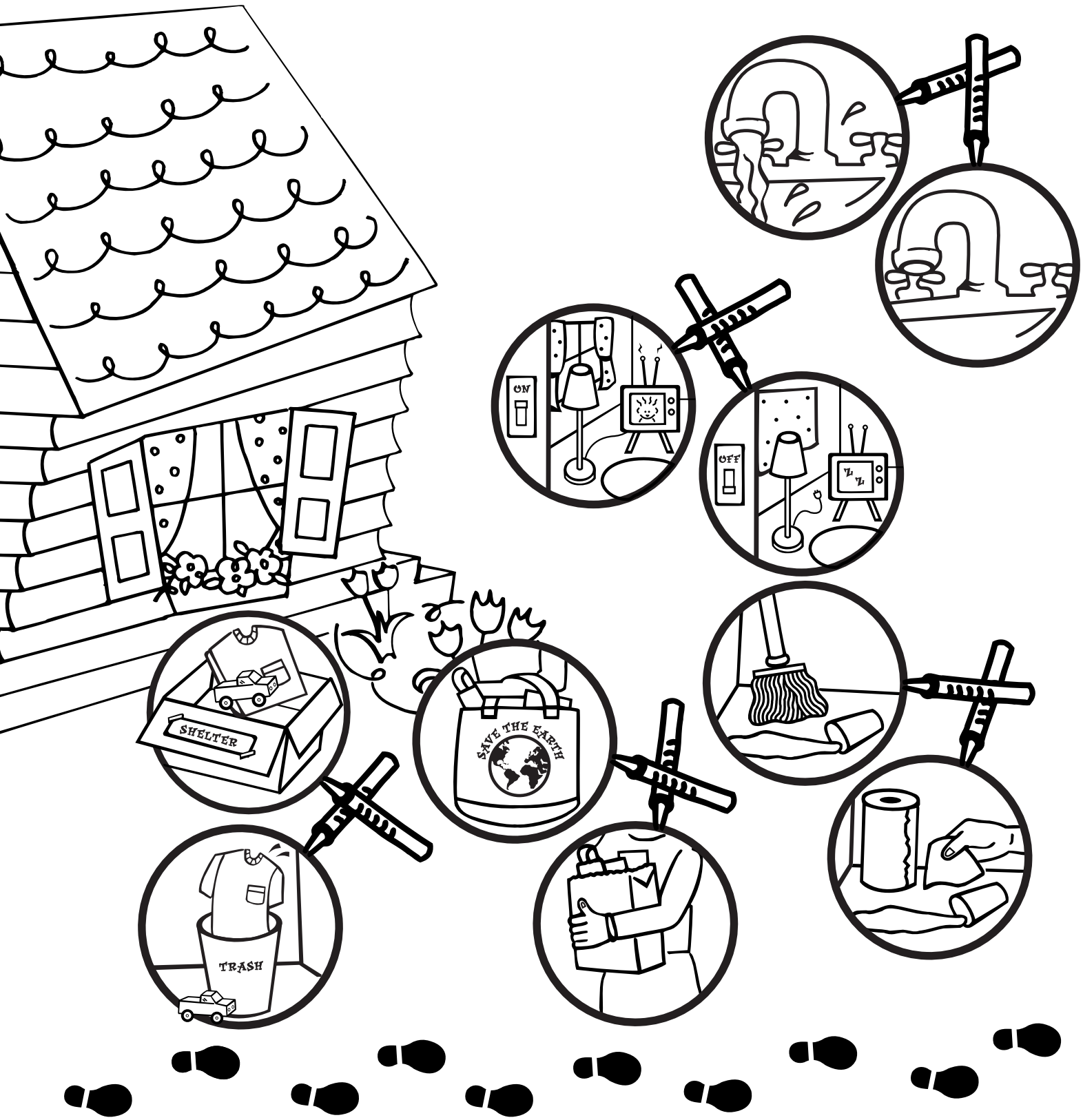


What's a Resource?

Wait! The suspect stopped at the tree. A tree is a natural resource because it is a part of the Earth that helps animals, plants, and people live and grow. Trees make food like apples and nuts and provide wood for items like paper and furniture. Air, water, and land are other types of resources. Look at the pictures below. Can you put a circle around the things that come from trees or wood?

Search for Saving Resources

Now that you've followed the trail inside the house, look around for awhile. In each room, one person is saving resources while the other is not. Saving resources is important because there is only so much to go around. When we save, we conserve good things from the Earth, like resources. Can you detect the savings and color the best choice?

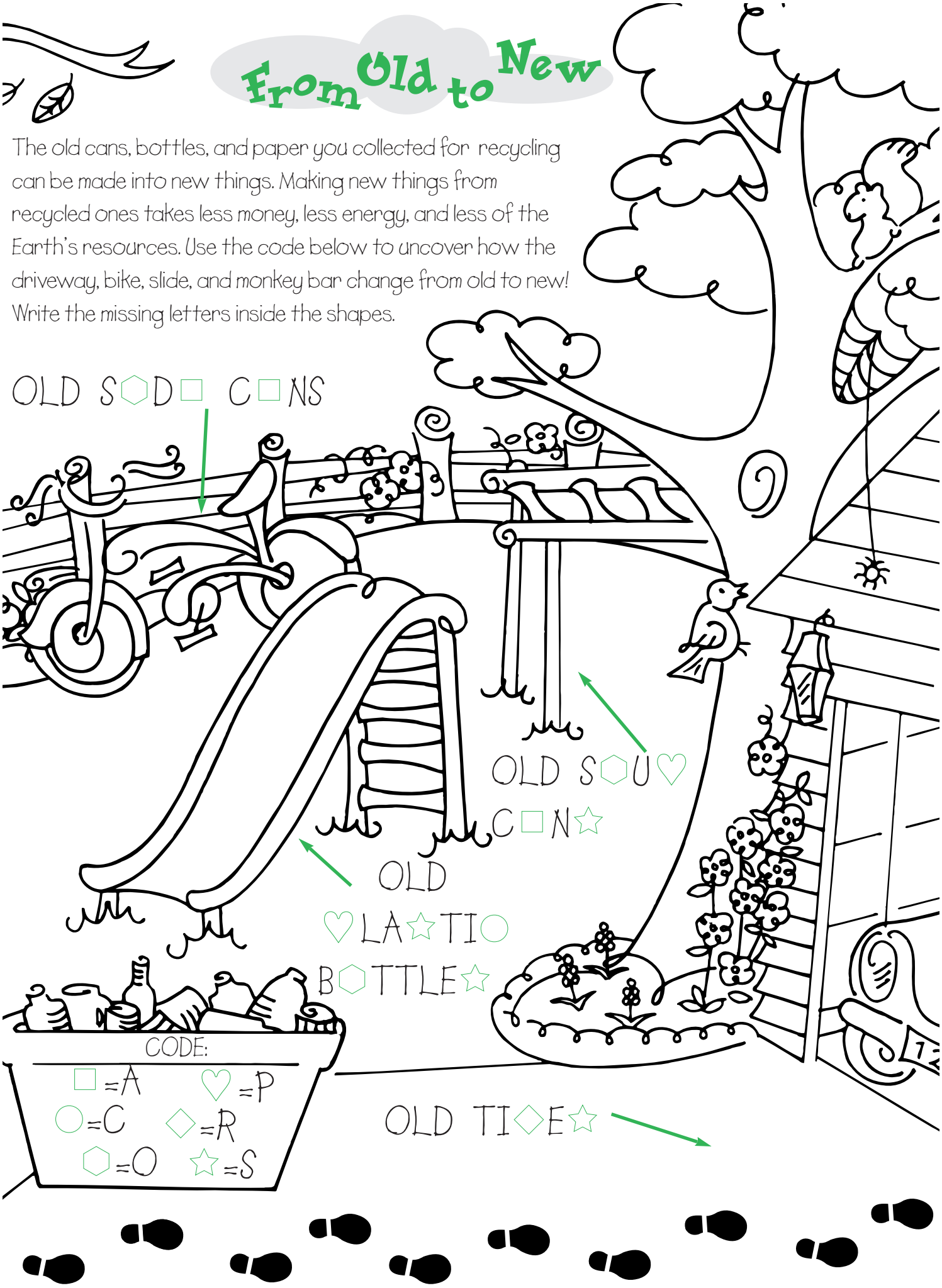


Recycling Saves Resources

Something is wrong with this picture! Old cans, plastic bottles, newspaper, and glass don't have to be thrown away. They can be turned into something new and used again. This is called recycling. Can you circle the things that belong in a recycling bin?

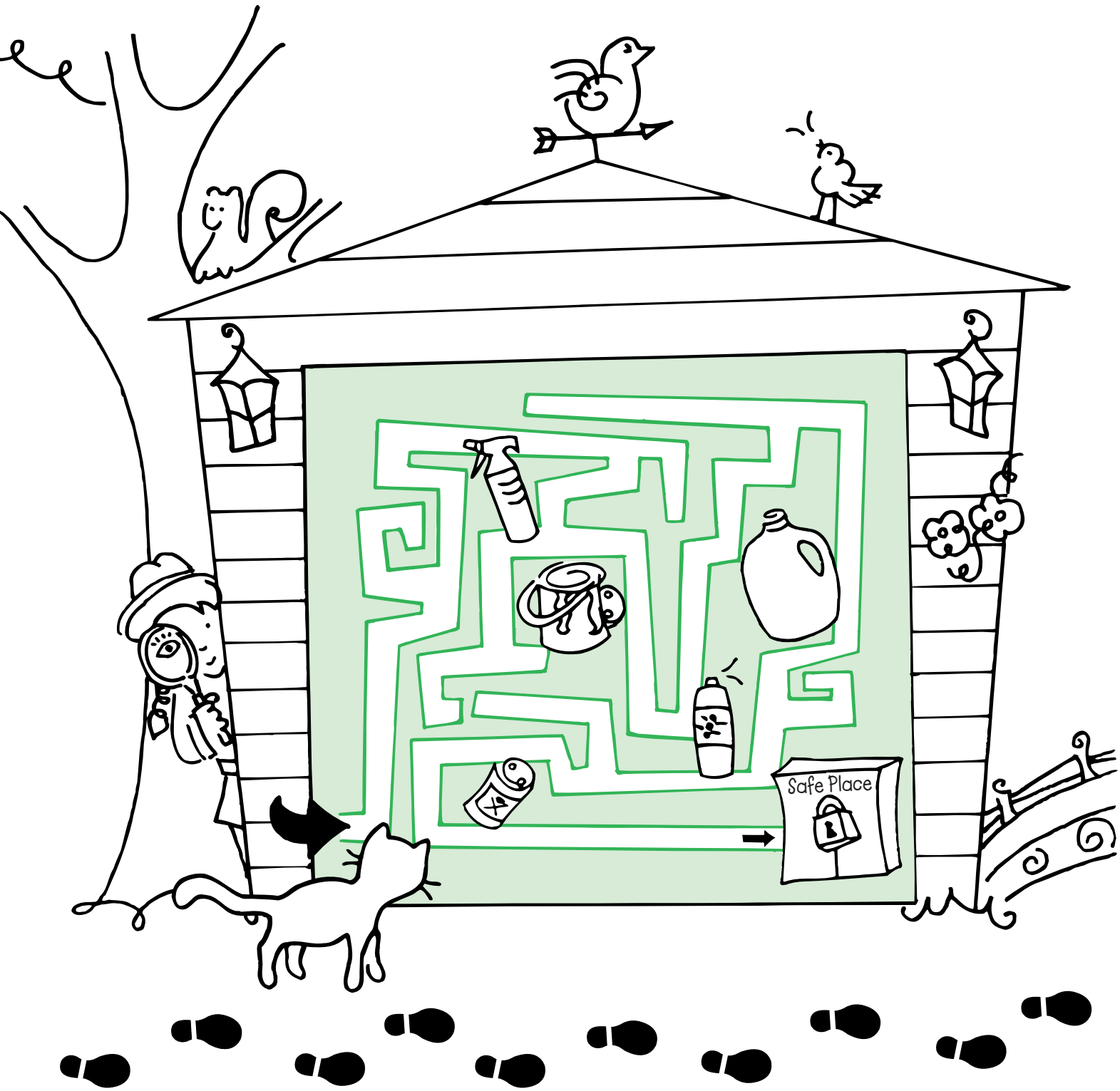
From Old to New

The old cans, bottles, and paper you collected for recycling can be made into new things. Making new things from recycled ones takes less money, less energy, and less of the Earth's resources. Use the code below to uncover how the driveway, bike, slide, and monkey bar change from old to new! Write the missing letters inside the shapes.



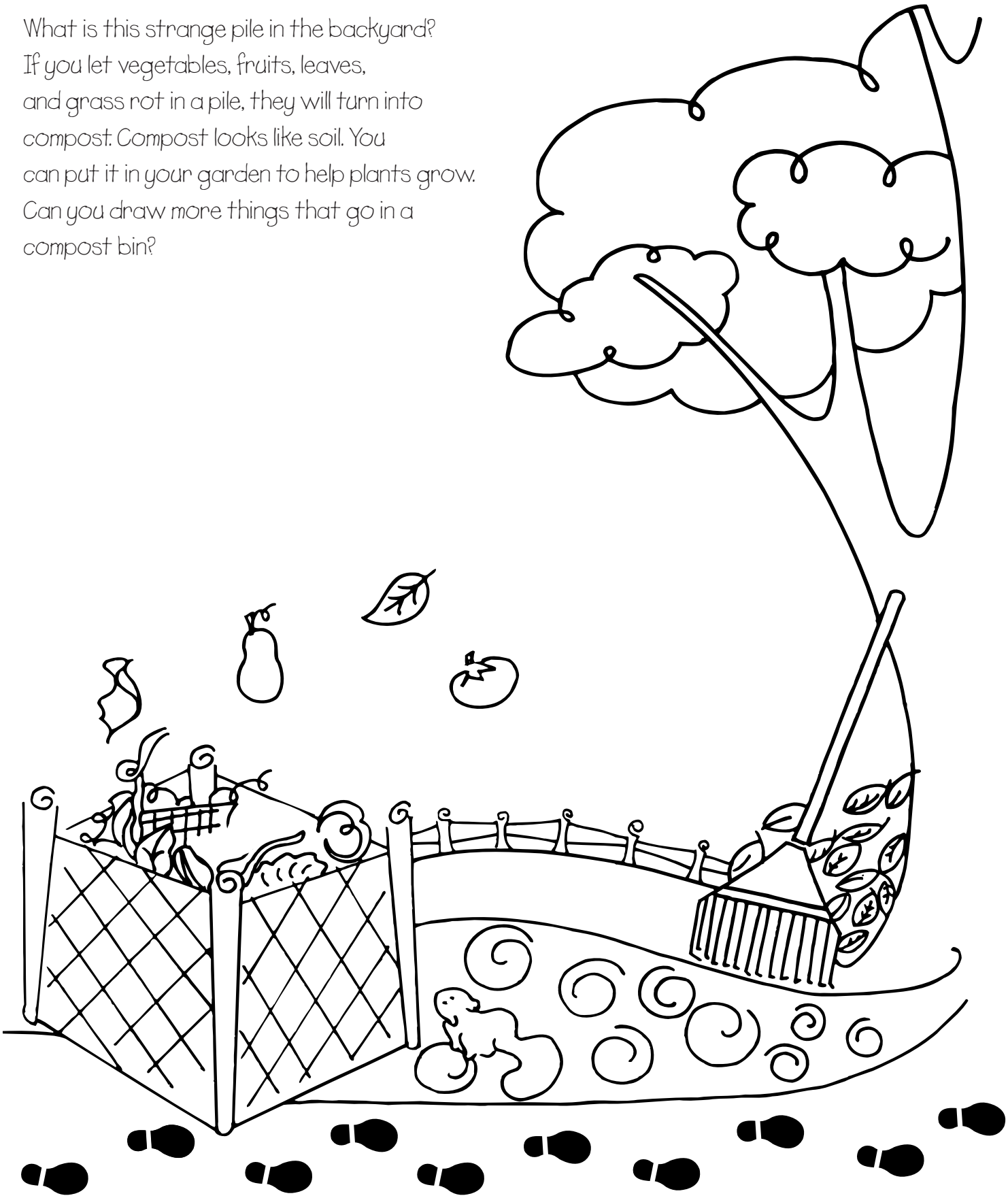
Handle with Care

Walk carefully through the next part of the trail, detective. The paint, bug spray, and cleaners in this garage can be dangerous. Some have a poison sticker so you know not to eat or drink them. Take care while moving them and store them in safe places. Can you find the place where they can be stored safely until they can be removed properly from your home?



What's Compost?

What is this strange pile in the backyard? If you let vegetables, fruits, leaves, and grass rot in a pile, they will turn into compost. Compost looks like soil. You can put it in your garden to help plants grow. Can you draw more things that go in a compost bin?



Great Job, Detective!

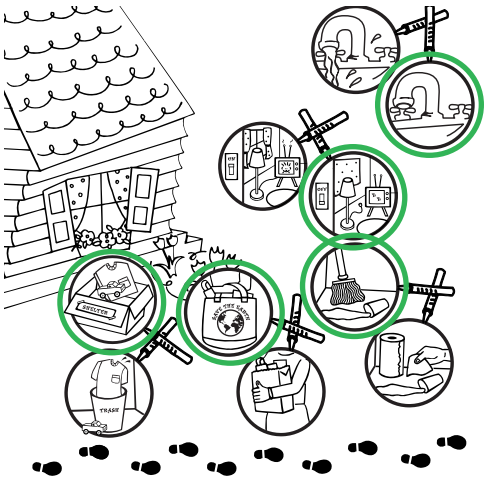
You spotted everything the suspect saw on his trail. Now you can read the note aloud to learn the answers to the mystery. And you'll find out about your next assignment.

Everywhere we **LOOK** we see ways to help save 🌍's resources. Resources are treasures from the 🌍 that help us live and grow. We need to conserve 🌲 and other resources like 〰 and oil because there's only so much to go around. We can all save by donating 👕 or by turning the 📺 **OFF**. We can all save by 🗑 our 🥫, 📰, and 🍾. Making new things from recycled ones takes less 💵, energy, and resources, so **LOOK** for recyled items at the store. Another way to give back to the 🌍 is by composting. Scraps like 🥕, 🍎, or 🍃 go into a pile, where they rot and become like soil. Then we put the mix back into the 🌍 to help 🌱 grow. Remember to be careful when storing or moving some things, like 🥫, 🧴, and 🧪. They can hurt 🧍, 🌱, and animals if they enter the 〰 or ground. If we follow each of these tips, we can all help our planet.

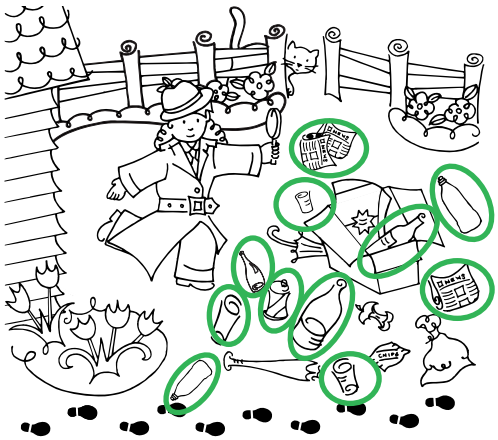
Answers

What's a Resource?

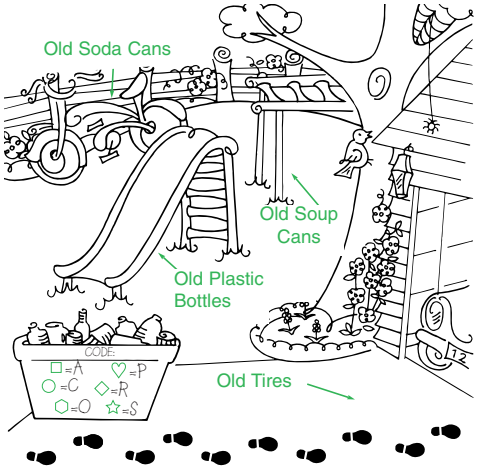
Search for Saving Resources



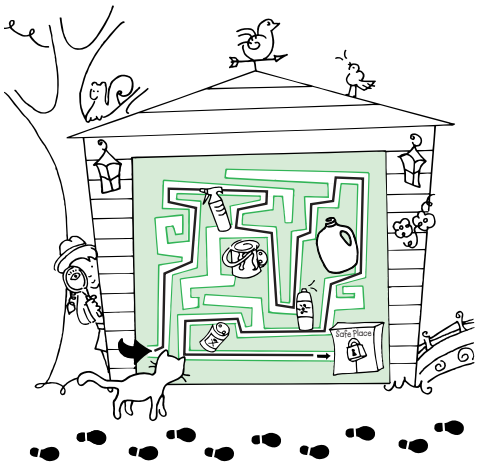
Recycling Saves Resources



From Old to New

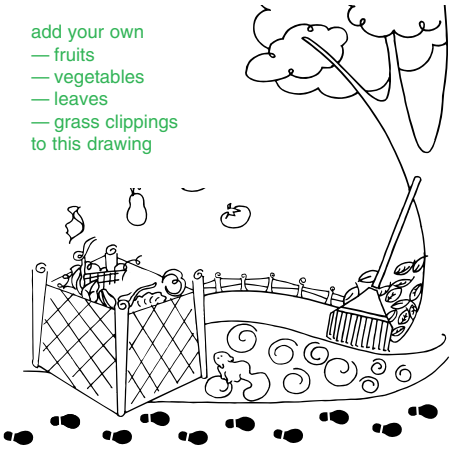


Handle with Care



What's Compost?

add your own
— fruits
— vegetables
— leaves
— grass clippings
to this drawing



Printed on paper that contains at least 20 percent postconsumer fiber.