

Be kind to your mother

Given our alternatives, we should treat Mother Earth with all the respect she deserves.

Here are 10 simple things that will make a world of difference:

- Five recycled 2-liter plastic bottles produce enough fiberfill to stuff a ski jacket.
- Everyone in the world could eat 6 picnics based on the number of plates and cups Americans throw away each year.
- Manufacturing a standard disposable battery takes 50 times more power than it produces. Solution: use rechargeable batteries.
- Just one quart of motor oil can pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water.
- 100,000 marine mammals die each year from eating or becoming entangled in plastic debris.
- Every year Americans toss away enough office and writing paper to build a 12-foot-high wall spanning the miles between New York City and Los Angeles.

REVIEW ONLY

School Datebooks

DO NOT SUBMIT FOR PRINT

few **enviro-facts**

Never litter. Ever.

Pick paper, not foam or plastic.

Foam cups are NOT biodegradable. In fact, if Christopher Columbus and his crew had tossed their foam cups when they visited America more than 500 years ago, those cups would still be around today.

Make a deposit.

If you live in a state that has a bottle deposit program, make sure you participate.

Recycle your old bottle and newspaper.

Recycling one plastic bottle and newspaper you recycle means one less is polluting our world.

Share your old stuff.

Rather than throw them away, give your old toys, clothes, sports equipment, books, backpack, etc., to people who can use them.

Dish it. *Use real silverware and dishes instead of disposable ones.*

Opt for e-mail to save paper.

Be smart when you shop. *Some companies have found more enviro-friendly ways to make their products. Patagonia, an outdoor outfitter, makes its synthetic fleece from recycled two-liter bottles instead of crude oil. The program has saved enough fuel to fill the Volkswagen Chevy Suburban's 40-gallon gas tank 10,000 times.*

Share a ride. *Riding with someone saves gas and cuts down on air pollution, and it's more fun.*

Be your own bottler. *Convince your family to invest in a water-purification system or buy water in those huge reusable bottles. Then you can refill water bottles rather than buy hundreds of individual ones each year.*

