

CHALLENGE #5: MY  
ECOLOGICAL FOOTPRINT

DID YOU  
KNOW?

WELL, LET'S  
SEE!

OH  
YEAH?!



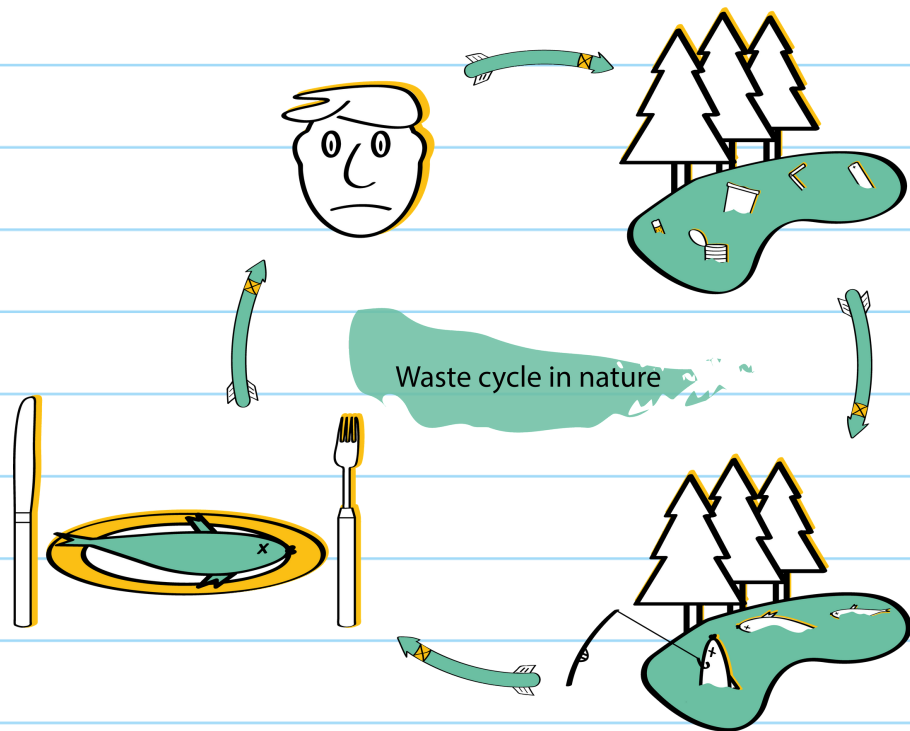
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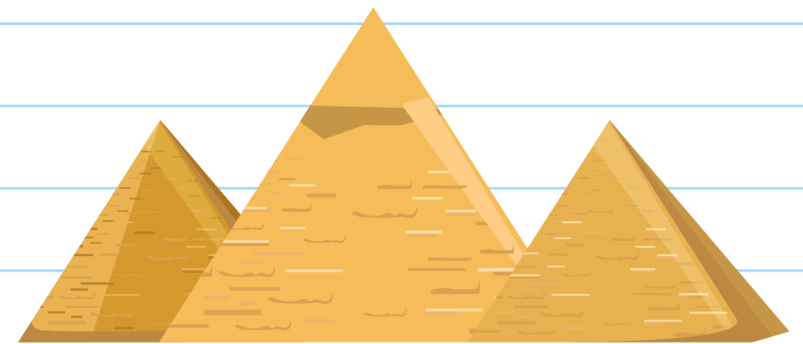
When waste is thrown away directly into the environment, pollutants are not treated and directly contaminate the air, soil and water.

The waste lying on the ground in the community and in the forest can therefore end up in our plates.



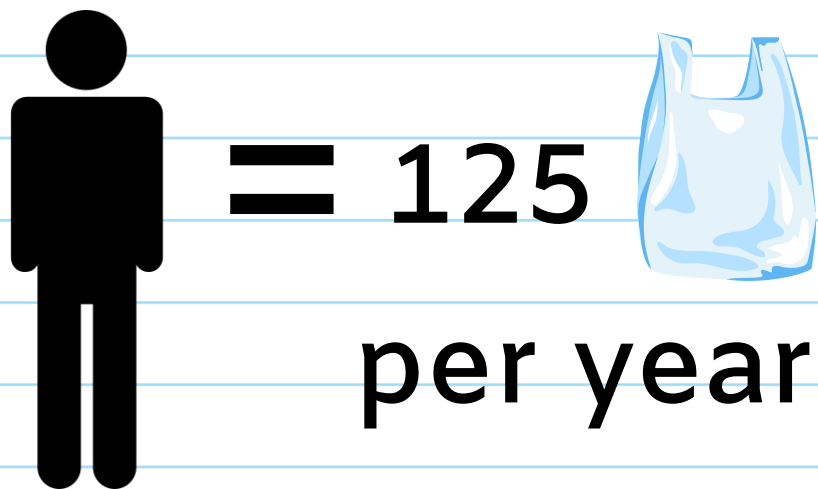
While excavating Egyptian pyramids, archaeologists have found 5000-year-old glass!

That means that the glass you use today could still exist in 5000 years!



Did you know that it takes about 400 years for a plastic bag to degrade in the environment?

According to Recyc-Québec, 1 billion bags circulate annually in Quebec, which is the equivalent of about 125 bags for every Quebecer per year.



When rain falls on trash, the water slowly seeps in and becomes extremely polluted! The liquid that forms is like garbage juice.

It is called **leachate**.

Leachate contaminates soil and groundwater.



When plastic decomposes, it breaks down slowly into tiny pieces called “microplastics”.

Microplastics are almost impossible to remove from ocean water and end up in the stomachs of fish.



Did you know that, in nature, it takes between 50 and 100 years for a food can to break down and nearly 400 years for a plastic bag or bottle to break down?

It is therefore essential to recover them. Recycle everything that can go into the recycling bin and refer to the posters located near the bin!

The “Seventh Continent” is a monstrous floating mass of plastic in the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and California.

This humongous mass is at least as big as the entire land mass of the province of Quebec!



If nothing is done, by 2050 the oceans will have more plastic than fish.



In Canada, we have an ecological footprint of 6.5 hectares per person.

That equals 13 football fields per person!

This means that each person uses that much of the Earth's surface to produce and eliminate everything they use. If everyone on Earth consumed like Canadians, it would take more than three planets to support us!

