

## Science 4: The Laws of Ecology

**Read the passage below at least twice and answer the questions which follow it.**

The following 'laws' are an easy way to remember how we pollute our environment and the effect this pollution may have on us and the planet.

**This is the only planet we have.** If we destroy this planet we have nowhere else to go, so we had better take good care of it.

**We do not inherit the planet from our parents but borrow it from our children.** If we borrow something we do not own it. It is normal to try to return it in better condition than it was in when we got it. We behave as if we own the Earth.

**Nothing goes away/Everything goes somewhere.** The plastic bag we dump today will still be around in fifty years' time. Oil dumped at sea has found its way to the polar ice caps. CFC's (the type of gas in fridges and aerosol cans) will be damaging the ozone layer for years to come.

**Everything is connected.** All of our actions affect others. The fuel we burn produces carbon dioxide which changes into acid rain when it comes in contact with rain in the atmosphere. This acid rain may destroy forests in Germany.

**We are not as important as we think we are.** The Earth did just fine for the four billion years before we arrived and will carry on if we destroy ourselves.

**Extinction is forever.** Once the last member of a species dies there is no coming back. Where are the dinosaurs?

**Now answer these questions, using complete sentences:**

- 1 Why should we take care of the Earth?
- 2 Explain how believing *that we borrow the Earth* would help us to care for it better.
- 3 Why does nothing go away? What are CFC's? Explain how everything is connected.
- 4 What changes into acid rain? What may acid rain do?
- 5 Why are we not as important as we think we are? What is meant by extinction?

**Phonics.** One of the reasons that English spellings are so hard to learn is that the same letter can be used to make several different sounds. The easiest way to understand this is to say the letters out loud, listen closely and think about how your mouth, tongue, teeth and throat make that sound. Say the 'a' in **all**. Is it the same as the 'a' in **actions**, **affect** and **acid**? How many different sounds can you find for 'a' in this worksheet?

**Phonics.** Say the words 'soon', 'boot', 'too', 'food' and 'spoon' aloud. How do the letters 'oo' sound? Now say the words 'wood', 'book', 'foot', 'good' and 'look' aloud. How do the letters 'oo' sound? Working with your teacher, think of as many words with 'oo' in them as you can. Now write them down in two columns, one with 'oo' as it sounds in 'soon', the other as it sounds in 'wood'.