

Developing ideas ◀

1 Look at the questions about “green living” and tick your answers.

- 1 Which shopping bag is more environmentally friendly?
 - ☐ A plastic bag.
 - ☐ A paper bag.
 - ☐ Neither of these.
- 2 What should you do to save energy when leaving your home?
 - ☐ Turn off a device.
 - ☐ Unplug a device.
 - ☐ Neither of these.
- 3 What food is better for the environment?
 - ☐ Food produced near to where you live.
 - ☐ Food produced far from where you live.
 - ☐ It depends.
- 4 Which uses less water?
 - ☐ Taking a bath.
 - ☐ Taking a shower.
 - ☐ It depends.

Now work in groups and see if other people share your ideas.

2 Read the four subheadings in the passage and decide if they are true or false. Then read the passage and check your answers.

☐ Learning to learn

As subheadings expand on the main heading or title, they can be slightly longer than the main heading. Although not every paragraph needs a subheading, they can be skimmed to give the reader an overall understanding of the content of a text.

What's

Most of us are aware that we must take care of the environment, and the majority of us take steps to save energy and reduce waste and pollution. But recently, some “green truths” have been shown to be only half true, or even completely false. Here are some common ones. Which are really green?

? Paper shopping bags are better than plastic ones.



really green?

Plastic bags cause litter and are a danger to wild animals, which mistake them for food. It takes hundreds of years for plastic to break down, but much less time for paper. Because of this, people think paper bags are the better environmental choice.

However, making a paper bag uses four times as much energy as making a plastic bag and up to three times the amount of water. The process also produces more greenhouse gases.

In fact, both kinds of bags are bad for the environment. So, take a reusable bag with you when you go shopping.

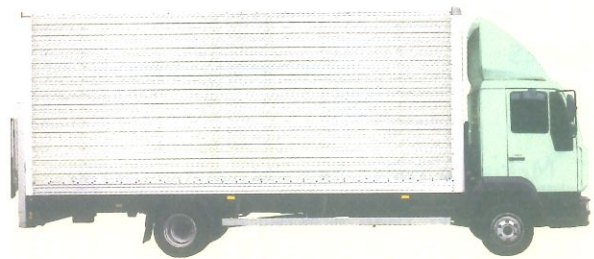
? When you turn off a device, it stops using power.



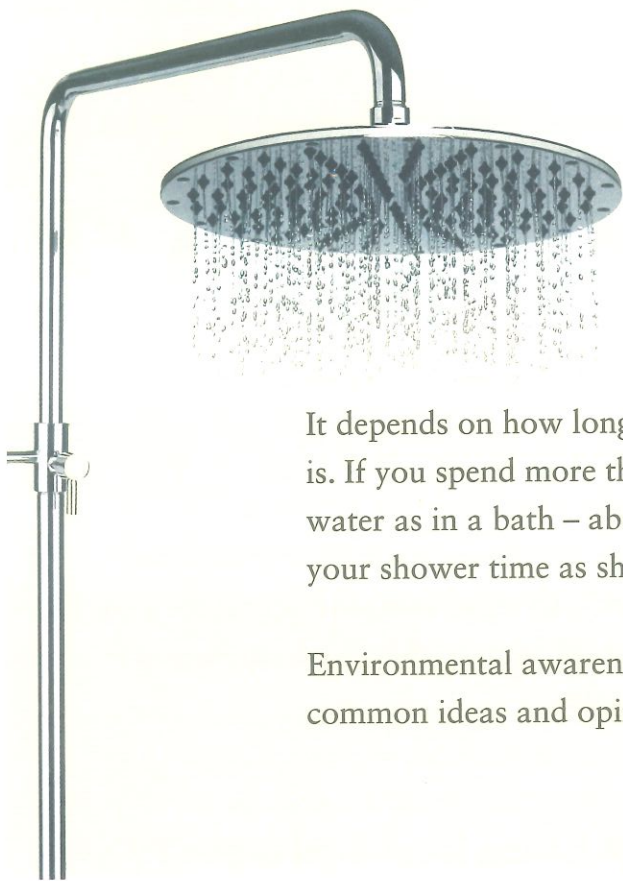
When we turn off a device, such as television, it goes into stand-by mode. Devices in this mode still use power, and older devices in stand-by mode can use even more. This happens

because electricity continues to leak from the device, even when it is turned “off”. To make sure your appliance is in fact off, remove the plug from its power supply.

? Eating local food is good for the environment.



It seems like common sense: eating local food should be better for the environment, because it does not need to be transported long distances and kept cold during transport. Unfortunately, it is not that simple. It is the production of food, not its transport, that uses most of the energy and produces most of the greenhouse gases. In some cases, local produce might have used more energy and produced more greenhouse gases than produce grown a long way away – even taking into account its transport.



? It's better to take a shower than a bath.

It depends on how long you spend in the shower and how large your bath is. If you spend more than eight minutes in a shower, you'll use as much water as in a bath – about 50 litres of water. Therefore, the key is to keep your shower time as short as possible.

Environmental awareness is now part of daily life. But it's worth checking common ideas and opinions to see what's really green.

3 Read the effects and complete the causes of these according to the passage.

CAUSES

EFFECTS

1 Making a paper bag uses more energy and water than making a plastic bag. It also produces more greenhouse gases.

Paper bags are not good for the environment.

2

Turning off a device won't stop it from using power.

3

Eating local food isn't always better for the environment.

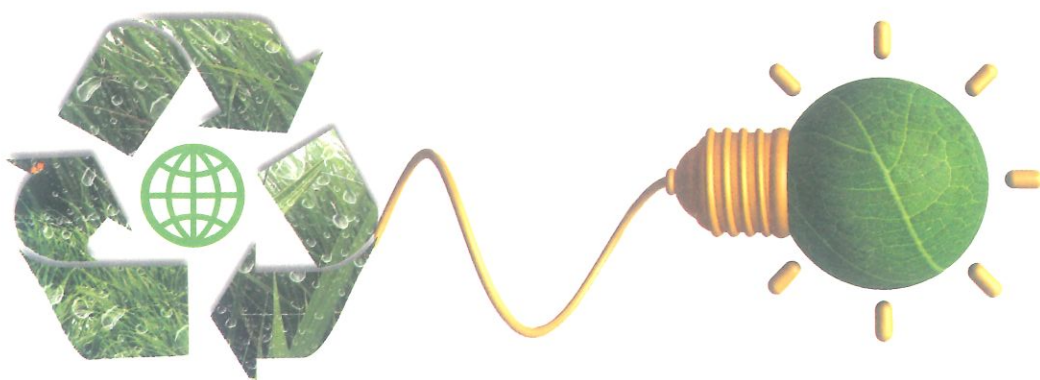
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It's not always better to take a shower than a bath.

- 1 Which of the "green truths" surprises you most? Give your reasons.
- 2 Are you aware of any other "green truths" that are not true? Share them with the class.
- 3 How "green" are you? Share your "green actions" with the class.
- 4 What can you do to become "greener"?

4 Work in groups. Give a talk about one of the "green truths" in the passage.

- 1 Use these questions to help plan your talk.
 - Which "green truth" are you going to talk about?
 - Why do people believe it is "green"?
 - Why is it not completely true?
 - What can you do to become "greener"?
- 2 Organise your talk following the steps below.
 - Start your talk by stating the topic.
 - Describe your chosen "green truth" in more detail.
 - Explain why it is not completely "green".
 - End your talk by encouraging your audience to become "greener".
- 3 Give your talk to the class.



Writing a persuasive letter

5 Read the letter and answer the questions.

Dear Friends,

We are writing this letter to call on everyone to take part in the Clear Your Plate campaign. It urges people to save food by not wasting anything on the dining table. You may not know over 30% of the world's food is wasted, while many people in poor areas do not have enough to eat. In order to save food, we propose:

- 1 Do not order more than you need in the school canteen.
- 2 Order less and take leftover food home when dining in restaurants.
- 3 Call on family members and friends to take part in the campaign.

Reducing daily food waste by just 5% could save millions of people from starvation. Let's start doing what we can to make the world a greener, cleaner place!

With best wishes,
Class 8



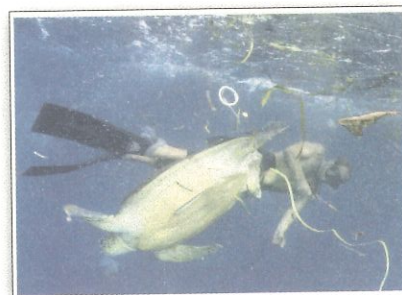
- 1 What is the purpose of the letter?
- 2 What is the existing problem?
- 3 What are the proposed actions from Class 8?

- 6 Work in groups. Discuss another environmental issue about which to write a persuasive letter and make notes.

Problem:



Cause(s):



Solution(s):



Now write a persuasive letter. Use the expressions in the box to help you.

☐ Useful expressions

- We are writing this letter to raise your awareness of...
- We are concerned that...
- We would like to suggest...
- We hope that you will consider...
- One of the reasons for this is...
- In order to improve the situation, we should...

- 7 Share your letter with the class.