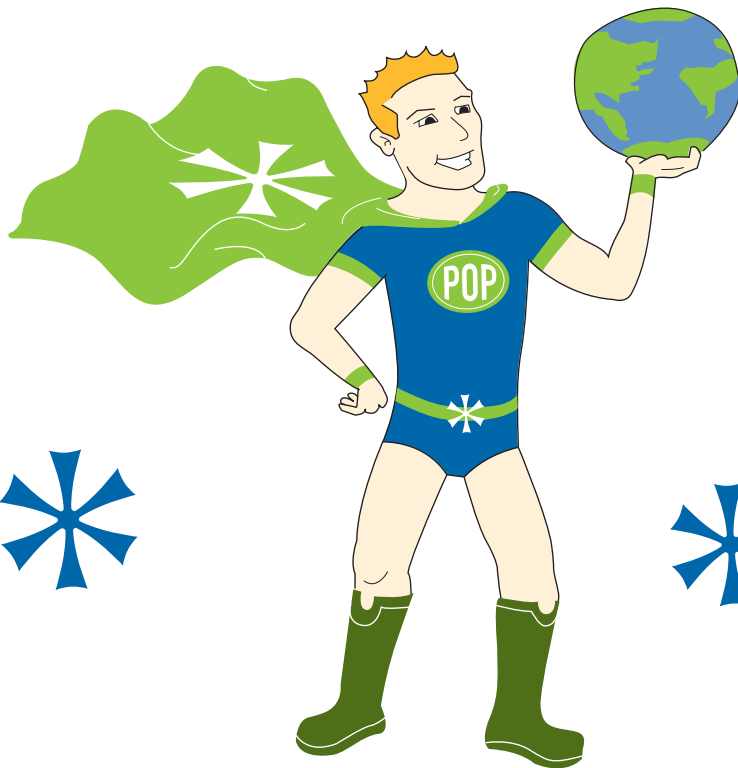
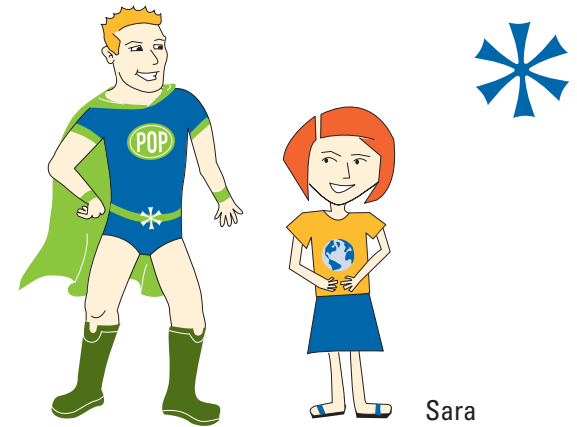


# PROTECTOR OF the PLANET



SAVE the  
SNOWFLAKES



Sara

Sara: What is global warming or climate change?

POP: Global warming means that our planet is getting hotter—when it should not be doing so. For millions of years the average temperature of the Earth has usually stayed about the same. That's why we have summers and winters, places that are warm, and places, like the polar ice caps, that are very cold. Now, because of more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the Earth is getting hotter.

Sara: What are greenhouse gases?

POP: Greenhouse gases help keep the Earth warm. We need greenhouse gases, but humans have made too much and now the Earth is getting too hot.



Sara: Why is this happening?

POP: The sun sends rays of heat to the Earth and the atmosphere traps some of the heat in to keep our planet warm. However, people have released more and more greenhouse gases and pollutants into the atmosphere by driving cars, burning oil to heat our homes and running factories. These gases stay in the air and trap more heat, making the Earth warmer than it is supposed to be.

Sara: Why is that bad?

POP: While it might sound good for some places to be a little warmer in the winter, the bad part is that it causes the ice at the polar ice caps to melt. When that



happens, the ocean levels rise and places that are low, like New York City and Florida could someday get covered up by water. If the warming continues, it could get harder and harder for us to have a safe and comfortable place to live here on earth unless we do something about it.



Sara: So what can I do?

POP: If we work together and reduce the amount of greenhouse gases and other pollutants, we can stop global warming and Save the Snowflakes (as well as a lot of other great stuff—like the trees and the bees and the birds and the plants and the animals and the people and... well, you get the point.) It is up to each and every one of us. Make your home friendly to Mother Earth and help your whole family to be Protectors Of the Planet. At the end of this piece is a checklist you can go over with a parent or other adult that outlines some ideas you and your family can do to help protect our planet and Save the Snowflakes.

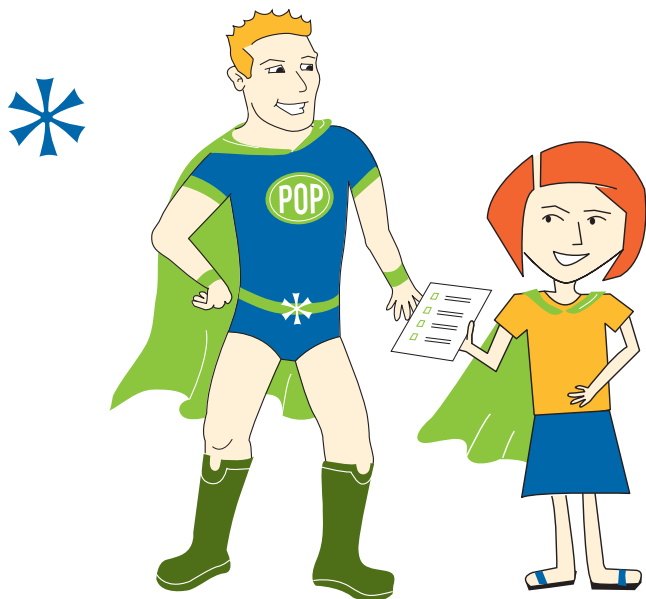
Talk about the following ideas with your class and Mom, Dad or another adult:

**1. "Think globally; act locally."**

What does that mean? How does it relate to you?

**2. "Be the change you wish to see in the world." ~ Gandhi**

What does it mean? What does it have to do with global warming? What does it have to do with the way you treat other people?



## Activity

Here are **TEN THINGS** you and your family can do to help stop global warming and Save the Snowflakes.

- \* **LIGHTS OUT!** Turn off the lights when you're not using them and remind others to do the same.
- \* Make the switch to **ENERGY EFFICIENT** light bulbs. Ask your parents to replace the old light bulbs in your house with energy efficient bulbs.
- \* Start a project to **RECYCLE** all glass and plastic bottles, aluminum cans and paper waste in your house! Reduce, Reuse, RECYCLE!
- \* **REMAND** your parents to bring a reusable shopping bag when they go shopping instead of using plastic bags.
- \* **EAT YOUR VEGGIES!** Eating less meat reduces the amount of greenhouse gases in the air. See if you can add one meatless meal a week.
- \* **TURN OFF THE WATER** when you're brushing your teeth. Save some for the fish!
- \* Turn the **HEAT DOWN** two degrees in the winter and the **AIR CONDITIONER UP** two degrees in the summer.
- \* Before you leave for vacation with your family, check all the appliances and make sure they are unplugged. When they are plugged in, even if they are off, they are "leaking" tiny bits of wasted electricity. **PLUG THE LEAKS!**
- \* If your clothes aren't too dirty, wash them in **COLD WATER** to save energy.
- \* **SAVE GAS** and have fun by walking or biking to school with your family members or friends!

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