

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN ALGAE GROWS IN OUR RIVERS?

- PLANTS AND ANIMALS DIE
- SMELLY GASES FORM - IT STINKS!
- A GREEN SLUDGE GROWS WHICH LOOKS HORRIBLE
- HUMANS CAN BE HARMED
- WE HAVE TO STOP USING THE RIVER FOR RECREATION



SAFE CLEANING PRODUCTS YOU CAN USE...



CAN YOU ANSWER THESE QUESTIONS?

YOUR PARENTS MIGHT LIKE TO HELP.

- * DOES YOUR FAMILY COMPOST GARDEN WASTE AND VEGETABLE SCRAPS?
- * DO YOU SWEEP LEAVES OR GRASS AWAY FROM YOUR DRAINS?
- * DOES YOUR FAMILY WASH THE CAR ON THE LAWN?
- * DO YOU MAKE SURE FERTILISER DOES NOT WASH INTO DRAINS?
- * DOES YOUR FAMILY USE PHOSPHORUS FREE DETERGENT?
- * DO YOU PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG?
- * CAN YOU AND YOUR FAMILY MAKE CHANGES TO REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF PHOSPHORUS THAT GOES DOWN THE DRAIN AND INTO THE RIVER?

PLEASE CIRCLE

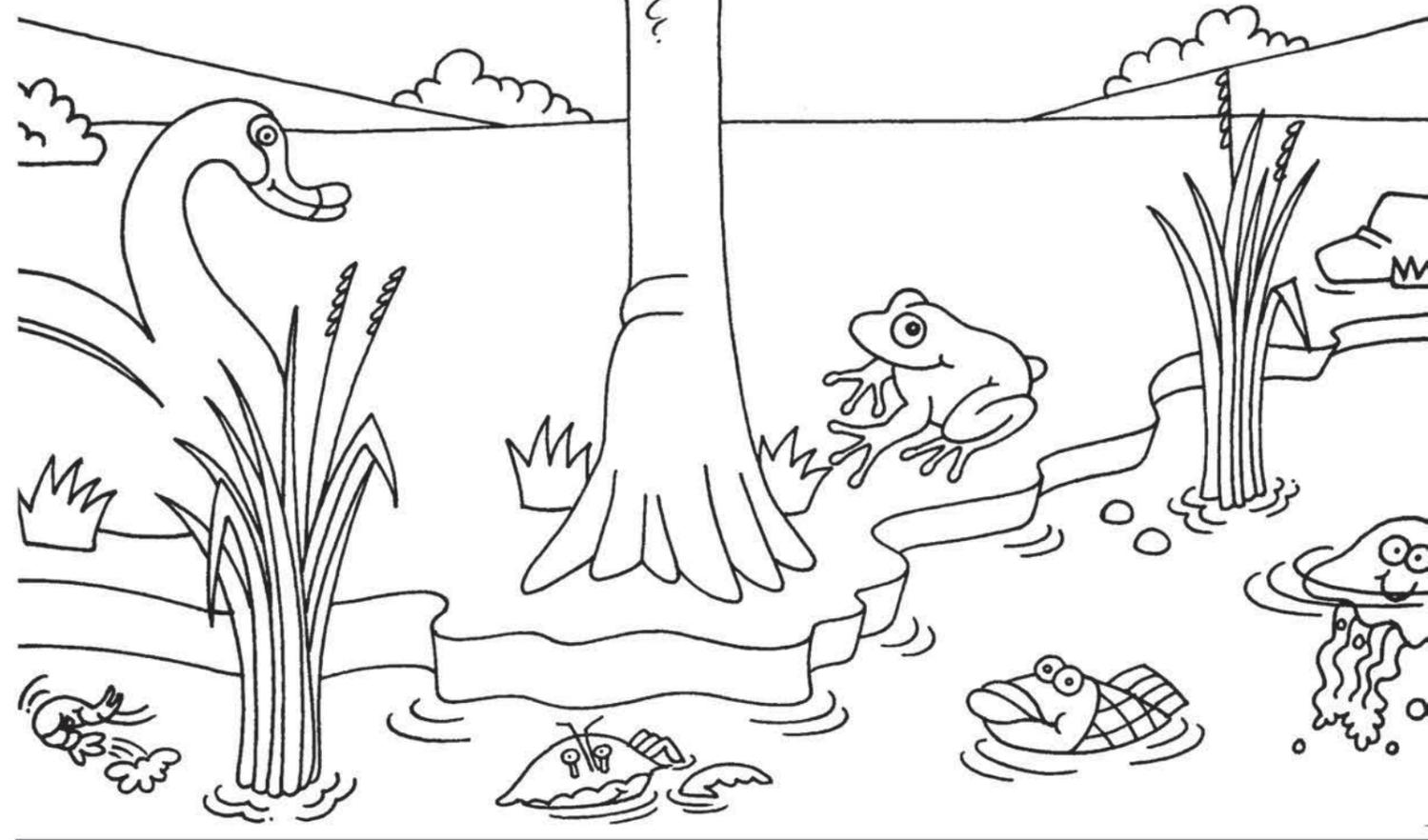
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|-----|----|
| YES | NO |

IF YOU ANSWERED 'YES' TO MOST OF THESE QUESTIONS THEN...

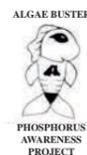
OUR RIVERS WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU!

WE CAN ALL MAKE A DIFFERENCE, TELL YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!

OUR RIVERS NEED YOU



For more information please contact the Phosphorus Awareness Project on 9458 5664.

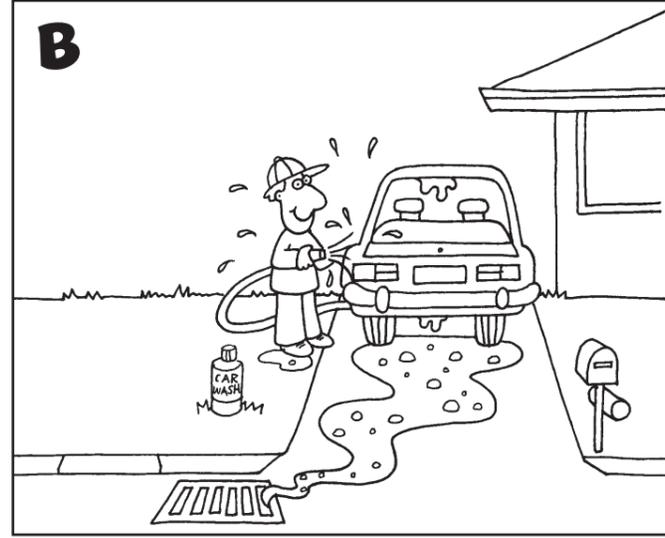
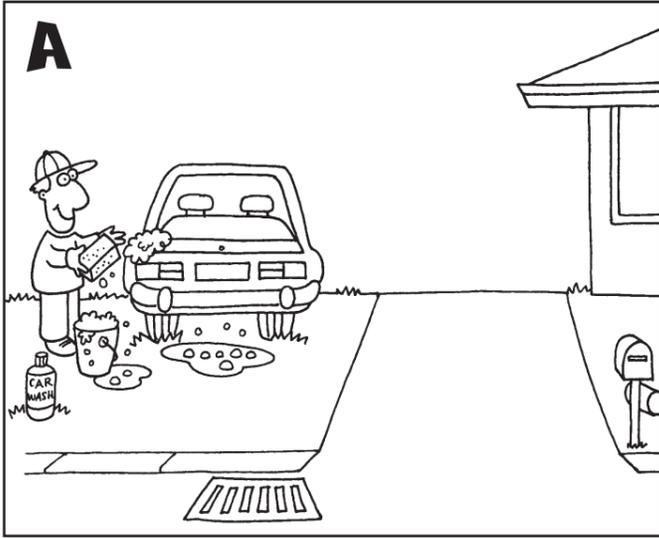


The Phosphorus Awareness Project is a community campaign aiming to preserve the health of the Swan and Canning Rivers. The Project is managed by the South East Regional Centre for Urban Landcare and is supported by the Swan River Trust.



HELP KEEP OUR RIVERS HEALTHY

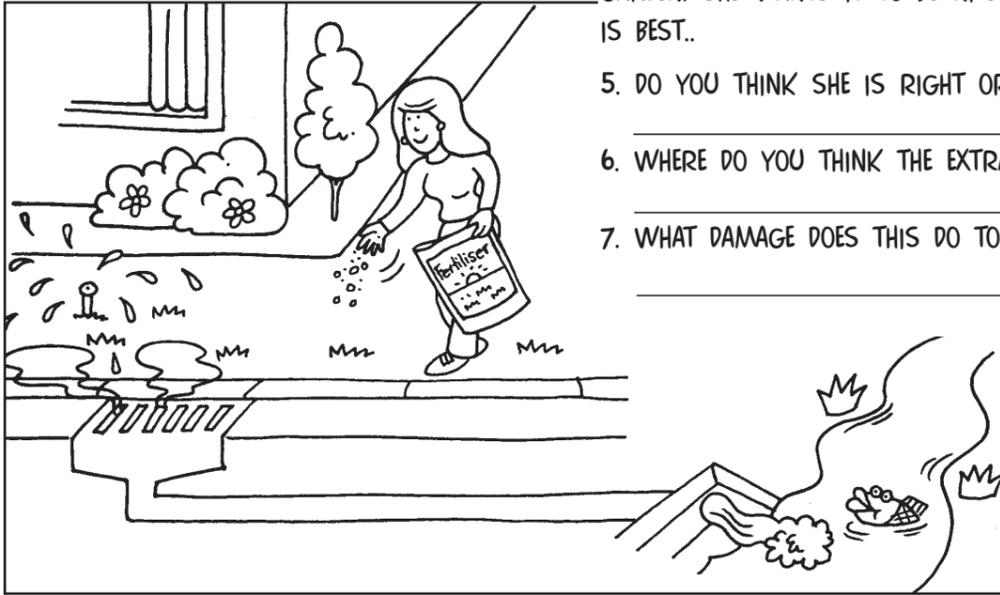
CAR DETERGENTS



1. CAN YOU SPOT THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN PICTURES A AND B?
2. WHICH PICTURE (A OR B) DO YOU THINK SHOWS THE BEST WAY TO WASH YOUR CAR? WHY?
3. HOW DOES DETERGENT FROM WASHING CARS GET INTO OUR RIVERS? (HINT: PICTURE B)
4. WHAT DAMAGE DOES THIS DETERGENT DO TO OUR RIVERS?

IS YOUR CAR WASHED ON THE LAWN OR PAVEMENT? _____

FERTILISERS



THIS WOMAN IS PUTTING LOTS OF FERTILISER ON HER LAWN AND GARDEN. SHE WANTS IT TO BE NICE AND GREEN. SHE THINKS LOTS IS BEST..

5. DO YOU THINK SHE IS RIGHT OR WOULD LESS BE BETTER?
6. WHERE DO YOU THINK THE EXTRA FERTILISER ENDS UP?
7. WHAT DAMAGE DOES THIS DO TO OUR RIVERS?

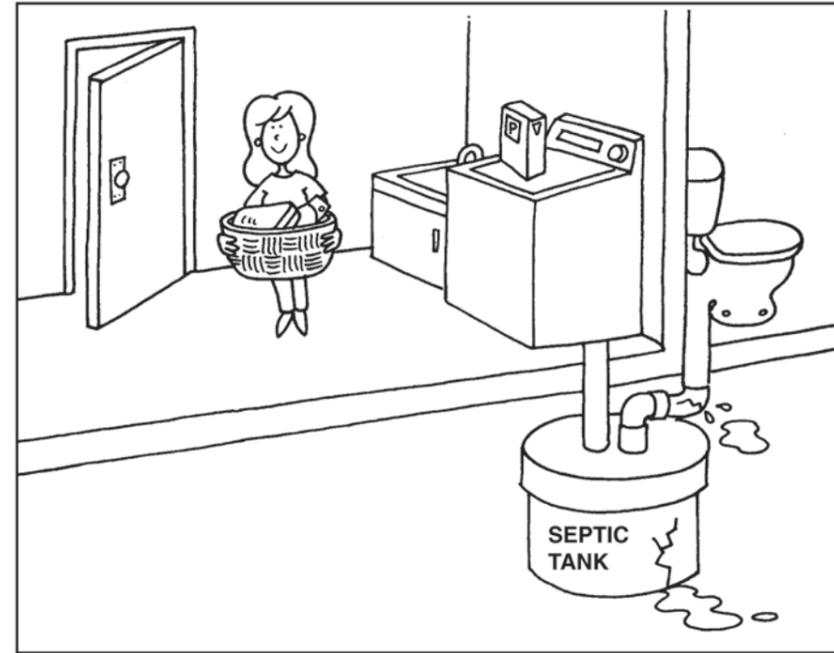
MOST FERTILISERS CONTAIN PHOSPHORUS (AS WELL AS OTHER NUTRIENTS). WE SHOULD USE A PHOSPHORUS FREE OR LOW PHOSPHORUS FERTILISER.

STORMWATER DRAINS FEED INTO OUR RIVERS. IF THERE IS PHOSPHORUS GETTING INTO THE STORMWATER DRAINS, IT WILL GET INTO OUR RIVERS AND FEED ALGAE. PHOSPHORUS CAN BE IN FERTILISERS, DETERGENTS, ANIMAL DROPPINGS, BREAD FED TO WATER BIRDS, RUBBISH, SOIL, GARDEN WASTE AND WATER.

THERE IS A DRAIN NEAR YOU THAT RUNS INTO A STREAM, THEN TO A RIVER.

DETERGENTS

PHOSPHORUS IS FOUND IN DISHWASHING LIQUIDS, WASHING POWDERS AND HOUSEHOLD CLEANING PRODUCTS. YOU CAN BUY CLEANING PRODUCTS THAT ARE PHOSPHORUS FREE. TO FIND OUT WHICH ONES ARE PHOSPHORUS FREE CAREFULLY READ THE LABELS. WASHING POWDERS DISPLAY AN NP OR P SYMBOL - **NP MEANS NO PHOSPHORUS, P MEANS THERE IS PHOSPHORUS IN IT.**



HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT WHERE THE PIPES FROM YOUR HOUSE EMPTY WASTE INTO? HOUSEHOLD WASTE EMPTIES INTO THE SEWERAGE SYSTEM OR SEPTIC TANKS.

SEWERAGE PIPES DUMP WASTE INTO THE OCEAN. SEPTIC TANKS STORE WASTE IN OUR BACKYARDS. THIS WASTE HAS PHOSPHORUS IN IT.

8. SEPTIC TANKS CAN LEAK OR OVERFLOW. WHERE DOES THE WASTE GO TO?

9. HOW CAN WE STOP PHOSPHORUS IN DETERGENTS FROM GOING OUT OF OUR PIPES?

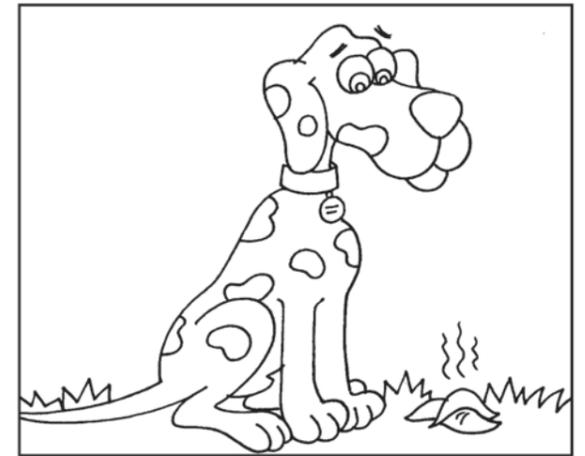
DOG POO

DOG POO ALSO CONTAINS PHOSPHORUS. REMEMBER THE DRAINS AND RIVERS. ALWAYS PICK UP AFTER YOUR DOG!

10. WHICH OF THE FOLLOWING IS THE BEST WAY TO DISPOSE OF DOG POO AFTER IT HAS BEEN PICKED UP?

- A.) WRAP THE POO UP AND PUT IT IN THE BIN
- B.) BURY IT IN YOUR GARDEN
- C.) COMPOST IT
- D.) PUT IT IN A WORM FARM
- E.) ALL OF THE ABOVE

ANSWER:



Answers:
 1. Car A is washed on the lawn which is soaking up the water and nutrients. Car B is washed on the pavement and the water and nutrients are going into the drain.
 2. Picture A is the best way. The lawn can use the water and nutrients for growth. In Picture B the water is going into the drain.
 3. Through drains. Drains in the street are connected to our rivers. Anything that goes in the drains goes into our rivers.
 4. Most detergents contain Phosphorus that triggers harmful algal growth in our rivers in the summer.
 5. Less is definitely better - the less fertilizer we use the better. Our soils can not hold much fertilizer and most is washed underground and into our rivers where it causes algal blooms.
 6. It ends up in our rivers. The fertilizer is washed by rain or watering deep underground into the groundwater which eventually ends up in our rivers.
 7. It is polluting the river by causing the growth of harmful algae. Since most fertilisers contain Phosphorus and fertilisers can easily get into the rivers, there is plenty of "food" for algae.

Answers:
 8. The waste is washed through soil to the groundwater or into street drains where it can enter the river. The 'P' in this waste feeds algae.
 9. By using detergents that are phosphorus free so no phosphorus will go out of the pipes. This means that algae will have no food to help it grow.
 10. The correct answer is E.) All of the above. All of these are safe ways to dispose of dog poo so that 'P' does not get into our rivers.