

SepticSmart Week

Activity Book



Septic Sam

Sam is a wastewater superhero. Can you draw him a cape?

Ever wondered where water travels to after it goes down the drain?

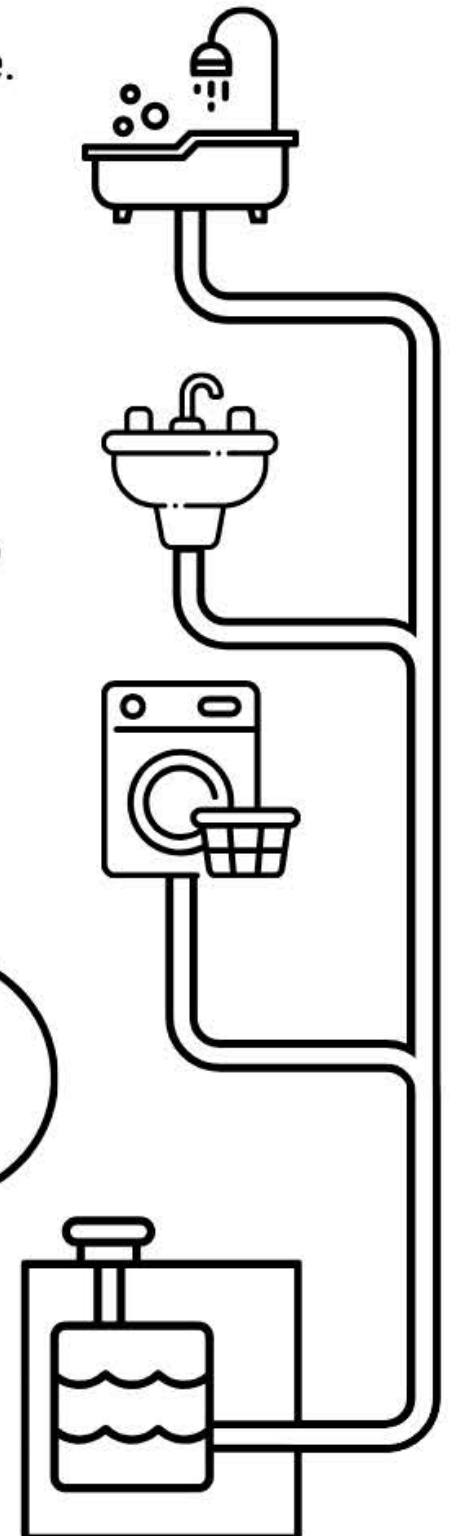
Depending on where you live, the water might go to a *septic system*!

Come along as Sam shows us how our water moves from drains to drainfields.

Where does water go after we use it?

Water from your shower, sink, washing machine, and toilet has to go somewhere. That's a lot of water from a lot of places! All the drains in your home are connected by pipes that carry the water away.

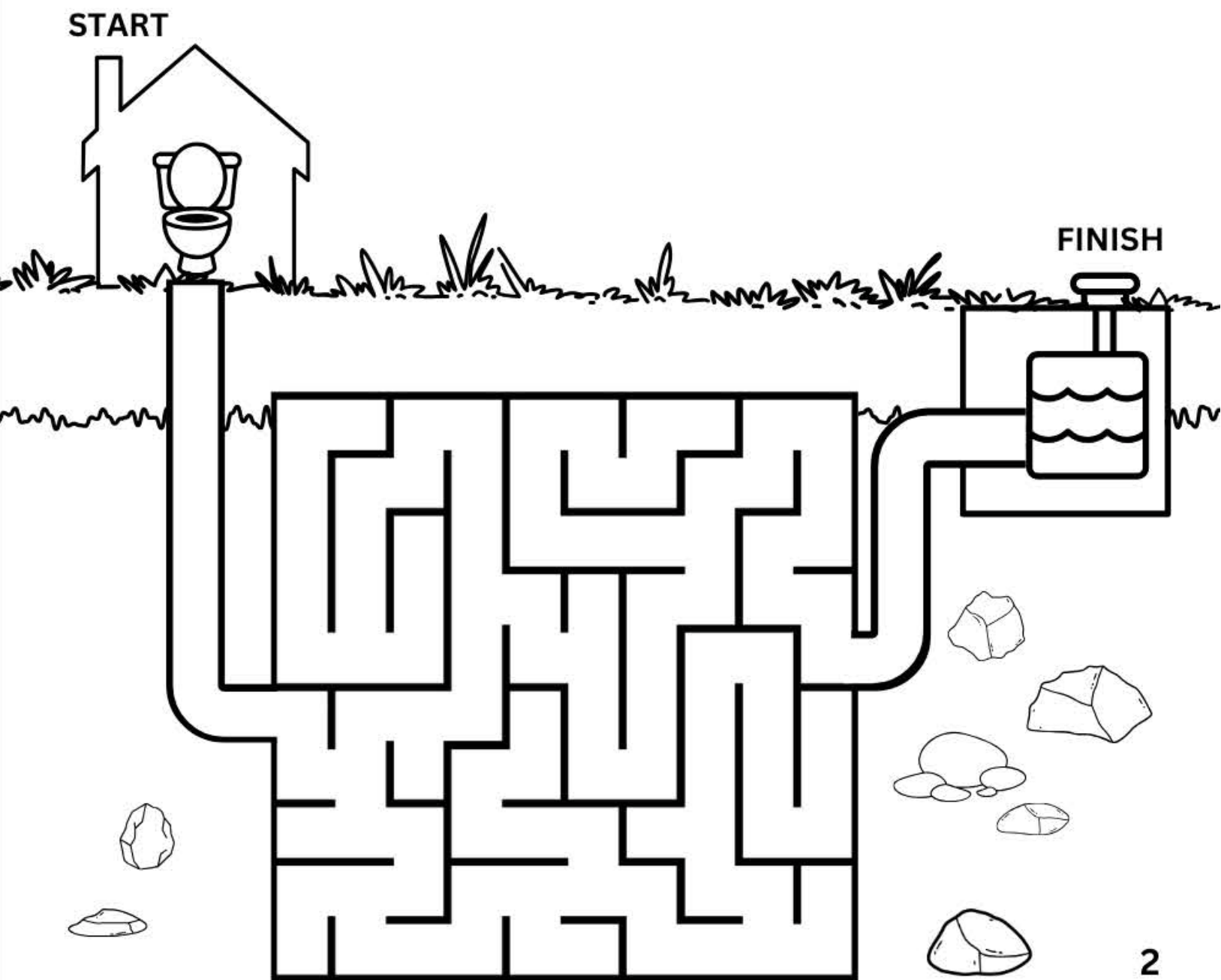
In some homes, those pipes lead to a **septic tank** — a large, underground container in the yard. The septic tank helps separate solid waste from water so it can be safely treated.



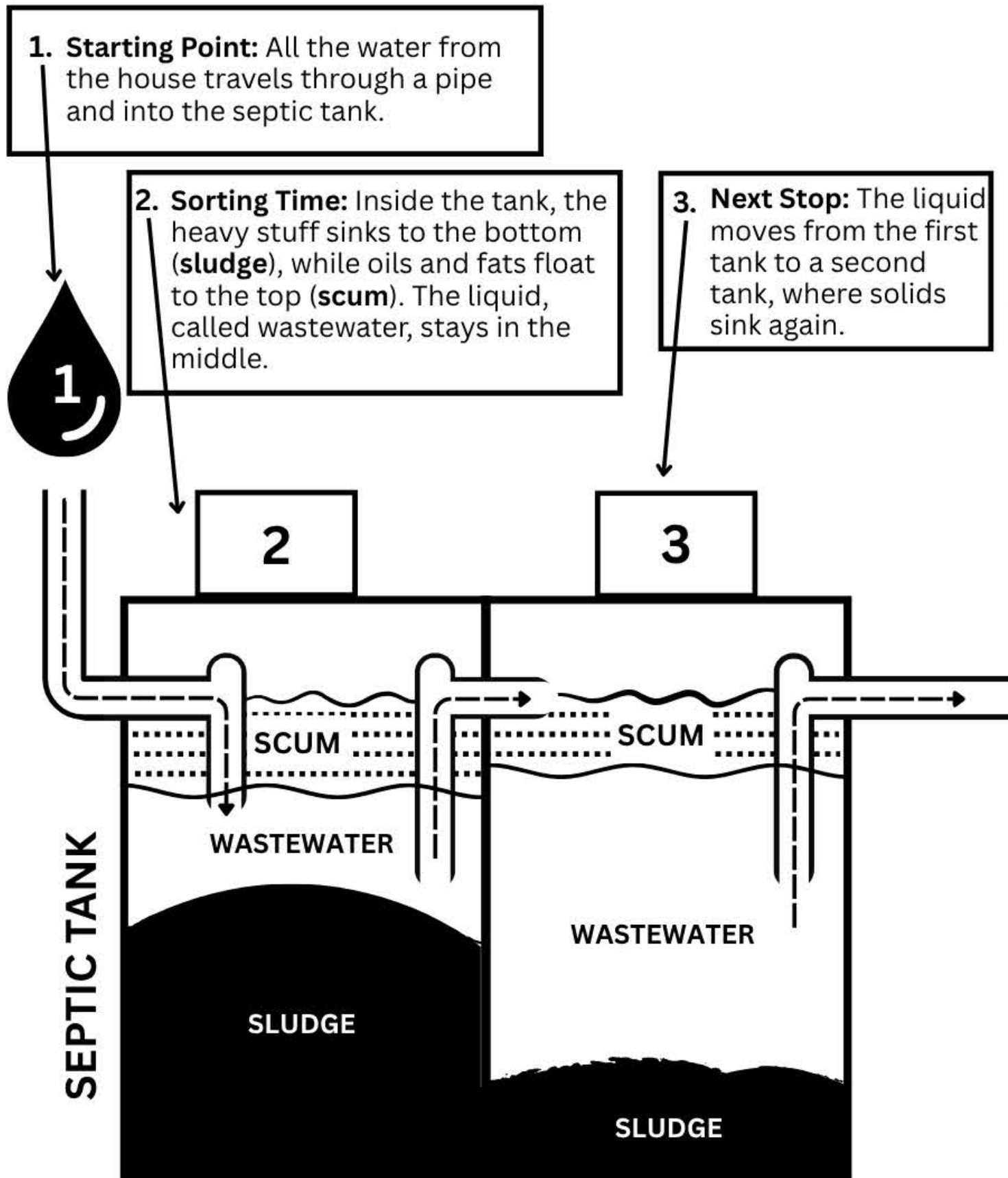
Septic Tank

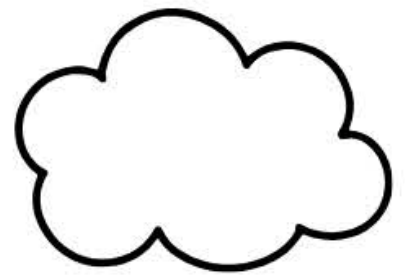
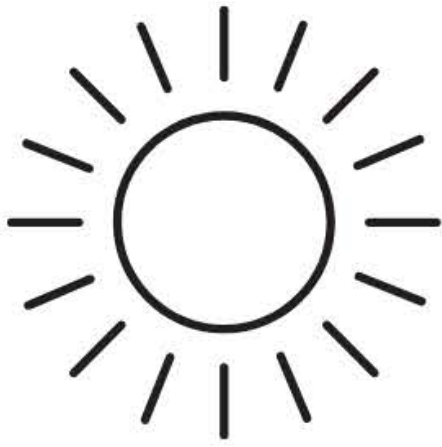
As the septic tank separates solids from liquids, it slowly drains. But if too much water enters at once, the tank can overflow — and nobody wants a soggy, smelly mess in the backyard!

Can you help the water reach the septic tank by solving the maze?



How does a septic system work?





4. On the Move: The liquid then flows out of the tank into the **drainfield**.

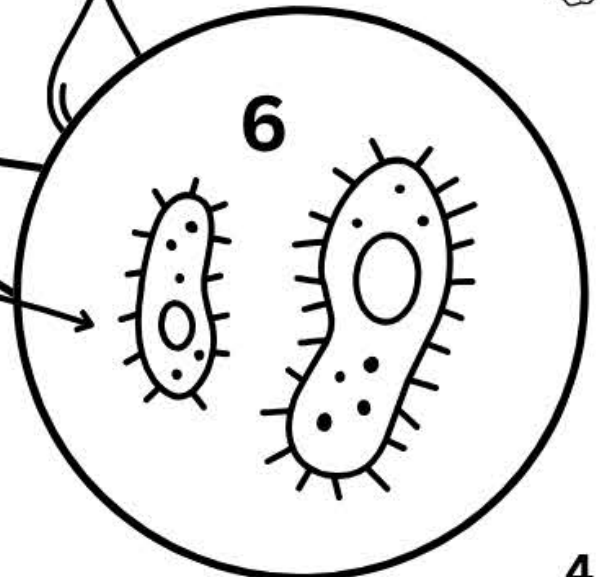
5. Underground Science: The drainfield is made up of pipes with small holes buried in the ground. As the water drips into the ground, the soil naturally filters the water.

4

5

6

6. Nature's Helpers: Tiny living things, called microorganisms, work hard to break down the wastewater so it can be safely disposed of. They're like nature's clean-up crew!

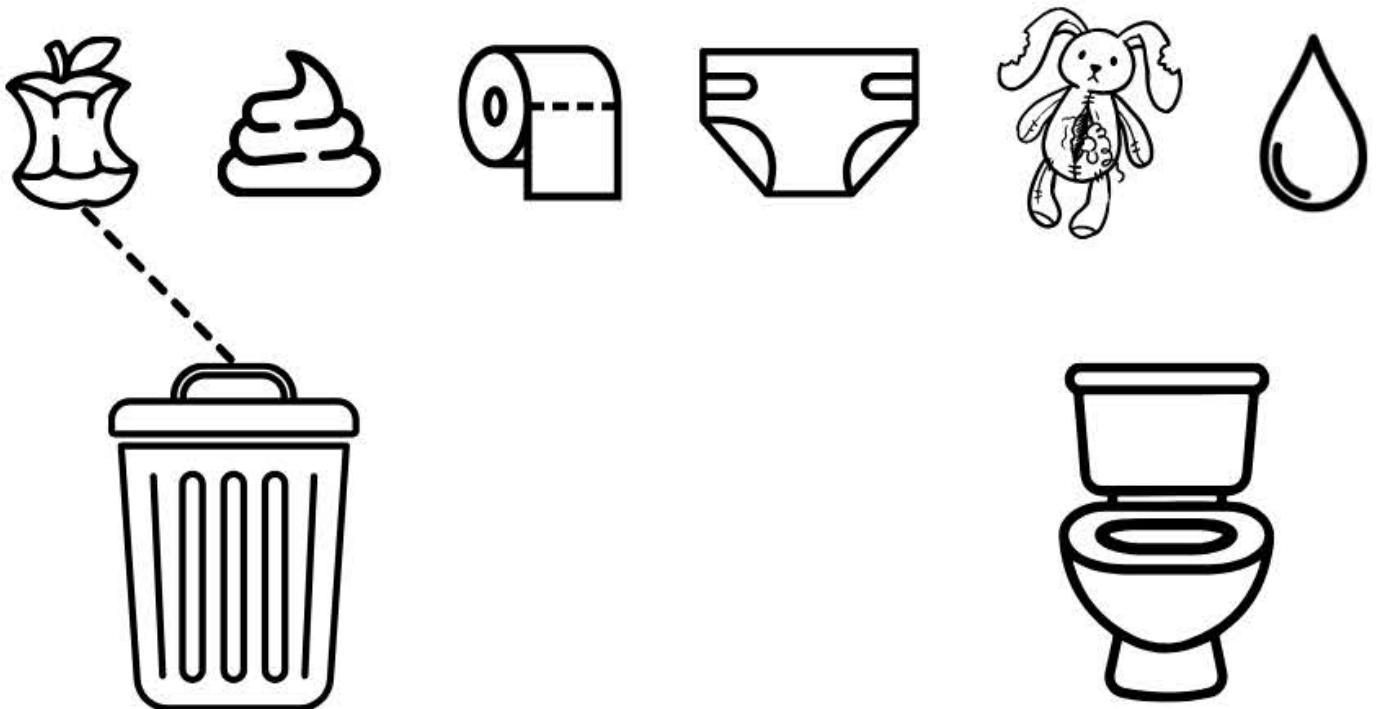


What goes down the drain?

A toilet is not a trash can! Kids can be SepticSmart by only flushing **pee, poop, and toilet paper**.



Draw a line to show if the object goes in the trash can or toilet.



Word Search

O D Y W S Q C K M K X X X Z K
D V R P L O H A Q L B R Q J T
P W B A O A A J V K E M F S R
O A M C I O W S P W S H F A A
R S K H E N P O O T P I S Y M
E T X R X O F H M L B D N R S
P E L J G T S I X M M W I K C
A W P Q Q E Q D E Y C M A T I
P A H E R L F S C L J N R A T
C T B Y M I P B Y D D A D N P
A E P Z Z O M O S P M E J K E
P R C S D T U G G I R L V S S
E N Z O V Q P N P P M C C R Z
E V Y G E P B B V E X G P A R
P A O Q G D R Q Z S U K D M A

CLEAN

DRAINFIELD

DRAINS

PAPER

PEE

PIPES

POOP

PUMP

TOILET

TANK

SEPTICSMART

SHOWER

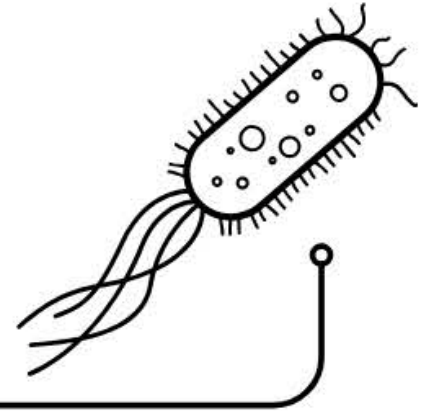
SINK

WASTEWATER

Be SepticSmart for a healthier you!

Septic systems help keep homes, yards, water, and YOU healthy!

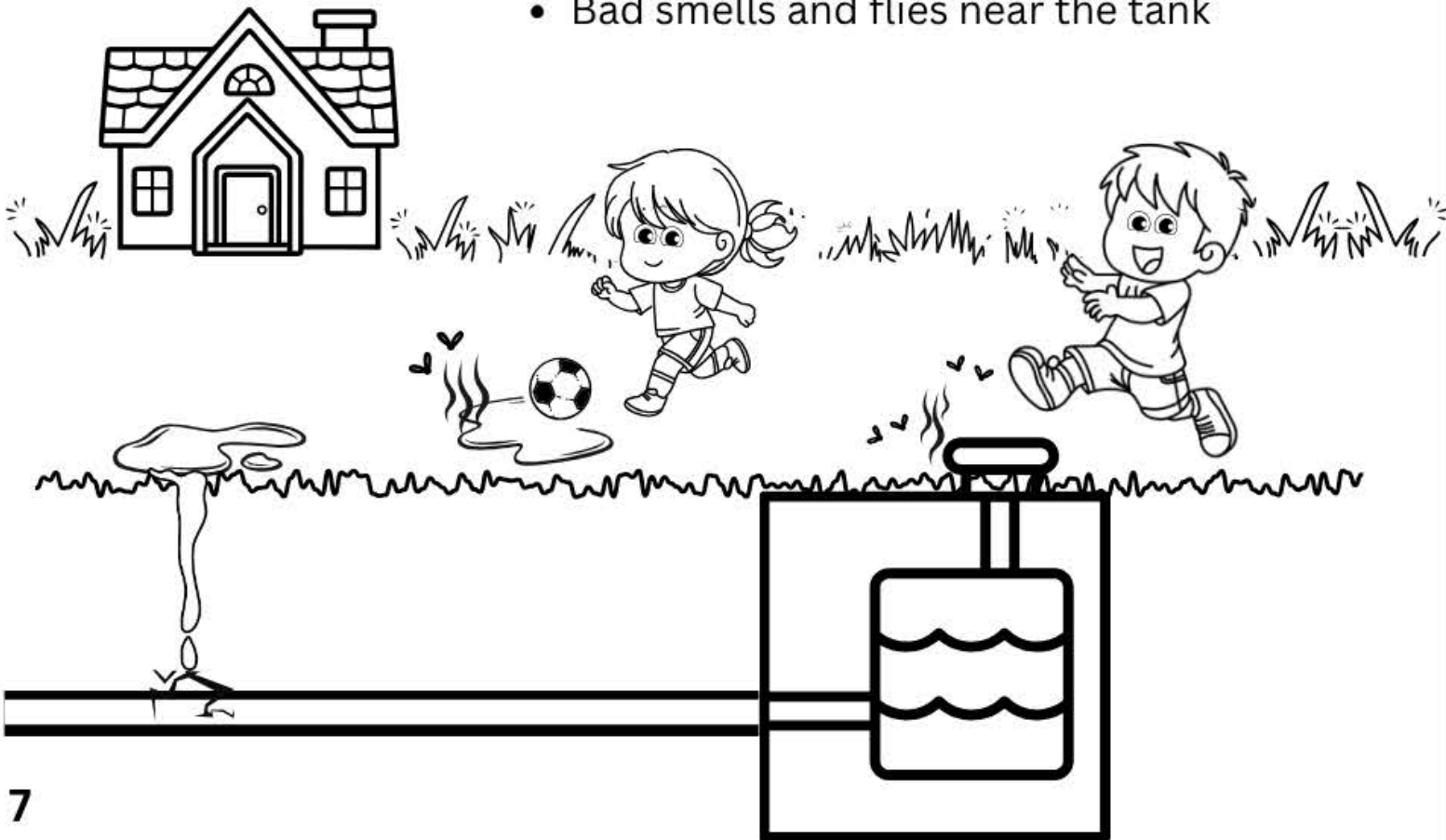
A leaking septic tank can spread bacteria and germs that make you sick. That means it's extra important to stay safe around septic tanks!



One germ called ***E. coli*** lives in septic tanks and can make you really sick. Stay away from any dirty water, grass, or soil near your septic tank — just to be safe!

Can you spot any problems in the picture below? Like...

- Jumping or playing on a septic tank lid
- Leaks and wet soil
- Bad smells and flies near the tank





How to be SepticSmart!

Use a phone to scan the QR code to watch a [video about SepticSmart Tips!](#)



Cut this page out and post it to your fridge!



1. **Think at the Sink!** Avoid putting harsh chemicals or too much cleaner down the drain.
2. **Don't Strain Your Drain!** Shut off the water when brushing your teeth, and avoid showering while the dishwasher or laundry machine is running.
3. **Keep it Clean!** Your family might use well water. Test it regularly to make sure the septic tank isn't contaminating the well!
4. **Shield Your Field!** Keep cars, trees, shrubs, and kids off the drainfield.
5. **Protect It and Inspect It!** Make sure to regularly maintain your septic tank to save money and stay healthy.
6. **Don't Trash the Toilet!** A toilet is not a garbage can. Keep toys, sand, and diapers away from the drain.
7. **Pump Your Tank!** Make sure a professional helps empty your septic tank as often as required.

Place holder for local information.

For additional information on proper
septic system maintenance, visit:
<https://www.epa.gov/septic/septicsmart>

