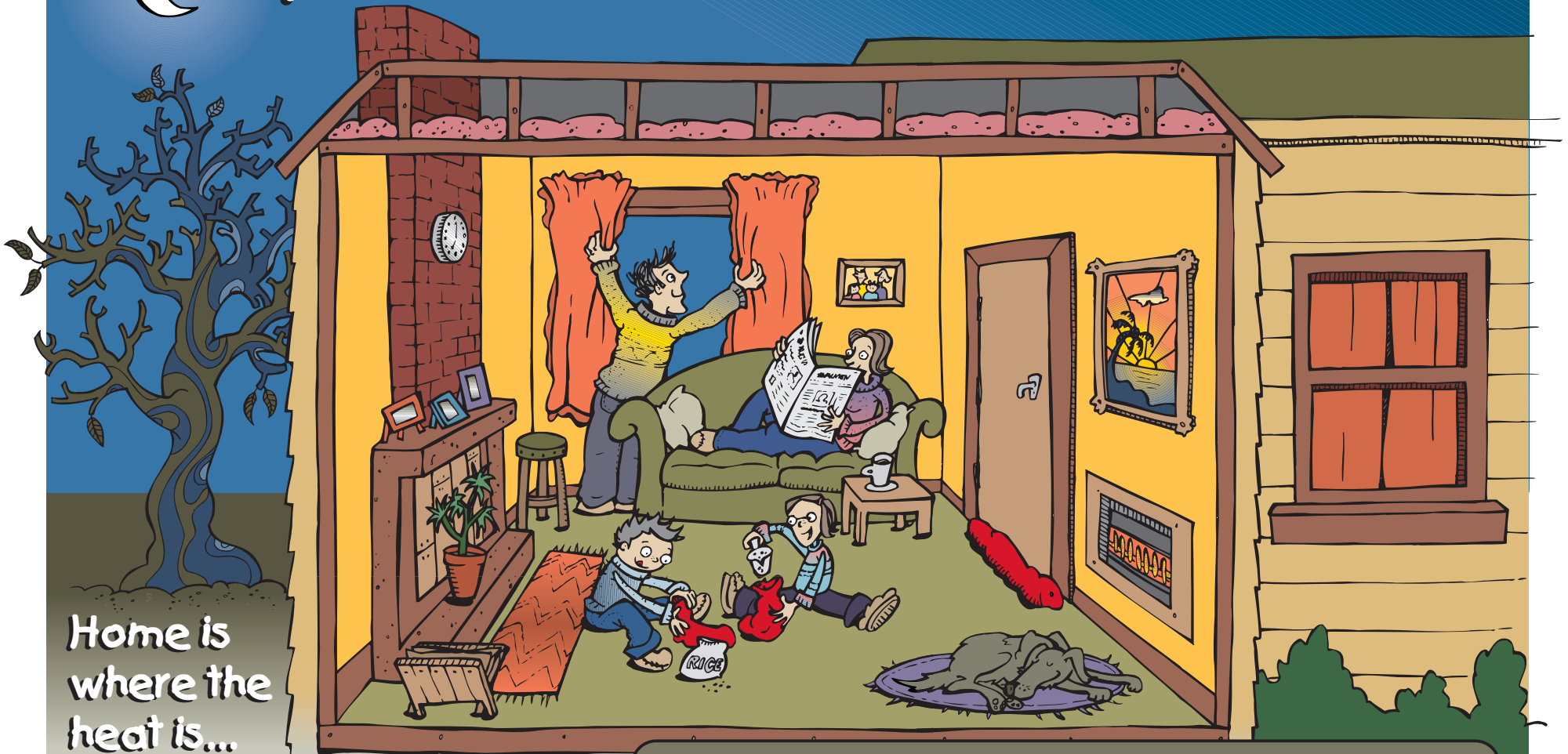


Mmmmm - nice 'n' cosy... and clean!

Living in Canterbury means lots of great things, including experiencing the extremities of winter - cold, frosty mornings; beautiful crisp fine days; and the occasional 'big snow'!



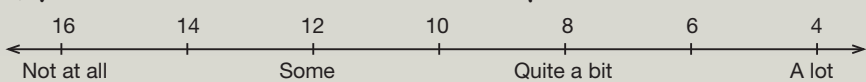
Home is where the heat is...

- A** Let's check out how your house is kept warm during the winter months. All you have to do is answer these simple questions.
- 1 What is the main source of heating in your home - eg woodburner, open fire, gas heater, electric heaters, or heat pump?
 - 2 Does your house have insulation in the ceiling? - Look in the attic. Remember to ask your parents first!
 - 3 Does your house have other insulation - eg under the floor?
 - 4 Does every window in your house have curtains? Are they lined or thermal curtains so they keep the cold out?

B Now that you know how your household is kept warm, the next big thing to work out is how much it contributes to wintertime air pollution. Shade in the rectangles (one per column) that apply to your house:

Main method of heating	How often fire is used (in winter)	Fuel used	Insulation (ceiling, floors, windows)
Heat pump, electric or gas heaters	Never have a fire	Gas/electricity only	House totally insulated
Score 4	Score 4	Score 4	Score 4
Modern woodburner	Occasionally have a fire (eg when it's windy)	Dry, unpainted wood only	House mostly insulated
Score 3	Score 3	Score 3	Score 3
Woodburner 5-15 years old	Have a fire about half the nights in winter	Wood is usually dry, and not painted	House has some insulation
Score 2	Score 2	Score 2	Score 2
Open fireplace	Have a fire most winter nights	Sometimes use coal, or wet wood, painted wood or driftwood	House has little or no insulation
Score 1	Score 1	Score 1	Score 1

Add up the scores, and rate your household along this scale. My household contributes to winter air pollution:



And your answer is?

Unfortunately... The winter months also bring on another extremity - air pollution. The towns and cities of Canterbury have a long history of air pollution during the winter months. Timaru, Ashburton, Kaiapoi, Rangiora and Christchurch are all affected. The burning of solid fuels (wood and coal) for our home heating is the main reason for this air pollution.

So what can we do to ensure that we keep warm and cosy and the air we breathe in Canterbury is clean all year round?

The clear clean air of home...

Here are some ideas to help clear the air.

As a family

- Put draught-stopping tape around doors and windows
- Install or upgrade ceiling insulation
- Buy lined or/and thermal curtains for all windows
- Contact Community Energy Action for help, phone: (03) 374-5698 or visit www.cea.co.nz
- Only use properly dry firewood, should be at least a year since cut

On your own

- Make a door snake
- If you are allowed to help set the fire, use small pieces of kindling, only add larger pieces once it is burning well.
- Shut doors to rooms not being heated
- Close all curtains when it gets dark
- Bring wood in to dry before burning

Make a snake competition!

Make a sizzling door stop snake, and send us a photo.

For snake-making instructions call (03) 353-9736, and we'll send them to you.

The best snake wins a \$40 gift book voucher, and may get their snake published in the next Living Here.

Send your photo to us by the closing date of Wednesday, July 7. Winners will be notified by Wednesday, July 14.

Send to: Snake Competition, Environmental Education, Freepost 1209, P O Box 345, Christchurch

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone Number: _____

