

## Take Action!

Grab a ruler and draw a square with each side 30 cm or one foot long.

Measure your desk or tabletop. How many 30 square centimeters can you fit onto this?

How many worms would you need to eat all of the plastic bags that would fit on your desk or tabletop?

## Measure It!

Get a ruler and start measuring parts of the newspaper in inches and centimeters.

Width of one page of the newspaper:

\_\_\_\_\_ inches

\_\_\_\_\_ centimeters

The height of the largest photo in the newspaper:

\_\_\_\_\_ inches

\_\_\_\_\_ centimeters

The length of the longest headline on the front page:

\_\_\_\_\_ inches

\_\_\_\_\_ centimeters

The width of your favorite comic strip:

\_\_\_\_\_ inches

\_\_\_\_\_ centimeters

The length of an ad in the newspaper:

\_\_\_\_\_ inches

\_\_\_\_\_ centimeters

**Standards Link:** Math: Use the newspaper to practice measuring skills.

### KID SCOOP'S MISSION

#### Children are born curious.

From their earliest days, sensory exploration brings delight and wonder. New discoveries expand their minds. When they unlock the joy of reading, their world widens further. **Magic happens.**

**Kid Scoop** opens the doors of discovery for elementary school children by providing interactive, engaging and relevant age-appropriate materials designed to awaken the magic of reading at school, at home, and throughout their lives.

For more information about our literacy non-profit, visit [kidscoopnews.org](http://kidscoopnews.org)

### Kid Scoop VOCABULARY BUILDERS

#### This week's word: TOXIC

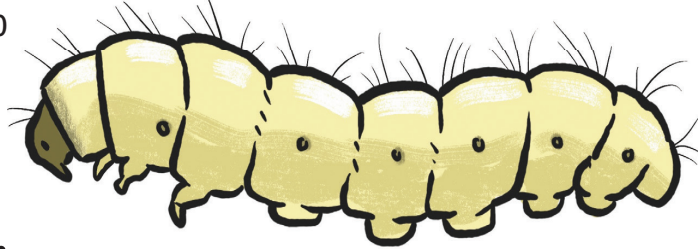
The adjective **toxic** means poisonous or harmful.

Plastic becomes **toxic** waste in the ocean.

Try to use the word **toxic** in a sentence today when talking with your friends and family members.

# 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

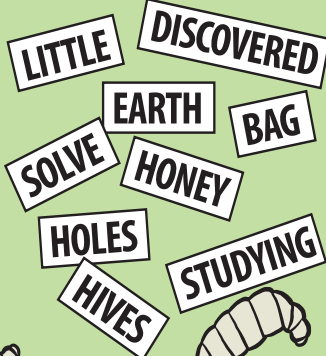
A Spanish biologist, Frederica Bertocchini, was \_\_\_\_\_ bees. When she cleaned out her beehives, she made a remarkable discovery.

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:

ETBHCILRVTWYJESINGQHNRTRT  
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

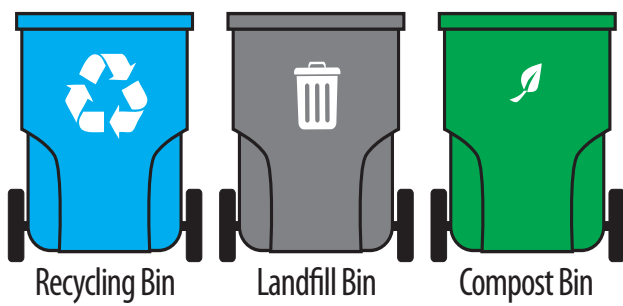
Cut out 10 words from different headlines throughout the newspaper. Create a story using one clipped word per sentence. Share your story with someone.

**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.



## Write On! Sweet Talk

Have you ever sweet talked someone into helping you with a chore or simply doing it for you? Write about it!

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