

Cartoon of the Week

Earth racks up a big bill in this week's cartoon.

BASIC

This week's cartoon was drawn by Jesse Hu Jenkinson, a fifth-grader at Locke Hill Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas. In Jesse's cartoon, Earth is sitting at a bar, drinking. **Can you tell what Earth is drinking?** (*Oil.*) The bartender is telling Earth to pay its bill. **Can you read the word at the bottom of the bill on the bar?** (*Pollution.*) Oil is used to make fuels like gasoline. **What is gasoline used for?** (*To run cars and trucks.*) Gasoline and other fuels made from oil also cause

pollution that is harmful to the environment.

This cartoon seems to be saying that Earth is using too much oil. **What price do you think Earth pays for using too much oil? What do you think people can do to use less gasoline?** (*Drive less, walk more, take buses instead of driving, for example.*) **Do you think this is a good cartoon? Why or why not?** END



GENERAL

This week's cartoon was created by Jesse Hu Jenkinson, a fifth-grader at Locke Hill Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas. Jesse's cartoon won Third Prize in the kindergarten-through-sixth grade category of the NewsCurrents Student Editorial Cartoon Contest. In this cartoon, somebody is sitting at a bar, drinking. **Who is it?** (*Earth.*) **What is Earth drinking?** (*Oil.*) Oil, or petroleum, is one of Earth's most important natural resources. **What is it used for?** (*Making gasoline and other fuels.*) Petroleum is also a fossil fuel. That means it is found underground, and is made from decomposed remains of prehistoric plants and animals. There's a limit to how much oil we can get from underground, and we can't make it as we need it. That's why it is called a non-renewable fuel.

In this cartoon, the bartender is telling Earth to pay its bill. **What is written on the bottom of the bill?** (*Pollution.*) **Do you agree that pollution is the price we pay for using too much oil?** Using oil causes pollution that is harmful to Earth's environment in many ways, including causing the greenhouse effect that leads to global warming. **What kinds of things can people do to use fewer petroleum products?** (*Drive less, walk more, share rides, take the bus instead of driving, and so on.*) **Why do you think Earth is drinking too much oil in this cartoon? Does this cartoon do a good job of making people think about the real "price" of using too much oil? Do you think this is a good cartoon? Why or why not?** END

ADVANCED

This week's cartoon was created by Jesse Hu Jenkinson, a fifth-grader at Locke Hill Elementary School in San Antonio, Texas. Jesse's cartoon was a Third Prize winner in the kindergarten-through-sixth grade category of the NewsCurrents Student Editorial Cartoon Contest. As you can see, Earth is racking up a big bar bill in this cartoon. But instead of drinking beer, Earth here is drinking one of its most important fossil fuels, petroleum. **What makes something a fossil fuel?** (*Fossil fuels include carbon, such as coal, peat, natural gas, and petroleum. They are derived from the decomposed remains of prehistoric plants and animals.*) The United States consumes nearly one quarter of the world's petroleum — more oil

per capita than any other country. **Why do you think this is the case? Do you think it is possible for the world to substantially cut back on its consumption of petroleum? If so, how? Do you think the United States should cut more of its petroleum usage than other countries that use less oil? Why or why not?**

In Jesse's cartoon, the bartender is reproachfully reminding planet Earth that it will have to pay the bill for all of the oil it is consuming. And visible on the bar tab is the word "pollution." **Does Earth seem to be unaware of the "price" it is paying? Do you think this accurately reflects the attitudes of many people especially in the United States? Does this cartoon effectively make its point?** END