T E X A S  C O M M I S S I O N  O N  E N V I R O N M E N T A L  Q U A L I T Y

T A K E  C A R E  O F  T E X A S

Lone Star Activity Book

River Outline
Sky Outline
River Group
Sky Group

Don’t ungroup both at the same time or you’ll never get the stacking order straight again!
How Do You Take Care of Texas?

Art Contest Winner

Congratulations to Mira Patel, a 5th grader from Madden Elementary School in Richmond, Texas! Mira’s winning artwork is featured below. She also won a laptop!

See how you can enter the next art contest by visiting <TakeCareOfTexas.org/art-contest>.
Hi, I’m River!

And my name is Sky!

We’re Blue Lacys, the state dog of Texas. Our ancestors settled in Marble Falls, Texas, back in the 1800s so they could help people. Texas Blue Lacys love to work and our ancestors were herding dogs that worked on ranches.

We also like to do our part, and help our friends — Take Care of Texas.

Tell us your name
Texas is a BIG state.

It is a beautiful state too.
We all like to get outdoors and enjoy Texas’ clear air, whether it’s…

…swimming, fishing,
…riding our bikes,
…or playing outside.

If we want to keep enjoying Texas, we need to make smart choices every day to Take Care of Texas!
We all spend a lot of time at school. There are many things we can do around our school to *Take Care of Texas*...

When we read and write at school, we use a lot of paper.

So we don’t waste paper, we can…

…use both sides of a piece of paper and recycle it instead of throwing it in the trash.
We also use electricity at school. By turning off lights, TVs, and computers when we aren’t using them, we can conserve electricity, which helps keep our air clean.

Activity: Color any computer that should be turned off BLUE and any that should be left on GREEN.
There are many things you can do at your home to help *Take Care of Texas*!

We can use less water and keep it in our lakes, rivers, and streams.

Be sure to turn off the water when you brush your teeth.

Try to take showers that only last FIVE minutes.

**Activity:** Draw the hand on the clock to show that five minutes have passed.
When you leave a room, turn off any lights, radios, TVs, computers, or video games that you aren’t using.

Activity: Help save electricity. Circle the FIVE things that should be turned off when no one is using them.
There are many things in your home that you can recycle and reuse.

Ask an adult if you can share or donate toys, games, books, and clothes you don’t need anymore.

Activity: Can you find SEVEN items in this room that can be recycled or reused when you don’t need them anymore?
Not everything can be recycled. Leftovers and food wrappers should NOT go in the recycle bin.

Activity: Draw a line between the recycling bin and the items that CAN be recycled.
We can help *Take Care of Texas* by recycling unwanted electronics.

In Texas, you may be able to recycle an unwanted computer or TV for free. Electronics recycling is easy and a great way to conserve valuable resources.
Activity: Trace the arrows below to see how the water cycle works. Use the words in the word bank to label the parts of the water cycle.

Learn how rainwater travels.

Word Bank:
- Condensation
- Precipitation
- Evaporation
- Collection

River
Pond
Lake
Groundwater
You also can reuse the rain.

Catch the rainwater that runs off your roof in a rain barrel. Then water your plants and trees with the water you collect.
Trees, flowers, and other plants help make Texas beautiful.

Plants that we know grow easily in Texas, called “native plants,” use less water.

Like all dogs, River and Sky like to dig holes.

**Activity:** Unscramble each word next to the holes they’ve dug, and then draw a line from the hole to its matching Texas native plant.
We can *Take Care of Texas* when we are out and about as well.

By doing our part, we can all keep our communities clean and beautiful!

**Don’t litter.**
Throw your recyclables in a recycling bin and your trash in a trash can—never throw any of them on the ground!

**Ride your bike.**
Instead of riding in the car, try riding your bike for short trips. It’s fun, and it helps keep our air clean.
Tell your friends.
Ask your family and friends to help you Take Care of Texas. No matter where we live, we can all make smart choices to do our part!

Take a walk.
If it’s a really short trip, your family can try walking. You can enjoy the clean air and get some exercise.
How do you *Take Care of Texas*?

**Activity:** Use this page to draw a picture showing how you and your family *Take Care of Texas*!
“When I’m not on the road, I’m enjoying the great Texas outdoors. Let’s all do our part to conserve her natural beauty.”

Recording Artist and Take Care of Texas Spokesperson
CODY JOHNSON

Activity: Use this page to draw a picture showing what you like to do most when you’re outdoors.
See How You Can Make a Difference

Enter the year you were born at TakeCareOfTexas.org/make-difference to check out your impact!

MAKE A DIFFERENCE
Check out your impact on the environment:
What year were you born? 2005

YOUR FAMILY HAS USED
ON AVERAGE, HEAVY
219,000
GALLONS OF WATER
JUST ON SHOWERS
IN YOUR LIFETIME (SO FAR)*

*Based on an average of 40 gallons per day for a family of four.

What you can do:
1. Take shorter showers. Reducing a 10-minute shower using a standard showerhead to 5 minutes will save 12.5 gallons of water on each occasion.
2. Turning off the tap while shaving or brushing your teeth can save up to 2,400 gallons of water per year.

Water covers 71 percent of the Earth's surface, but less than one percent of that is available for human use!

Your family has used 219,000 gallons of water just on showers in your lifetime (so far)*

A STANDARD SHOWERHEAD uses 2.5 GALLONS OF WATER PER MINUTE.

A BATHROOM FAUCET generally runs at 2.2 GALLONS OF WATER PER MINUTE.

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Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

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How is our customer service?

Fill out our online customer-satisfaction survey at www.tceq.texas.gov/customersurvey.

TakeCareOfTexas.org
Online Tips to Do Your Part!

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http://takecareoftexas.org/publications