



Kids for Cleaner Ways

Fall 2003

A Kids Publication from PA CleanWays, Inc.

Kids Are Fed Up With Trash!

After reading this year's entries in PA CleanWays' "Litter in My World" essay contest, we KNOW that lots of you are frustrated by the trash and litter that are tossed about in the places you live,

play, and go to school. We were excited to learn that so many kids realized they CAN make a difference and that maybe adults can learn from them!

Here are some quotes from the essays as well as artwork entered into the Poster Contest. Thanks so much to all of you who entered!
(artwork and quotes on page 2)

How Many Cigarette Butts ARE There?

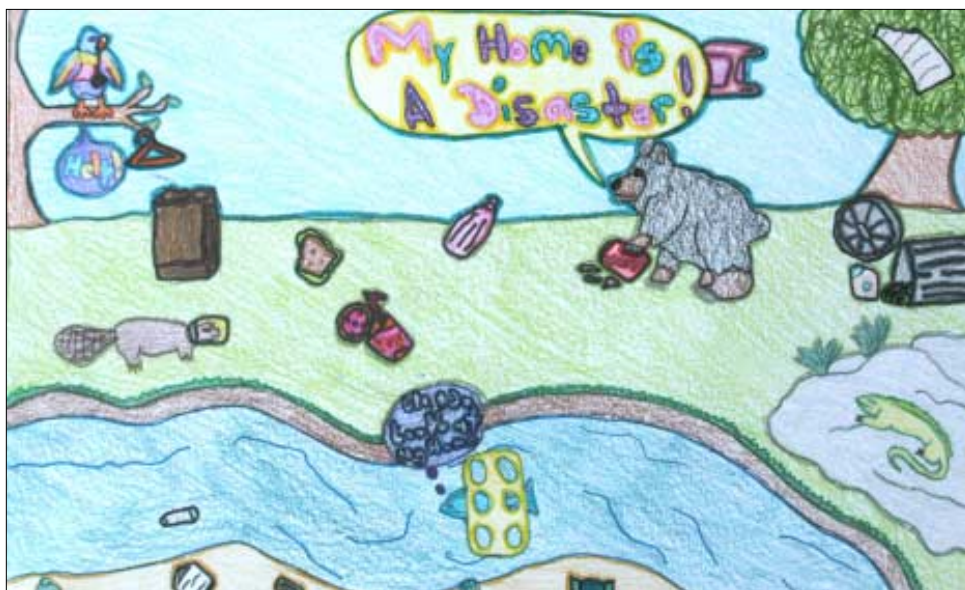
High school members of the Junior Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Association (Jr PLEWA) took a look at what local families and visitors saw when they wandered along Dobbins Landing to watch the sunset. They discovered something unexpected: Everyone who traveled that "attractive" walkway needed to navigate a maze of cigarette butts. Instead of looking out to view the waters of Presque Isle Bay, their vision was drawn to the ground beneath. The students wondered,

"How many cigarette butts ARE there?"

Presque Isle State Park is a beautiful little finger of land that curves out into Lake Erie and attracts vacationers, fishermen, boaters and swimmers. Since cigarette butts were the number one form of litter in Presque Isle State Park and since they released harmful chemicals into the drinking water of Erie, in March 2003, Jr PLEWA students and educators decided to answer the question,

"How many cigarette butts ARE there?"

(continued on page 3)



What Happens To YOUR Trash After It Leaves the Curb?

After setting your trash out at the curb and properly disposing of recyclable items, have you ever wondered where all that waste goes AFTER it leaves the curb?

Finding out can be fun! PA CleanWays has put together a "Community Investigation" that

lets you dig out the answers and discover where all that trash goes.



Look at the kinds of questions asked on Page 3, then go to the Kids Zone on our website at www.pacleanways.org and download the whole investigation!

Kids are Fed Up With Trash!

(continued from page 1)



"You might ask, how can you help? First, you can go around your neighborhood and pick up the trash. You can get into programs like "adopt a highway" and not just make your own community's roads cleaner, but you can make others' cleaner, too. You can join a PA CleanWays group and help all over PA to get it cleaner."

Lucy C, age 12 Berks County

"Another way to keep litter down is to recycle. The products we use now can be reused as something else later. For example old newspapers are sometimes made into greeting cards and wrapping paper. Recycling keeps litter off the streets and creates jobs."

Maura U, age 11 Delaware County



"I have a responsibility not to litter. I also have a responsibility to pick up other peoples' litter. It all starts in my room, and then by picking up trash in my neighborhood and at my school. My good example will make others around me pick up litter. If everyone does their part we won't have litter problems."

Erin F, age 10 Dauphin County

Erie Youth Receive \$27,000 Growing Greener Grant

When former Earth Force students in Erie, PA moved on to high school, they realized that there weren't many opportunities to really make a difference in their environment. These kids didn't wait for something to happen – they created it! The energetic group worked with Earth Force guidance to write two grants and during the 2001–2002 school year, were awarded a Department of Environmental Protection Growing Greener Grant for \$27,000 to start a Junior Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed Association (JrPLEWA).

Alison Phillips, one of the grant writers, had been an Earth Force participant for six years and realized the value of "creating change" in her earlier learning experience. When asked what she was most excited about after receiving the grant, her response was,

"Realizing that you can make a difference."

JrPLEWA's first goal was to collect information about their smaller watersheds and to design projects that focused on activities that would protect, help to restore, and promote development that would help the Pennsylvania Lake Erie Watershed stay

environmentally healthy for a long time. They were especially interested in teaching people about nonpoint source pollution - pollution that isn't dropped directly into the water, but gets washed into the water.

Their first discovery was that cigarette butts are the number one form of litter on the beaches of Presque Isle. These cigarette butts take many years to decompose, and release chemicals into the environment when they do decompose. Further research taught them that **five cigarette butts per smoker per day are littered by the 1.3 billion smokers in the world.** Thousands and thousands of them get washed into water supplies around the world.



JrPLEWA designed a Cigarette Butt Campaign that they hope will raise public awareness about the effects of cigarette butts on the environment by encouraging businesses to place stickers with their slogan **"Keep 'em outta the bay, throw them butts in a tray!"** in their windows and cigarette butt trays on their properties.

How Many Cigarette Butts...?

(continued from page 1)

In one and a half hours the students collected nearly 5,300 cigarette butts around the Bicentennial Tower and along Dobbins Landing. Another "butt" assessment was conducted in August 2003. In two hours the students collected over 7,500 cigarette butts along State Street from the Bayfront Parkway to Eighth Street.

During the cigarette butt assessments, JrPLEWA students noticed hundreds of cigarette butts around trash cans and "butt containers" intended to keep them off the ground. In addition to the "butt" collection, students handed out foil cigarette butt packets to people who were smoking and encouraged them to dispose of their used butts properly.

The students' next step was to find a way to change the practices of Erie smokers and educate the residents of Erie about the effects of litter on their environment. JrPLEWA students approached the businesses, stores and restaurants along the path of the assessment and asked them to support the Cigarette Butt Campaign. Those that said "yes" placed a Cigarette Butt Campaign sticker on their window and cigarette butt containers on their property. In addition, businesses will provide the foil cigarette butt packets for their customers and employees.

In May, JrPLEWA students presented their campaign to the Erie City Council and asked for assistance in establishing permanent signs in the downtown area with their campaign slogan, "Keep 'em outta the bay, throw them butts in a tray." The students also encouraged the council to enforce the existing littering fine, which would help to keep cigarette butts from being tossed onto streets.

For JrPLEWA students, learning about the environment and cleaning it up are not enough. The knowledge they collect must be shared with others or else the policies and practices that have been around for years will continue into the next generation.

Check out these websites:

www.presqueisle.org
www.cigarettelitter.org

Call 1-800-243-2324 for info on receiving free foil cigarette butt packets



What Happens to YOUR Trash?

(continued from page 1)

? Is my community mandated (or required by law) to have trash pickup?

? Is my school mandated to have recycling?

? Who is my recycling coordinator? Where are they located?

? Does my community take leaves in the fall for composting?

? What landfills does my community use?

? How much landfill space is left?

Share what you've learned with your family and those at school. If you think that "something's missing" to better manage the trash your community produces, then help promote some change. Each one of us can make a difference!



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Kids Making a Difference



Students and faculty of SS Cosmas & Damian Catholic School in Punxsutawney, Jefferson County, adopted a large number of streets around their school.



After participating in three Aultman Run Watershed cleanups in Indiana County, the girls from Adelphoi Village decided to formally adopt Locust Road.

???? What Can You Do ???

- Check out our website to see if there's a PA CleanWays chapter in your county. Call and see what's happening.
- Log onto Kids Zone for fun activities and info.
- Support your school's recycling program or help start one.
- "Adopt-a-highway" with your family or youth group.
- Volunteer to help with an illegal dump cleanup.
- Become a member of PA CleanWays.



*"Recycle your plastics, your newspapers too, It's very important to keep your skies blue. So our children now know what they need to do, It's a job for everybody, and that means YOU."
Logan R, age 10 Philadelphia County*





Kids Crossword

Read the newsletter to find the answers!

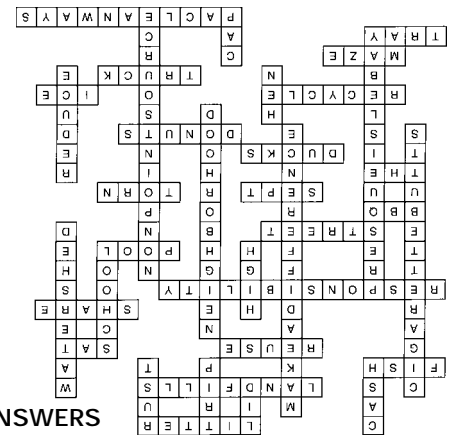
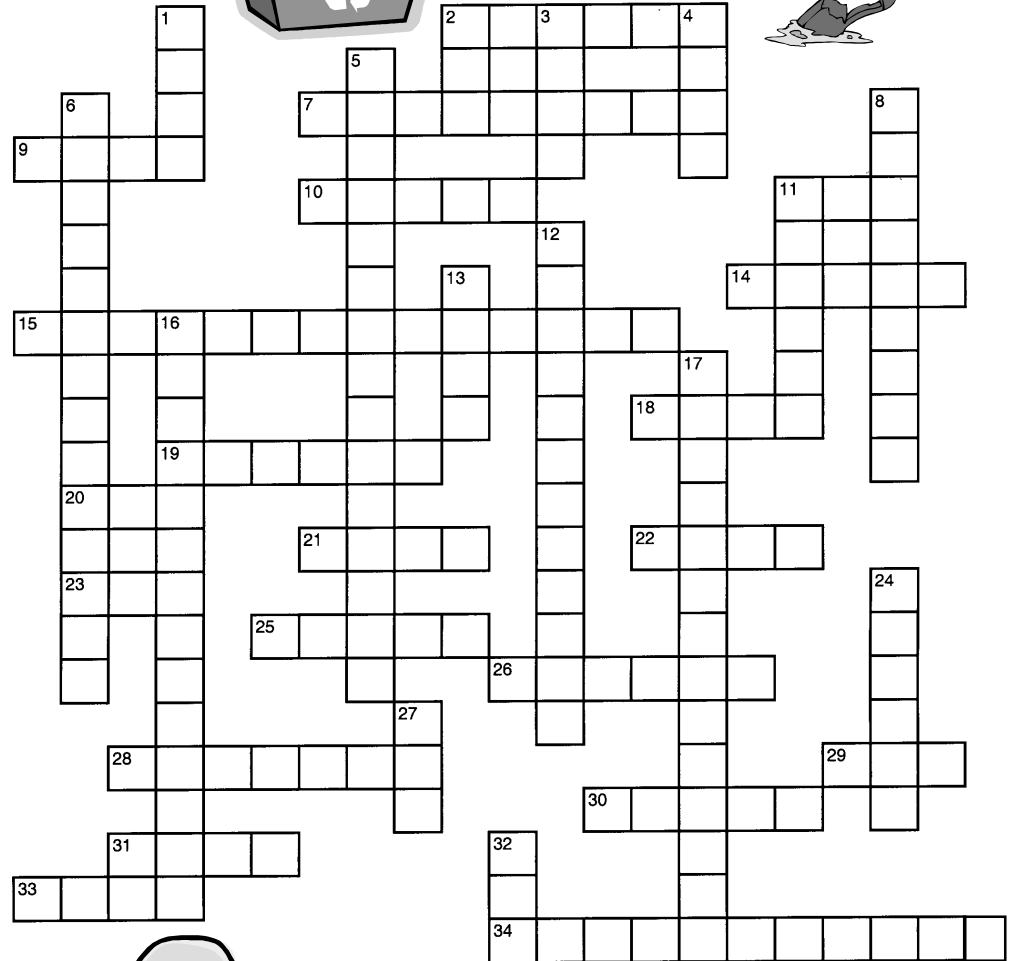
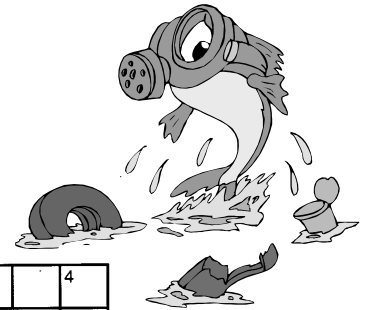


Across

2. Things left where they don't belong
7. Most of our garbage goes here
9. Water creatures harmed by litter
10. Use again — part of this symbol
11. Little Miss Muffet ___ on a tuffet
14. To use with others
15. We each have a ___ to keep our environment clean
18. You can swim here
19. Adopting a ___ helps keep it litter-free
20. A cookout
21. Abbr. for September
22. Ripped
25. These get tangled in discarded fishing line and 6-pack holders
26. Sweet breakfast treats
28. To give something another life — part of this symbol
29. Frozen water
30. Used to haul big loads
31. Cigarette butts in Erie created a ___ to walk through
33. "Keep 'em outta the bay, throw them butts in a ___!"
34. This organization helps organize litter and illegal dump cleanups

Down

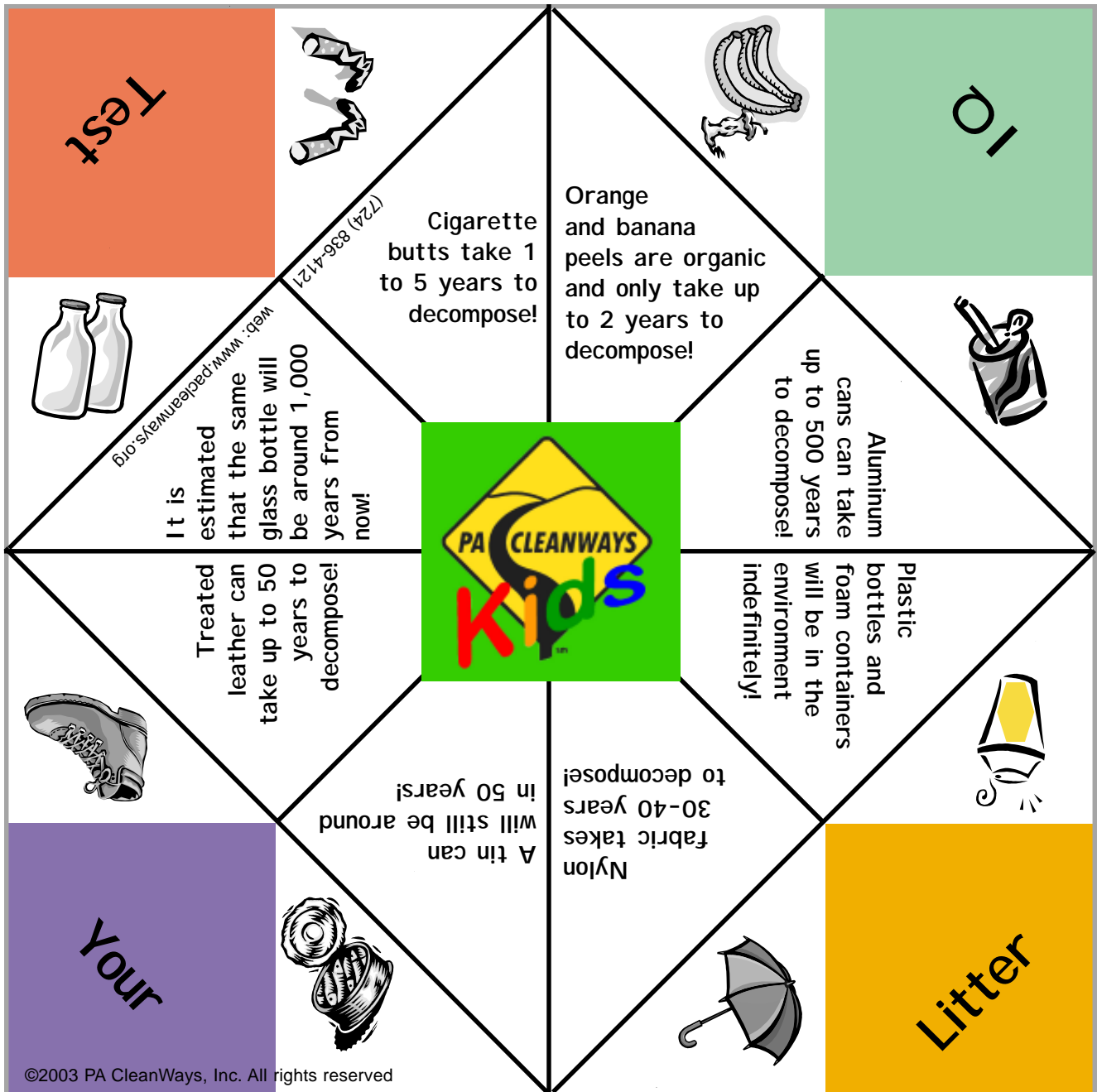
1. Some states give you this for bottles and cans
2. A cover
3. To stumble
4. This happens to steel cans when left outside for a long time
5. The students who wrote the grant to start JrPLEWA wanted to "_____"
6. The most common litter on beaches
8. All the land that drains into a body of water
11. Kids all go here
12. If we each cleaned up our own ____, the environment would be healthier
13. ___ school students wrote a Growing Greener Grant to form JrPLEWA
16. JrPLEWA students want to keep butts out of here
17. Cigarette butts thrown on the street that wash into the water are this kind of pollution
24. To lessen — part of this symbol
27. Female poultry
31. Mother
32. Wear this on your head



ANSWERS

Litter IQ Game

Follow the directions below and make a magic Litter IQ Game!



1. Cut off white paper around the edges.
2. With the printed side down, fold each corner to the center point.
3. Turn the folded paper over so the flaps are facing down.
4. Once again, fold each corner to the center point.
5. Fold in half and crease to make a rectangle, then
6. unfold and fold in half the opposite direction, still making a rectangle, and crease again.
7. Using both hands, place thumbs and index fingers under flaps.
8. Push toward the center until a pyramid shape forms.
9. Using two hands, place your thumbs and forefingers into the pockets.
9. Ask a friend to pick a color and open and close the game in alternating direction for each letter of the word.
10. Have your friend pick a picture and guess how long it takes for that item to decompose. Lift the flap to find the answer.
11. Take turns guessing.