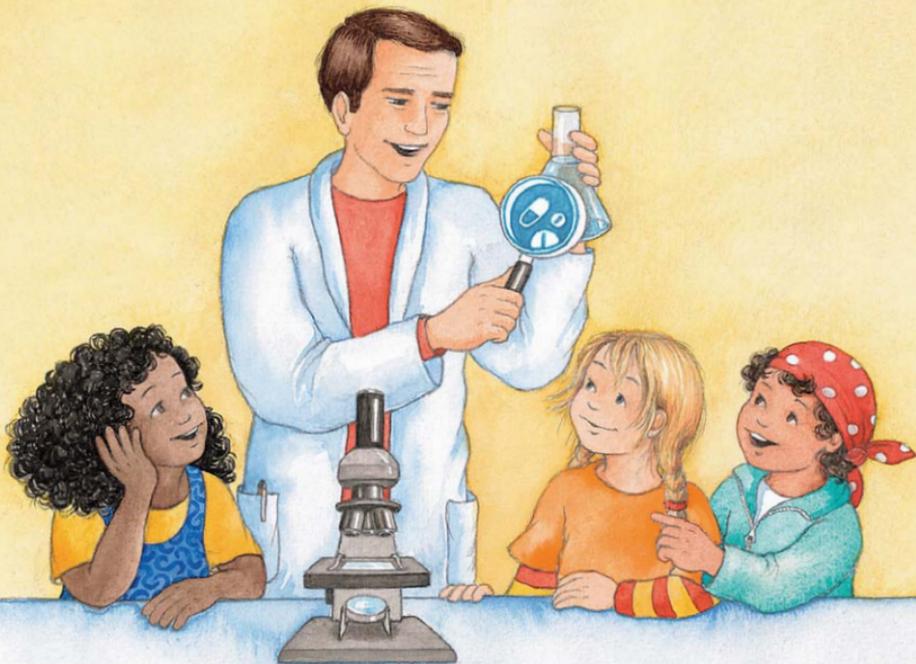


On tour with the
**River Pirates –
Invisible
water pollution**



Dear children,

this little book is a present brought to you by people from Germany, France, Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Scotland. They work together in order to keep our rivers and streams clean and beautiful. In this book, they explain how sometimes rivers can be polluted and spoiled by tiny stuff that you can't see with your eyes, and how we all can help to keep our rivers free of this dirt.

We want children in Europe to know about clean rivers, and that's why we have translated the book into many languages. If all the children in Europe knew how to keep our rivers and streams clean, then we could enjoy fishing, kayaking, sailing or even swimming in them, for the rest of our lives.

We like to thank the children Alina and Sophia Pahl, Hazel and Niels Imrie as well as the Netherlee Primary P7 and Thornhill Primary P1-3 class, for their invaluable support in translating and editing this little story.

We hope you enjoy reading this book.

On tour with the River Pirates - Invisible water pollution



A story by
Thorsten Trelenberg

Illustrated by
Birgitta Nicolas

The river pirates are Lucy, Jamal and Ariana. They live by a river and think that this is very exciting. One day they see something very special: "Look, over there, something is glittering in the sun," shouts Lucy. "What could it be?" Ariana wants to know. Jamal runs ahead, all excited. "I bet you it's treasure!"



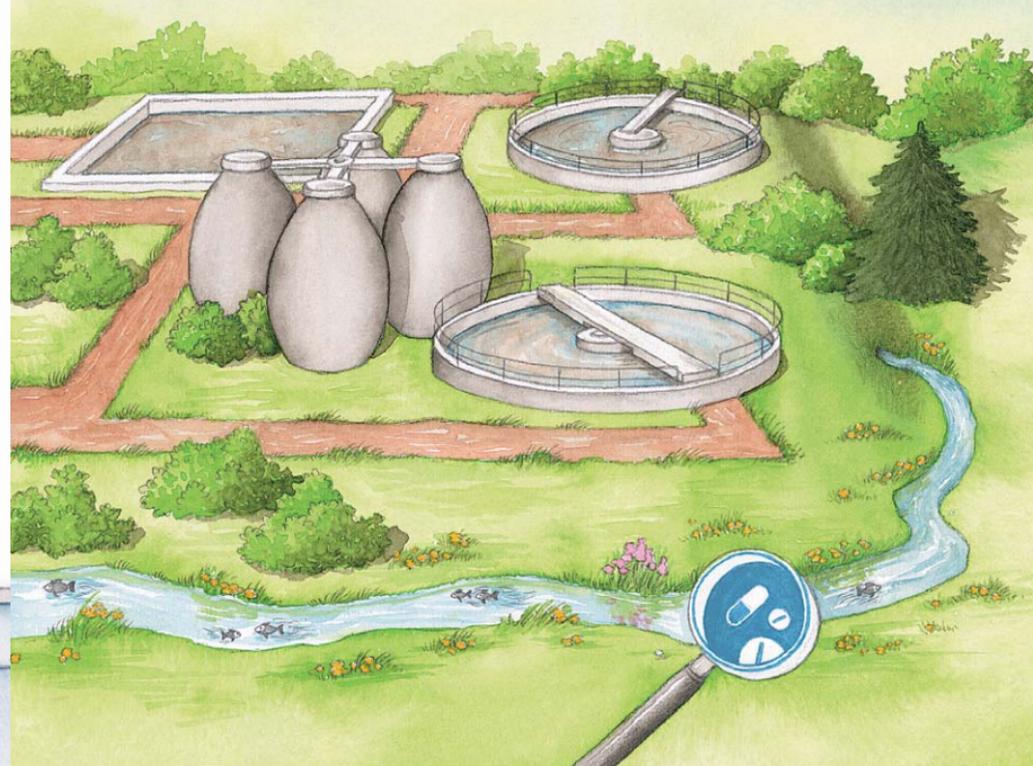
"Yeah right, treasure," laughs Ariana, still out of breath from running. Curiously, the children look at the empty pack of tablets that they found. "Oh dear, I hope they didn't get into the water. That would be terrible," says Jamal, all worried. "Why?" Lucy wants to know.



"I saw a documentary on TV with my parents," explains Jamal. "Scientists have found out that left over medicines and other tiny things can get into the rivers from our waste water, even if the waste water is cleaned with modern machinery. It's called pollution. When this gets into rivers, it can make fish and other animals ill."



"What do you mean?" asks Ariana curiously. "It's easy," answers Jamal. "Think of all the fish in the river; they get ill by swimming in the polluted water all their life."



“But what can we do about it?” Ariana wants to know, all worried. “Well, that’s really not so difficult,” replies Jamal. “We only have to make sure that we don’t let medicines get into the water.” “And how do we do that,” asks Lucy and points at the empty pack of tablets.

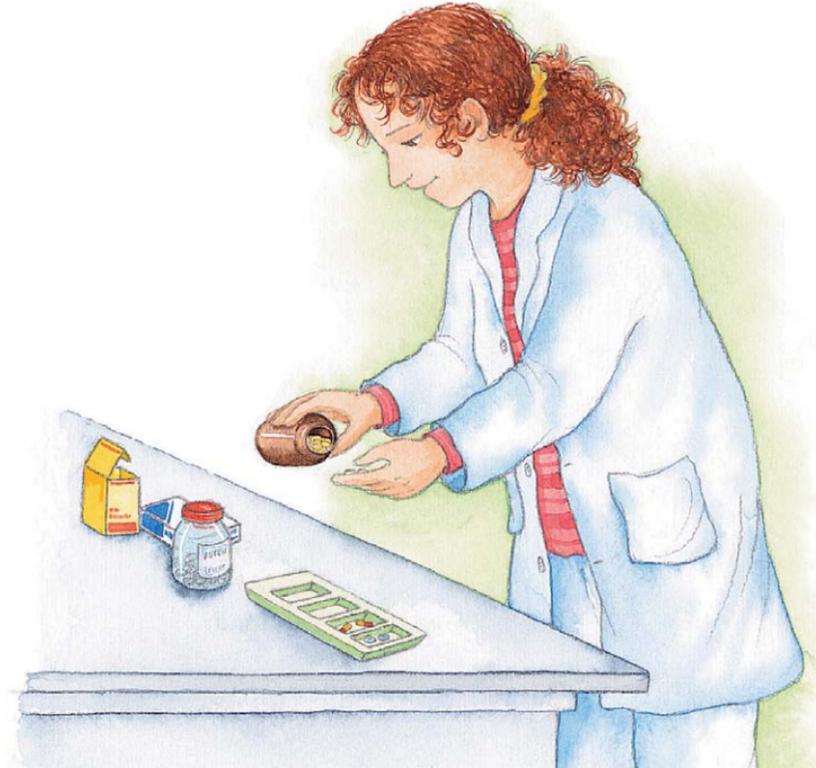


“Most families have medicines at home. But sometimes they don’t need them any more because the person is healthy again or because the medicine is out of date,” explains Jamal.

"The most important thing is that nobody should flush old medicines down the toilet or the sink! It is much better for the environment to put them in the bin. Or bring them back to where they were bought. That way they can be made safe and don't get into the water."



"OK," thinks Lucy, "so we can do the right thing at home. But what happens in hospitals?" "Good question," says Jamal.



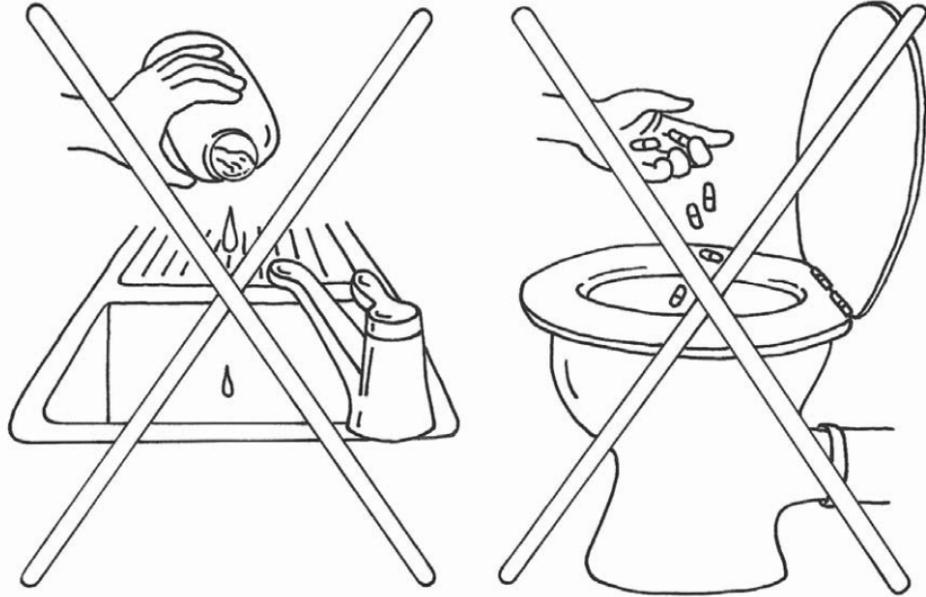
“When my gran was very ill and had to go to hospital,” says Ariana, “she was given special medicine for an X-ray, and she was told that it would come out again when she needed to go to the toilet. She was told to use a different toilet that flushed into a special pipe, so that the medicine doesn’t get into the water.”



In the end, the river pirates agree: the more people take care with their old medicines, the better it will be for our environment and our rivers stay clean!



Colour in your own picture!



This book is published by the INTERREG IVB project noPILLS (www.no-pills.eu).

The project partners are public water companies and research/teaching institutions; they investigate the origin and fate of pharmaceutical residues in water and wastewater.

EMSCHER 
GENOSSENSCHAFT EGLV.de

www.eglv.de

tudor
PUBLIC RESEARCH CENTRE HENRI TUDOR

www.tudor.lu


Glasgow Caledonian
University

www.gcu.ac.uk


Rijksinstituut voor Volksgezondheid
en Milieu
Ministerie van Volksgezondheid,
Welzijn en Sport

www.rivm.nl


LIPPE
EGLV.de VERBAND

www.eglv.de

 **Université
de Limoges**

www.unilim.fr

Imprint

Publisher:

EMSCHERGENOSSENSCHAFT / LIPPEVERBAND

Kronprinzenstraße 24

D - 45128 Essen

www.eglv.de / www.no-pills.eu

Text: Thorsten Trelenberg

Academic supervision: Kerstin Stuhr

EMSCHERGENOSSENSCHAFT / LIPPEVERBAND

Illustrations: Birgitta Nicolas

Realisation: 2md, Werbung + Kommunikation

Print: KS Druck Service GmbH



March 2014