

Kid Scoop

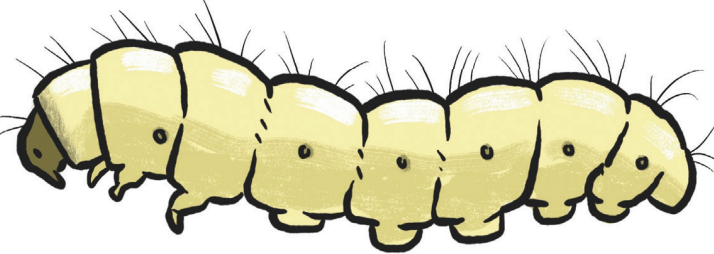
THE AWARD-WINNING PRINT & ONLINE FAMILY FEATURE



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PLASTIC-EATING WORMS

Worldwide, people are trying to figure out how to make and use less plastic, but wouldn't it be great if we could get rid of the plastic trash that is already here?



A Discovery in Spain

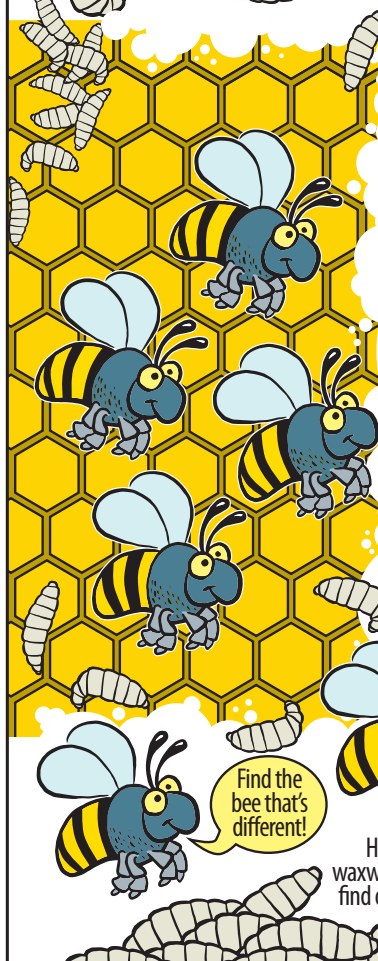
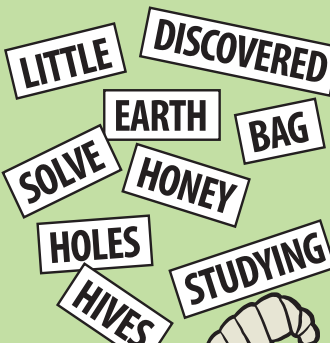
A Spanish biologist, Frederica Bertocchini, was _____ bees. When she cleaned out her beehives, she made a remarkable discovery.

She found waxworms in the _____. That wasn't unusual because waxworms, which are the larvae of wax moths, like to eat the _____ and the wax. This can destroy a beehive but might be good for the _____.

When Bertocchini took out the waxworms from the beehives, she put them into a plastic _____. Later, when she checked the bag, she _____ the worms had eaten _____ in it.

Could these _____ plastic-eating worms help scientists _____ the world's growing plastic waste crisis?

Uh oh! Hungry waxworms have chewed through some of the words in this article. Can you replace the missing words?



Find the bee that's different!

How many waxworms can you find on this page?

Worms that eat plastic?

Plastic pollution is a big problem. Scientists believe there are more than 5 TRILLION pieces of plastic in the Earth's oceans alone.



How much is 5 trillion? One research study estimated that the 5.25 trillion pieces of plastic floating in our oceans would be enough to stretch to the moon and back twice.

How much does all this plastic weigh? Circle every other letter to discover the shocking answer!

THE COMBINED WEIGHT OF PLASTIC WASTE IN THE OCEAN IS GREATER THAN THAT OF:

ETBHCILRVTWYJESINGQHNTRT
FHGOAUTSZABNPDLCFGRHIL
CLADNLEVLWECPAHUAINVTAS

T _ _ _ _ _

Hungry Little Helpers

Scientists have been feeding caterpillars called waxworms the kind of plastics used in shopping bags. They discovered that just 60 little worms can eat more than 30 square centimeters (1 square foot) in a week.

Scientists think that large numbers of these hungry worms could be put to work to eat plastic waste.

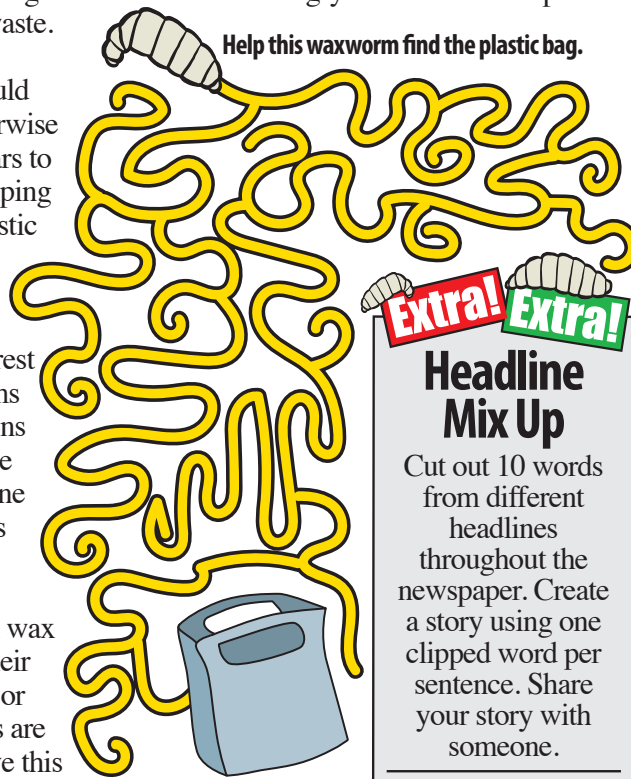
In just days, they could eat what would otherwise take hundreds of years to decompose (rot), helping solve Earth's big plastic pollution problem.

One Problem

There is a lot of interest in using lots of worms to eat the tons and tons of plastic waste in the world. But there is one problem slowing this down. Worm poop!

Unfortunately, when wax worms eat plastic, their poop becomes toxic or poisonous. Scientists are working hard to solve this problem. If you grow up to become a scientist, maybe you could solve it!

Help this waxworm find the plastic bag.



Extra! Extra!

Headline Mix Up

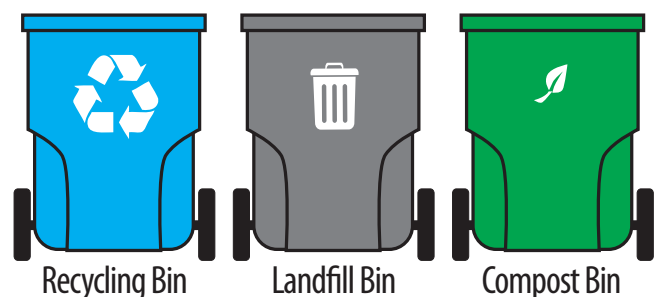
Cut out 10 words from different headlines throughout the newspaper. Create a story using one clipped word per sentence. Share your story with someone.

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.

Kid Scoop Puzzler

SORTING IT ALL OUT: Draw a line from each item to the correct bin where it belongs.

- APPLE CORE
- GLASS JAR
- ALUMINUM CAN
- LEAVES
- NEWSPAPER
- PLASTIC BOTTLE
- PIZZA BOX



Double Double Word Search

WAXWORMS

- BEEHIVES
- TRILLION
- PLASTIC
- PROBLEM
- CLEANED
- TRASH
- TOXIC
- SOLVE
- EARTH
- HOLES
- TWICE
- ROT
- EAT
- BAG

Find the words in the puzzle. How many of them can you find on this page?



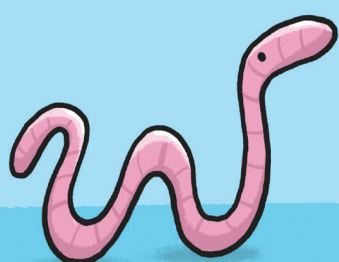
Standards Link: Letter sequencing. Recognize identical words. Skim and scan reading. Recall spelling patterns.

FROM THE Kid Scoop LESSON LIBRARY

Science Solves Problems

Look through the newspaper for an article about a problem. Are there any scientists working to solve this problem? What kind of scientists?

Standards Link: Research: Use the newspaper to locate information.



What do worms use to leave messages?

ANSWER: Compost-it notes.

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