

Objective: To stimulate thought and action concerning the importance of maintaining our environment to enhance our own lives and for the benefit of future generations.

Thought for the week: *For what we waste and throw away
Future generations will have to pay.*

Introduction:

- 🕒 Everything in nature is interdependent.
- 🕒 We sometimes choose actions that have an undesirable effect on the environment and therefore on oneself.
- 🕒 If we destroy forms of life without thinking, we disturb the ecological balance.
- 🕒 The Manu Smriti states that ten trees have to be planted for each one destroyed.
- 🕒 Environmental awareness is an appreciation of the Lord with reference to the creation.
- ❖ Pollution is the act of destroying the environment.
- ❖ One way humans pollute the earth is littering.
- ❖ Littering is the act of trashing, or making very messy
- ❖ Some ways of littering are:
 - Smoking (Air Pollution)
 - Trashing the land with non-biodegradable things (Land Pollution)
 - Dropping anything on the ground and not picking it up
- ❖ Cars can cause air pollution because of gasoline
- ❖ The more we pollute the earth, the less resources we have, and the world gets sicker.
- ❖ Pollution harms plants and animals, which we need to live.
- ❖ Some ways to prevent pollution are:
 - Picking up after yourself
 - Taking time to clean up different areas such as parks and beaches
 - Recycling

Name: _____

Lesson 9 Homework

1. What are some things that cause pollution?

2. Give some examples on how you can protect the environment.

Story: The swans on the river by Phil Heaton and Nina O'Connell

"Quick, Dad, look here!" Sara said excitedly as she ran ahead towards the riverbank, her younger brother John close on her heels.

"Look out for the water," called their Mom, knowing how the slope of the riverbank and the start of the reeds were deceptively interwoven.

'The youngsters' faces glowed as their parents caught up with them. They could not wait to show them their proud discovery. "They're back!"

"Shh, or you will frighten them off," cautioned their father as the 'discovery' became clear. Within the reeds, a nest of broken stems had been woven and a plump looking swan was serenely sitting with one eye aware of the noisy youth only some ten yards away. On the water, another swan cruised in an arc taking a closer position to its partner.

"When will the babies be born?" John asked.

"Cygnet, not babies," his mother corrected.

"Within the next two weeks if she is nesting now -- she won't get up till then," explained his father.

"How can she manage without food? Can't we bring some bread?" Sara said in a concerned voice,

"Maybe tomorrow, said her father. "Come on. We need to be back in time for lunch"

The next day, Sara, John and their parents repeated their walk along the riverbank, hut armed with a paper bag half filled with bread.

A few weeks later, they returned. Near to the nest was a covey of nervous chicks that darted around their mother as though on elastic that suddenly shot them back into contact with her. Where the nest had been some paper had blown, quickly recognizable as bread wrapping. Also evident were the signs of a previous picnic on the bank with some drink cans strewn randomly around. A paper plate was gently wedged in the reeds, presumably blown from the grass. Though they tried hard to entice the family nearer to the bank, the swans kept on the far side of the river. They were all slightly disappointed as they continued their walk.

As winter came and the family walks were less frequent with the cold weather, Sara noticed that the swans were no longer there. Just by where the nest had been, a supermarket shopping trolley had appeared in the reeds, half submerged like a futuristic style Titanic.

As the spring came, the family looked forward to the return of the swans. John would run ahead of his parents and gaze expectantly along the river. The shopping trolley was still there; decorated now by two plastic bags that the wire frame had accidentally filtered from the river. As March became April, the river walk was losing its attraction to the family with no swans or ducks, just an undignified trolley to view.

One day in June, Sara, John and their Scout group set off on an expedition in three motor boats on the river. The Scout Master had explained that they were to pick up litter from the river and its banks. Sara then remembered the shopping trolley and told him about it. The sun shone as the helpers lassoed the trolley with rope from the bank, while one boat pushed it and the remainder shouted and cheered. Slowly the 'wreck' was salvaged and used as an impromptu dustbin for collected trash. John proudly pushed it back along the bank at the end of the day.

The following March as the family walked briskly along the river hank, Sara was pointing out the areas they had cleared when John shouted, "Quick, Dad! Look here."

There, sure enough, was a serene swan sitting in the reeds, while her mate swam close by

her.