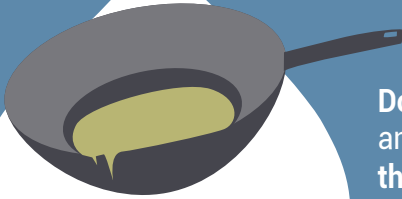




**sewage**  
and purification

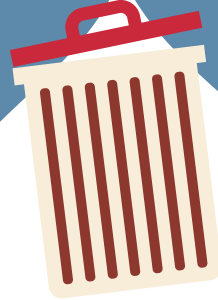
**PUPIL BROCHURE  
PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

# small but valuable rules to love the environment



**Did you know that..**  
one litre of oil can pollute  
1 million litres of water.

**Do not** throw oils  
and cooking fats in  
the drain of sink.



**Did you know that..**  
10% of the waste on the  
beach and in the sea  
comes from our toilets at  
home.

**Do not use the toilet as a dustbin,**  
throwing away solid waste or toxic  
substances such as Q-tips, medicines, etc.



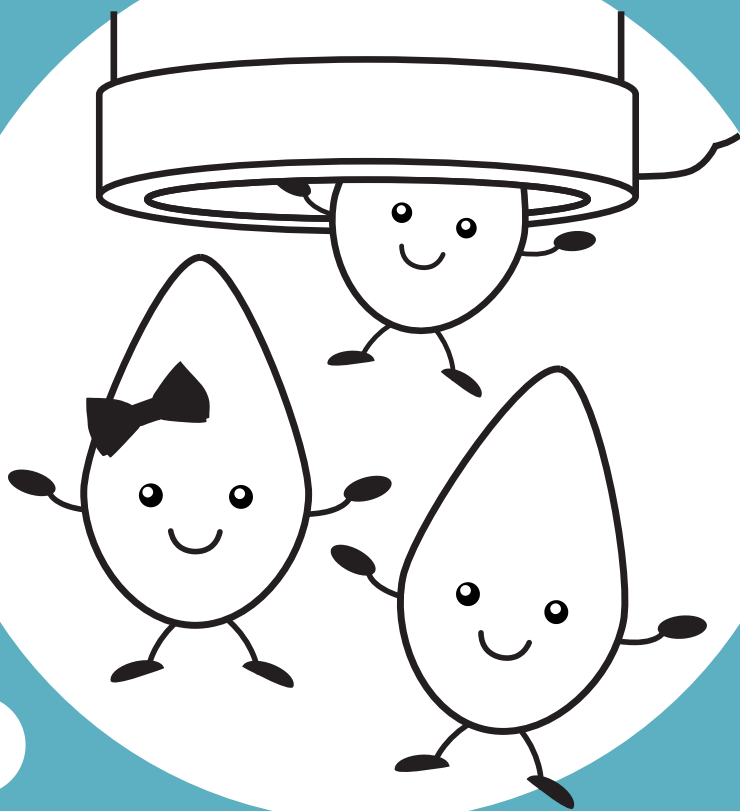
### **Did you know that..**

chemical detergents dumped into rivers and seas contain substances derived from oil, sulphur, phosphorous and nitrogen that can contribute to reducing oxygen in the water and actually 'suffocate' fish.

**Use biologically biodegradable detergents** and keep the dosage as low as possible.

Source: [www.lifegate.it/persone/news/no-rifiuti-nel-wc-legambiente](http://www.lifegate.it/persone/news/no-rifiuti-nel-wc-legambiente)  
[www.lifegate.it/persone/stile-di-vita/detersivi-chimici-e-inquinamento-acque](http://www.lifegate.it/persone/stile-di-vita/detersivi-chimici-e-inquinamento-acque)

# follow the tube... ...with Gocciolina!

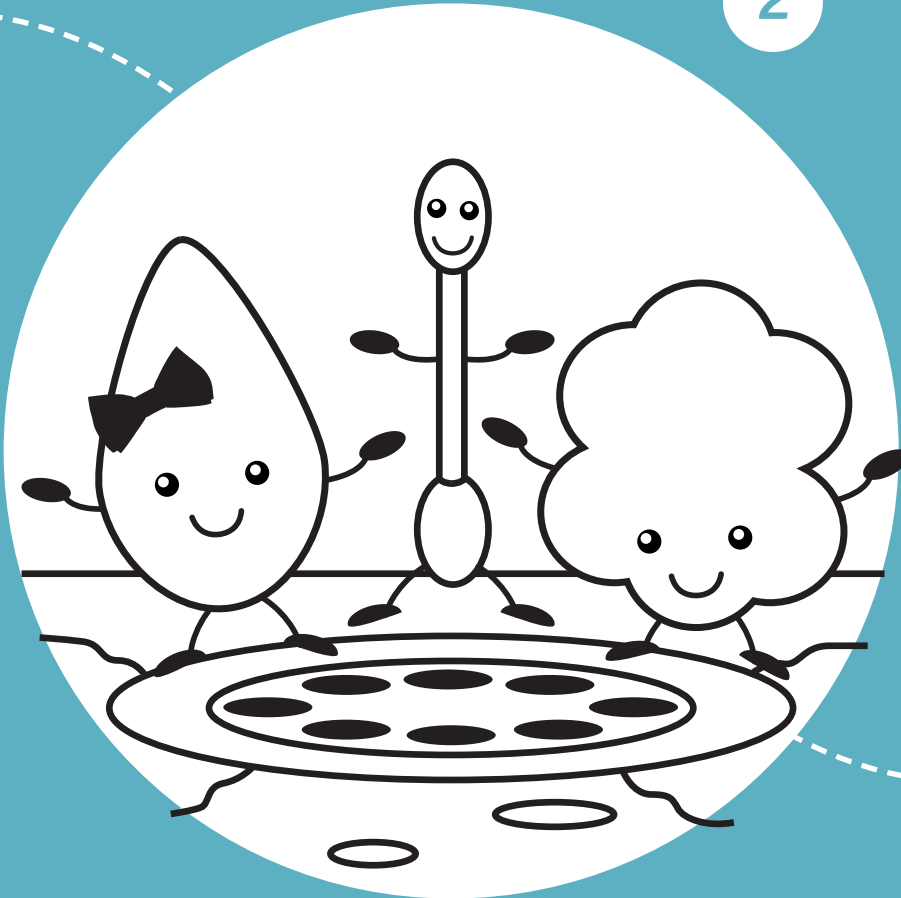


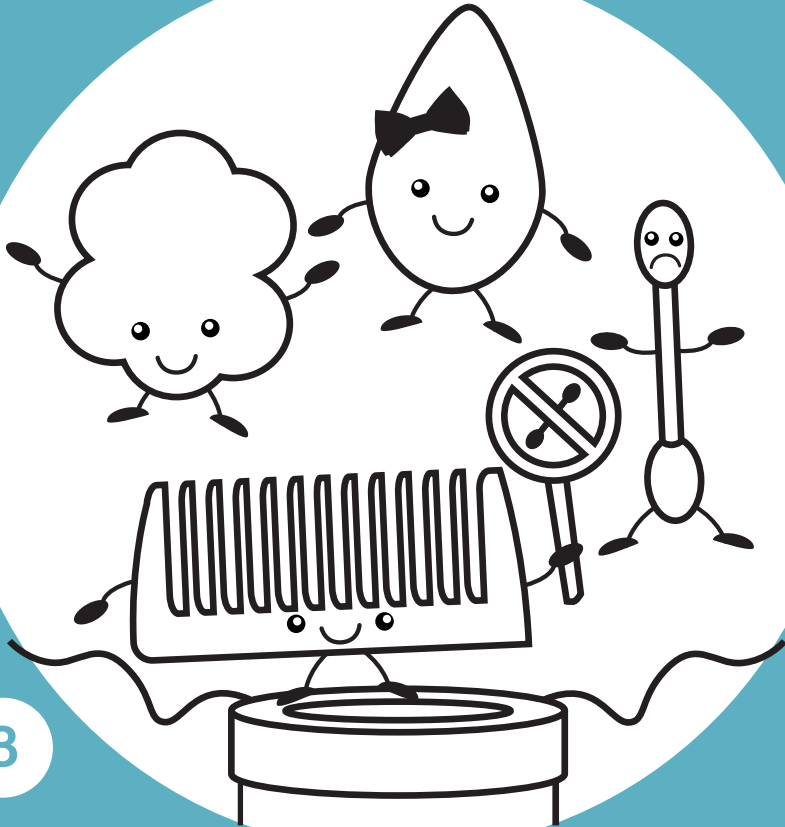
1

The Gocciolina's days pass peacefully: first a dip in the sea, then downhill in the rain, a little relaxation at the spring where the river has its source, and then down to the aquifers (small underground lakes). And it is precisely from the water table that Gocciolina's first adventure begins: together with all the other droplets that make up the water, it is collected with special pumps so that it becomes clean and drinkable, i.e. good to drink, and then flows out again from the taps of all homes.

Today, Gocciolina has come out of the tap at Aurora's house - a child your age - while she was taking a bath. After washing her hair with a lot of bubbly shampoo and cleaning her ears, Aurora removed the cap from the bathtub, and so, in addition to Gocciolina, also Foamy Soap and Mr. Q-tip dipped into the drain and slid down into the **sewers**: a tangle of pipes that are used to **transport dirty water** from Aurora's house to the sea.

2



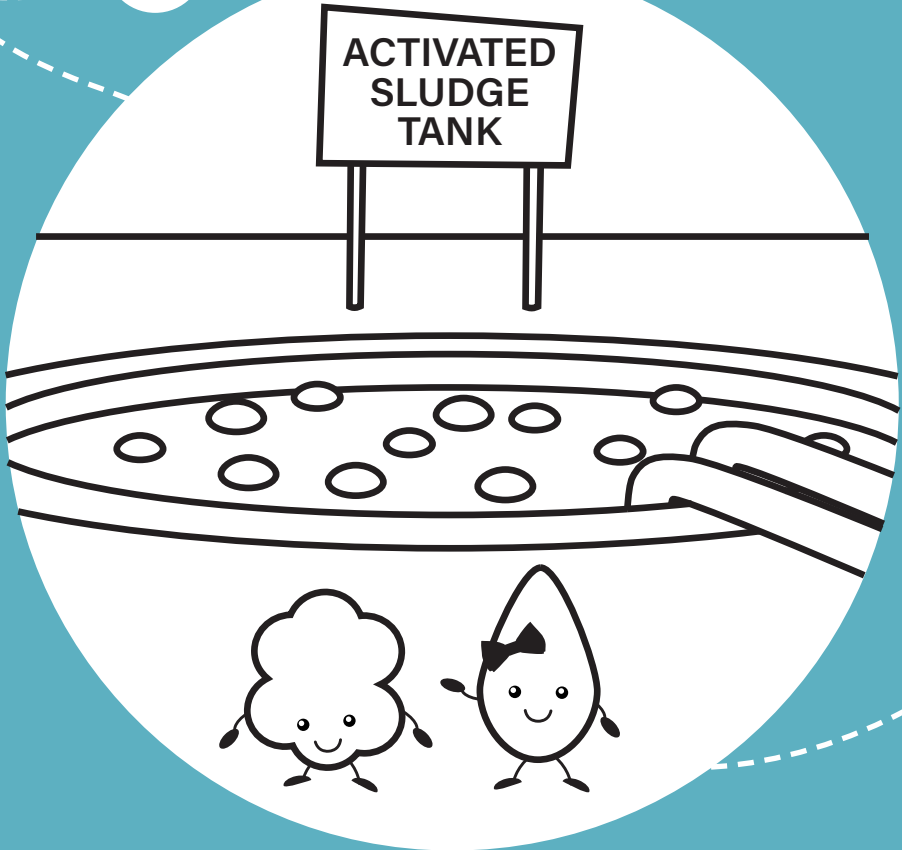


3

Before they reach the sea, however, Gocciolina and her fellow adventurers must overcome the obstacle of the big **purifier**: only those who are worthy in the eyes of the big **purifier** will be able to dive cleanly into the sea together with the other droplets. Foamy Soap, Mr. Q-tip and Gocciolina proceed recklessly splashing down the tubes until they come across huge combs: here Mr. Q-tip receives bad news: "STOP! you cannot pass here. The sea is no place for you!"

And so Gocciolina continues his journey with Foamy Soap until they come upon a strange structure: a large pool at least twenty metres in diameter, in which a brownish water bubbles. What could it be? 'There's a sign,' says Gocciolina, pointing up! It says: '**activated sludge tank**'. It must be a contraption to clean the water droplets from the sewers before discharging them into the river.

4



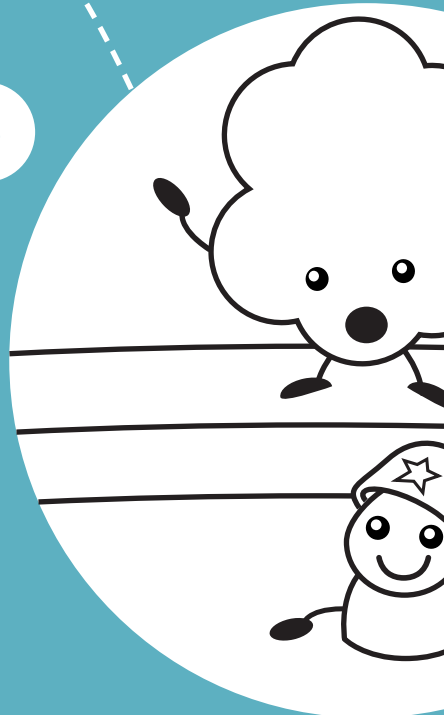
5

As they approach the edge of the pool, they realise they are not alone: in front of them a long line of tiny, plump little men swim in single row in the pool water. "One, two! One, two!" The first one marks. Company at my command, STOP! . "Who are you?" Gocciolina asks. "We are the Third Regiment, Seventh Battalion of **First Class Bacteria**, and we are getting the soap away from the bathtub!"



6

Suddenly, Foamy Soap whitens, as white as white can be! "Bacteria... are you bacteria?" "I thought water was cleaned with soap... not bacteria!" "We bacteria are **one of the essential components of the water purification cycle**: we eat the substances that foul the water and in doing so we protect the environment. And again: "After our work, used water can be discharged into the river or the sea, **greatly reducing the risk of pollution**". It's clear, even for Foamy Soap, that the adventure ends there.







7

Gocciolina is the only one to have passed the big purifier test and can therefore **return to the sea**. **Perfectly clean.** As the light from the bottom of the pipe gets closer and closer, our protagonist realises that she has learnt a great lesson: even a small drop like her is very useful to the life of the great seas and rivers! Smiling with joy, she resumes her journey through the water, with her other droplet friends and all the little fish waiting for her.



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