



## THE LAND - A BUILDING BLOCK OF LIFE

by Lanny and Marilyn Johnson

"Supper is on, Billy," Mrs. Jones called out from the kitchen door. Mary was already heading to the table, when Billy bounced in from outdoors and accidentally bumped into her.

"Yuck!" screamed Mary. "You're covered with dirt and mud! It's disgusting!"

Mr. Jones heard Mary's scream and came to see the problem. "Look at him, Dad! He's covered with gooey, slimy dirt, and now it's smeared all over my blouse! Tell him how nasty that is!"

"Well he is messy and does need to clean up for supper, but it's not as bad as you might think, Mary."

"What's not bad about dirt?" Mary persisted.

"Well, consider that dirt comes from land. Along with water and air, soil is very important to us. The first four days of God's Creation were the building blocks of life (Genesis 1:1-19). In Genesis 1:9 it's recorded that, 'And God said, Let the waters under the heaven be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so.' Can you think of any ways that dirt is very important to us?"

"I can!" Billy exuberantly declared. "It's fun to play in!"

Mrs. Jones chuckled and added, "Most of

the fruits and vegetables that we eat came from plants that grow in dirt. And a lot of the animals also eat plants that grow in dirt,"

"Yeah, and worms eat it," exclaimed Billy, "and I like to fish with worms!"

Mr. Jones laughed and asked, "It's obvious, Billy, that you like dirt, but how about you, Mary? Can you think of any ways dirt is good and important for us?"

Still miffed with her brother Billy, Mary answered, "I can't think at all with this filthy mess on me!"

"A little soap and water will clean up your blouse - and hopefully Billy - just fine," teased Mr. Jones. "Meanwhile just look around and notice all of the things that came from different parts of the land. For example, where did the things that make up our pots, pans, sink, faucet, and silverware here in the kitchen come from?"

"Oh, Dad, that's easy," Mary replied. "All of them were made from different metals."

"Exactly - metal that was found and processed from rocks of the land. We also get many chemicals and minerals from the land that keep us healthy and make our lives easier. In addition, we produce all kinds of products from plants that grow in the dirt. The list of good and useful things we get from the land goes on and on."

Mrs. Jones added, "You might remember, Mary, that Genesis 2:7 states that God formed the first man from the 'dust of the ground' ".

"Your mother is right. Man's body was made from the same stuff we find in dust, which is another form of dirt. God also made plants and the bodies of animals from ingredients of the earth. (Genesis 1:12, 24).

"When God had finished creation, He saw everything that He had made and stated, 'it

was very good' (Genesis 1:31). You see, Mary, I think dirt can be good. However, because of man's sin, God cursed the land (ground) that makes up the earth today. Instead of God's perfect creation, today we see decay, contamination, and other harmful things within the earth. So, Mary, as you think, dirt can also be bad.

"However, the dirt on your blouse and Billy's face can be washed and cleaned. The good news is, in a similar way, our dirty sins can also be cleansed if we put our faith and trust in Jesus Christ, who died on the cross for our sins (John 3:16)," Mr. Jones ended.

"Would you like to join me at the spa for a facial mud bath?" Mrs. Jones asked Mary. "They say it is good for the skin."

"Sorry, Mom, but I don't think I'm quite ready for that just yet," Mary answered.

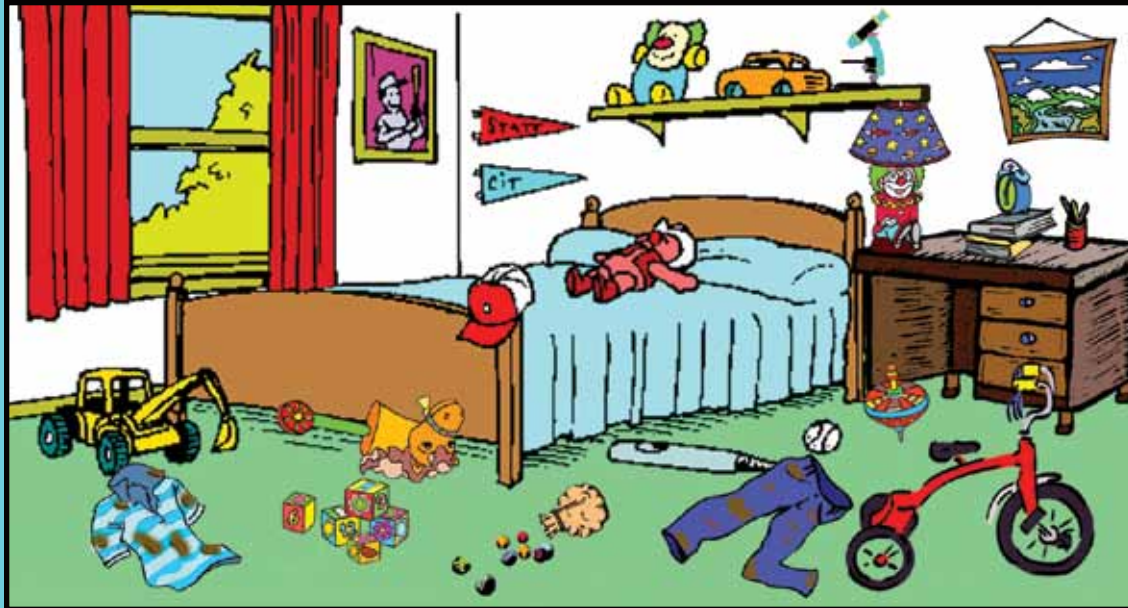
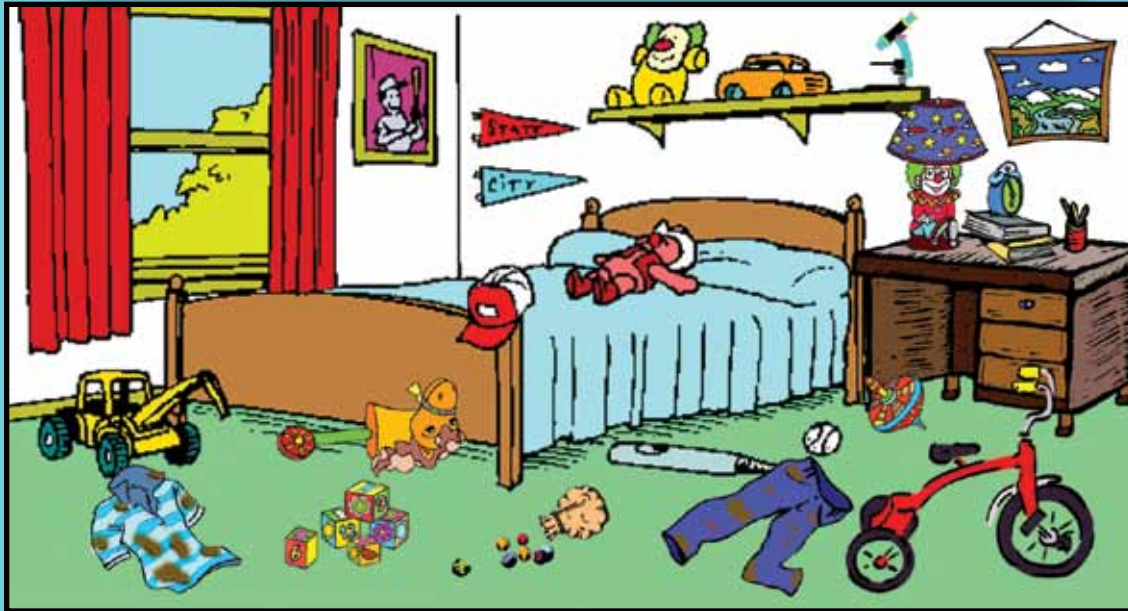
"I'll go ... I'll go!" Billy immediately and loudly proclaimed,

"You look like you have already had a mud bath, young man," Mrs. Jones laughed, "so head to the bathroom and clean up!"



Just like Billy, our grandson Clay loves the dirt and mud!

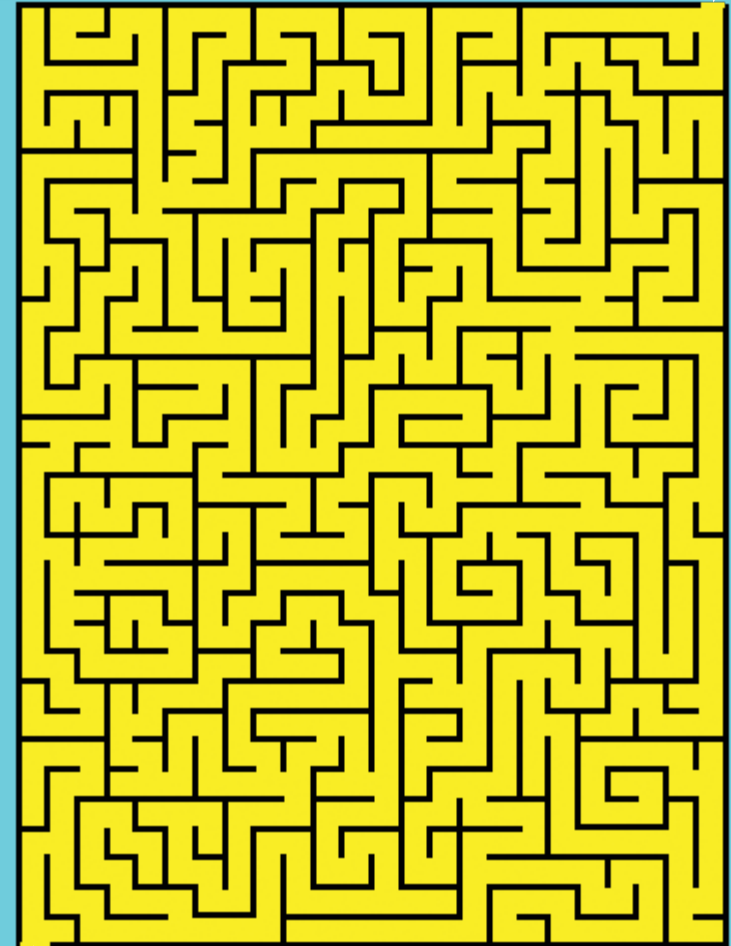
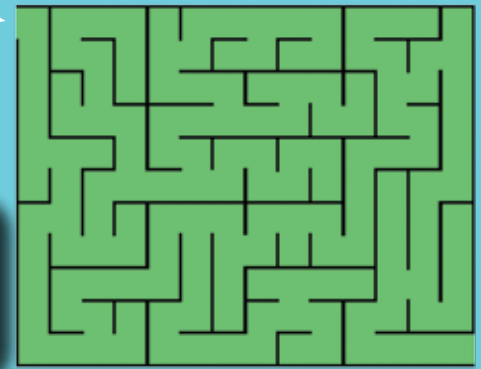
Everything in these pictures were a product, in one way or another, of the land. Find the 18 differences between the 2 pictures.



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Help the muddy boy find his way through the mazes to get to a bathroom to clean up.



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