

"A couple hundred years ago the air was clean, we had many trees, and there weren't any candy wrappers on the ground. I guess things change, but did anyone ever think it would get this bad?"

Erik
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Land/Water



Earth Facts (and tips)

- ▶ If you made paper bags out of 15-year-old tree, you'd only get about 700 of them. How long would they last? About one hour, in a big supermarket.
Tip: Bring your own tote bag to the store to carry your groceries. If you're buying something small tell the sales clerk you don't need a bag.
- ▶ The average American uses seven trees a year.
Tip: Save the trees! Share magazine and newspaper subscriptions with friends. Donate old magazines to doctors' waiting rooms, senior citizens' groups, or day care centers (little kids love to cut and paste pictures).
- ▶ The shade from a tree can save 10 to 50% of the energy needed for air conditioning
- ▶ Growing cotton can be harmful to the environment. While cotton fields are allowed to lie fallow in prosperous areas of the world, they are not in third world countries because cotton is an essential cash crop. Soil becomes exhausted of its nutrients. Another environmental hazard is the amount of pesticides used on cotton crops. In the third world, about half of the pesticides used are for cultivating cotton.
- ▶ Rain forests cover only 2% of the planet but are home to more than half the world's plants and animals. Rain forests are being destroyed at the rate of 50 to 100 acres a minute.
Tip: Check the perfume you have in your house. Does it have rosewood oil in it? Encourage family members not to buy perfumes made with rosewood oil, which comes from rain forests.



Resources for the following facts and tips include *The Green Consumer: 50 Simple Things you Can Do to Save the Earth*, the "simple things you can do to Save the Earth 1991 Tip-A-Day Calendar," and the magazine "Current Science."

