

BRAINY SMURF'S FUN FACTS FOR SMART KIDS

Lurking in bushes and long grass near you are yucky pieces of rubbish dropped by careless humans.

These yucky rubbish items are clogging our rivers and creeks, littering our parks and beaches and hurting the animals you and I care about.

Plastic is a very strong material that is bad for the environment because it won't go away. And a lot of plastic items are only used once before being sent to the tip.

So if you have a plastic item make sure it is a reusable one and you recycle it when it's no longer useful.

What should you be looking for?

- Bottles and cans
- Plastic bags
- Lolly wrappers, ice-cream and chip packets
- Food wrapping
- Food scraps

Have you noticed that a lot of these things are made of plastic?

Hunting for yucky rubbish is a cool thing to do – because when the rubbish is gone, nature can carry on.



SMURFS
THE LOST VILLAGE
ONLY IN CINEMAS

Clean Up
Day
Schools
Friday March 3



My Top Tips on how to be a Smart Kid

1. Say NO to plastic bags
2. Give bottled water the flick
3. Worms are the a great pet
4. Grin as you bin
5. Show us your Blue Thumb



Why Say NO to plastic bags?

How many plastic bags do you think your house collects each week?

Are any of them reused?

Do you often see plastic bags blowing around streets near you?

Some facts

- With four trips to the supermarket you will have taken home 60 plastic bags – what will you do with them?
- Some will end up as bin liners or are used for dog poo collection. Nearly a quarter of a million plastic bags are sent to the tip every hour
- Others lurk in cupboards and drawers – amassing in numbers until there are hundreds of them
- Less than 5% are taken back to the supermarket for recycling.



Did you know

Plastic bags are made from oil and gas – which are non-renewable resources that we need for better things than a single use plastic bag. The amount of petroleum used to make a plastic bag could drive your family car 11 metres. Just think how much oil is used to make the 6.9billion plastic bags we use every year. You could continually run a car all round Australia every day for years on end before you'd use that much oil!

Making plastic bags also uses electricity. Most electricity is currently produced from coal and gas – both of which are finite resources.



Thirsty? Give bottled water the flick

Bottles are one of the most found items on Clean Up Australia Day. In South Australia and the Northern Territory bottles and cans can be redeemed for 10c when they are recycled. NSW, Queensland and Western Australia will soon join these states with a refund scheme.

But in the meantime I ask the question – why do you need bottled water when you have perfectly good water coming out of your taps?

Some people claim bottled water tastes better – but I haven't found that to be the case.

And the argument that bottled water is better for you doesn't ...well....hold water with me.

Bottled water comes from underground springs called aquifers – taking this water away means the local plant life and animals suffer.

The water is then bottled in plastic or glass.

Trucks and ships, which use fossil fuels, are used to transport the bottles of water into shops for you to buy it.

And when the water has been drunk – the bottle ends up as rubbish.

Smart Kids have a good quality reusable water bottle which they refill from the tap.



Did you know?

It can take up to 3L of water to produce 1L of bottled water.



Do you have worms?

Worms are one of my favourite pets – they don't bite or scratch, they don't make me sneeze AND they are very cheap to feed because they eat all of our scraps.

An added bonus is worms make great worm tea and produce a poo called castings – both of which are great for the garden.

I have to confess I've given up trying to name all of my worms – they seem to multiply very quickly.

But I never forget to thank them each day for being the world's best recyclers.



Some interesting worm facts:

- Even though earthworms look really simple, they are actually complex creatures that breathe through their skin
- They digest and neutralise food through calciferous glands and a gizzard with coarse sand like matter that grinds up what they eat
- They can eat equal to their weight every day
- Worms love fruit and vegies, ground coffee, tea bags, crushed egg shells, leaves and shredded paper
- They are not so keen on citrus fruits, oily foods, meats, dairy, foods which have salad or vinegar dressings and onions.



Bin it with a grin!

Binning yucky rubbish is very rewarding. The action is very simple – if you see yucky rubbish, pick it up and bin it. And then reward yourself with a big grin – because you are a smart kid.

The best place to start your quest is at school – getting the yukkey rubbish off the playground before it gets settled in the bushes or grass.

Another place to look is your local park, maybe in the sand at the beach, or if you are lucky enough to go bushwalking check along tracks. Once you start looking you'll be amazed at how much yucky rubbish you see along the street when you are walking to or from school.

Is your class involved in Schools Clean Up Day? If not, ask your teacher to get you registered today. Then you and your mates can all be smart kids for the day!

Registering is easy and free.



Blue Thumbs Up

Is your school looking to introduce a new action this year that will make your space more efficient, and environmentally friendly? Then tell us about it by entering my Blue Thumb competition.

One school will receive a SMURF grant of \$3,000 to help you make your initiative happen. There are also movie ticket packs for the winning classes – so have a chat with your teacher about submitting an entry today.

