Science Fables

The River That Couldn't Smile

Story Quiz

This quiz follows Maya, Leo, and Grandpa Arun as they learn how plastic pollution harms rivers and wildlife—and how people can help.

1. Why did the river look sad?

A. The water had dried up
B. Plastic bottles and wrappers were polluting it
C. The fish had all moved away
D. The bridge was broken

2. Why can plastic be dangerous to turtles?

A. Turtles may mistake plastic bags for jellyfish
B. Plastic makes the water too cold
C. Turtles use plastic to build nests
D. Plastic makes turtles swim too fast

3. How did much of the plastic reach the river?

A. Fish carried it there
B. It grew in the water
C. Wind and rain moved it from the land
D. The river created it

4. What did the River Rescue Team do?

A. They added more water to the river
B. They collected litter, recycled plastic, and planted flowers
C. They moved the animals to another river
D. They built a new bridge

5. What is the main lesson of the story?

A. Only adults can protect rivers
B. One good choice does not matter
C. Many people making small good choices can create a big change
D. Plastic disappears quickly in nature

Answer Key

1. B — Plastic bottles and wrappers were polluting it

The river looked sad because plastic bottles and wrappers were polluting it.

2. A — Turtles may mistake plastic bags for jellyfish

Turtles may mistake plastic bags for jellyfish, which can make them very sick.

3. C — Wind and rain moved it from the land

Much of the plastic reached the river when wind and rain moved it from the land.

4. B — They collected litter, recycled plastic, and planted flowers

The River Rescue Team collected litter, recycled plastic, and planted flowers.

5. C — Many people making small good choices can create a big change

The main lesson is that many people making small good choices can create a big change.