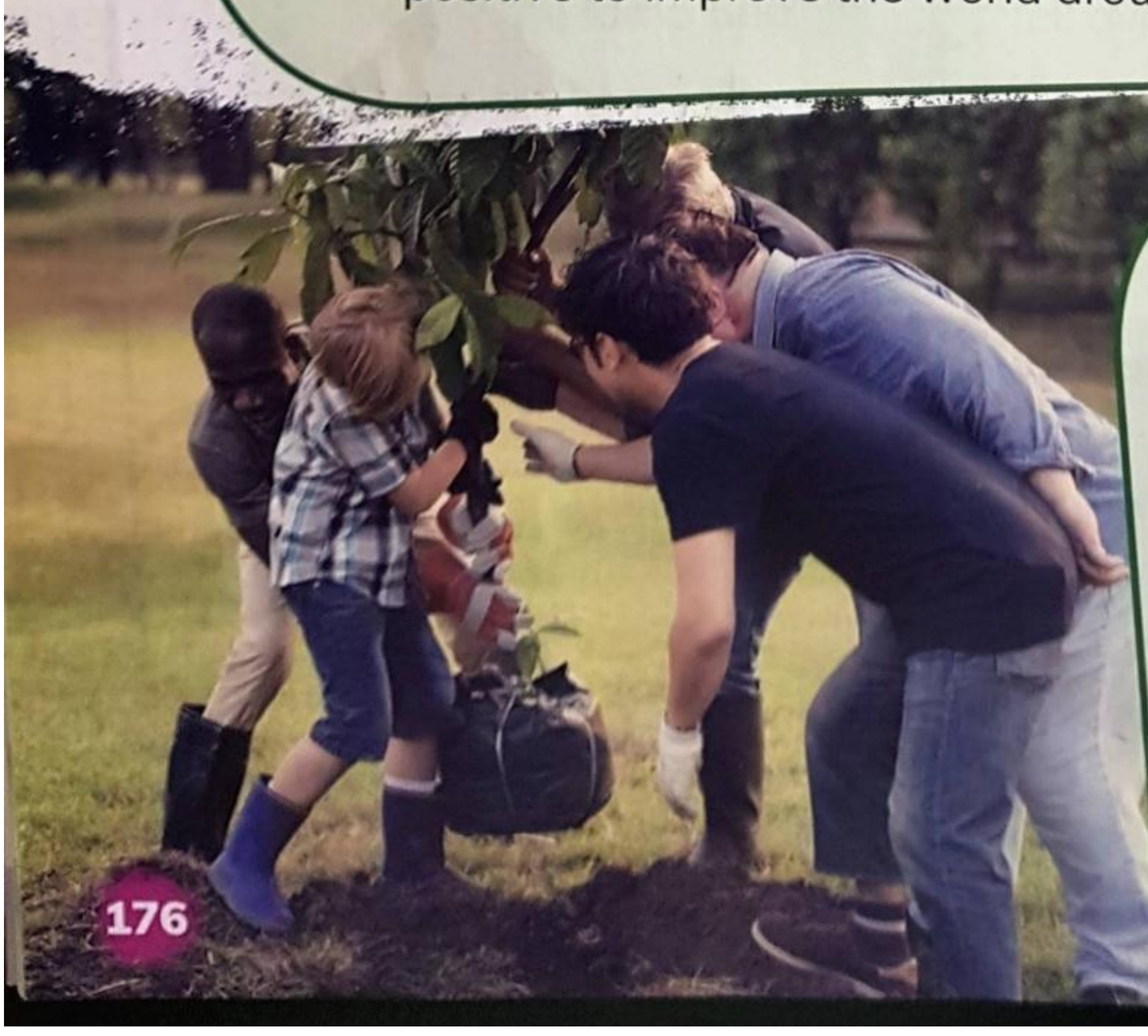
15b It's Your Environment, So Get Involved!

Do you ever wonder who's in charge of **preserving** your local environment? Farmers and gardeners have a role to play. So do the **council** workers who look after the parks or empty our bins. But **ultimately**, it's up to all of us to take care of the environment. Children who are in primary school **currently** will be the grown-ups running the country in a **decade** or two! So it makes sense to help look after the environment now. That way, you can avoid causing problems that you'll just have to solve later.

Additionally, you can get lots of benefits from collaborating with others to improve the environment.

- You'll make friends and have fun as you get stuck in to projects like putting up bird feeders, making your school grounds wildlife-friendly, or planting trees in a nearby wood.
- You'll become an expert on local plants and animals.
- You'll get a real sense of satisfaction from doing something positive to improve the world around you.



You might be thinking, 'But I'm just a child! I can't do anything!' You might think you need special skills and experience to make a positive **impact** on your environment. But you'd be wrong! Anyone can help. All kinds of different skills and abilities are welcome. Here's a handy guide to activities that might suit you, depending on what you like doing best.

Scanned by TapScanner

If you like being active...

Help grown-ups to plant trees in a local wood, or ask your school if you can plant some in the school grounds.

Find a stream or pond that's **clogged** with rubbish. Ask permission to have a clearing party and get rid of all the rubbish. You'll need adult help for this!

Do a sponsored run or swim to raise money for a local environmental project. Check noticeboards, the local paper and the internet to find out what's going on locally.

If you like being crafty...

Find out about a local plant or animal that's endangered. It could be a rare wildflower, or a special creature like a newt or butterfly. Or you could focus on a place nearby that has interesting wildlife. Make a display for your local library, to tell other people about it.

Ask friends and relatives to give you junk that they would otherwise throw away or recycle. See how much rubbish you can collect. Then use all the rubbish to make a giant **sculpture** to display at school. Add a sign reminding everyone not to drop litter!

Make a poster for your classroom, to **encourage** everyone to look after garden birds or small mammals such as hedgehogs.

Scanned by TapScanner

If you like animals and birds ...

Make a bird feeder by packing some lard and birdseeds into an old yoghurt pot, and hanging it up in the garden. Watch and see how many different birds come to eat from it!

Encourage hedgehogs to come into your garden by asking a grown-up to make sure there are gaps in the fence they can get through. Put out some tinned cat food (not the fishy sort) and **ensure** there's some fresh water for them to drink.

Build a bug hotel by making a bundle of **hollow** sticks which insects can crawl into. This will help them survive when the autumn and winter come.

There's no limit to the ways you can help the environment in your local area – all you need is a little imagination. So what are you waiting for? Get started today!

Scanned by TapScanner

A. Comprehension: Fact finding

Answer the questions.

1. Name a job that involves looking after the environment.
2. List two things you can do if you enjoy being active.
3. What could you do to help garden birds?
4. What sort of food should you *not* give to hedgehogs?
5. Name two things listed in the text that you can do without adult help.

Do you agree children should help look after the environment? Give reasons.

B. Comprehension: Read between the lines

Answer the questions.

1. What is the main purpose of this text?
2. Name an activity that informs others about the environment.
3. Why do you think the author includes so many different activities?
4. Which idea would work best with a large group of children? Why?
5. Does this text make you want to help the environment? Why?

Which of the ideas in this piece would suit you best? Give reasons.

C. Vocabulary

Choose the word or phrase that is nearest in meaning to the underlined word.

1. I am <u>currently</u> saving for a new phone.
   a) really **b)** recently **c)** hopefully **d)** now
2. We saw an amazing tropical plant that only blooms once every <u>decade</u>.
   a) hundred years **b)** ten years **c)** few months **d)** fifty days
3. Always wear a helmet when skateboarding, and <u>additionally</u> kneepads.
   a) unfortunately **b)** definitely **c)** also **d)** despite this
4. Siobhán's beautiful voice had a powerful <u>impact</u> on the audience.
   a) effect **b)** loss **c)** experience **d)** understanding
5. The gutters overflowed because the drain was <u>clogged</u> with leaves.
   a) decorated **b)** blocked **c)** scattered **d)** flooded
6. Teresa made an amazing <u>sculpture</u> out of milk cartons.
   a) artwork **b)** picture **c)** object **d)** model

Use 'currently' in a sentence about what you are doing right n

Scanned by TapScanner

D. Vocabulary

Choose the most suitable word to complete each sentence.

preserving ultimately council encourage hollow ensure

1. The _____ workers keep the streets tidy and clean.
2. _____ the environment isn't difficult – anyone can help!
3. We can all help _____ that school is a happy place.
4. _____, it's our responsibility to take care of the environment.
5. The owl looked out at us from inside the _____ tree.
6. Selina made a display to _____ people to look after hedgehogs.

Write sentences for two of the words from the box.

Scanned by TapScanner

F. Writing skills: Facts and opinions

Facts give evidence for a point of view. Facts are always true.
Opinions help persuade the reader to think the same way you do.
Persuasive texts often use a mix of facts and opinions.

Examples:

- **Fact** – Numbers of butterflies are going down in Ireland.
- **Opinion** – We should grow plants that butterflies like, to help them.

Read the sentences and write whether each is a fact or an opinion.

1. Foxes often scavenge food from dustbins.
2. Foxes are horrible animals.
3. Chickens can make great pets.
4. Chickens usually lay one egg per day.
5. Strawberries are high in Vitamin C.
6. Strawberries are absolutely delicious!

Choose one of these animals. Write one fact and one opinion about it.

badger | swan | fox | deer

Scanned by TapScanner