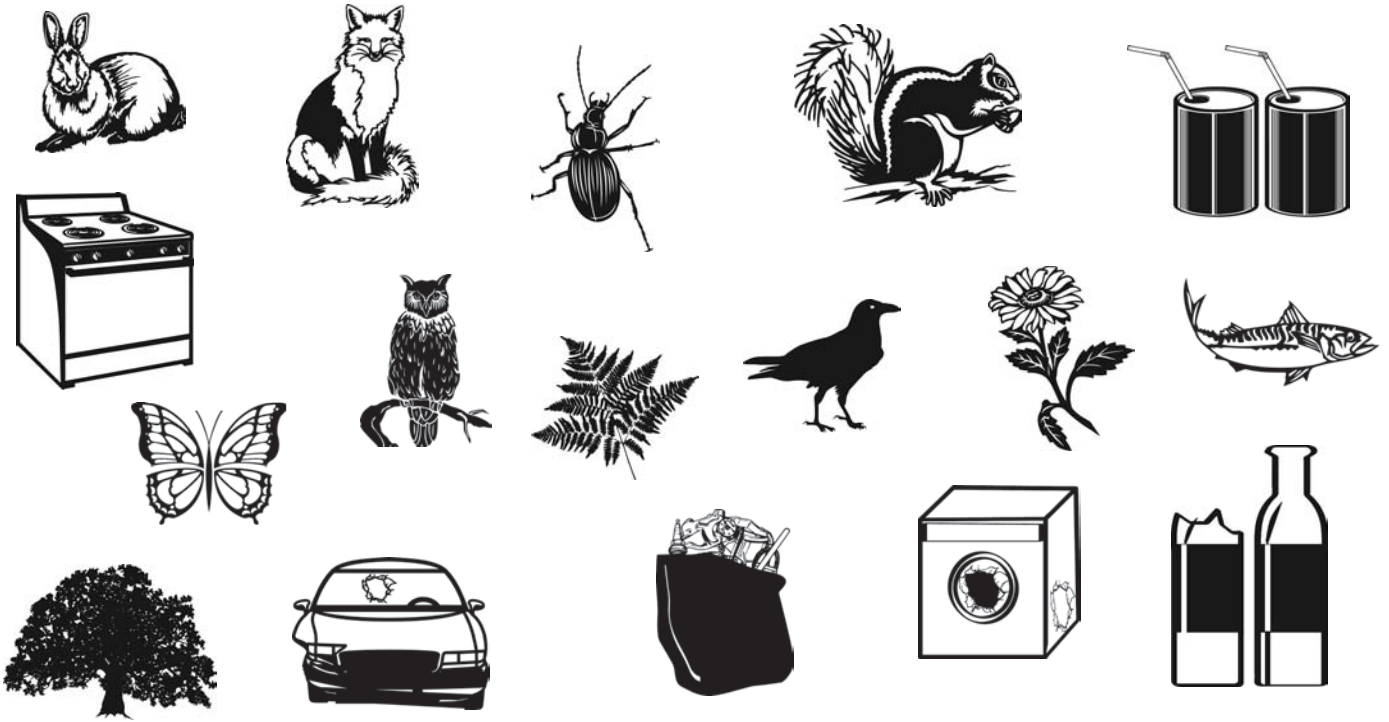
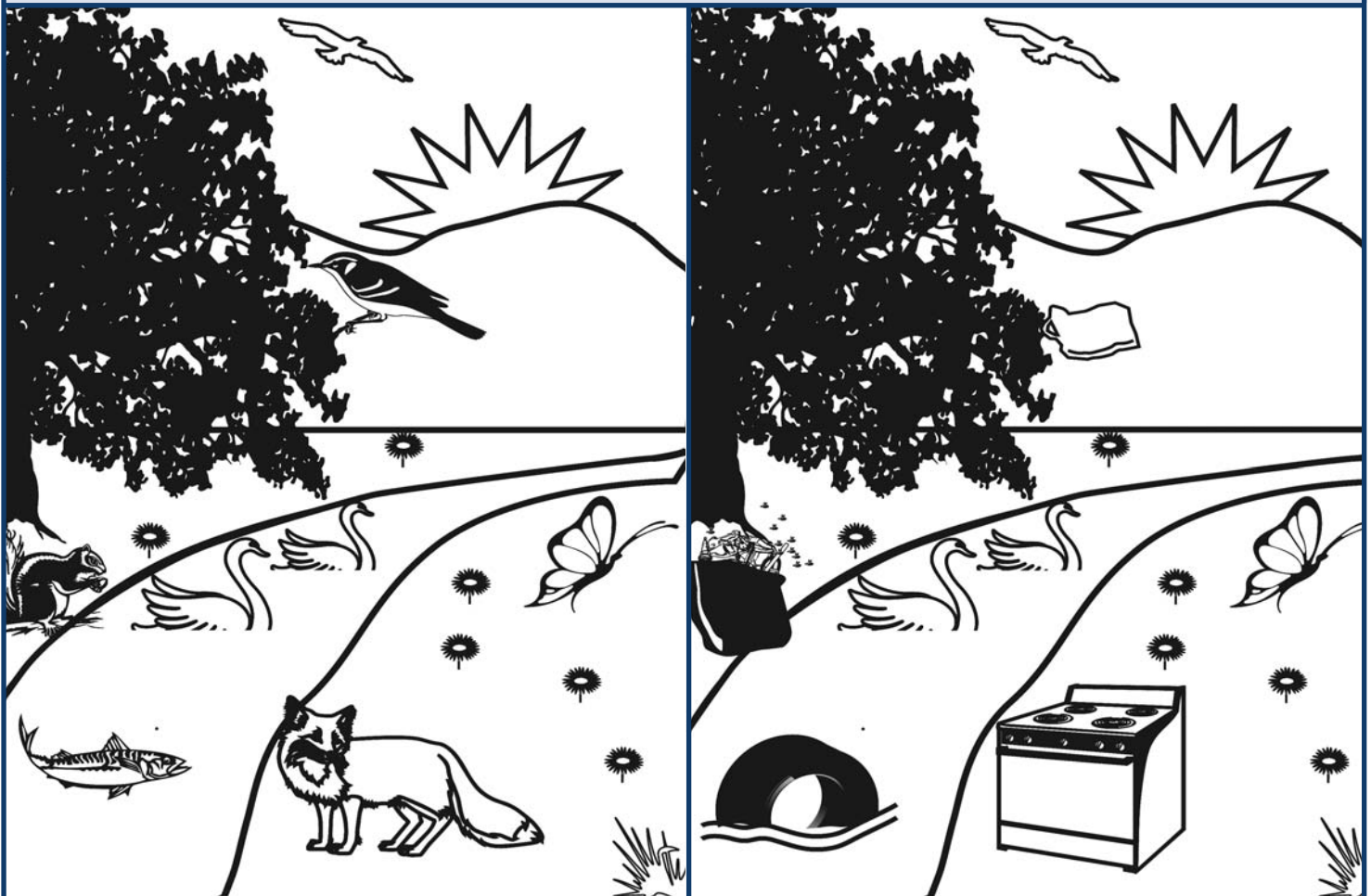


circle the items that don't belong in nature



spot the difference



story time



The following story demonstrates how dumping impacts on wild animals and the type of items that are frequently dumped on our landscape.

It was evening time in the woodland. The fox family were curled up together sleeping, safe and warm in their den.

‘Time to wake up’, said mother fox, yawning and stretching.
 ‘Time for breakfast’, said the hungry little cubs rubbing their tummies, mice and berries, the only thing on their minds.

Outside in the woodland, things looked different. A large white box lay at the opening of the den. The little cubs clung to their mother frightened by the unfamiliar sight.

‘Stay close’, said their mother reassuringly.
 ‘Ouch’, said one of the cubs holding her paw.

Broken glass and black bags bursting with rubbish lay all around the woodland floor. Flies buzzed furiously on vegetable peels, and old newspapers were blown by a light breeze.

‘What happened’, said a curious cub pawing at a leaking car battery.
 ‘Stay away from that’, said the mother fox cautious of the strange looking object.

‘What is it?’ said another cub anxiously.
 ‘I don’t know, but it shouldn’t be here’, his mother replied.

‘How did it get here?’ asked another of the little cubs.
 A noise from the nearby undergrowth startled the fox family. The little cubs hid behind their mother for protection.

‘They came before you awoke’, said a badger poking his head out of the bushes.
 ‘Who?’ asked mother fox, her little cubs peeking out from behind her back.

The badger slowly made his way towards the fox family, careful not to step on the rubbish, and an old car tyre that stood in his way.

‘They had a big van full of rubbish, and they dumped it all here’, replied the badger.
 ‘And what do we do now?’ said the little cubs.

‘We can’t hunt here, not now, it’s not safe’, said the mother fox sadly.
 ‘BUT WE’RE HUNGRY’, said the little cubs unhappily.

The little cubs looked around at what was once their lovely home. Everywhere, as far as their eyes could see, was rubbish. Beside the oak tree, a place where they would often play, was old furniture and a television. A scrubby mattress and a fridge lay in the nearby river. ‘Poor otter’, said one of the little cubs. ‘Poor us’, thought another of the cubs realising that the river too would be polluted. The little cubs knew that they would have to leave home. It wasn’t safe, and the rubbish would never leave.

DISCUSS THE STORY:

- We wake up in the morning, what time do foxes wake up?
- A fox home is called?
- What kind of food do the foxes in the story eat?
- What was the large ‘white box’ that lay at the opening of the fox den?
- What do you think happened to the little cub who said ‘Ouch’?
- What was buzzing over the vegetables and newspaper?
- Can you remember some of the items that were dumped?

- How do you think the little cubs felt when they saw all the dumping in their, ‘once lovely home’?
- What would the fox family do now?
- Where do you think the rubbish came from?
- Where should the dumped items have been disposed of?
- If you saw this in the country side what would you do?

The teacher can explain to the children that we can all help prevent this type of incident from happening by disposing of rubbish in a responsible manner, i.e., weekly waste collectors, a landfill site, and numerous recycling centres.