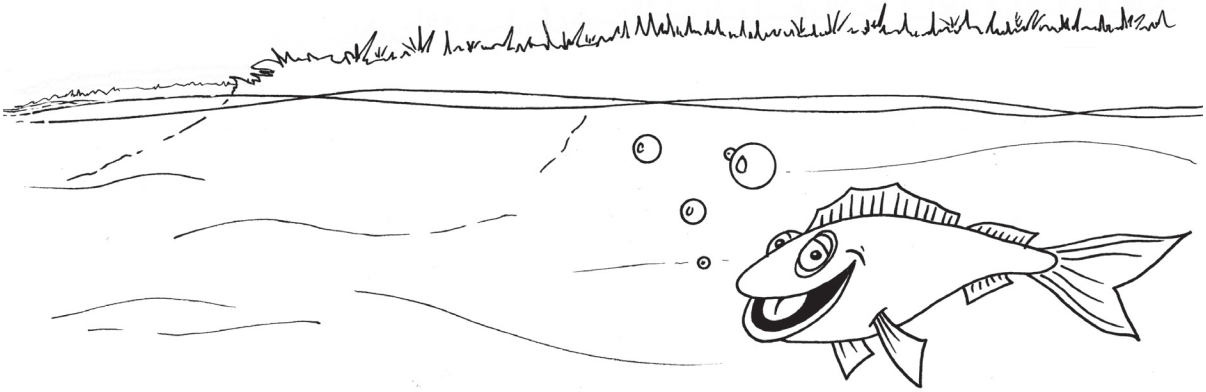
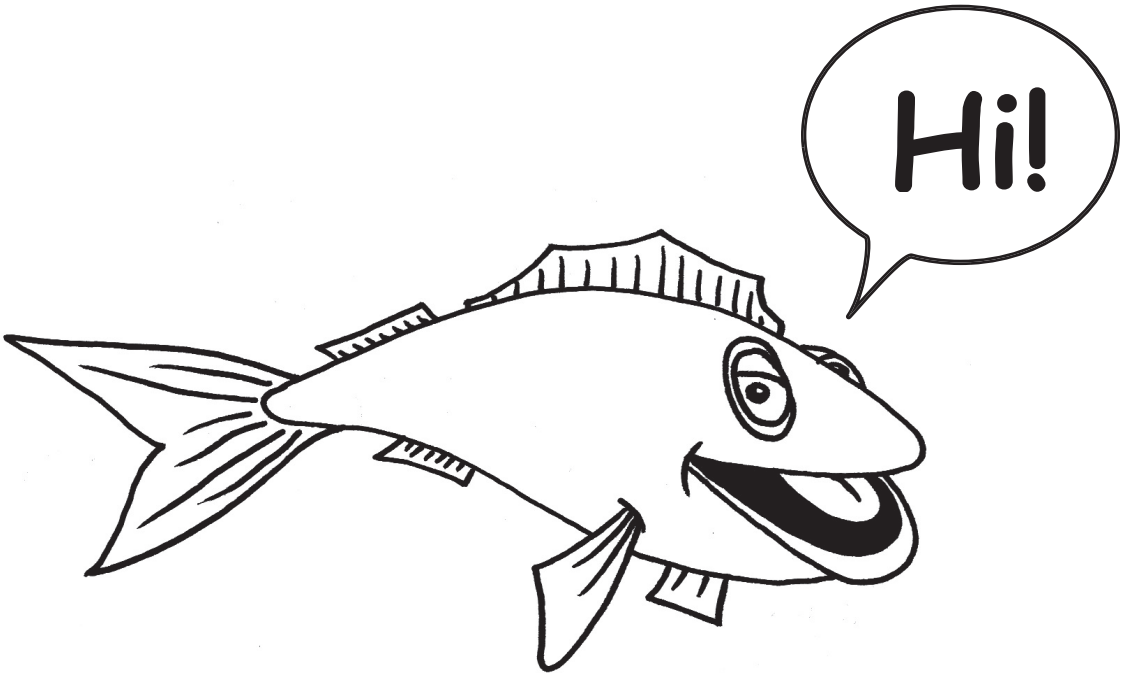
South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control

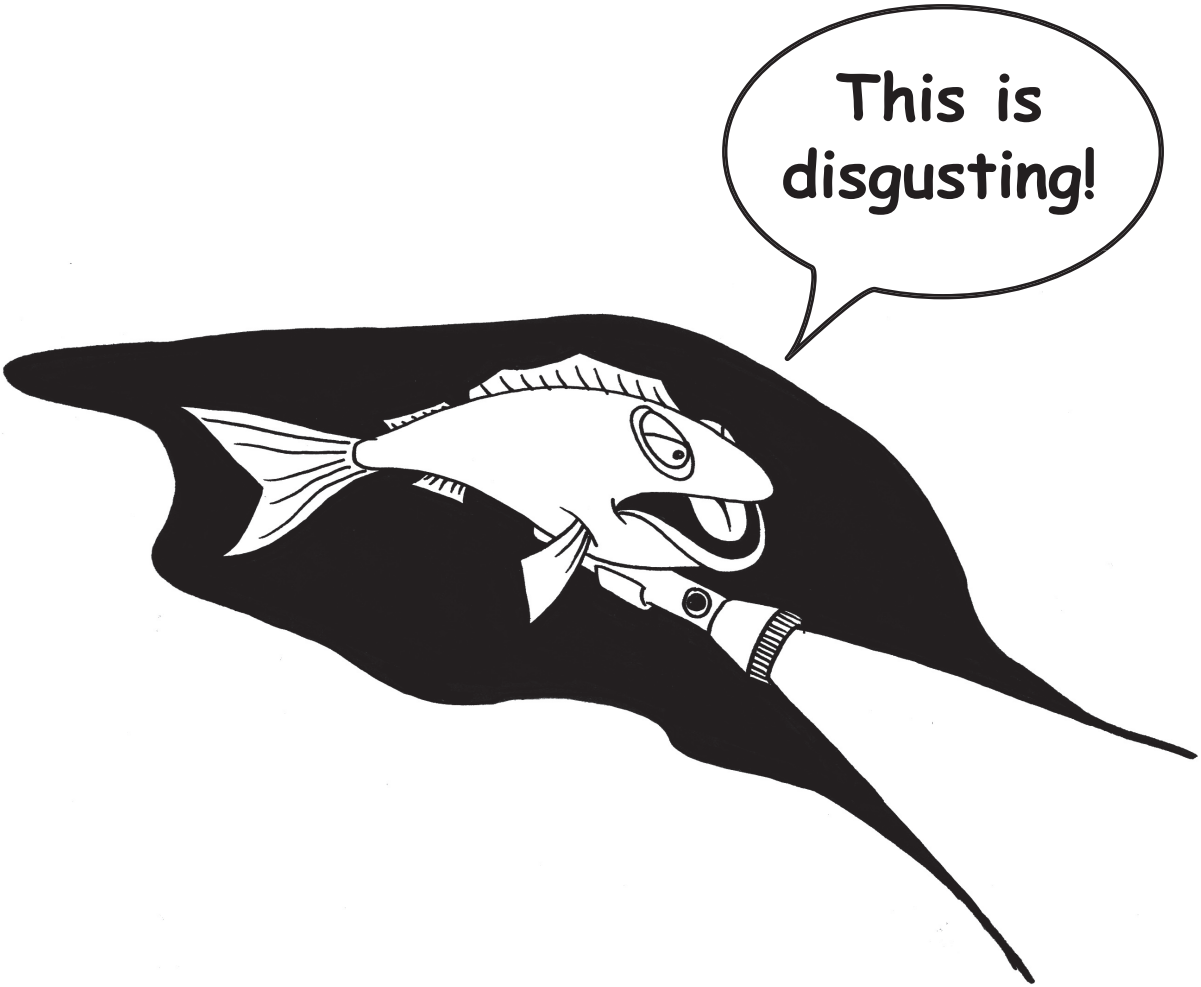
a Fish's Wish



A tale of polluted runoff and how to prevent it.



I am a Fish. The water that I live in is very important to me. I breathe oxygen from it, find my food in it, and make my home in it. I can live only in clean water.



But sometimes humans do things that make my water dirty. They leave pollutants on the ground, and when it rains these pollutants wash downhill into my water. This is called **polluted runoff.**

x	d	l	k	y	e	r	t	u	n	d	h	p	m
z	t	w	o	i	l	h	i	k	w	c	t	o	l
r	t	g	u	i	b	s	o	a	p	s	u	d	s
c	h	e	m	i	c	a	l	s	y	j	o	p	o
p	e	t	w	a	s	t	e	e	t	h	v	i	x
n	a	l	j	k	m	l	i	t	t	e	r	a	l

All of these things can cause polluted runoff. Can you find them in the word search?

soapsuds

chemicals

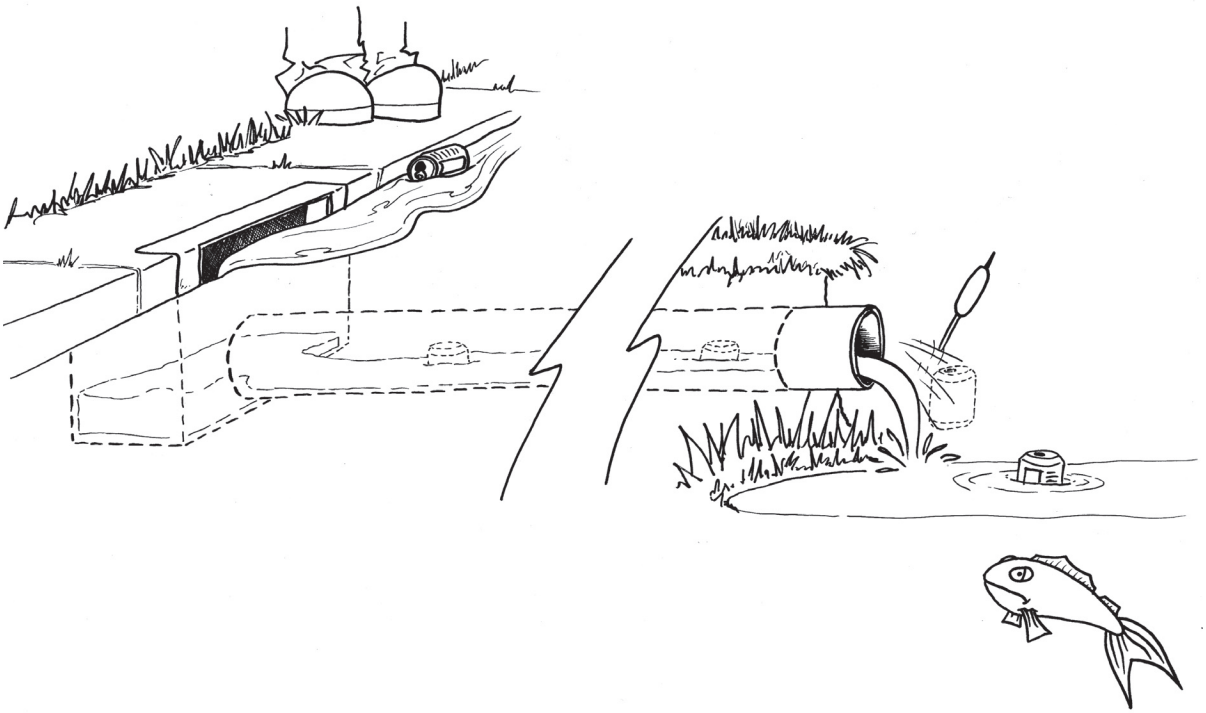
pet waste

oil

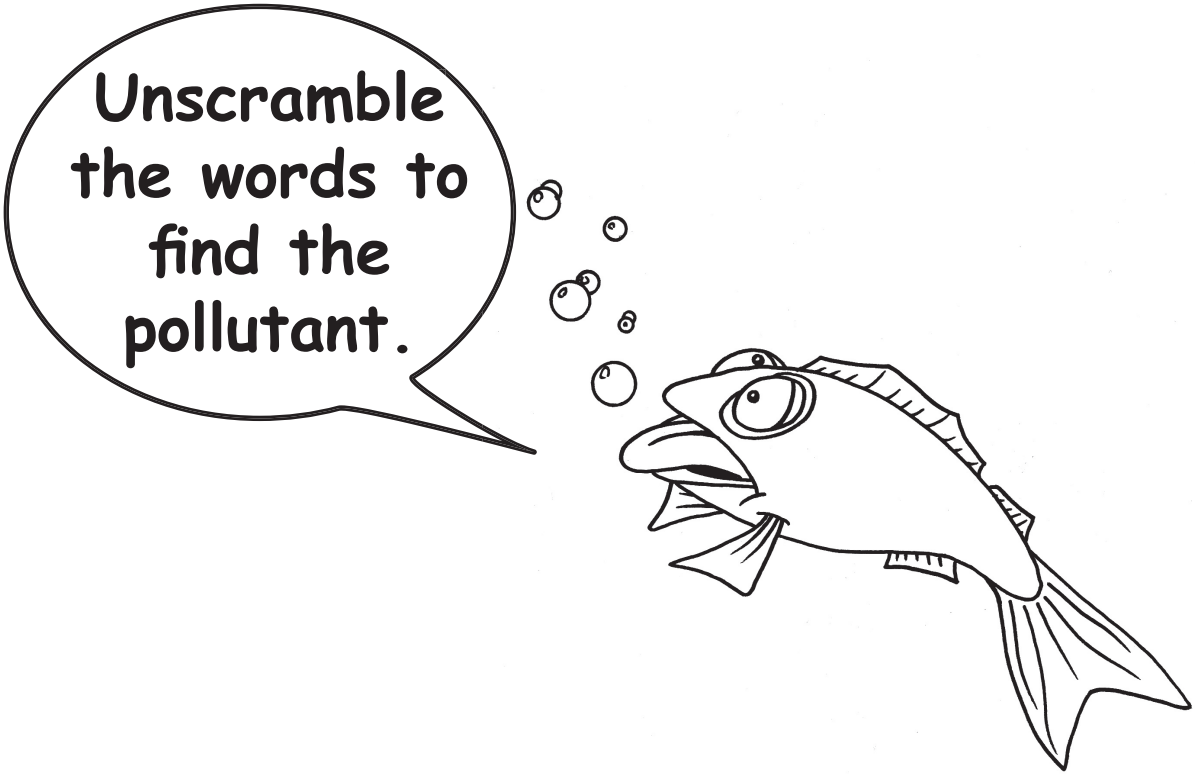
litter

soil

Sometimes, people pour pollutants right into my water! This happens everytime they put something down a storm drain.



A storm drain is a connection between the street and my water.



silo _____

This washes off of bare spots in your yard. It hurts my gills and covers my home with mud.

lio _____

This drips out of the bottom of your car. One quart of this can pollute one million gallons of my water.

trilet _____

If this is left lying on the ground, the rain can wash it into my water.

tep stawe _____ _____

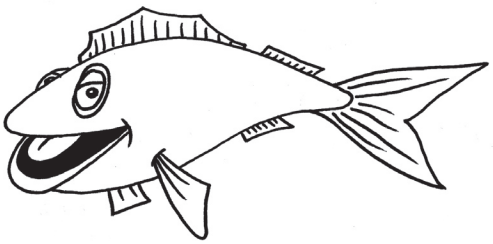
If you don't clean up after your pet, this can make my water unfit to live in!

machicles _____

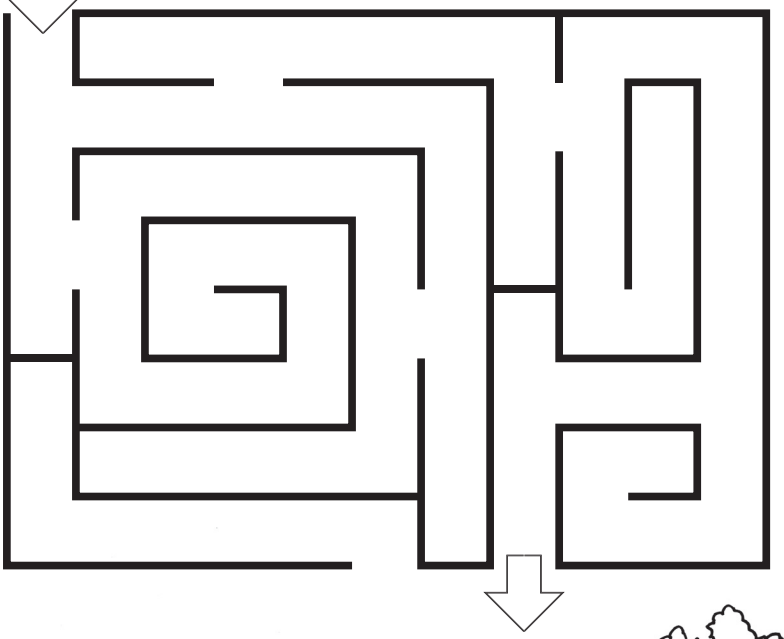
Using lots of these to kill insects in your yard lets them wash off and harm animals in the water - like me.

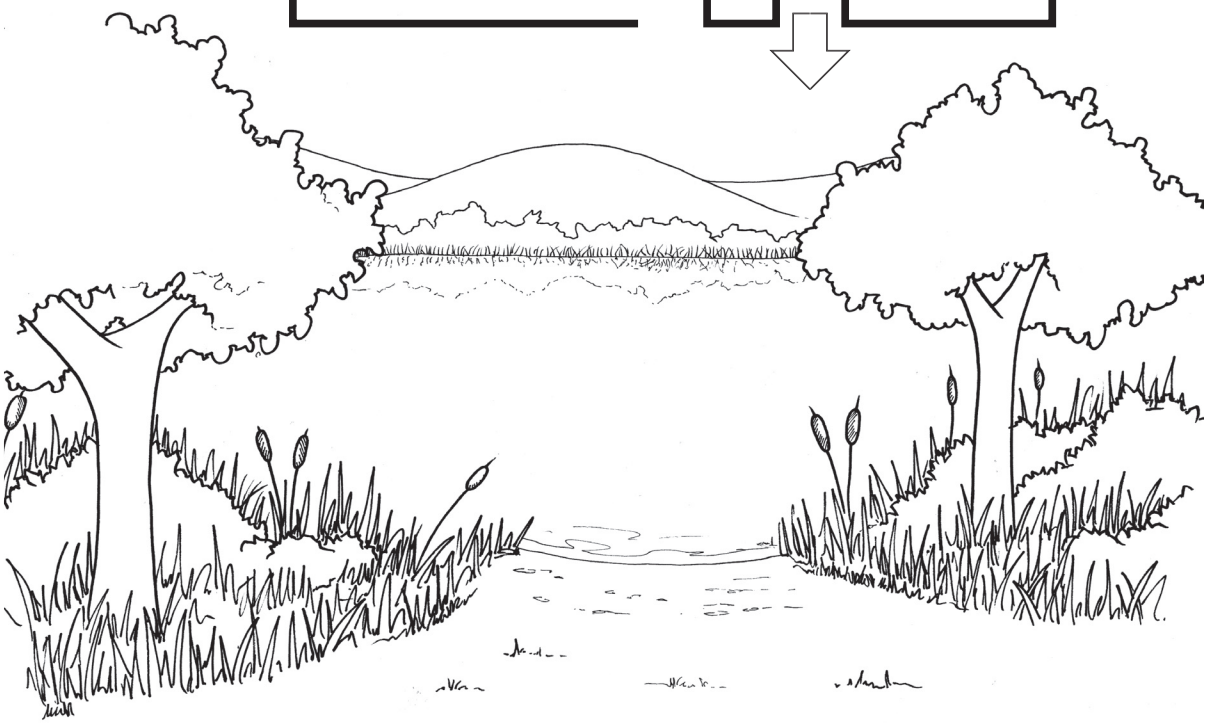
spadosus _____

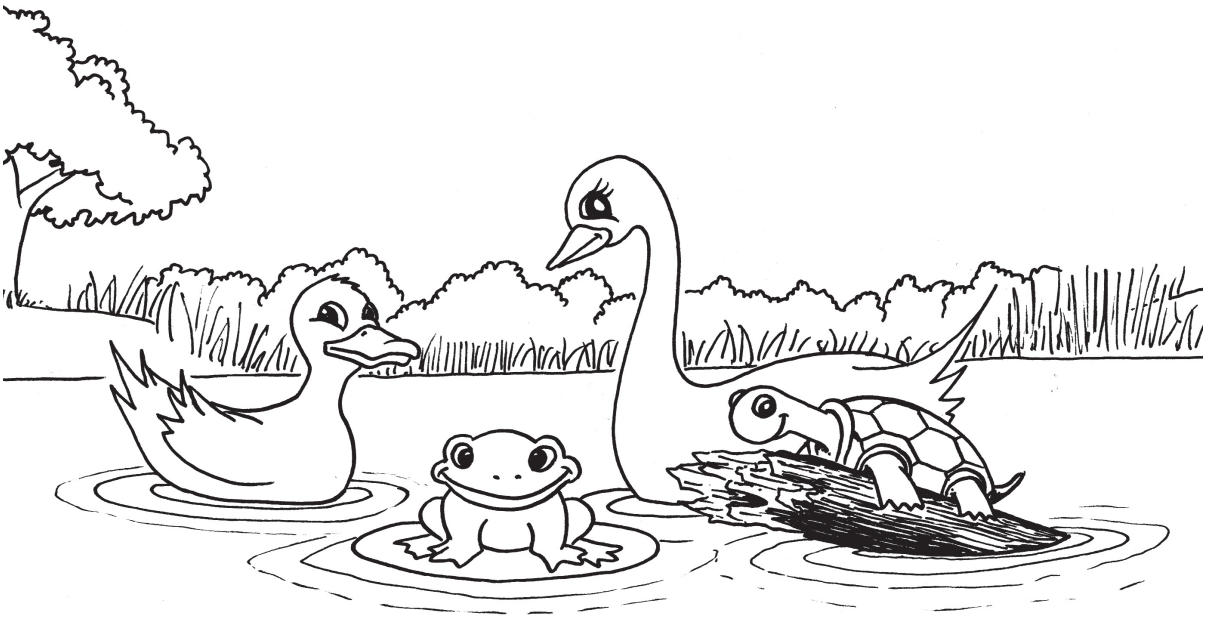
The car might be clean, but they pollute my water.



Help the fish find his way to where the water is clean.







Because people were careless about polluting the ground, now the water is polluted. The fish has said "Good-bye" and moved away. Do you think any other animals might have to move away too?

The fish wishes people would help prevent polluted runoff. By doing this crossword, you'll learn what you can do to keep the fish's water clean.

ACROSS

2. Never pour anything down a _____ _____. It goes right to my water.

3. Clean up _____ _____ by burying or flushing it.

4. Wash your car on the grass. It will soak up _____ and keep them from running into my water.

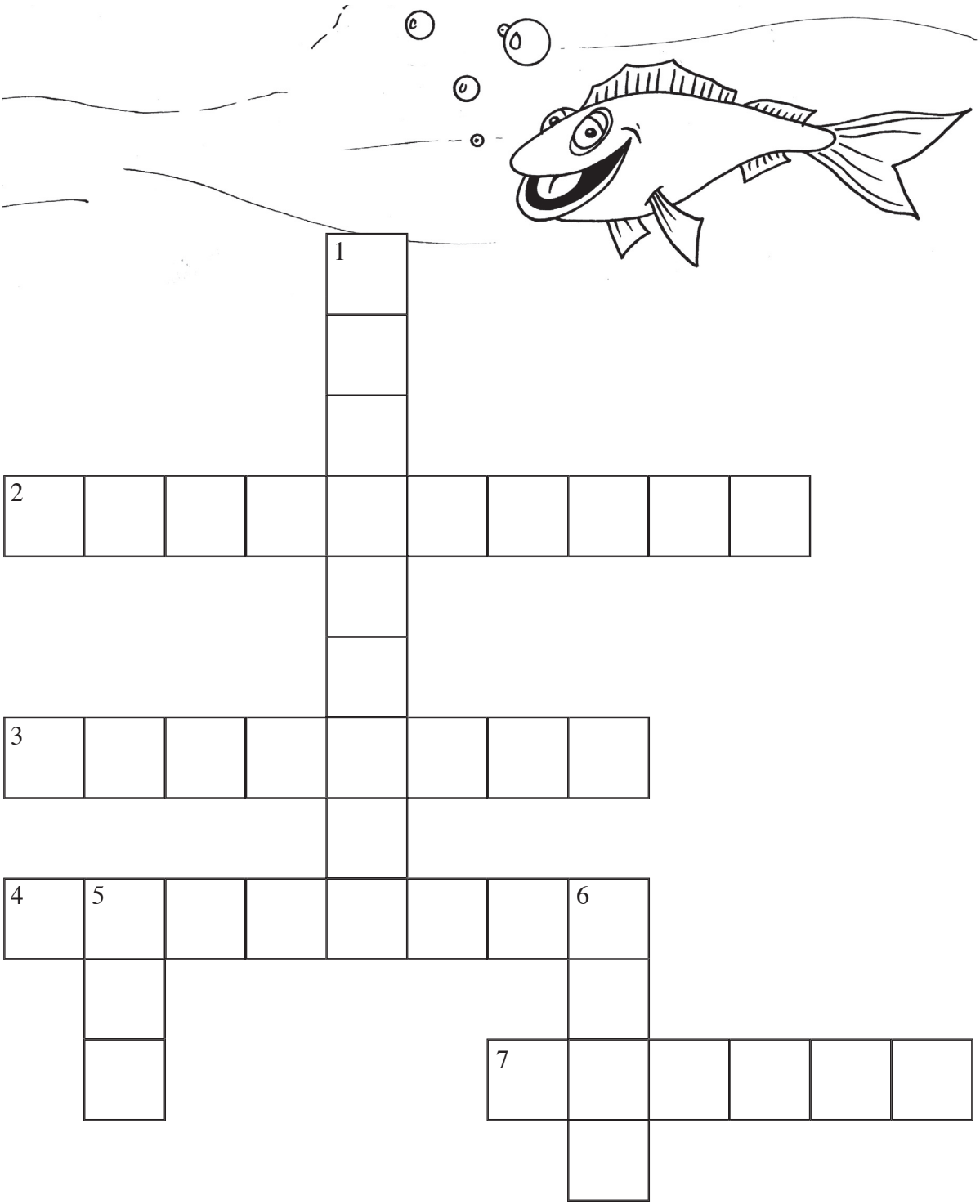
7. Pick up _____. Put it in the trash or recycle it.

DOWN

1. If you must use them, follow the instructions on the label of any _____ that you buy.

5. When you change the _____ in your car, take it to the recycling center. If you see a leak, have it fixed.

6. Keep bare _____ covered with grass or other plants.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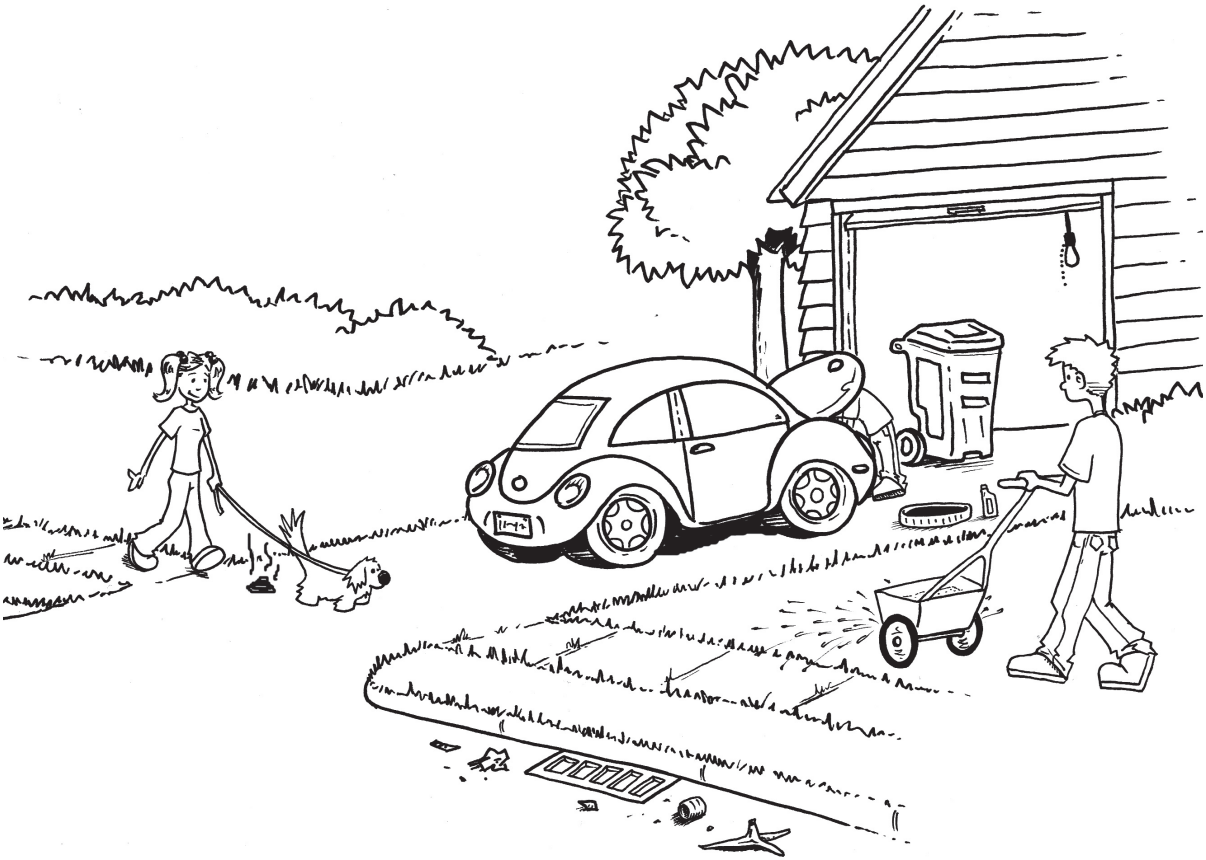
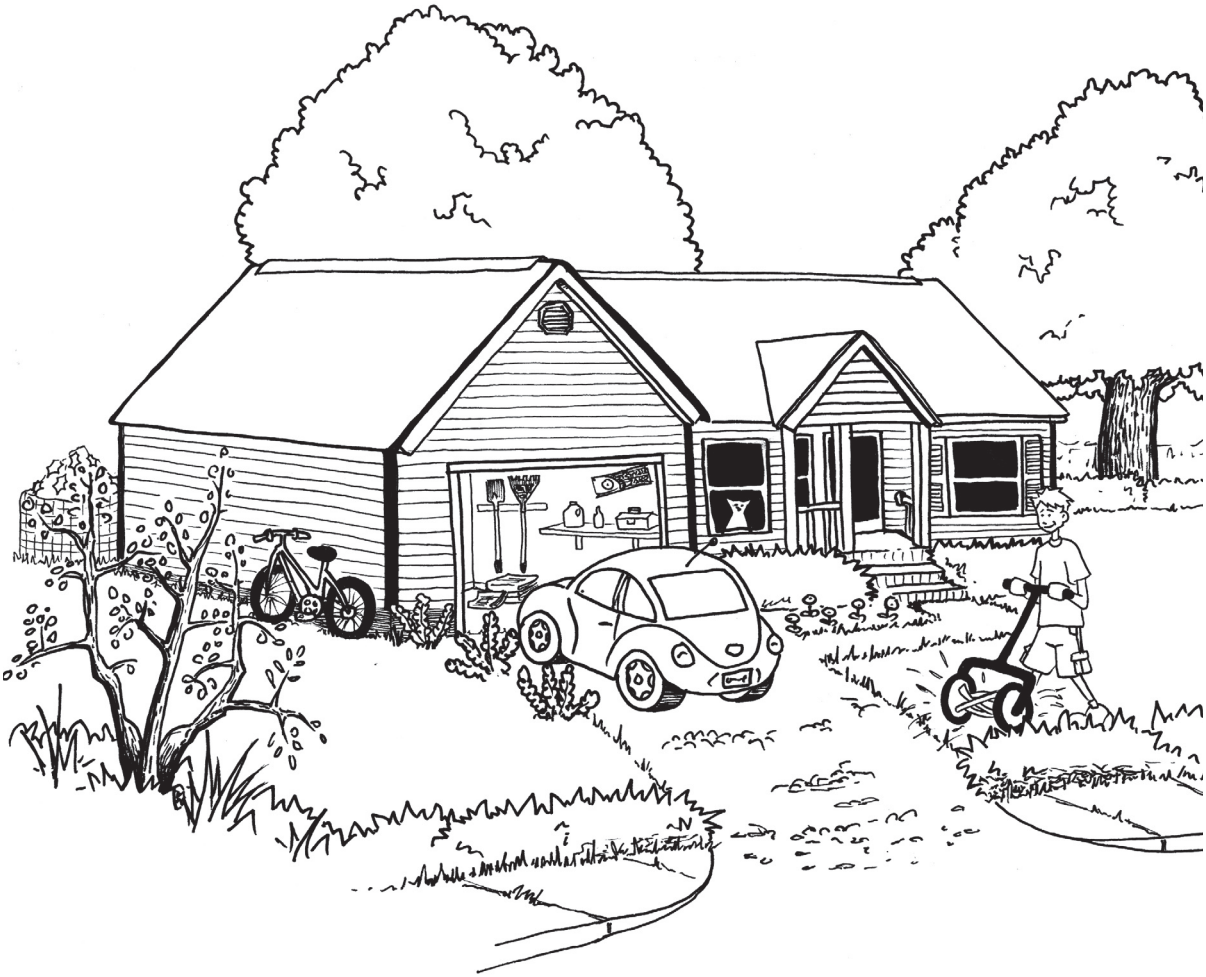


Can you find and circle four things in this picture that could cause polluted runoff?

1. pet waste on the sidewalk 2. litter near the storm drain
3. too much fertilizer on the lawn 4. used oil from car on driveway



Now you know how to help the fish get his wish. Color this picture to learn how to prevent polluted runoff at your house.

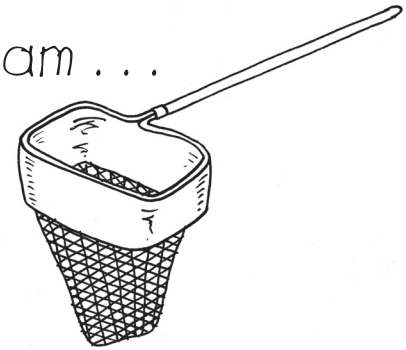
- small lawn
- control pets
- bike to save energy
- compost
- well maintained energy efficient vehicle
- mulch to control weeds and conserve moisture
- recycle
- low maintenance ground covers
- natural buffers
- leave grass clippings on lawn
- porous driveway materials
- non-hazardous household products
- use native plants

I hope you've learned something about polluted runoff and how you can prevent it. If you'd like to do more, have your parent, teacher, or scout leader call to learn about **SC DHEC's Water Watch.**

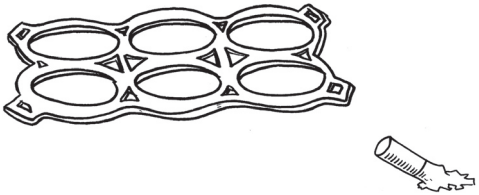
As a member of **Water Watch**, you can . . .

. . . stencil storm drains . . .

. . . survey your stream . . .



. . . pick up litter . . .



. . . teach others to prevent polluted runoff, and more!

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