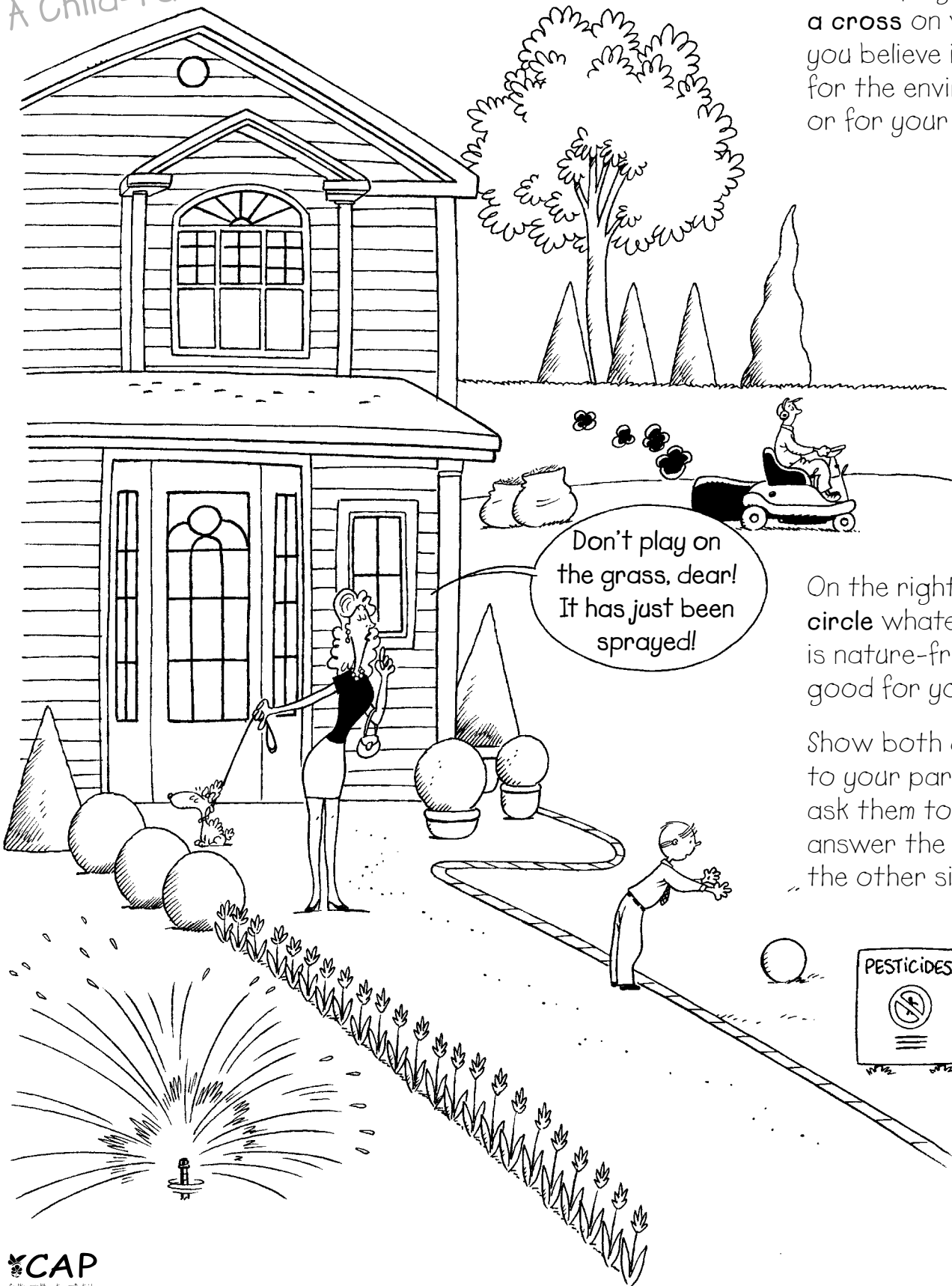


# A Child-Parent-Teacher Activity • A Child-Parent-Teacher Activity

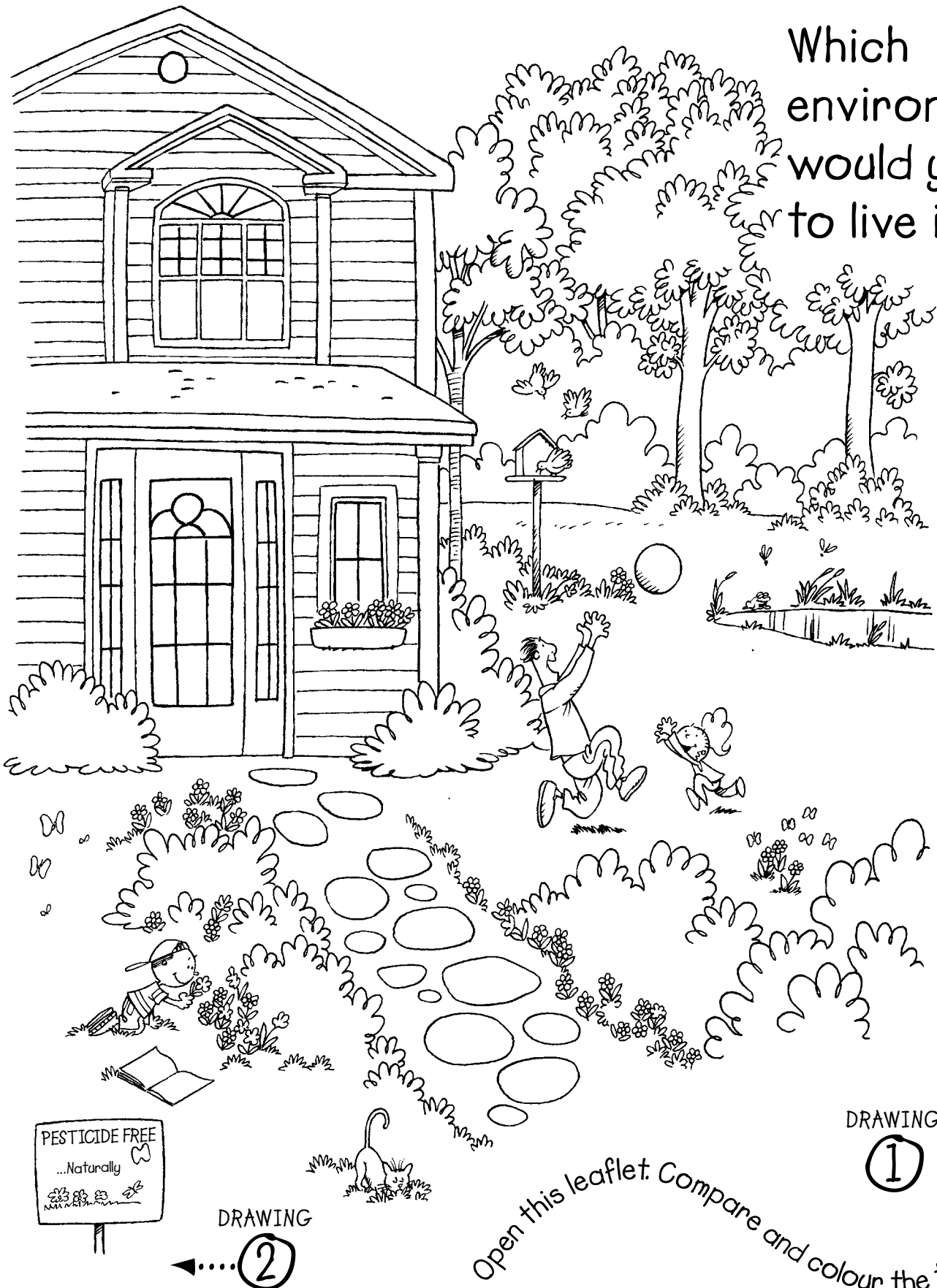
On this page, **put a cross** on what you believe is bad for the environment or for your health.



On the right-hand page, **circle** whatever you think is nature-friendly or good for you.

Show both drawings to your parents, and ask them to help you answer the quiz on the other side.

Which environment would you like to live in?



Open here

DRAWING

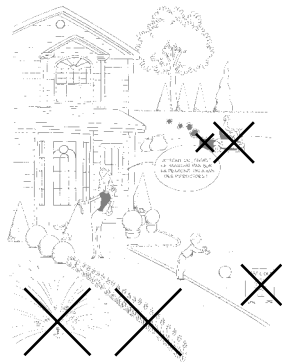
①

DRAWING

←...②

Open this leaflet. Compare and colour the two drawings

## Activity answers



The sign in the left-hand drawing indicates pesticide spraying. That's dangerous!

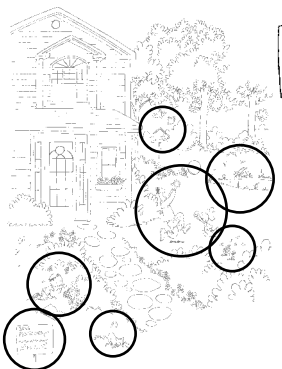
The lawnmower is equipped with a bag to catch grass cuttings. That's unnecessary, as the cuttings may be left in place to enrich the soil. And sending them to the dump is costly and wasteful.

Gas lawnmower engines pollute the air and make lots of noise, even when they are well adjusted. Hand lawnmowers are of course not very practical for large areas. But smaller lawns mean less work. Lawn can be replaced by various ground-covers, flowery meadows, shrubs or trees – there are lots of choices!

Watering the lawn uses up lots of water. Lawns do not need to stay green all summer.



These flower beds are very uniform, as is the grass lawn. Lack of variety fails to attract many useful insects, and may also breed plant diseases.



The sign in the right-hand drawing says that no pesticides were applied. That's great for the environment and for your health.

A pesticide-free lawn is full of tiny flowers. This attracts butterflies and other useful insects that help control lawn pests.

Collecting and drawing or drying wildflowers is fun.



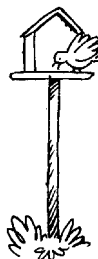
Such a collection helps you to know them better and to protect them.

Cats and pets often chew blades of grass. So it is important not to spray the grass with poison. Even though YOU don't eat grass, it's best to steer clear of any pesticides that may harm you through your skin and even through your shoes.



A little pond attracts many useful creatures such as frogs and damselflies. They eat bad bugs such as mosquitoes.

A bird house helps birds move into your neighborhood. They eat insects, especially birds such as robins who forage in the grass.



With **natural or organic lawns**, parents have more time to spend with their kids, since they won't need to spend hours operating sprayers or lawnmowers.

## Definitions

**Allergy:** an abnormal defense reaction of your body to a food, plant, pollen, chemical substances etc.

**Cancer:** a dangerous disease due to abnormal cell growth in the body

**Dormant:** a condition during which plants stop growing though they stay alive.

**Fungicide:** a substance that destroys or inhibits molds that cause plant diseases.

**Two stroke engine:** an engine running on a mixture of gas (petroleum) and engine oil.

**Herbicide:** A substance used to kill plants we call weeds. Only two plants are really harmful to people in eastern Canada: poison ivy and ragweed.

**Hormone balance:** the healthy release of hormones in our body. Hormones are produced and released by special glands to control body processes such as digesting your food or growing up to become an adult.

**Immune system:** the defense mechanisms of a person's body

**Insecticide:** a substance aimed at destroying insects we deem harmful

**Liver:** an organ in the upper left of your abdomen. Like a laboratory, it helps you to digest your food and to fight off toxic substances

**Organic or natural lawn:** one grown without the use of chemical pesticides

**Pest:** an insect or a disease that weakens and may kill plants

**Pesticides:** a class of garden products used to destroy or deter pests. Pesticides include herbicides, fungicides and insecticides

**Pollinating:** bringing pollen from one flower to another so it may set seed.

**Tap root:** a root growing straight down like a carrot.

**Weed:** a plant growing where it is not wanted.

# true or false?

- 1 Most bugs or insects are bad for me.
- 2 Lawn care products that kill dandelions are bad for my health.
- 3 It's OK to walk on a lawn 24 hours after it's been sprayed with pesticides.
- 4 Dandelions in a lawn show neglect.
- 5 Watering a lawn all summer is not necessary.
- 6 A lawnmower pollutes more than a car.
- 7 An organic lawn requires lots of time and care.



True. Two stroke engine lawnmowers cause as much pollution in half an hour as a three-hour car drive from Montreal to Quebec City.

False. Publicity influences many people and makes them feel that dandelions in a lawn are generally weeds using herbicides, unless the homeowners weed their property by neglect. A dandelion-free lawn grows in a hand, feeling ashamed of a less-than-perfect lawn. Yet in fact, dandelions are wonderful flowers! They can grow in deep the poorest soil, provided they have sun. They have even **tap roots** which withstand drought much is edible. Besides, every part of a dandelion root for **liver** problems. Drugstores even sell dried dandelion root for liver problems.

psst!!! Look for the answers...

False. It depends on the kind of lawn we want to have. Since no natural product will eliminate dandelions only, hand weeding would be a tedious chore. But a very fine lawn can be had with just natural fertilizers. The thicker the grass, the less chance that **weeds**, including dandelions, will take root. And at worst, dandelions only flower for two weeks. After that, they are barely visible! A lawn with many different wildflower «weeds» attracts a lot of useful insects, and so seldom requires pesticides. That means less work for us!

True. Lawns turn yellow when there is a shortage of rain. But the lawn is not dead, just **dormant**. As soon as rain returns, the lawn turns green again. Leaving the grass longer (8 cm) helps to preserve moisture in the soil.

True. Such products are called **herbicides**. They belong to a broader group we call **pesticides** which also includes **insecticides** and **fungicides**. Herbicides which have delayed side effects which only appear after some years, affect your **immune system** or your **hormone balance**. There is also evidence that several types of cancer are linked to herbicide use.

False. Very few bugs, that is insects, are harmful to people. Most insects only sting us in self defence. Insects exceptions such as mosquitoes. Some play an important role in nature. Others pollinate flowers such as dead break down rubbish such as leaves and lawn cuttings. Finding gobbles up **pests** or other animals. Finding food for birds or other animals. Interesting to out about insects is interesting to worth while. If you are allergic to insect bites, eg. bee stings, you need to be very careful, and should not run barefoot outside. Studies have shown that pesticide use weakens your **immune system** and may cause **allergies**.

False. Tests have shown that pesticides can be found in a lawn as long as a week or more after application. As they disappear from a lawn, rain carries them into our rivers where they can poison fish. Little is known about the break-down products of these various chemicals. In a few years' time, it may prove very hard to rid ourselves of all these poisons.

