

# ToyBox and Salle 17 Go Camping!

Make a Change to save the Earth!





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The views expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views of the Public Health Agency of Canada.



The **TOYBOX** is a community of researchers, caregivers, educators, health practitioners, and students concerned with improving the lives of children. Led by Dr. Sheri Skwarchuk, the TOYBOX project aims to support children's academic development as well as physical and mental health.

The TOYBOX provides free, playful, evidenced-based, curriculum-based activities about letters, numbers, and wellness for children aged 2-8 years.

Free activities are posted to the TOYBOX website each month ([toyboxmanitoba.ca](http://toyboxmanitoba.ca)) which are supported by peer-reviewed research and are designed to be accessible, inclusive, and easy to follow! Each literacy and numeracy activity has three levels: Beginner, Intermediate, and Experienced. This design allows children to enjoy the same activity in a way that suits their individual growth, and to progress at their own pace.

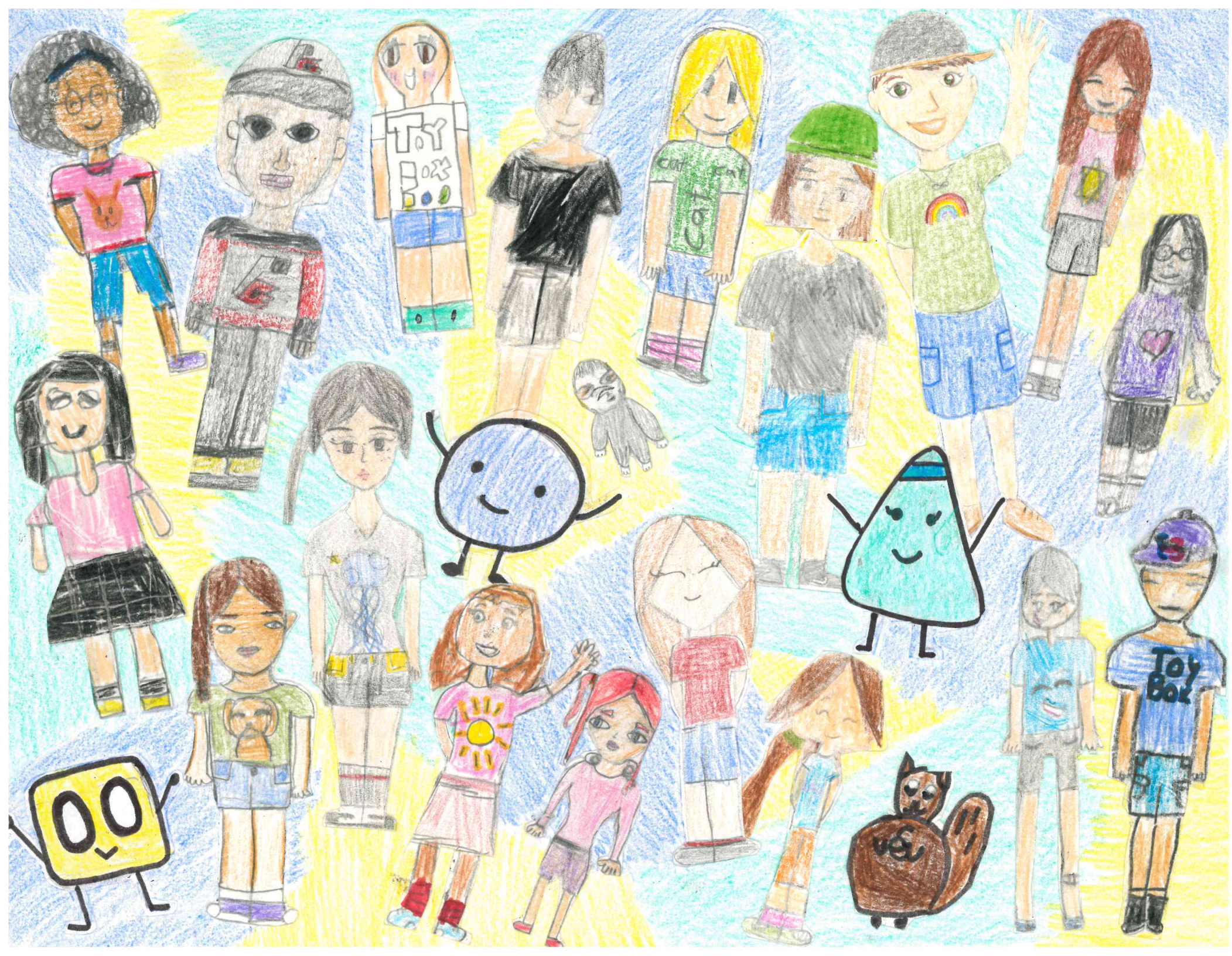
Check out our activities related to climate awareness, wellness, and connecting to our surroundings!



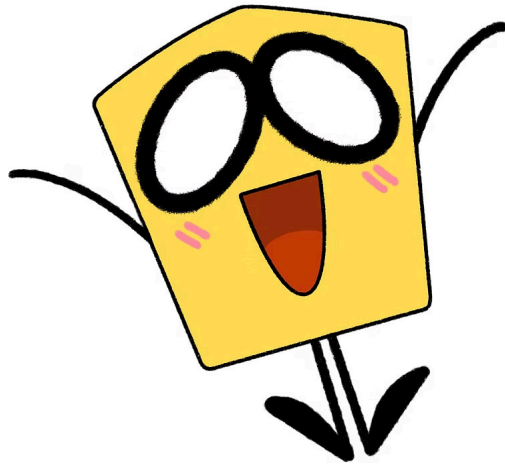
The **Prairie Climate Centre** is an internal research centre at the University of Winnipeg that conducts research on climate change in Manitoba, the Prairies, and Canada.

The PCC has developed and maintains publicly available resources such as the Climate Atlas of Canada and the Indigenous Climate Atlas. The Centre combines climate science, mapping and storytelling to bring the global issue of climate change closer to home, and is designed to inspire local, regional, and national action and solutions.

The PCC is committed to making climate change meaningful and relevant to Canadians of all walks of life. We bring an evidence-based perspective to communicating the science, impacts, and risks of climate change through maps, documentary video, research reports, and plain-language training, writing, and outreach.

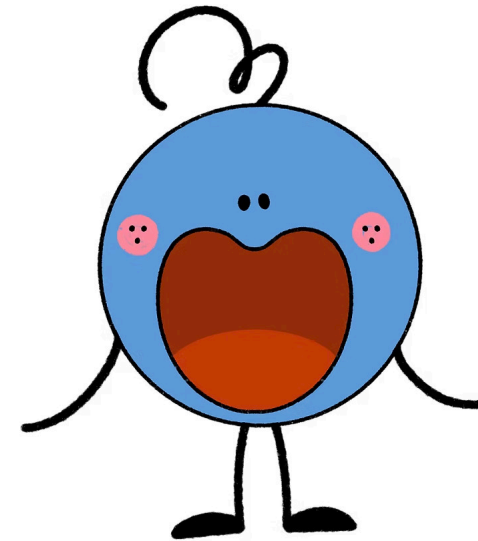


**Dedicated to the young people who are passionate about  
protecting our planet.**



# Litty

Hi there! My name is Litty and I'm here to help you learn the alphabet, sound out letters, write sentences, and read! I can't wait to go on a literacy learning journey together!



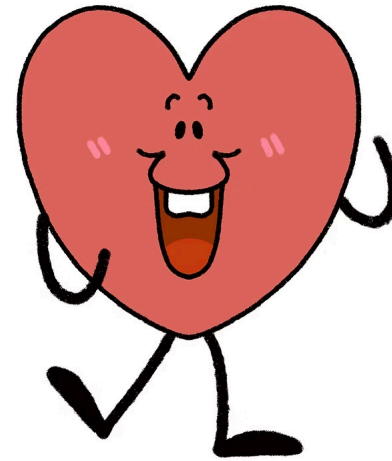
# Nume

Hey everyone! My name is Nume and I'm here to help you learn numbers, to add, subtract, multiply, or divide. Let's work together to grow your numeracy skills!



# Welly

Hello! My name is Welly, and I'm here to help develop skills around physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. We can work together when you're feeling down or just need some motivation!



# Happy

Nice to meet you, my name is Happy! I enjoy playing, learning, and helping my friends on their fun adventures. We can do anything if we do it together!



On a surprisingly hot summer day, Salle 17 and their ToyBox friends Litty, Nume, and Welly, went on a camping trip to Caddy Lake in the Whiteshell Provincial Park.

Grade 5 students at École Constable Finney had just finished the school year and wanted to celebrate how hard they had worked with one last field trip.

“Ooo, in French, *salle* means room!”





On their way to the Whiteshell, the group spent time doing different activities on the bus. Some people looked out the window, some sang songs and played games, while others chatted with friends. A few people took a nap along the way.



When they got to Caddy Lake, everyone quickly set up camp so they could start their adventure.

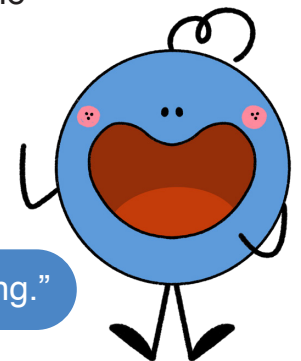
Mx. M called out to the group, "Let's go for a bike ride!" Everyone hopped on their bikes and headed out to explore their surroundings.



Soon, they came across a squirrel with big full cheeks. Surprised to see so many people, the squirrel shoved acorns in its mouth and ran away.

Nume asked the group, “I wonder how many acorns were in its mouth? **Let’s estimate!**”

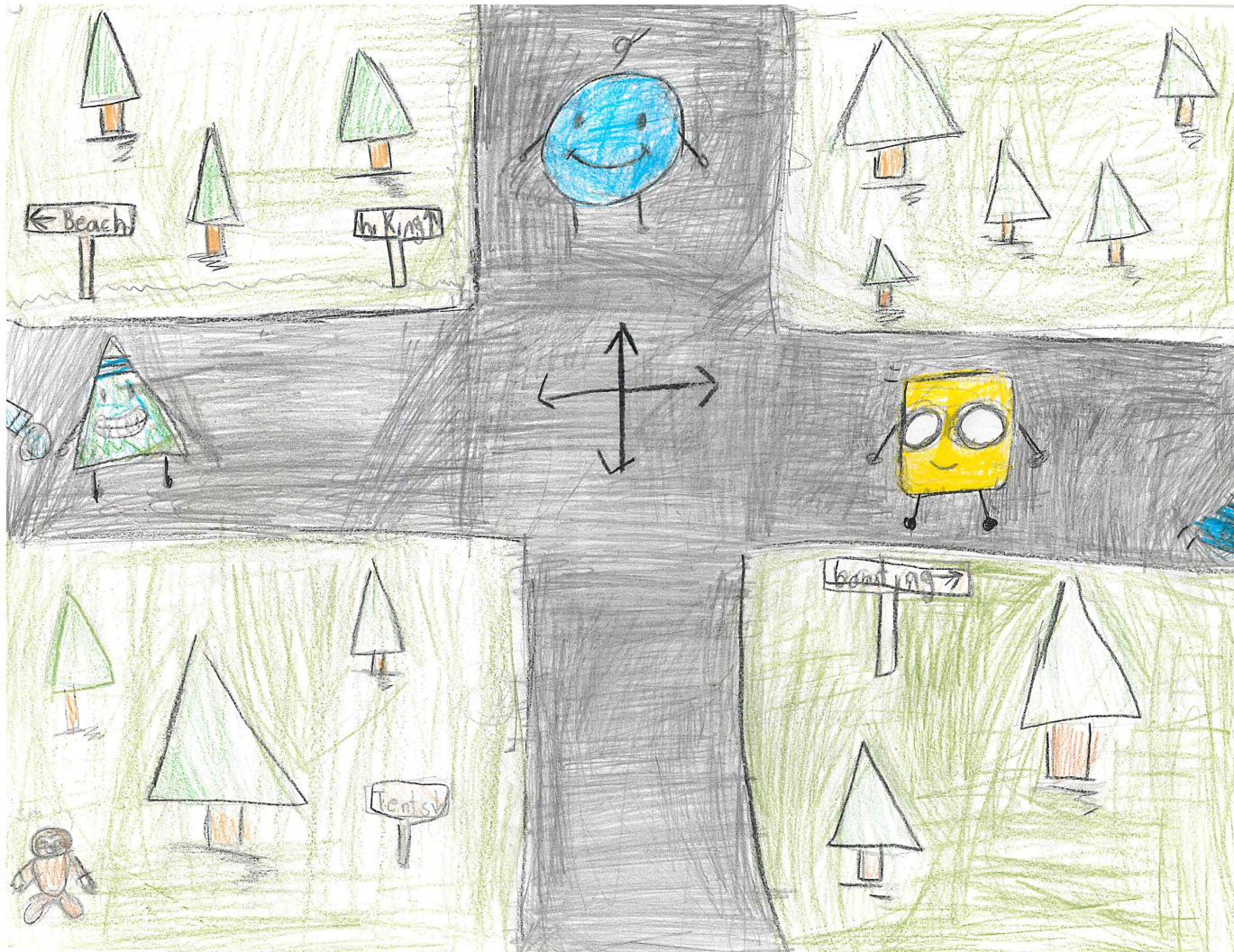
“Estimation is a guess about the value, size, or amount of something.”





As the group took turns guessing how many acorns could fit in the squirrel's mouth, Ariane asked, "Can we keep biking now?"

But Naomi exclaimed, "It's too hot out here for this!" Quinn, Payton, and Margaux agreed. Sabela suggested, "How about we go for a swim?"



Not everyone wanted to go swimming, so they broke into three groups with Litty, Nume, and Welly.

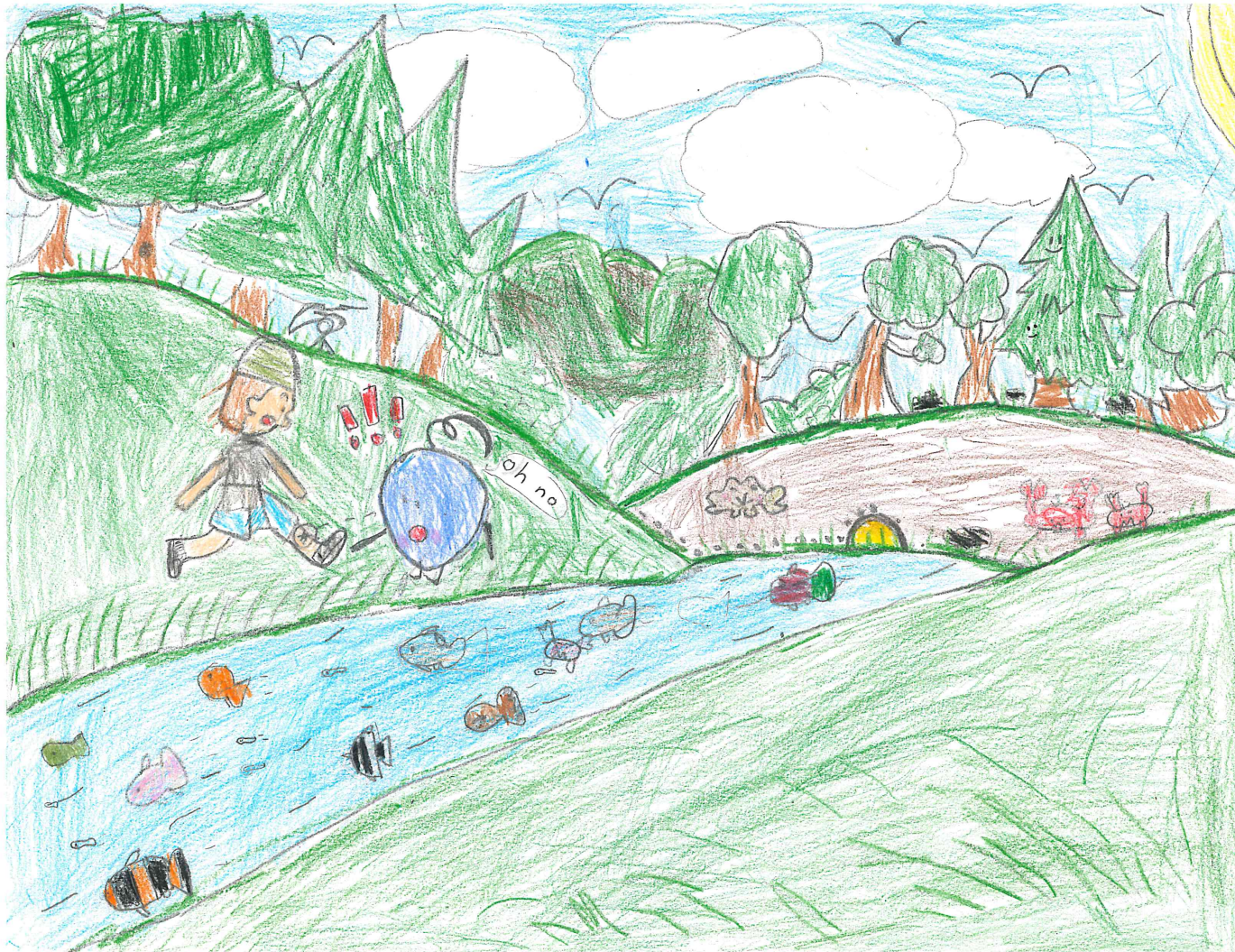
Welly decided to take a group swimming, Nume's group chose to go for a hike, and Litty's group agreed to go boating!

Mx. M gave out maps of Caddy Lake. "Let's meet back at the campground at 7:30," they said.



On the hiking trail, Nume's group noticed a woodpecker, a caterpillar, a robin, some ladybugs, a few worms, and a spider.

Looking at Nume, Noah called out, "Let's see how many cool bugs we can find!"



While they were hunting for bugs, Paolo wandered into the tall grass.

“Oh hey, I found a beetle on my leg,” Paolo said. Nume gasped, “Umm... that’s not a beetle Paolo, it’s a **deer tick**. Those can be super dangerous!”



“Go to page 31 for information about tick safety”



Ben said, "How about we go to that rocky area?" "Yeah," agreed Cole, "Let's do that, there are no ticks there."

The group set up a delicious picnic and counted all of the rocks and ants they could find around them.



Back at the campsite, Welly's group got ready to go to the beach. Welly unpacked some sunscreen and E.M. grabbed goggles for everyone.

Sabela carried the class' buckets and shovels, Jazmine took some floaties, Lucia brought sun umbrellas, and Khushpreet grabbed a big cooler with sponges, snacks, and drinks.

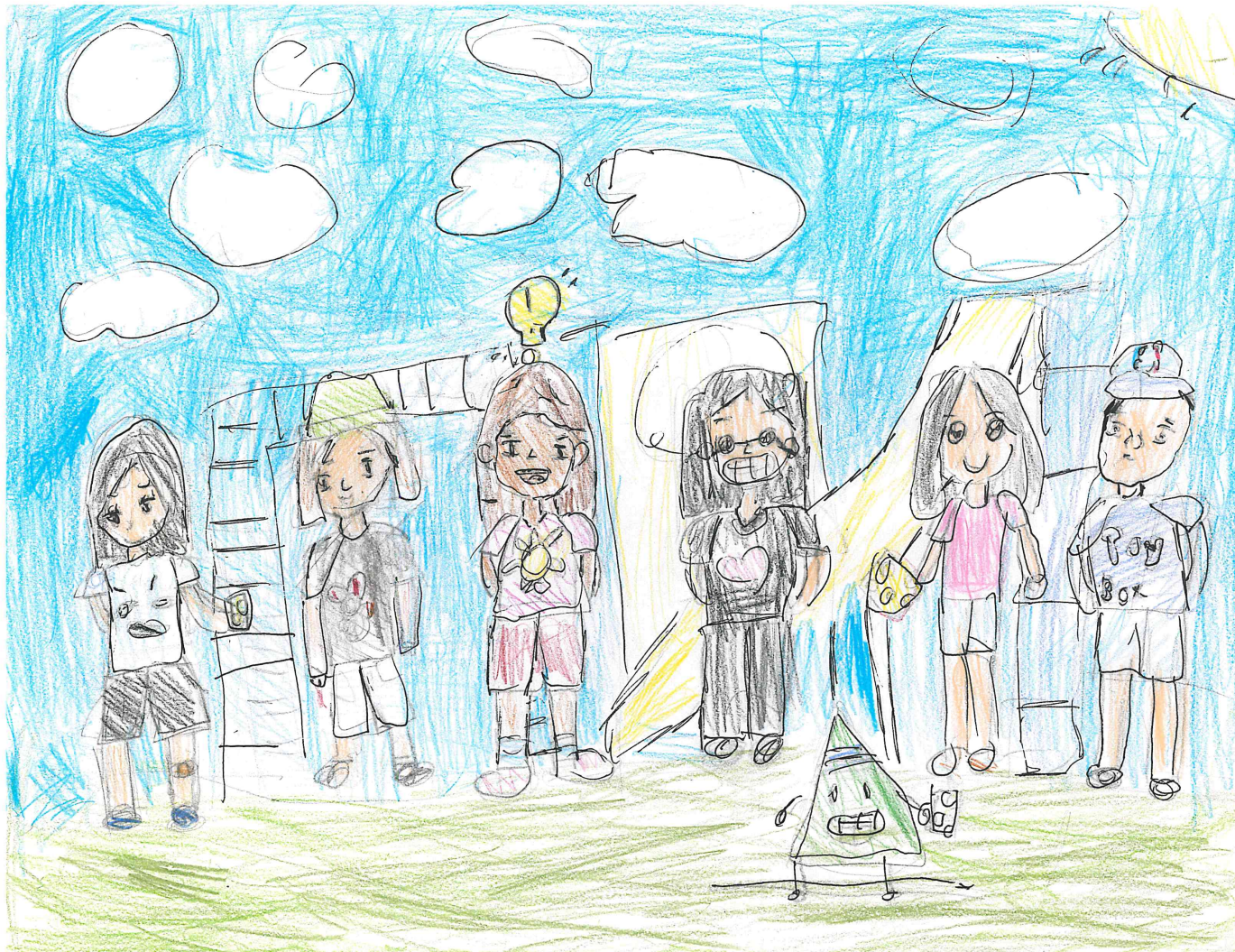


Welly and their friends approached the water and saw that it was a dark green colour. Sabela noticed a sign that read **Blue green algae present in water. May be toxic. Do not swim.**

“Aw shucks!” grumbled Lucia. “Now we can’t go swimming!” Welly said, and the whole group sighed with sadness.

“Go to page 31 for information about blue green algae”



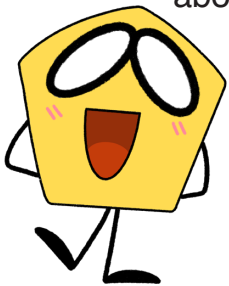


Suddenly, Jazmine had an idea, “Why don’t we play with water sponges at the playground!”  
“Sponge tag!” everyone shouted.

“SpongeBob?” said E.M., laughing. “No!” replied the group, “Sponge tag!” So they all headed to the playground.



Meanwhile, Litty's group went to the docks to go fishing. Litty had a new **encyclopedia** and wanted to learn about the different fish in the lake. They planned to catch and release some fish, and write about the different species they saw.



“An encyclopedia is a book with information about many things or a lot of details about one topic”



At the docks Emah saw a sign that said *No Boating. Low Water Levels*. “It’s not safe,” Litty warned, “There might be rocks.”

“Oh no!” said Kulnaaz, “What are we going to do now?”

Looking through the pages of their new book, Litty found a section about birds. Seeing this, Hiya suggested, “Why don’t we go bird watching instead?”



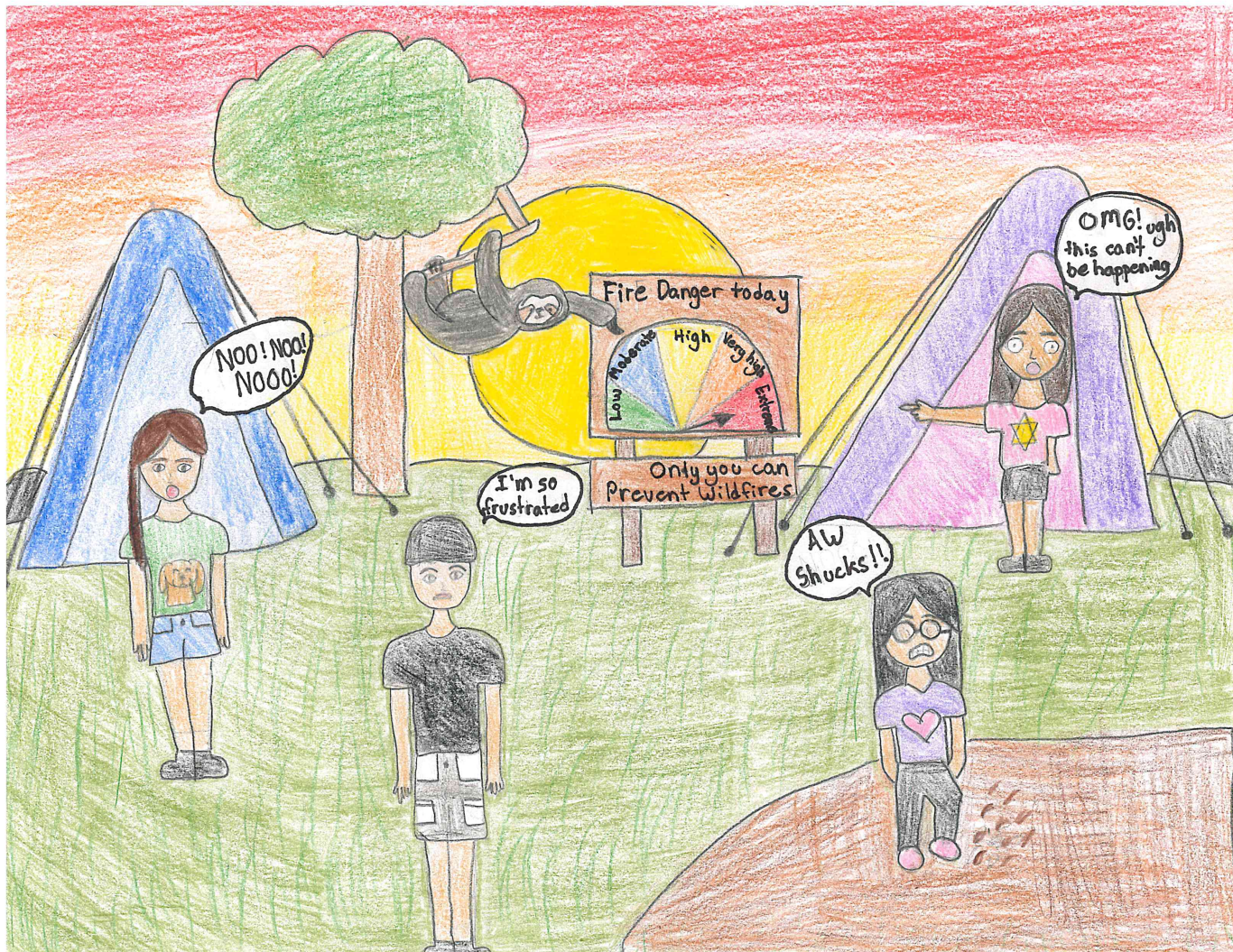
While some people in the group were reading and writing in their journals about the birds that they saw, Ariane exclaimed, “Hey look, it’s the same squirrel from earlier!”

“It’s so fluffy,” Emah giggled. Quinn replied, “We should name it Buddy!”



Mx. M checked the time and noticed it was getting late. “We should head back to the campsite, everyone!” they called out.

On the way back, each of the groups met up with one other and decided to go roast marshmallows and bannock over the fire.

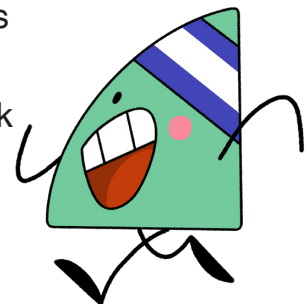


As the group got ready to build a fire, Payton realized that the **fire danger** sign was at *extreme*. “There is a ban...” she cried. “We aren’t allowed to make a fire!”

“Nooo!” shouted Kulnaaz. “Aw shucks,” said Lucia, kicking the dirt. “I’m fed up with all of these problems we’ve had today!” shouted Noah.

Disappointed, the group was about to give up and go to bed early, when Sabela exclaimed “Oh hey, look it’s our friend, Happy!”

“Go to page 31 for information about fire bans”



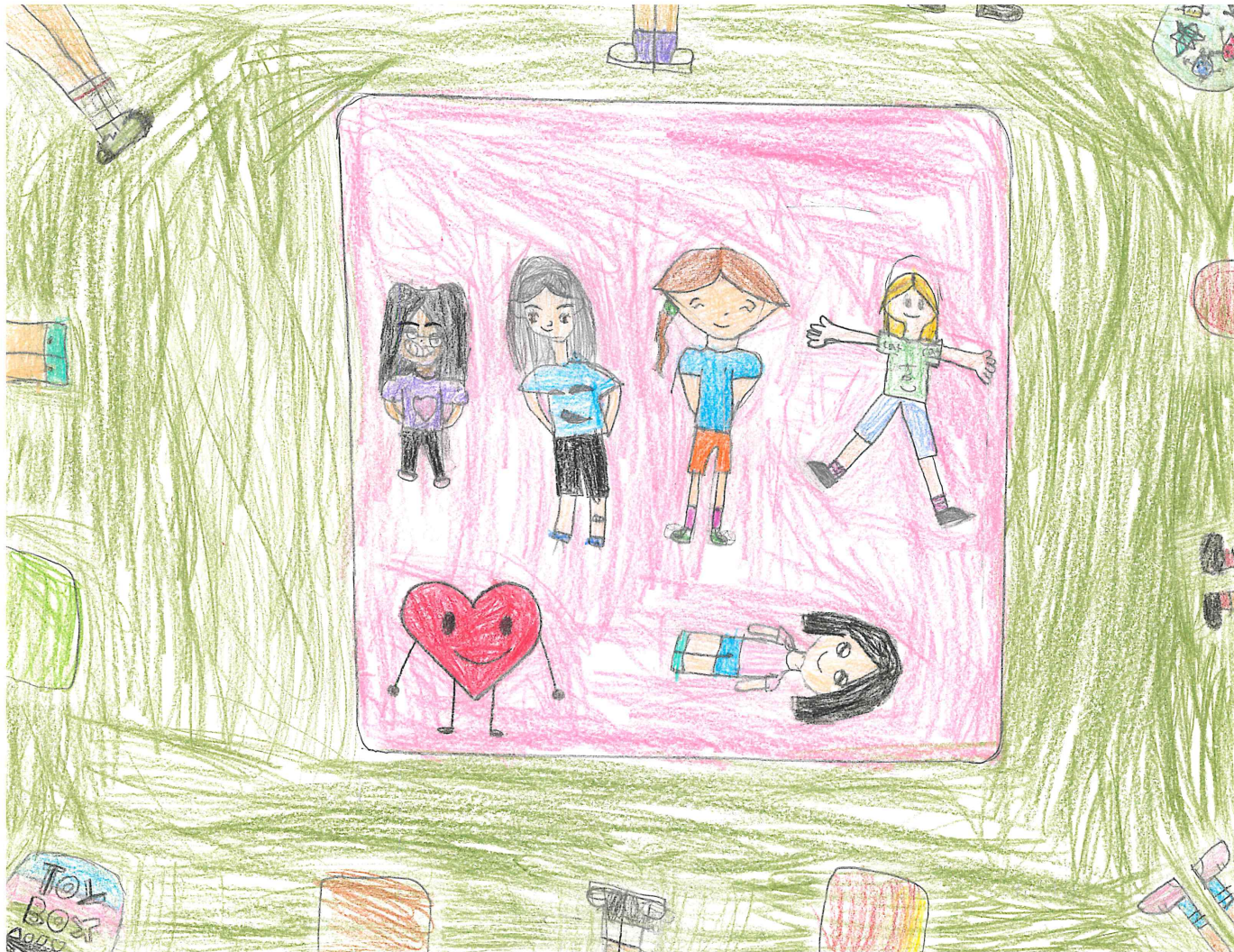


“Hi everybody” said Happy. “Why do you all look so gloomy?” Salle 17 and the ToyBox friends explained their adventures and the troubles they had to overcome.

Payton sighed heavily, “And now we can’t even light a fire.”

“What a day you’ve had, I’m so sorry!” said Happy.

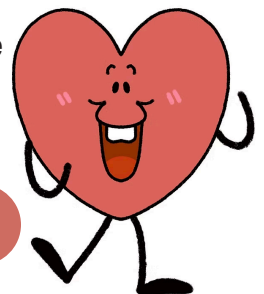
Looking up at the sky, Happy smiled and said, “Why don’t we try to make the most of the day by stargazing?”



As the group was stargazing, they wondered why this summer was so much hotter than other summers.

Happy told the group, “The climate has changed a lot over time, but now it’s different. We know that humans burning fossil fuels increases the amount of **greenhouse gases** in the air, causing the planet’s temperatures to rise higher and faster than in the past.”

“Go to page 31 for information about greenhouse gases”





The group got quiet. Emah asked, “Is there anything we can do?”

“Well,” said Happy, “my friends at the Prairie Climate Centre told me there is hope!”

Happy continued, “we have to adapt to changes that are already happening, like you all did today, and we can also take action!”

After learning more from Happy about the causes of climate change, the group was inspired to share ideas to take action on climate change.



Back in Winnipeg, Litty and some friends from Salle 17 used boxes and scrap paper to make posters encouraging people to reuse recyclable items.

Welly and their friends used signs to inspire people to use active transportation and carpool to send less carbon emissions into the air.

Salle 17 organized community clean-ups to get rid of litter and shared other ways of reducing their carbon footprints.



Nume, Welly, and Litty helped Salle 17 research what other countries are doing to slow rising temperatures. Together they wrote to the Canadian government about making new laws to reduce carbon emissions.

Happy helped make petitions to ban single use plastic and led peaceful protests about the things Salle 17 knew that Canada's leaders needed to do better to protect the Earth.



After taking action, Salle 17 and their ToyBox friends were proud of all their work to make the Earth healthy and clean.

They wondered what other adventures awaited them and were excited to keep sharing ideas to make our lands green and our water clear. Even though change cannot all happen overnight,  
***practice makes progress!***

## Additional Information

### Tick Safety

Warmer weather from climate change means ticks are active for more of the year and can live in more places. Some ticks carry diseases like Lyme disease that can be passed on when we get bitten. When playing outside, wear long sleeves and pants, stay on trails, and check for ticks after coming indoors.

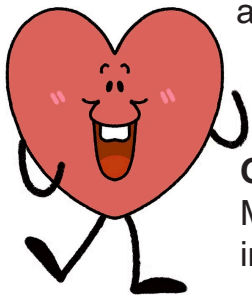


### Blue-Green Algae

Hotter temperatures and water pollution after heavy rain can cause the growth of more blue-green algae in lakes and ponds. This algae can produce toxins that are harmful to people, pets, and wildlife. Always look for warning signs and never swim or play in water that looks green and foamy.

### Fire Bans

Because of changes like drier weather and more intense heat waves, wildfires are becoming a bigger concern for our safety. Fire bans help prevent dangerous and uncontrollable fires. During a fire ban, follow the recommendations, such as no campfires or use of fireworks.



### Greenhouse Gases

Many things, like cars, planes, and factories, can release greenhouse gases, like carbon dioxide, into the air.

Too much of it traps heat in our atmosphere, causing climate change. We can help by reducing our emissions and using less energy. Every little action helps our Earth!

**air pollution**

**changes in precipitation**

**water pollution**

**fluctuating water levels**

**more harmful algae blooms**

more droughts & wildfires

higher air temperatures

changes in habitats

