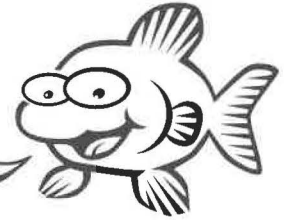


How Long Will it Take?



It takes just a moment for an item to be carelessly discarded or blown by wind into the ocean, but it can take many, many years for that item to completely decompose. Test your knowledge about decomposition times. Draw a line between each item (left) to its corresponding decomposition time (right).



How Many Years Will it Take for These Items to Decompose in the Ocean?



Fishing Line



Cigarette Filter

Undetermined

600 Years

450 Years

200 Years

50 Years

1-5 Years

3 Months

2-6 Weeks



Aluminum Can



Glass Bottle



Banana Peel



Milk Carton

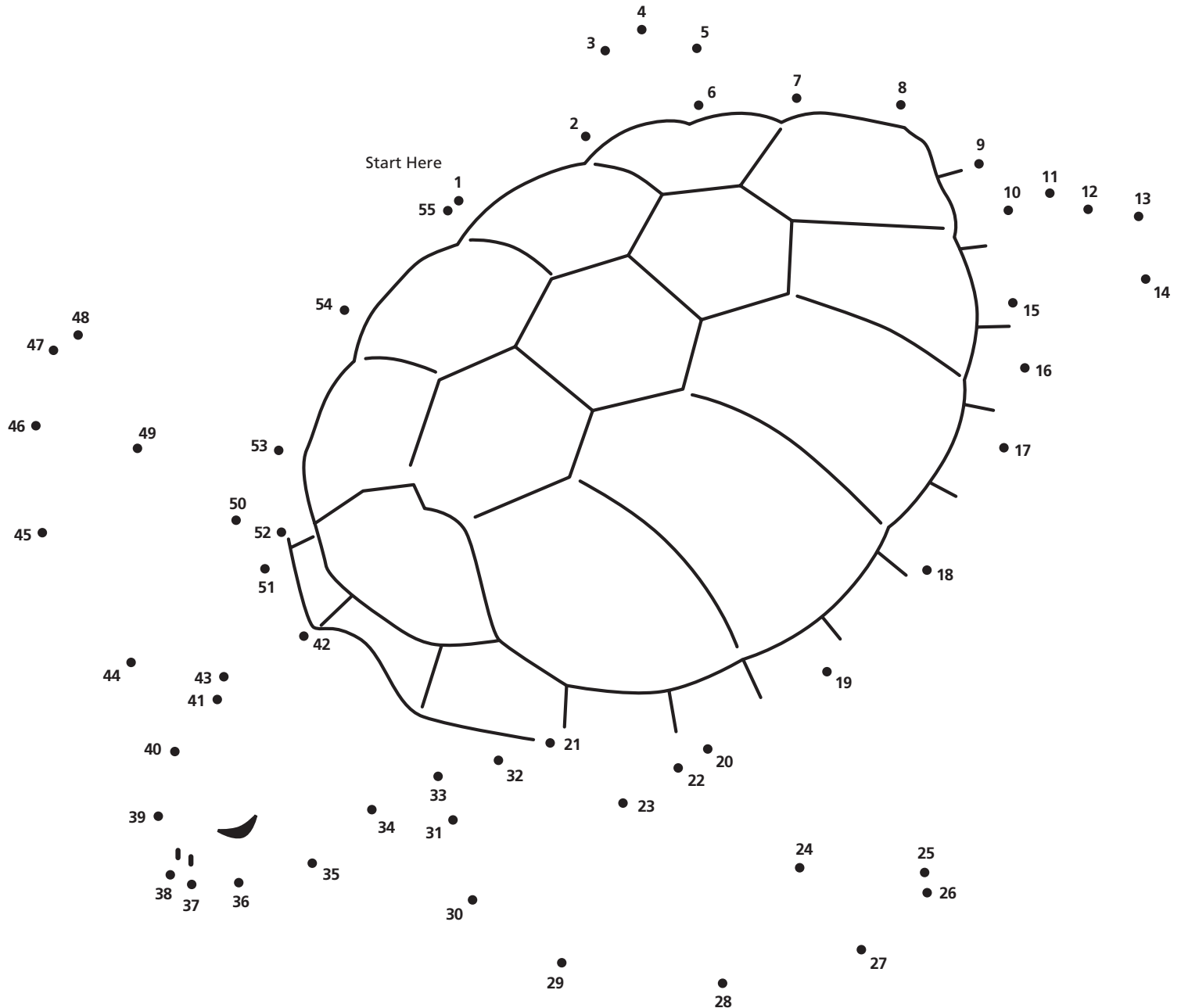


Styrofoam Cup



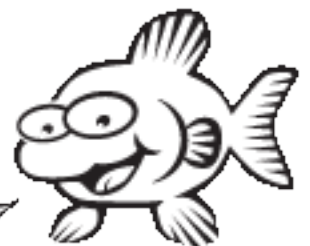
Plastic Beverage Bottle

A Sea Turtle's Story



How Can Litter Be Deadly to a Sea Turtle?

Sometimes sea turtles mistake litter in the water as food. Plastic bags look like jellyfish, sea turtles' favorite food. If swallowed, debris can block digestion or remain in the turtle's stomach, causing the turtle to feel "full" and eat less than it needs to survive. Plastic or plastic foam in a turtle's stomach can cause excess buoyancy, decreasing the animal's ability to dive deeper for prey.

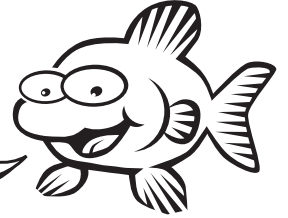


Connect the Dots—Don't Let Your Trash End Up in the Ocean!

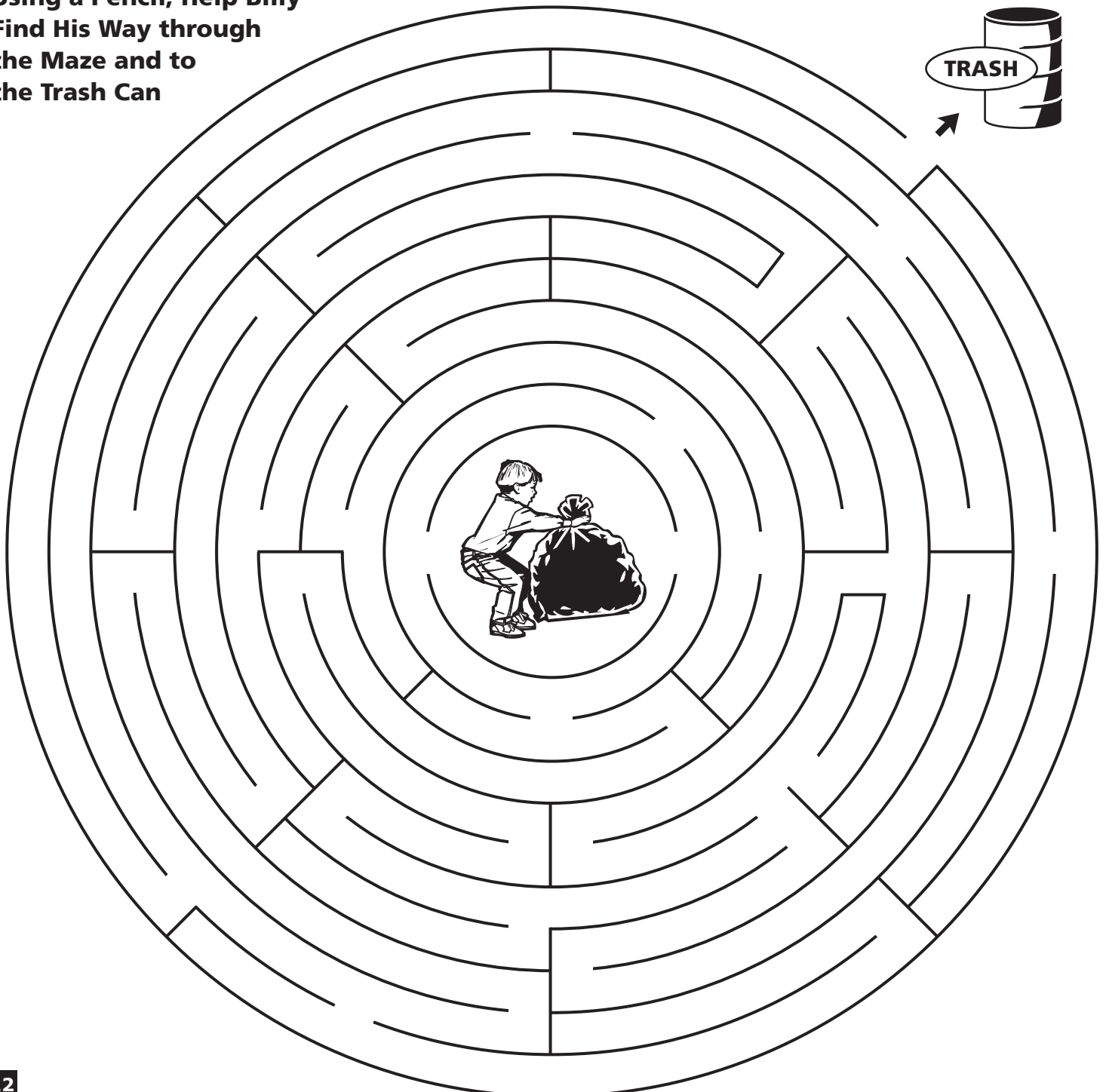
Getting to the Trash Can



Sometimes it takes a couple more steps to get to a trash can where you can properly discard your trash. But these extra steps will make you a good steward of the environment. Always put your trash in a trash can and always look for recycling bins for your glass, plastics, cardboard, metals, and newspaper.



**Using a Pencil, Help Billy
Find His Way through
the Maze and to
the Trash Can**





ANSWER KEY

(Where applicable)

Marine Debris Match Up

- Glass bottle = undetermined
- Fishing line = 600 years
- Plastic beverage bottle = 450 years
- Aluminum can = 200 years
- Styrofoam cup = 50 years
- Cigarette filter = 1-5 years
- Milk carton = 3 months
- Banana peel = 2-6 weeks