

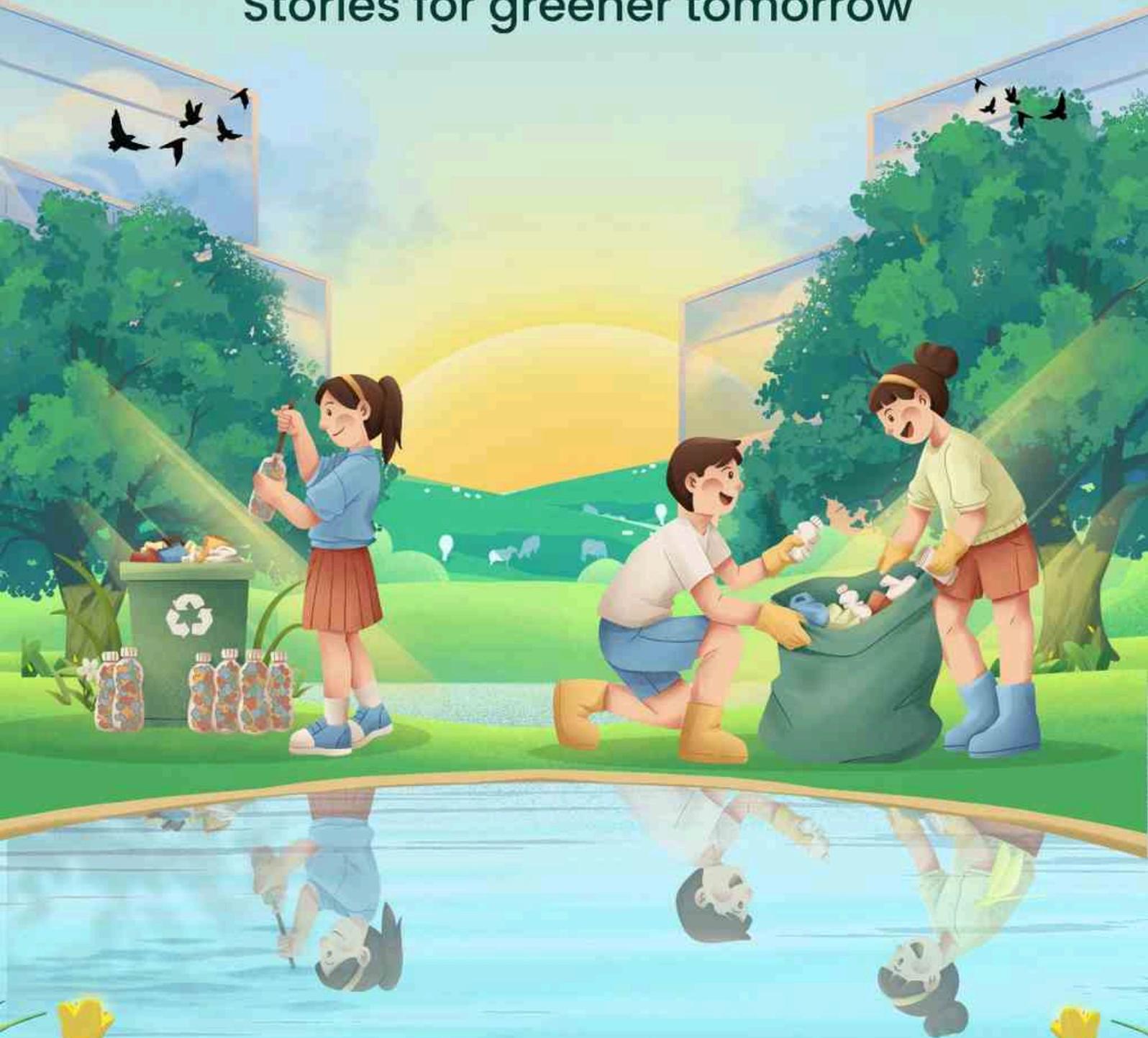


**EPA**

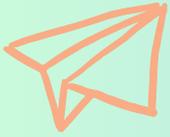
اداره تحفظ ماحول حکومت پنجاب  
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# OUR EARTH OUR RESPONSIBILITY

Stories for greener tomorrow



Environment Protection & Climate Change Department  
Government of the Punjab



# *Our* EARTH *Our* RESPONSIBILITY

STORIES FOR GREENER TOMORROW







## MESSAGE



### **DR. IMRAN HAMID SHEIKH (PAS)**

Director General,  
Environmental Protection Agency  
Government of the Punjab

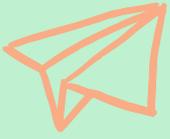
Hello Future Environmental Heros

The Environmental Protection Agency is delighted to share this treasure trove of magical stories with you. Each tale takes you on an adventure where fresh air, clear rivers, wildlife, and green forests are your friends. But there are also pollution and waste monsters.

You are smart, kind, and full of energy, which means you can protect your friends from the monsters. Every time you throw trash in the bin, use less plastic, save water, plant a tree, or ride your bicycle, the Earth gives you a big smile. We know your heart is strong and brave. You are the bright light and hope of our future. So, read these stories and always remember that even the smallest efforts can grow big and help our wonderful Punjab. The Earth needs Guardians like yourself, who will protect it with strong actions.

With lots of hope and pride.

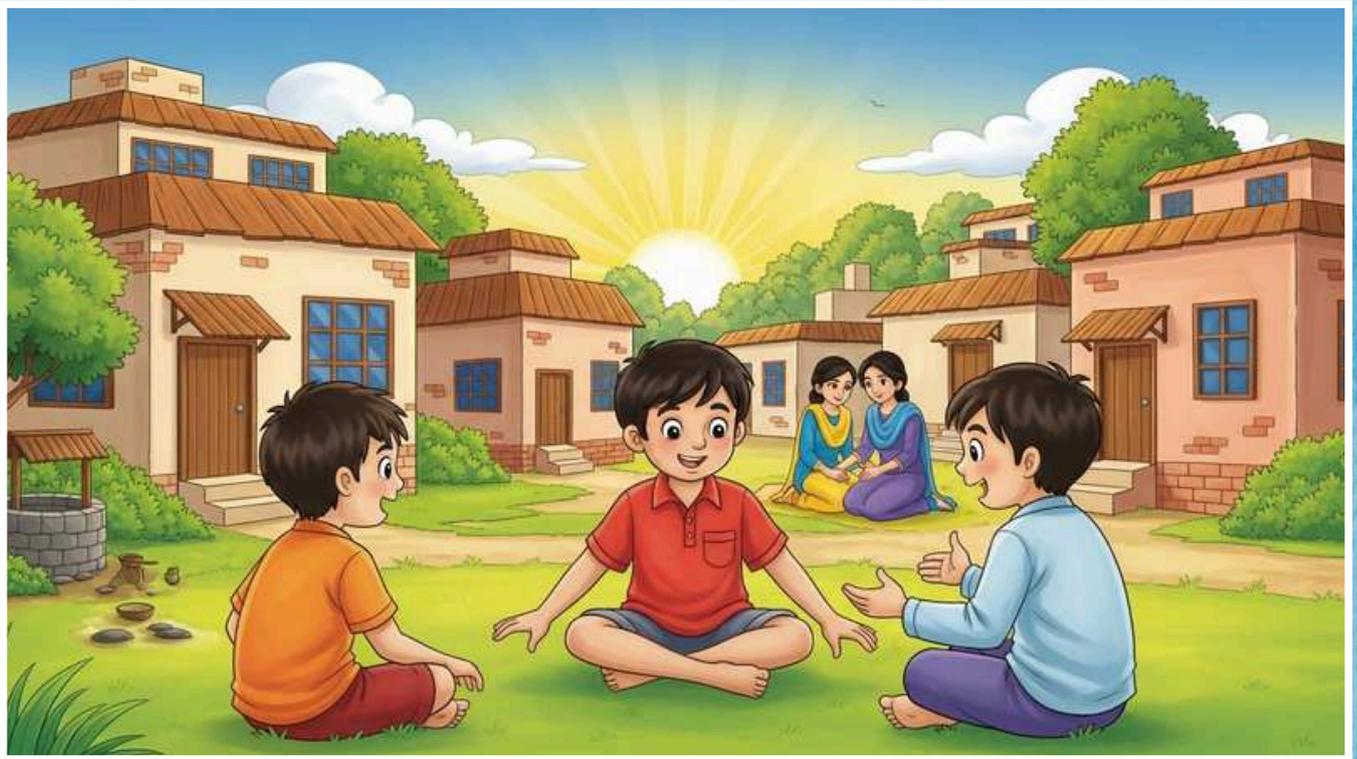
# TABLE OF CONTENTS



1. Khush-Hal-Pura - 01
2. The Environment's Protector - 12
3. The Perilous Plastic Bag - 18
4. Where All Water has Gone - 25
5. ABC of Environment - 32
6. The Colouring Environment - 40



# Khush-Hal-Pura



Some days back in the small community of **Khush-hal-Pura** lived lovely people who used to keep their homes clean and tidy. As the summer season set in, the hot weather with the round yellow bright sun brought the time, the little kids of **Khush-hal-Pura** have been anxiously waiting for the whole year. Yes, the children couldn't ride their excitement as these long awaited summer vacations have brought them the right time to implement their plans. According to the plan, children started gathering in front of the baker's shop early in the morning.

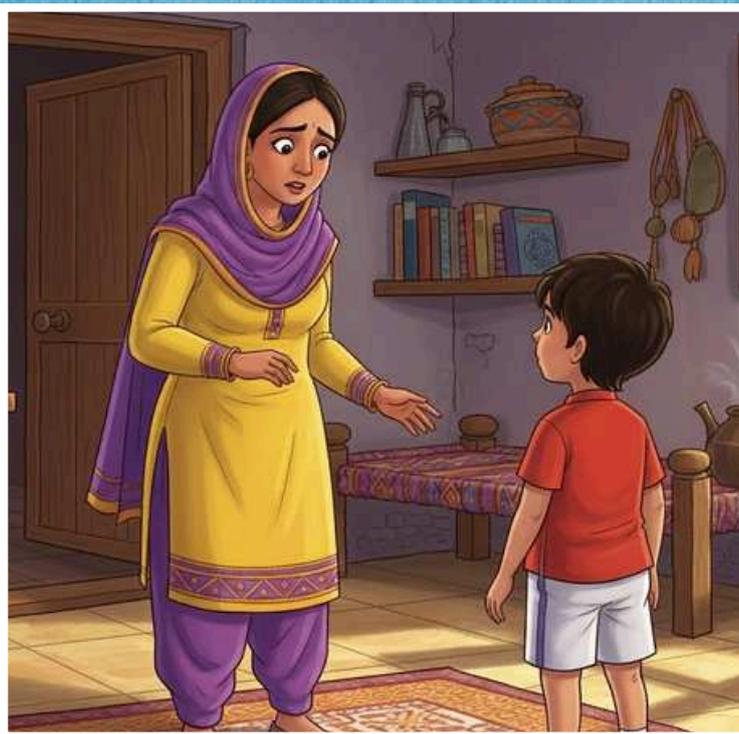
But on reaching the only playing ground of the community they all got shocked to see their playing site which was turned in to a dirty sea of garbage giving foul odor flooding with swarms of flies and vultures flying over it while street **dogs, cats and rodents** scavenging through the stale food thus spreading the garbage here and there.



Beside the fact that the giant heaps of garbage were contribution of every individual house of Khush-hal-Pura, no one was ready to take blame on his own.



Finally, with low hearts, Umar and his friends chose a rather clear spot beside the garbage heaps and started playing cricket there.



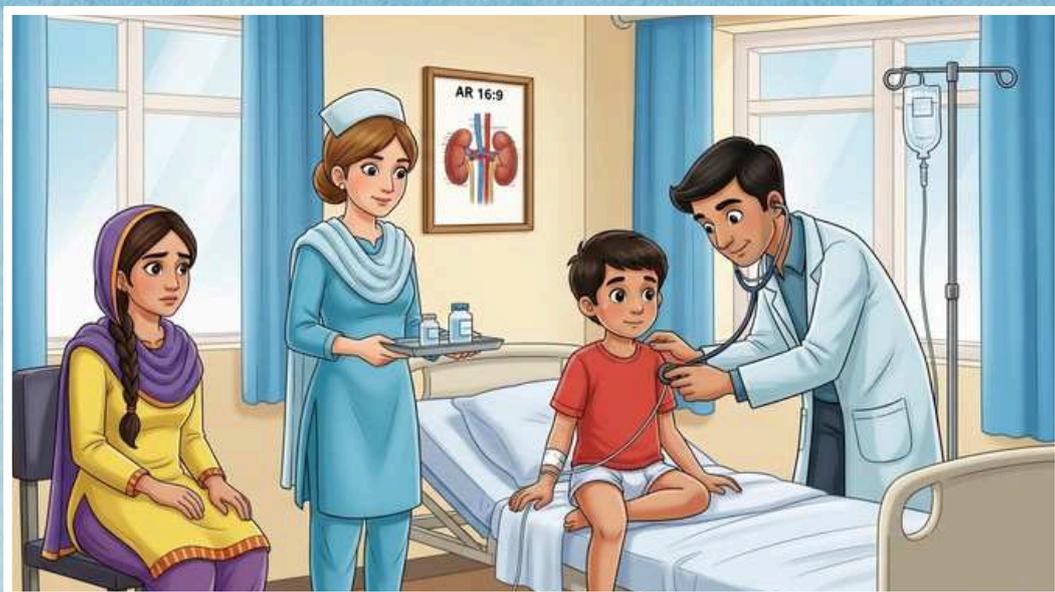
Not a week passed that the cricket team of those little residents of **Khush-hal-Pura** got stuck into a new trouble as the team players have suddenly started reducing in number every next day. Perhaps, the luck wasn't favoring them these vacations!

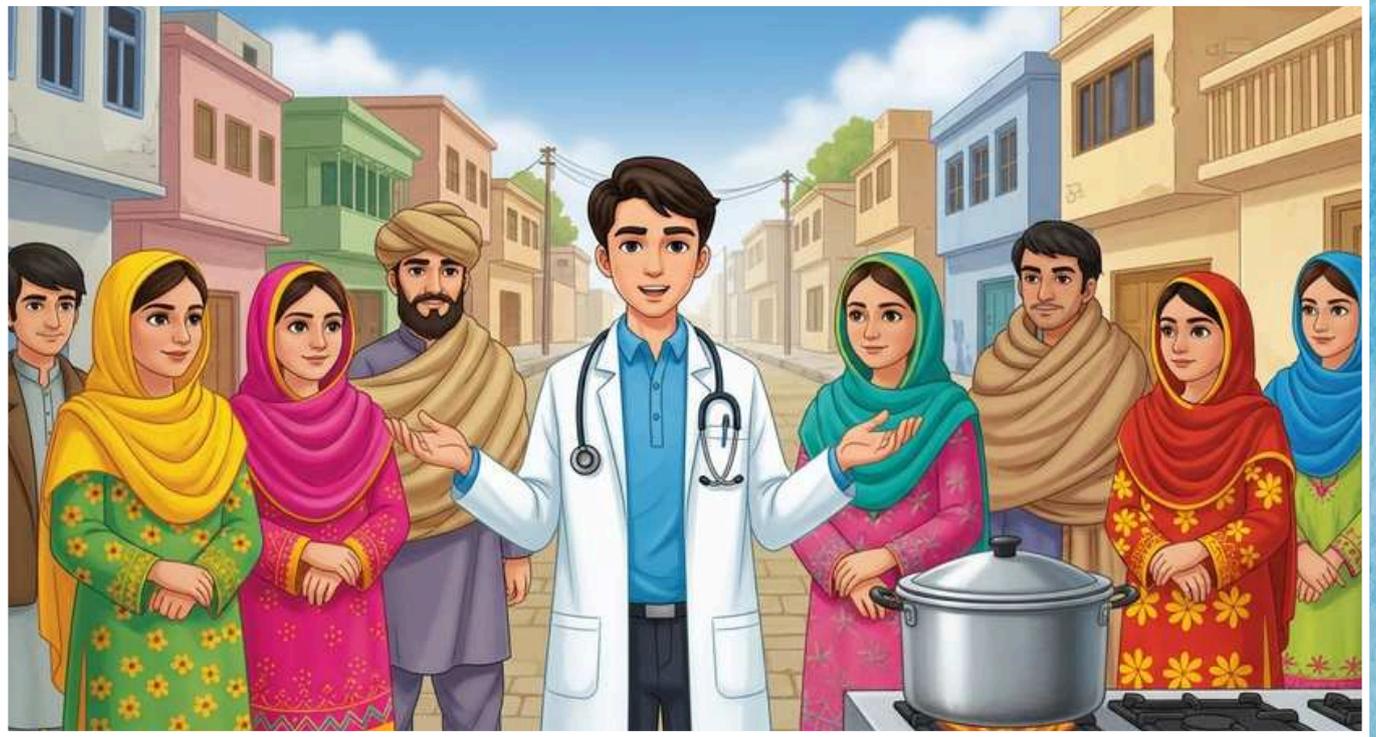
Umar was very sad and had not gone to playing ground which worried his mother at the same time. On asking the reason, he told her mother that their final match has been cancelled as his friends were sick.

In evening, Umar got fever so his mother took him to the community doctor where a long line of his friends and other kids already waiting for their turns.



During his check-up, the doctor told his mother that a large number of children are getting ill with Malaria, Typhoid, Dysentery and Eyes and skin infection which spread through various bacteria and viruses due to unhygienic living conditions.





The doctor advised the residents of **Khush-hal-Pura** to take proper care of their health and emphasized on using boiled water for drinking.

The doctor's words surprised the residents of **Khush-hal-Pura** because they have been getting ill despite the fact that all of them were keen towards keeping their homes clean by throwing all the garbage out of their homes in the playing ground!

But unfortunately, they were unaware of the fact that the cleanliness of their homes was being maintained at the cost of the solid waste garbage heaps which were rising outside their homes and the community ground where their kids play!



The same day, on a local news channel a news caster broadcasted the impacts of uncontrolled solid waste pollution on health and environment. He told about the importance of proper garbage disposal and emphasized upon community participation.

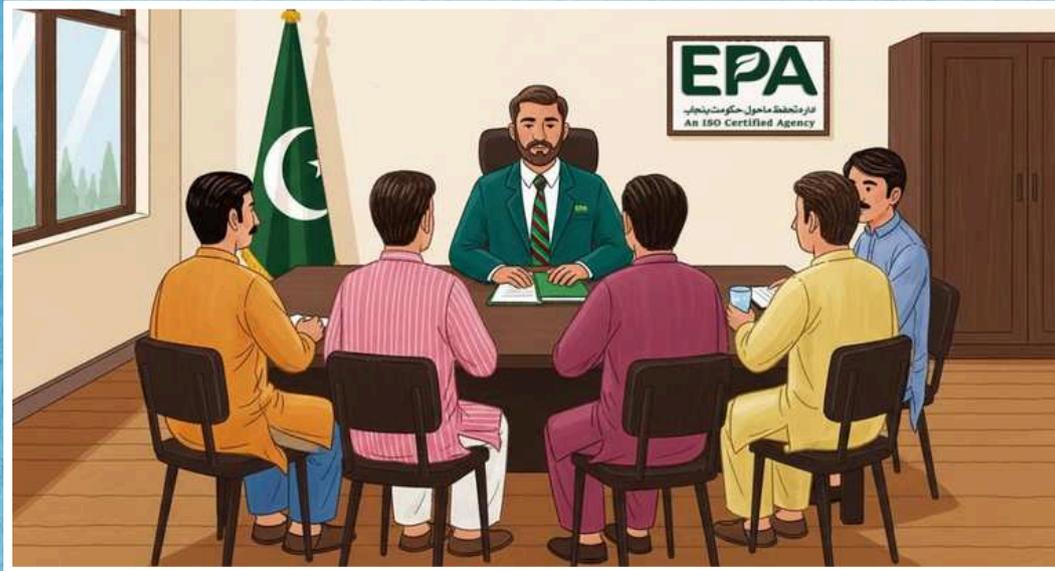


This opened the eyes of community elders and compelled them to take immediate steps for the management of the environment outside their homes from where their kids were being victimized. This opened the eyes of community elders and compelled them to take immediate steps for the management of the environment outside their homes from where their kids were being victimized.

So, they collectively visited the offices of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and City District Government and asked for their help to overcome the devastating situation of **Khush-hal-Pura**.



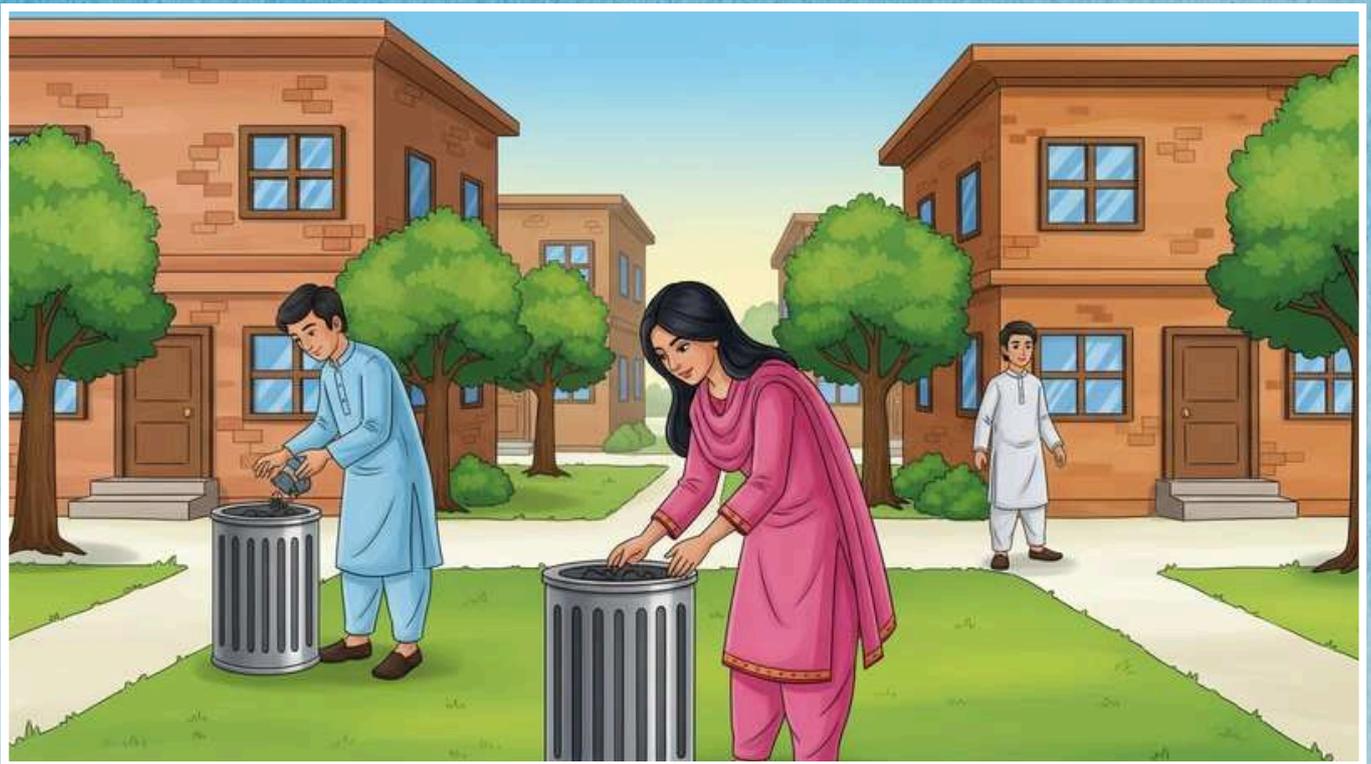
The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recommended the community members to practice recycling of some wastes and composting of organic waste for safer disposal of solid waste. These methods not only reduce the money expenditure for waste management to be paid by citizens in form of taxes but can also become means of money generation.



The City District Solid Waste Management team started lifting the waste heaps from the community ground and the garbage littered at the corners of streets. The resident helped them with high spirits.



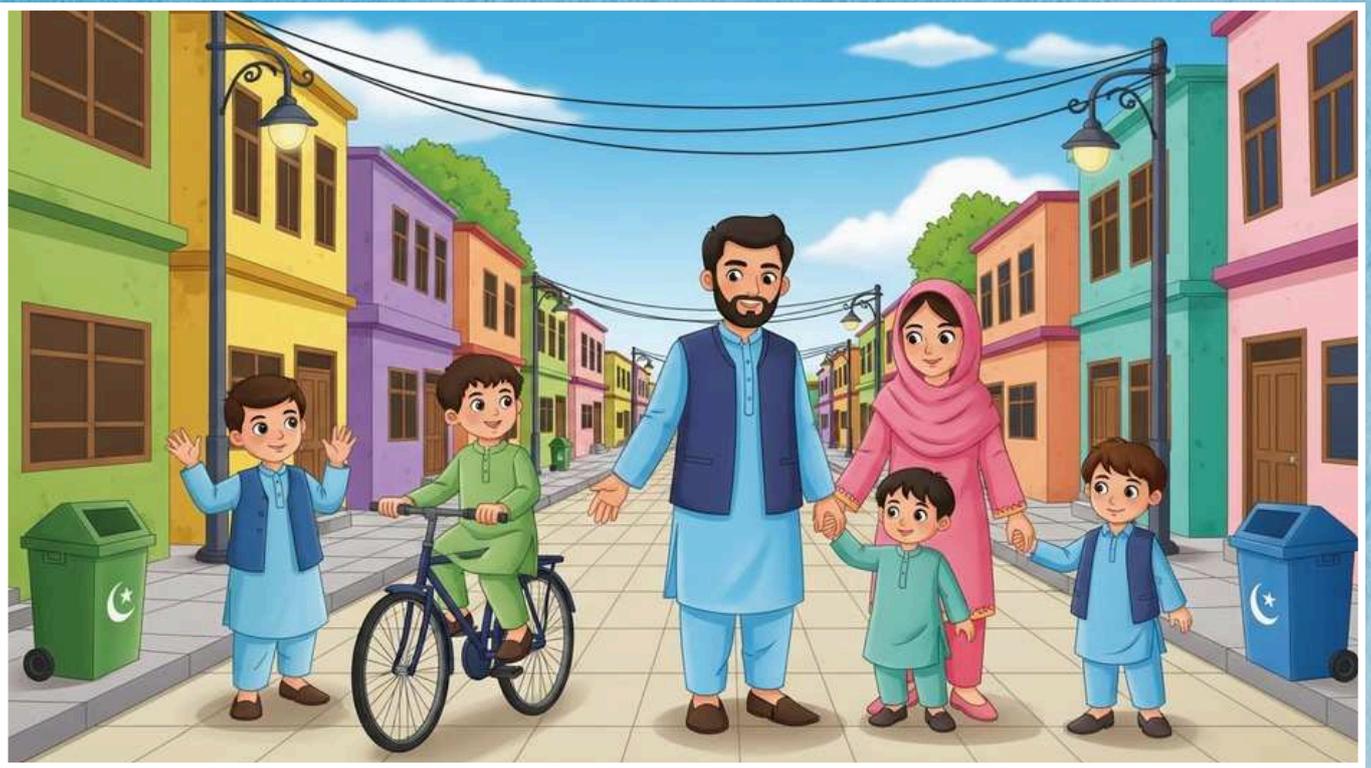
In a short period of two days, the whole community was reflecting the true meaning of **Khush-hal-Pura** with every nook and corner, clean and clear! The solid waste management team placed waste bins at the corners of every street for daily collection of wastes. The residents started using the bins in a very proper way i.e., stored the waste right in the bins not on the ground.





Children were very happy on getting their playing ground back. They practiced solid waste management in their school too. On going back to school they told other fellows about the importance of municipal waste management for healthy living!

This incident taught a big lesson to the residents of Khush-hal-Pura. Now every home in **Khush-hal-Pura** throws its garbage in the street waste bins regularly instead of throwing it in the great will of human health and safe environment. And thus they lived happily ever after!



## The Environment's Protector

Maryam was a sensible twelve-year-old girl. Near her house, there was a park where she used to go for a morning walk with her grandmother every day. Previously, this park was full of the chirping of birds and colorful butterflies. Now, Maryam began to notice that sadness and silence were increasing there day by day. The butterflies were not have to be seen, and those melodious sounds of birds were also disappearing.

One day, Maryam asked her grandmother the reason for this sadness. Her grandmother sadly explained that many large and shady trees had been cut down, due to which the birds' nests were destroyed, and the butterflies also did not have beautiful flowers to get nectar from. As the greenery is decreasing, the air is also not as clean as before.





Grandmother explained to Maryam how precious trees are for the beauty and cleanliness of our environment. She said that the trees not only give us the clean air, we breathe but also help in bringing rain.

“How, Grandma?” Maryam immediately asked. Grandmother said, “Look, dear Maryam, the leaves of trees have tiny, invisible holes. Through these holes, they release water into the air in the form of vapor. This is called ‘evaporation of water’. When many trees do procedure, a lot of moisture gathers in the air. This moisture goes up into the sky towards the cold air. In the cold air, this moisture turns into tiny water droplets. These droplets combine to form clouds. When the clouds become very heavy with these tiny water droplets, what do they become when fall to the ground?”

Grandmother asked Maryam. Maryam excitedly replied, “Rain!”



“You know Maryam, in big forests, there are so many trees that they evaporate a lot of water. That’s why those areas often receive more rains. Trees also keep the ground cool which makes it easier to form clouds. Besides this, trees are home to countless living beings” Grandmother lovingly explained to Maryam.

Grandmother also told her that cutting down trees extensively is against the law, for which there is a government department called The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). It oversees all these things and works day and night for the betterment of our environment. Maryam asked her grandmother, “Can the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) help us in making this park green again?” Grandmother replied, “If we inform them about this, they will definitely help us.”

Maryam decided that she would not remain silent, with her grandmother’s help, she called the **Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)’s helpline 1373** and told them about the sad condition of the park and the lack of trees. She required help from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).



In the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Inspector Jawad was a young and enthusiastic officer. When he listens to Maryam, he became very impressed by the concern and courage of this little girl. He immediately visited the park with his team and saddened to see its isolated condition. The very next day, Inspector Jawad arrived at Maryam's house. He met Maryam and her grandmother and appreciated their love and efforts for the park. He assured Maryam that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) would do everything possible to solve this problem.

Inspector Jawad, along with his team, initiated legal action against those who illegally cut down trees. He also made a plan to plant trees again in the park with Maryam and other children. The department provided the children with different types of plants. Maryam, along with her friends and other school children, enthusiastically cleaned the park and planted trees.

Gradually, with everyone's combined efforts, life returned to the park. The small plants started to grow, the birds started chirping again, and colorful butterflies started hovering over the flowers once more. The air also felt much cleaner and fresher than before.

Maryam and her friends learned that any difficulty can be solved if ordinary citizens and government department work together. Inspector Jawad appreciated Maryam's courage and sense of responsibility and gave her the title of "Little Protector of the Environment."





From that day Maryam learned that even a small voice can bring about a big change, and every child has the power to become a protector of their environment.

## The Perilous Plastic Bag

“Oh, take the bag with you!” Grandmother called out as she saw Shakeel going out of the house to get vegetables. “Grandmother, now must forget your past. This is the time of plastic shopping bags, not cloth ones. Who carries cloth bags in these days?” Shakeel replied, and went out.

“I don’t understand what has happened to people these days. People bring their groceries, milk, or meat in plastic bags instead of carrying them in bags or basket and they even carry bread and yogurt in them! I don’t know what kind of plastic these shopping bags are made of?” Grandmother lamented.





“Dear Mother, children these days pay no heed. Carrying a cloth bag or basket seems to them a matter of shame. Now everything is available in plastic bags, so everyone is looking for their own convenience,” said Jamila Begum, who was coming out of the kitchen, heard what they were saying and started talking.

“Daughter-in-law! That’s why people’s health is declining day by day and environmental pollution is gradually increasing, everything is becoming artificial,” Grandmother said with sorrow.

One evening, the whole family was sitting in front of the TV because their favorite serial drama was about to be broadcast. The drama was quite engaging and on a good theme, so Grandmother watched it with keen interest.

During a commercial break, an advertisement from the Environment Protection and Climate Change Department (EP&CCD) appeared. “Say no to plastic bags. Plastic bags pollute the environment and adversely affect human health,” it declared. “See! I didn’t say, get rid of these wretched plastic bags and use a cloth bag for your shopping?” Grandmother immediately spoke up.





“But Father, what harm can plastic bags possibly do to our health?” Shakeel, who usually ignored Grandmother’s advice, inquired of his father.

“My son, the disposal of daily waste is a significant problem. Some of it can be used as fertilizer, and certain materials like paper, glass, and metals can be separated for recycling. However, shopping bags, or ‘Shoppers’ as they are sometimes called, do not decompose naturally and persist in the environment for thousands of years,” Father explained.

“If they get into the sewers, they get stuck there, obstructing drainage, and it is difficult to separate them from other waste,” he added. “Then this garbage should be set on fire so that the story ends.”

Naila, who had been listening attentively, spoke quickly.

“No, garbage should never be burned because it increases the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. Burning shopping bags in particular is extremely harmful. The gases produced by burning them are very harmful to health. That is why the government is also running a campaign to minimize their use and various organizations are also working in this regard,” Father explained to Naila in detail. Grandmother smiled and said, “I didn’t know about the harms of plastic bags. I didn’t like the fact that milk, yogurt, ghee, and even bread being brought in plastic bags. Milk and yogurt should be brought in clean containers and breads in clean napkins so that there is some concern for cleanliness and hygiene.”



“We should try not to buy small items from the shopkeeper in plastic bags, but insist that the shopkeeper put these items in paper envelopes, as they used to do.” Father suggested.



“Or you can bring your own bag from home. Save the plastic bags that come home for reuse. It should not be scattered in the house or on the streets. All of it should be tied up and put in a trash can for easy separation. Garbage should not be thrown around on the streets, but should be put in special boxes or containers. As I said earlier, garbage should never be set on fire.” Father continued what Grandma had said.

“Let us pledge that we will make every effort to minimize the use of plastic bags and that we will always carry a bag from home when we go for shopping.” Jamila Begum addressed the children.

“We promise!” Shakeel and Naila exclaimed loudly.

“We will also tell our friends about these things and inform others about the harms of this dangerous plastic bag so that we can protect our environment from pollution.” Shakeel added.



## Important Points to Remember

-  Carry your own bag or basket when you go for shopping.
-  Do not bring bread, milk, or yogurt in plastic bags. These can be harmful to your health.
-  Store any plastic bags you get at home safely and reuse them.
-  If you must throw away a shopping bag, tie it in a knot and put it in the dustbin.
-  Never set fire to plastic shopping bags because you also have to breathe in toxic polluted air.
-  Rescue the use of shopping bags while enjoying leisure activities at recreational sites and waterways (rivers, canals, streams) and take responsibility for disposing of them properly.

## Where All Water has Gone

A few days back Mr. and Mrs. Khan used to live in Lahore. They were doctors and were devoted to the selfless help of the needy and the poor. They lived happily with their three little kids.

The eldest of them was Maria. She was in the 5th grade. Maria was a very sensible and caring girl. She was the apple of her parent's eye.



But the younger two kids were opposite to her. They were Ali and Zoya. Ali was in 3rd grade and Zoya in 1st grade. Both were very naughty. Ali and Zoya used to waste water a lot. They were not sensible in their water consumption patterns.

It was the whole-time activity of Maria to teach her younger brother and sister about the importance of water, but those two naughty kids paid no heed to what she said.



While brushing teeth Ali used to open the tap and splash water. Splashing and wasting water here and there brought him amusement.

Ali and Zoya loved to create problems for their neighbours. They opened the taps in the lawns of people and enjoyed.



Mrs. Khan's maid was very careless, she wasted water a lot while working in kitchen. Maria scolded her many times for not doing so, but all in vain.



They were not aware of the fact that wasting water can create water shortage in their country. Mr. and Mrs. Khan received lots of complaints of their kids for teasing their neighbours. But they ignored those complaints. They thought that they are kids and will learn with the passage of time.



One day there was a celebration of WORLD WATER DAY in kid's school. They were shown documentaries in which the importance of water was highlighted by the following facts:

- We can survive about a month without food, but only 5 to 7 days without water.
- On average, person uses about 100 gallons of water a day.
- A five-minute shower takes 10 to 25 gallons of water.
- A silent toilet leak can leak as much as 500 gallons of water a day.
- Lack of clean water kills 2 million children a year.



It was also shown that one third population of the world is facing water shortage. People are crying for water but are deprived of clean and clear water for drinking and washing. This documentary created awareness among kids for the importance of water. It touched their hearts and they felt sorry for the people who have no access to water.



Next day something very bad happened with the kids. Their pipeline got leaked. They got short of water. Mrs. Khan called for the WASA services. They came and started repairing.

The main water connection was stopped. Kids suffered a lot. All their activities got stopped. They had no water for washing, brushing and other uses.

This made them aware of the importance of water.

Eventually the pipeline was repaired but this incident opened kid's eyes. They realized their mistake. They got to know that water is very important for their survival and wasting water can lead to lot of problems.



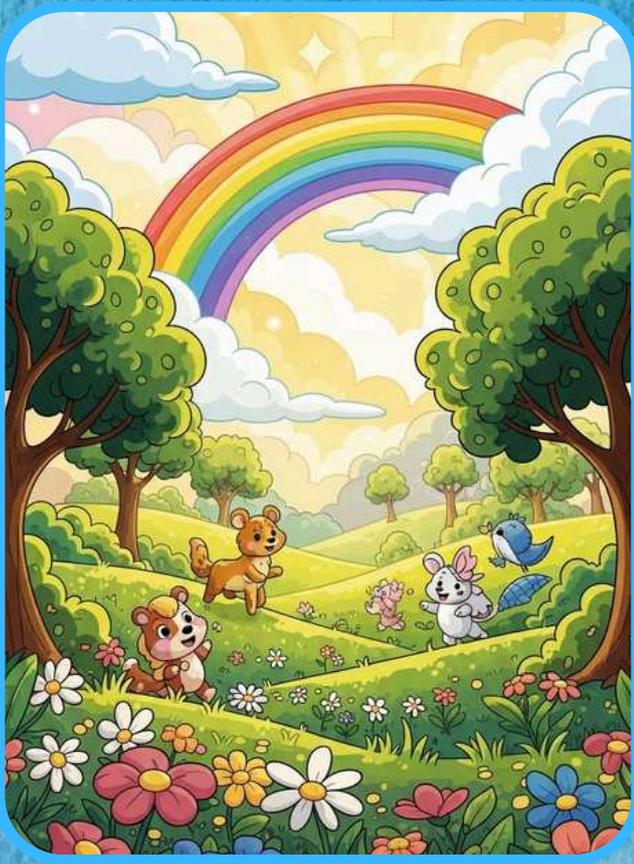
To teach other kids about the importance of wise use of water all three kids started various campaigns. And their aim was to create awareness and to conserve water.



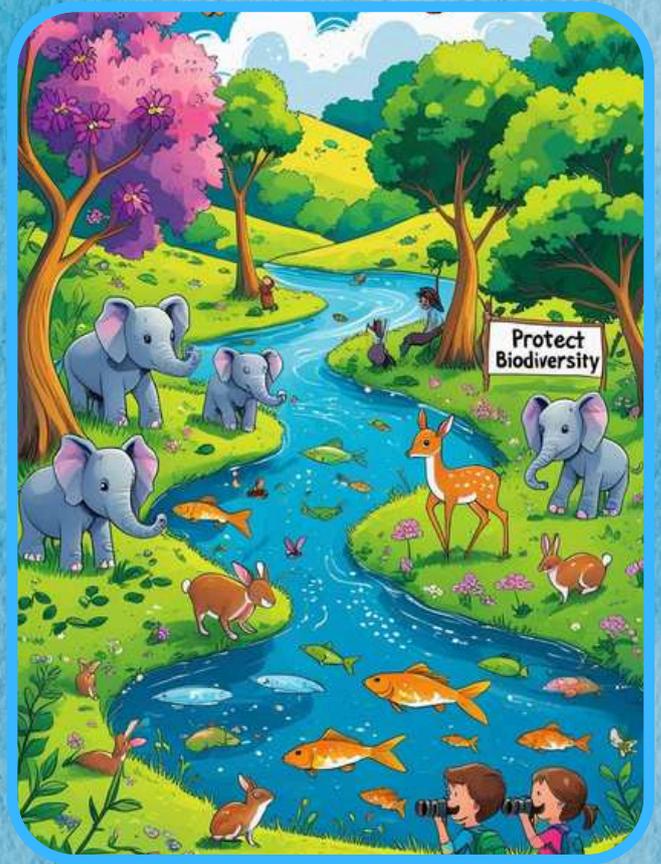
## Water Saving Tips

- When you brush your teeth, wet your brush, turn off, then back on to rinse.
- Take short showers of less than five minutes.
- Use a half tub of water; the rest is waste.
- Use a bucket and shut-off nozzle to wash cars.
- Use a broom to clean walks and driveways instead of washing.
- Water lawns early in the morning.
- Leaky toilets are really sneaky. If you hear them hiss like a snake, or think they might be leaking, tell an adult.

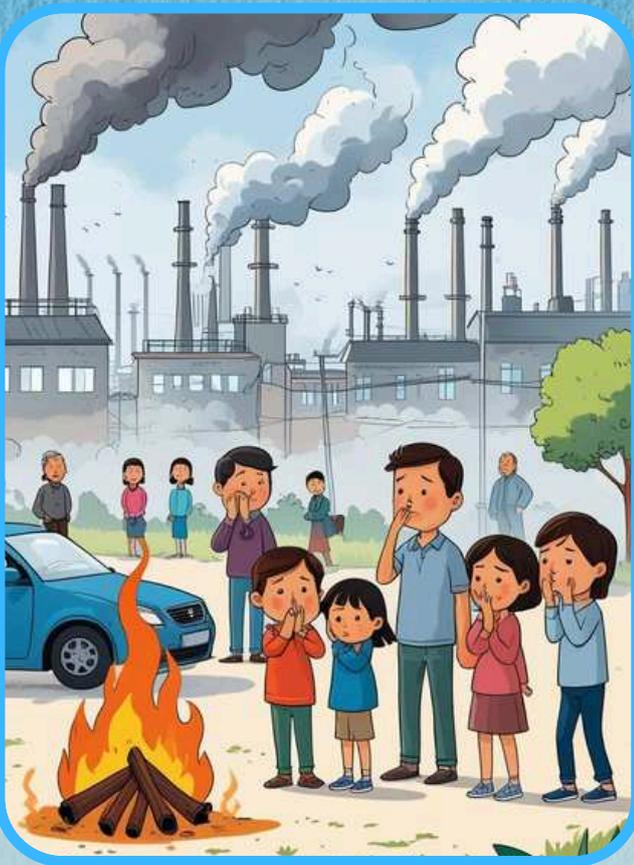
**ABC  
of  
Environment**



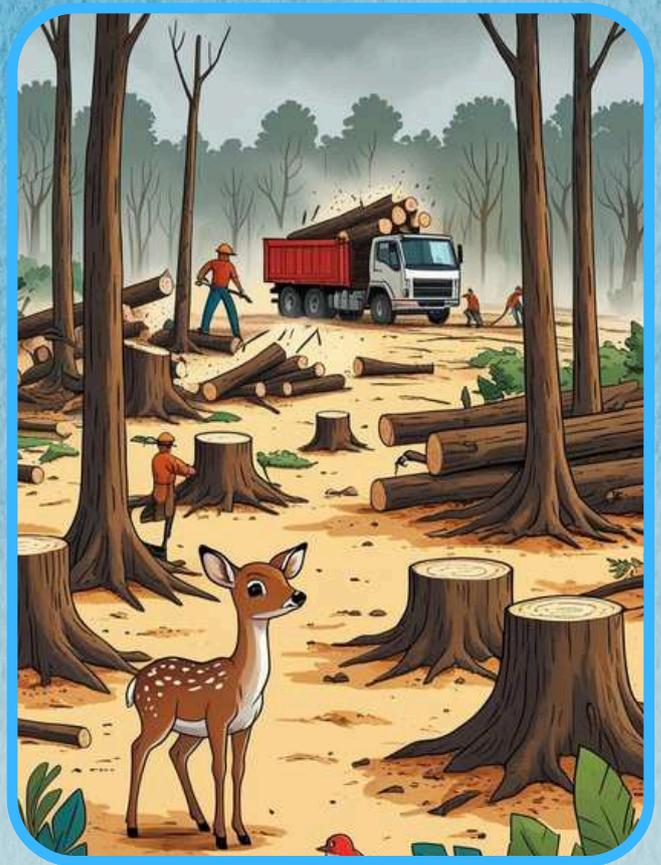
Atmosphere



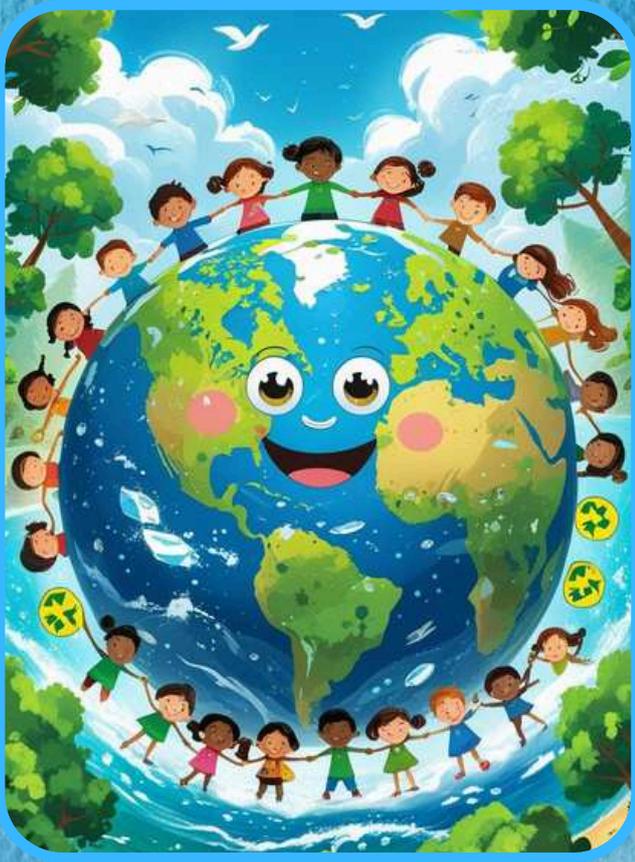
Biodiversity



Carbon Dioxide



Deforestation



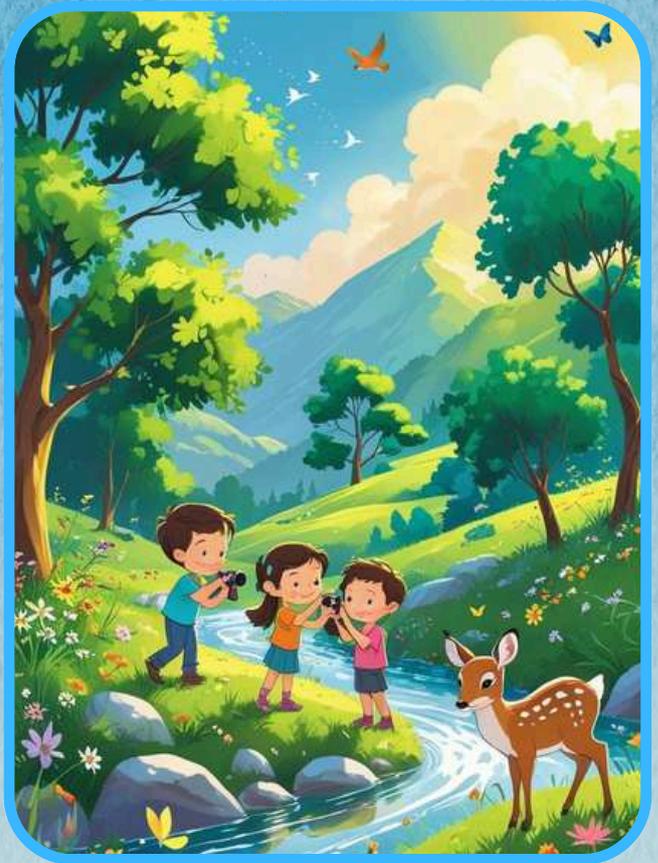
Earth



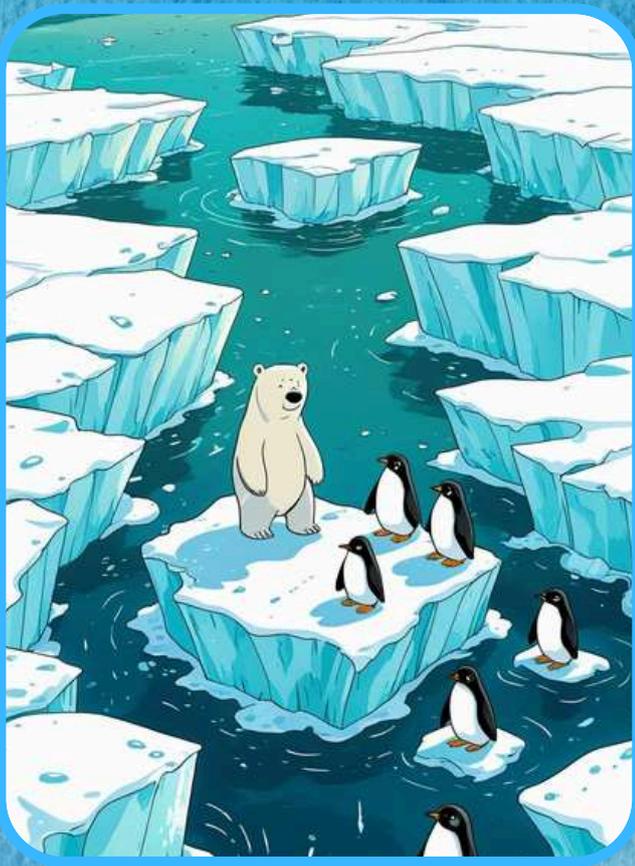
Fog



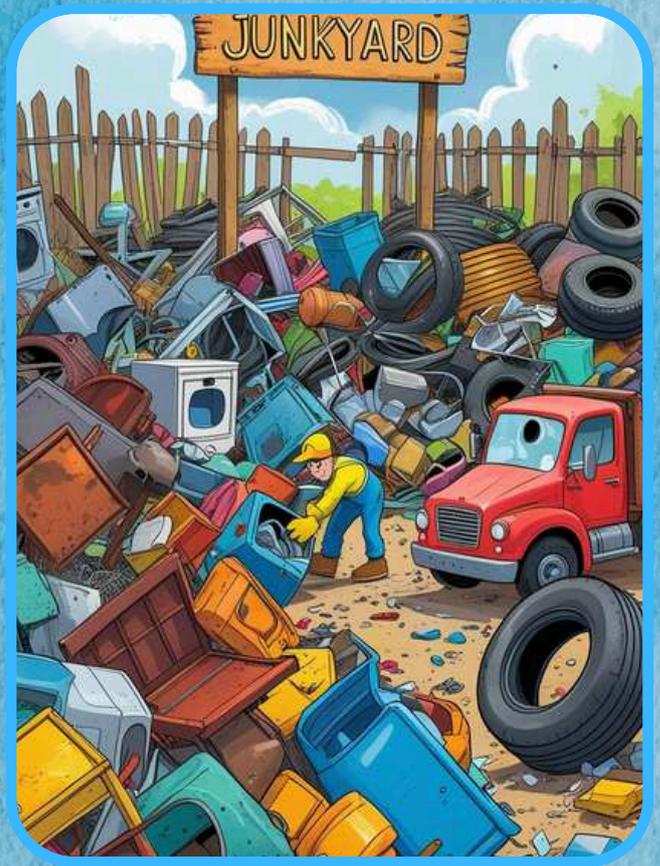
Global Warming



Habitat



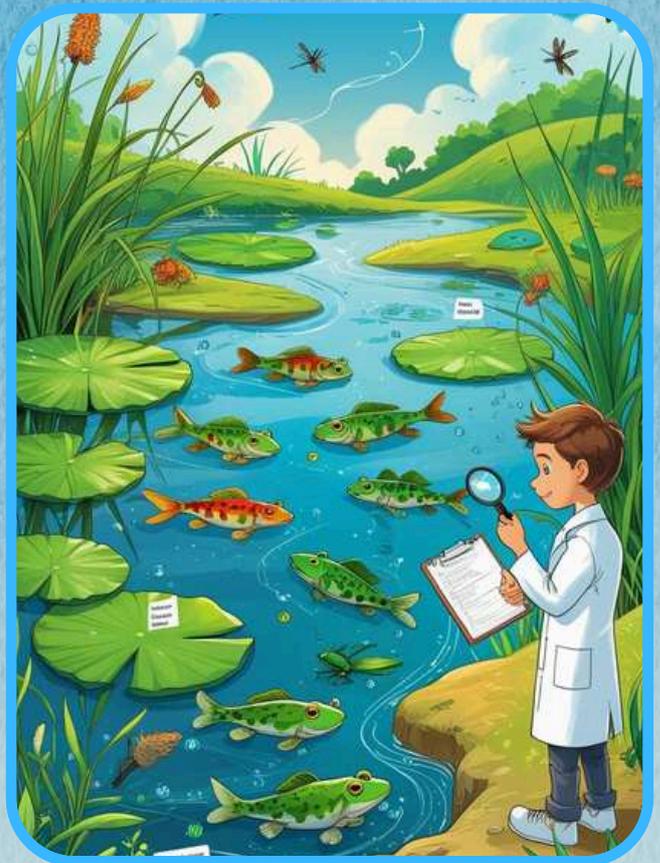
Icecaps



Junkyard



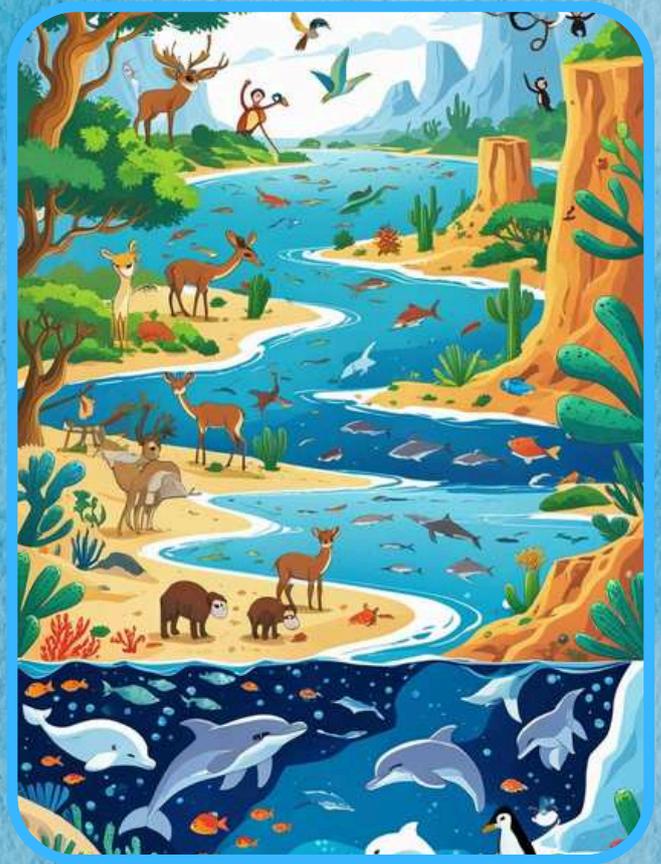
Kitchen Composting



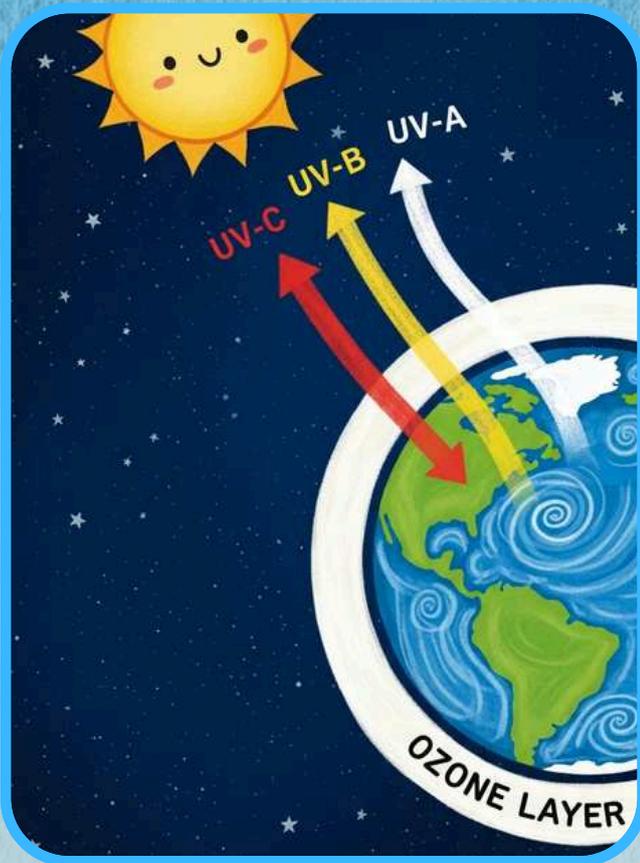
Limnology



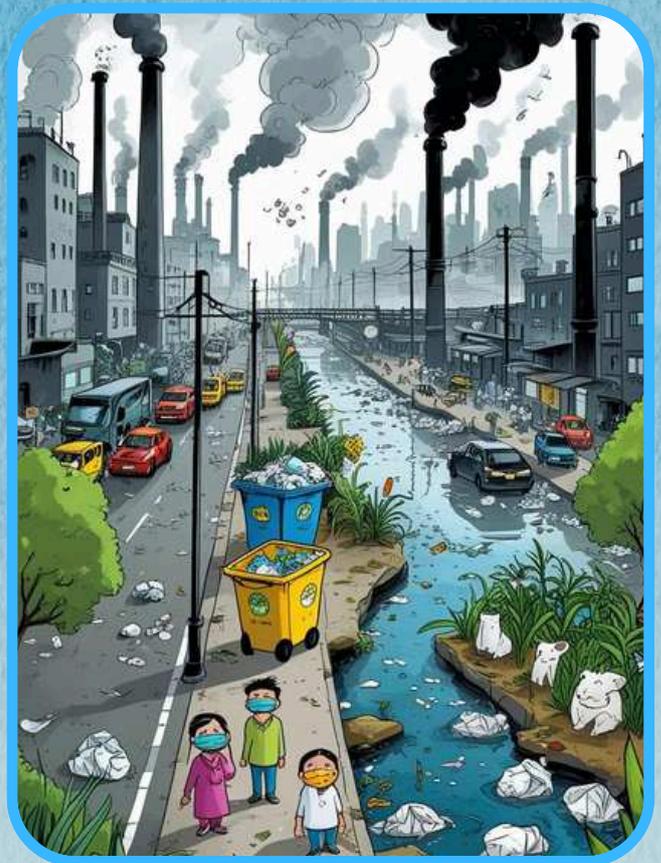
Marine Life



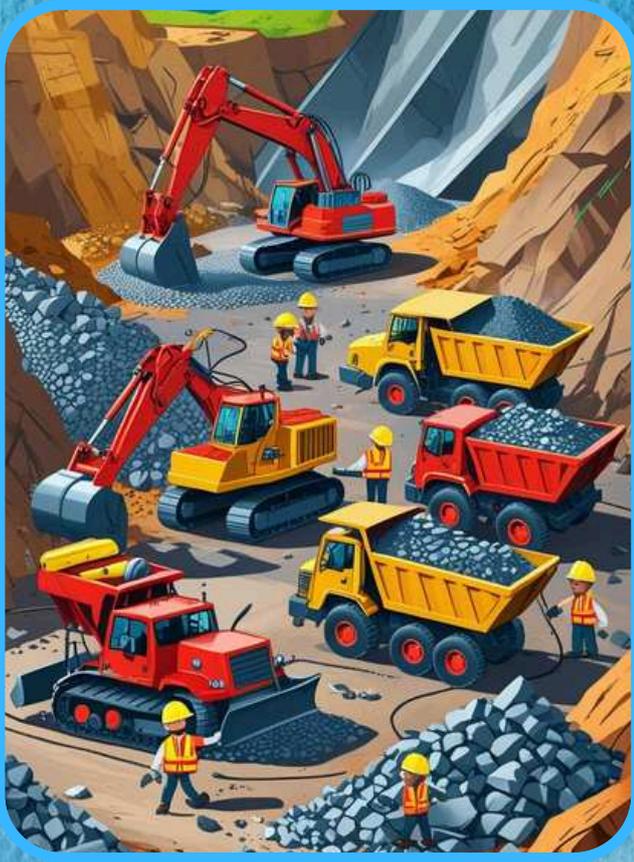
Nature



Ozone Layer



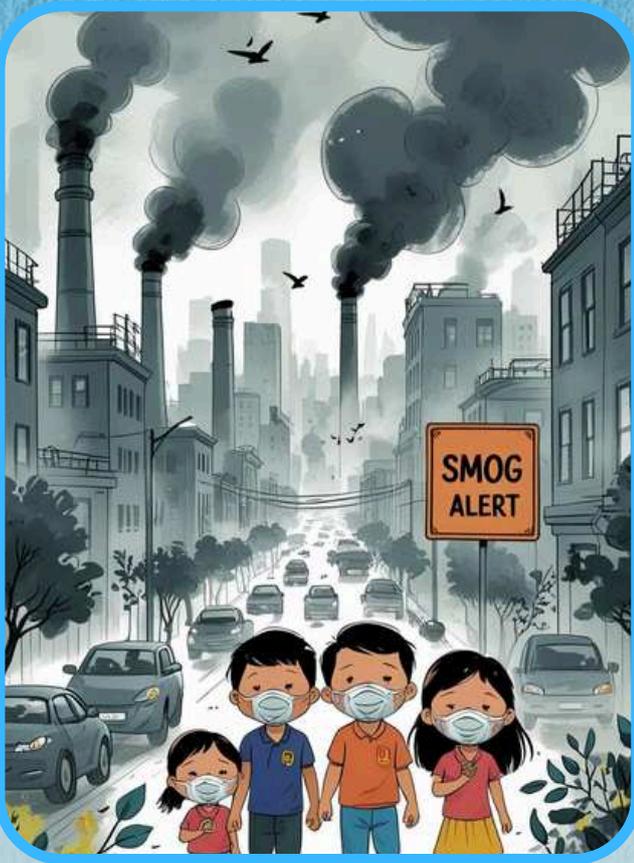
Pollution



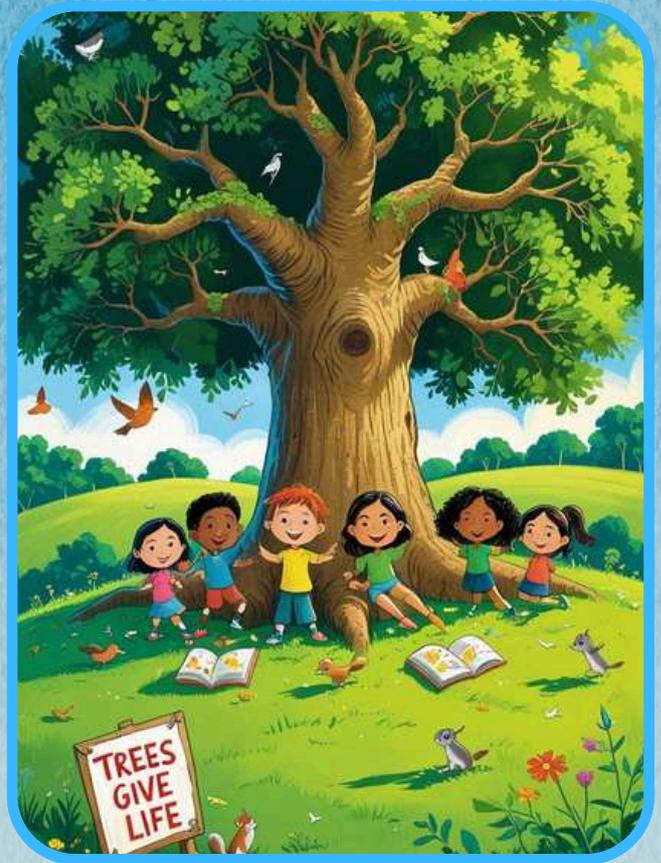
Quarry



Recycle



Smog



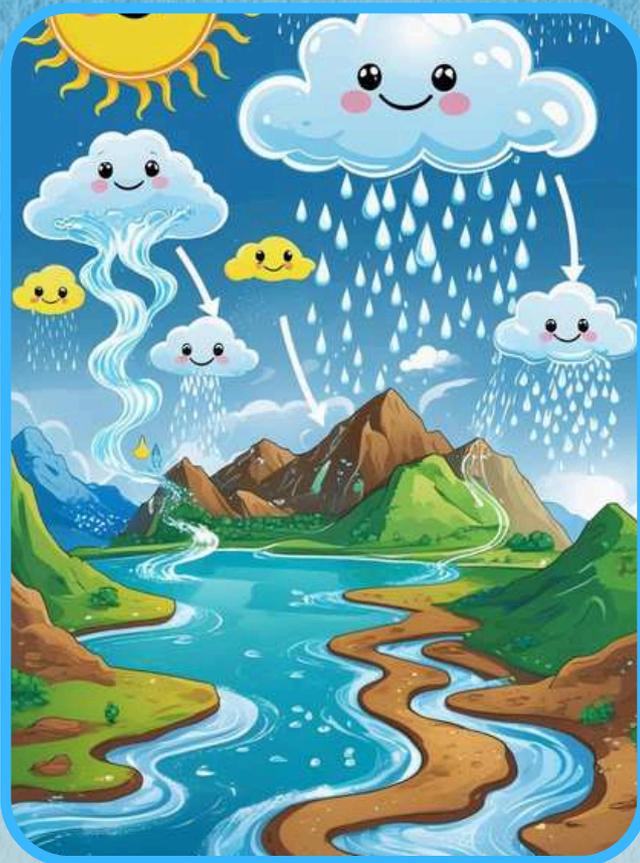
Tree



Urbanization



Vegetation

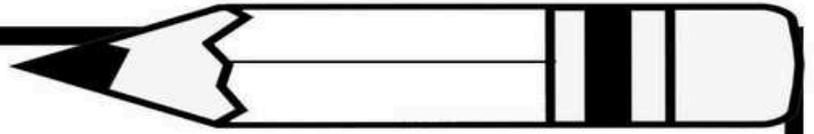


Water Cycle



Xerophyte





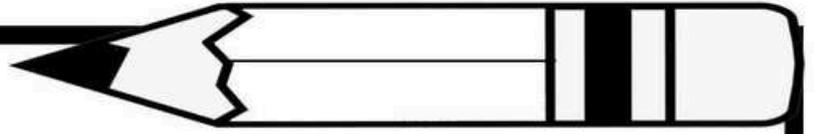
## The Colouring Environment



کیا آپ جانتے ہیں؟

صاف پانی قدرت کی بہت بڑی  
نعمت ہے، اسے ضائع مت کریں۔

Environmental Protection  
Agency, Punjab



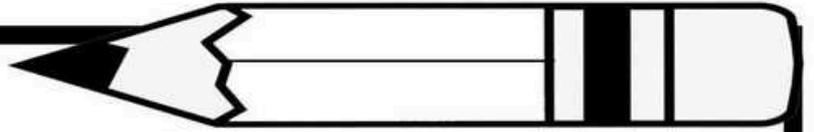
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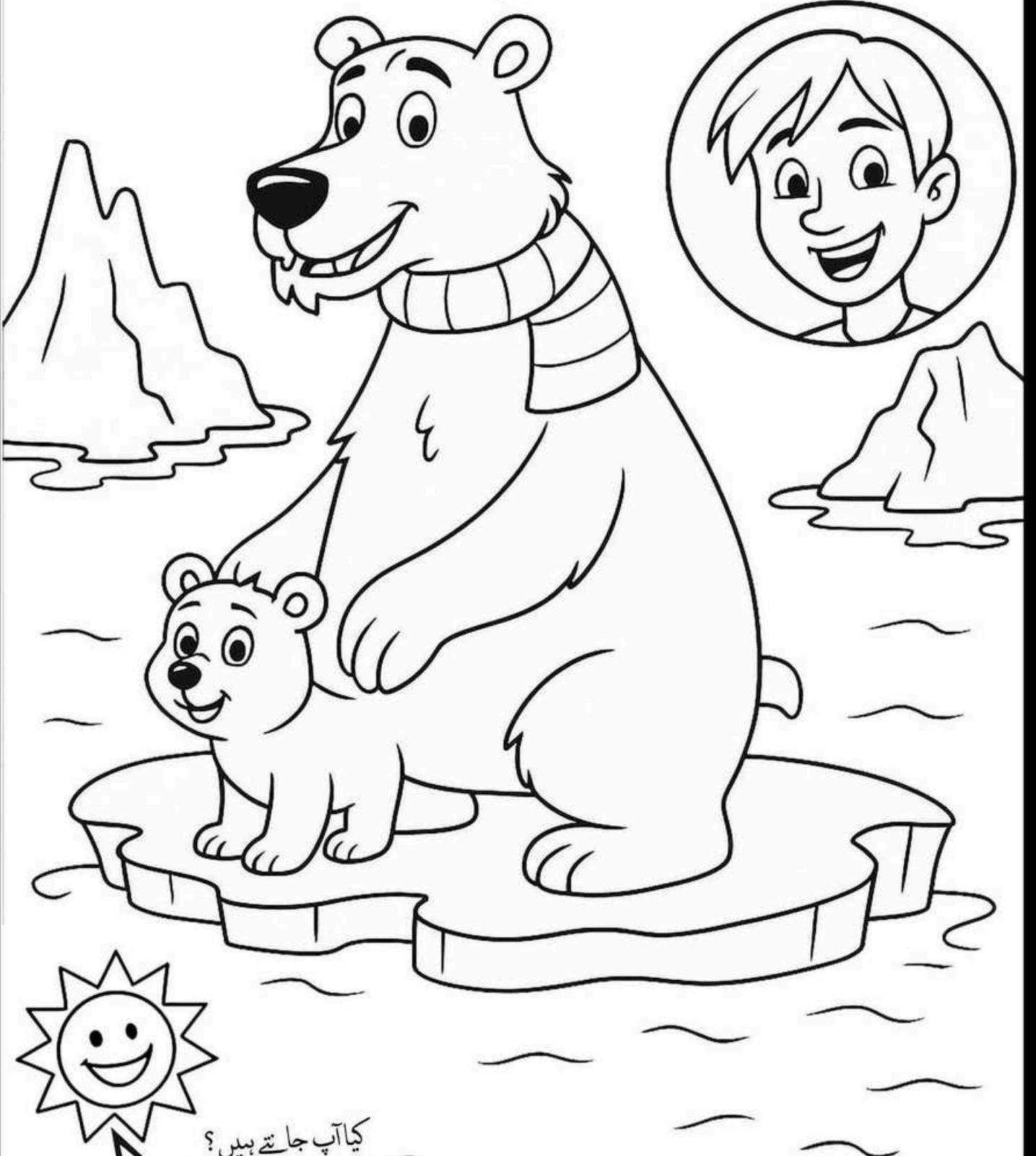
کیا آپ جانتے ہیں؟

سبزیوں اور پھلوں کے چھلکوں کی کھاد بنا کر پودوں کے لئے غذا تیار کر سکتے ہیں۔

Environmental Protection  
Agency, Punjab



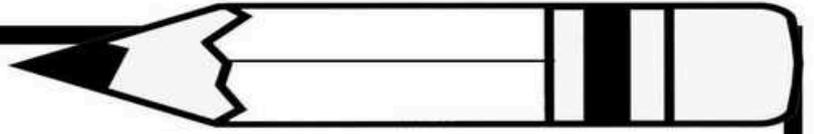
## The Colouring Environment



کیا آپ جانتے ہیں؟

درجہ حرارت بڑھ رہا ہے بڑھتے ہوئے درجہ حرارت اور  
آلودگی سے جانوروں اور پرندوں کی مختلف اقسام بتدریج کم  
ہو رہی ہیں۔ کرہ ارض کو گرم ہونے سے بچائیں۔

Environmental Protection  
Agency, Punjab



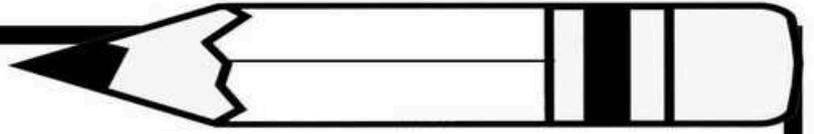
## The Colouring Environment



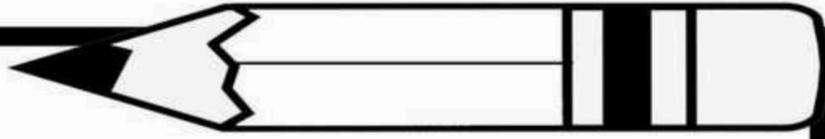
کیا آپ جانتے ہیں؟

جو کچرا ہم گھروں سے باہر پھینک دیتے ہیں اسکو اکٹھا کر کے زمین میں گھڑے بنا کر ڈالا جاتا ہے جسکو Landfill کہتے ہیں۔ اگر ہم کم کچرا پھینکیں گے تو ہمیں کچرا پھینکنے کے لئے کم جگہ چاہیے ہوگی

Environmental Protection Agency, Punjab



# The Colouring Environment



# The Colouring Environment