Hello!

I am Earth (1). Some call me Mother Earth. I am the planet that you, your friends and your family all live on! The reason this is possible is because plants (2) use up carbon dioxide in the air to produce oxygen for you to breathe. Carbon dioxide comes from different places, like when you breathe out (called exhaling) or when gasoline (fossil fuel) is burned and fumes are released in the air (3).

The cool thing about earth’s plants is that they use carbon dioxide which gets it out of the air; but lately, we are burning up so many fossil fuel and releasing so much carbon dioxide into the atmosphere that plants can’t use enough of that carbon dioxide to keep up. This is causing global warming which raises the temperatures of the earth(4). This change in temperature can cause problems for all kinds of plants and animals. Even the polar bears are being affected because their ice fields are melting and they have less room to live and hunt (5).

If we can all come together in one huge effort to reduce these transformations, we can change the world! All we have to do is pitch in and do our part. Some things we could do are: plant more trees; only buy the things you really need; and use less plastic by switching to reusable materials. Do these things to reduce your carbon footprint (6) and make me a happy Earth (7)!!

Teachers: Use this story to read to students and ask them to color the matching pictures on the corresponding coloring sheet (which are numbered in the order they appear in the story).
This activity corresponds with BEAM activity Carbon Footprint.