



Name \_\_\_\_\_

On April 22 we will celebrate our home - Earth. Many people spend that day cleaning their yards, recycling waste, or building special animal habitats. To help you understand more about Earth, take a look at Miss Maggie's palm pilot.

70 % of the Earth is water  
The diameter of the Earth is almost 8,000 miles.  
The circumference of the Earth is 24,901.5 miles.  
The surface area of the Earth is 196,935,000 square miles.  
Our planet travels through space at about 66,700 miles per hour.  
Plastics and aluminium cans take 500 years to break down.  
Cotton, paper, and organic materials take 6 months to break down.  
About 11% of our planet's surface area is used to grow food.

Jenny and Zach have written an essay about the importance of helping our planet. They are having some trouble with the numbers they need to include. Take a look at the facts on the palm pilot and help them to complete their essay. Use the boxes on the next page to show your work.

### **Our Amazing Home - Earth**

Our Earth is truly amazing. If you could travel to the center of the Earth, you would have to go about \_\_\_\_\_miles from where you are standing to get smack dab in the middle of our planet! Our home travels through space at about \_\_\_\_\_miles per minute. This fast speed doesn't necessarily mean that everything happens quickly on Earth. If you throw a soda can out of your car window today, it will be the year, \_\_\_\_\_before it finally breaks down. That is one reason we have to be careful to recycle and use our resources wisely.

We have a big planet. In fact, it is \_\_\_\_\_kilometers in circumference. In spite of this big size, the percentage of the Earth that is land is only\_\_\_\_\_. This is \_\_\_\_\_square miles of Earth that is land. Of this, we grow food on only \_\_\_\_\_ square miles of the Earth. We have 6 billion people to feed. Imagine what would happen if we didn't take care of this precious land!

It's also important for people and companies to keep from dumping waste into our oceans. Many waters are becoming polluted when plastics are carelessly dumped into the marine habitat. A plastic milk jug that was thrown into the Atlantic Ocean on June 17,

1970 would not decompose until the year \_\_\_\_\_<sup>8</sup>. If you compare the difference between the number of months it takes the paper on a soup can to decompose and the number of months it takes the can itself to decompose, it is an immense difference of \_\_\_\_\_<sup>9</sup> months! So this Earth Day, please remember to take special care of our home – Planet Earth!

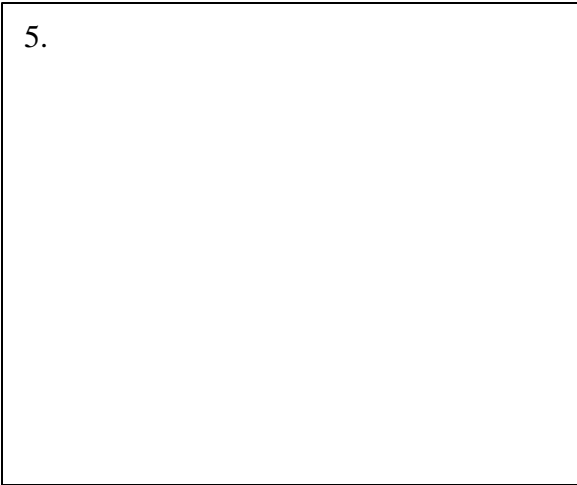
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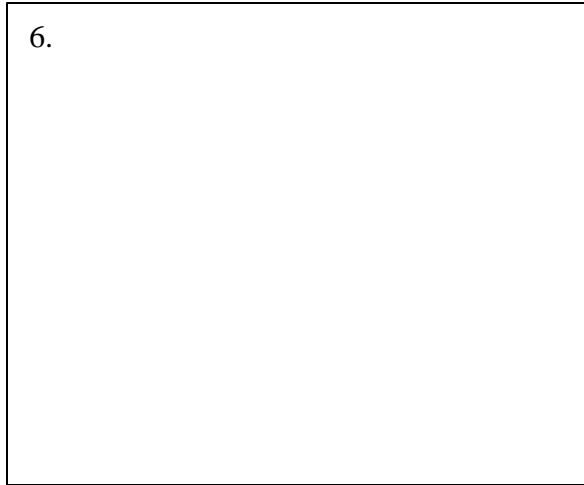
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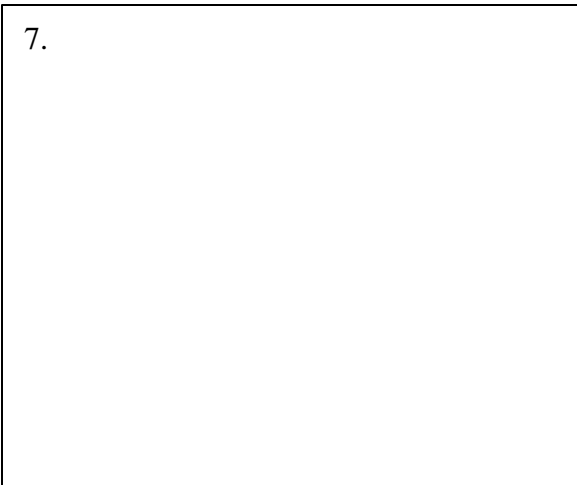
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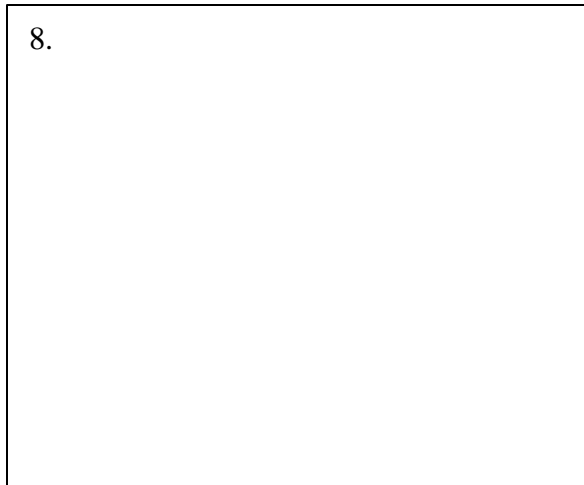
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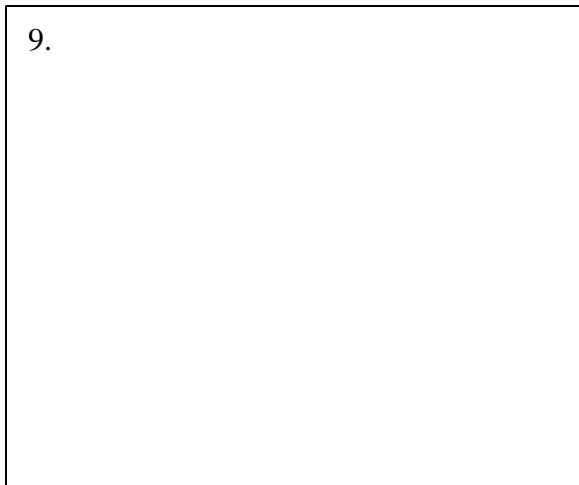
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**For Earth Day, visit Miss Maggie and Dude at [www.missmaggie.org](http://www.missmaggie.org) and find something you can do to help the Earth!**