



Activities for Grades 3–5

Compliments of Teacher Created Materials and Wintergreen Learning Materials



Background Information

In 1962, Senator Gaylord Nelson from Wisconsin persuaded President John F. Kennedy to conduct a national conservation tour. Although President Kennedy held an 11-state tour on September 1963, the issue of conservation did not take root. Senator Nelson continued to speak on environmental issues for the next several years. During the summer of 1969, in the throes of the general unrest over the Vietnam War, it occurred to Nelson that the time might be right to organize a grassroots demonstration on behalf of the environment. He announced the notion in September 1969, and the response was immediate. The American people were concerned about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air—and they wanted to voice their concerns. As plans progressed and expanded, John Gardner, founder of Common Cause, joined the effort, with Denis Hayes serving as the coordinator.

On Earth Day 1970, 20 million Americans participated in demonstrations,

educational efforts, and cleanups. Numerous colleges and universities organized rallies and protests. Various groups concerned about a range of issues—polluting factories, oil spills, pesticides, loss of wilderness—came together in a common cause: finding a way to improve Earth. The cause crossed political, social, and economic lines. This effort led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency and is credited with prompting the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Endangered Species Act, and other important laws.

In 1990, Earth Day became a global effort. More than 200 million people in 141 countries prompted improved recycling efforts around the world. President Bill Clinton awarded Senator Nelson the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1995 for his role as the founder of Earth Day.

The Earth Day Network, <http://www.earthday.org>, works with a variety of partners to promote the cause.

Recommended Books

Amsel, Sherri. 2009. *365 Ways to Live Green*. Avon, MA: Adams Media.

Amsel, Sherri. 2007. *The Everything Kids Environment Book*. Avon, MA: Adams Media.

Landau, Elaine. 2012. *Celebrating Earth Day*. Berkeley Heights, NJ: Enslow.

Woodward, John. 2009. *Planet Earth; The Incredible Visual Guide*. New York: DK Children.

Earth Day

April 22nd



Fascinating Facts

- One man started the idea of Earth Day. He was a U.S. senator from Wisconsin. His name was Gaylord Nelson, and he wanted people to work together to improve the environment.
- The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. More than 20 million people came together. They had rallies. They had protests. They picked up trash. They learned better ways to take care of Earth.
- New laws were passed. The Environmental Protection Agency was formed. People paid more attention to recycling.
- In 1990, Earth Day went global. About 200 million people got involved. There were 141 countries with programs and projects.
- In 2012, a program began with the goal to plant 1,000,000 trees.

Fast Facts About You

- You make four pounds of trash a day.
- You make 1,460 pounds of trash in a year.
- You use about 1 gallon of water brushing your teeth if you let the water run.
- You use about 1 gallon of water washing your hands if you let the water run.
- You use about 40 gallons of water when you take a bath.
- You use about 4 gallons of water per minute taking a shower.
- You use about 4 gallons of water each time you flush the toilet.

Tips to Help

- Turn off the faucet when brushing your teeth or washing your face.
- Turn off the lights when they are not needed.
- Take showers instead of baths, and reduce the amount of time in the shower.
- Pick up litter when you can.
- Recycle.



Name _____

Date _____

Think Green!

Directions: Unscramble the ways you can help our Earth. Then answer the question below.

<p>1. poomcst _ c _ o _ m _ p _ o _ s _ t _</p>	<p>2. eecrly snac _____ _____</p>
<p>3. ueser bgas _____ _____</p>	<p>4. od tno ttrlie _____ _____</p>
<p>5. atpln a reet _____ _____</p>	<p>6. erdi uyor kibe _____ _____ _____</p>
<p>7. nurt fof hglits _____ _____</p>	<p>8. sue ssel tewar _____ _____</p>

9. What can you do to help on Earth Day?



Earth Day Thoughts

Directions: This is a wise Native American saying. Work the problems. Then write the letter for each problem in the blank to find the secret message.

A $2 \times 1 = \underline{\quad}$	F $20 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$	M $10 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$	S $4 \times 4 = \underline{\quad}$
B $7 \times 20 = \underline{\quad}$	G $6 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$	N $14 \times 11 = \underline{\quad}$	T $21 \times 5 = \underline{\quad}$
C $0 \times 1 = \underline{\quad}$	H $5 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$	O $12 \times 2 = \underline{\quad}$	U $12 \times 12 = \underline{\quad}$
D $4 \times 9 = \underline{\quad}$	I $8 \times 1 = \underline{\quad}$	P $2 \times 8 = \underline{\quad}$	V $7 \times 9 = \underline{\quad}$
E $5 \times 6 = \underline{\quad}$	L $12 \times 10 = \underline{\quad}$	R $9 \times 3 = \underline{\quad}$	W $5 \times 10 = \underline{\quad}$

$$\begin{array}{r} 50 \\ 30 \\ 36 \\ 24 \\ 154 \\ 24 \\ 105 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 8 \\ 154 \\ 15 \\ 30 \\ 27 \\ 8 \\ 105 \\ 105 \\ 15 \\ 30 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 30 \\ 2 \\ 27 \\ 105 \\ 15 \\ 60 \\ 27 \\ 24 \\ 80 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 24 \\ 144 \\ 27 \\ 2 \\ 154 \\ 0 \\ 30 \\ 16 \\ 105 \\ 24 \\ 27 \\ 16 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 50 \\ 30 \\ 140 \\ 24 \\ 27 \\ 27 \\ 24 \\ 50 \\ 8 \\ 105 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 60 \\ 27 \\ 24 \\ 80 \\ 24 \\ 144 \\ 27 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{r} 0 \\ 15 \\ 8 \\ 120 \\ 36 \\ 27 \\ 30 \\ 154 \end{array}$$



Name _____

Date _____

Earth Day Pledge

Directions: A pledge is like a promise. All around the world, kids and grown-ups want to help Earth. They are pledging to do things like using less water. Look at this list of ideas. Write about what you already do. Then choose what you would like to pledge.

Earth Day Pledges

ride my bike to school

walk to school

plant a tree

plant a garden

use both sides of a paper

use scraps of paper

reduce lunchroom waste

recycle cans, bottles, aluminum, newspapers

reuse grocery bags

not litter

turn off lights when leaving a room

use less electricity

How I "Go Green," and why it is important

My pledge to "Go Greener"



Take Care of Earth!

Directions: Use the Word Bank to complete the puzzle.

Word Bank

pollute	footprint	garbage	recycle
environment	compost	landfill	

											1		
					2				3				
4													
			5										
							6						
7													

Across

- 2. where a lot of trash goes
- 5. food scraps that are recycled
- 6. trash or waste
- 7. the area around you

Down

- 1. make air or water dirty
- 3. your carbon _____
- 4. to reprocess for a new use



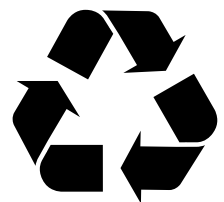
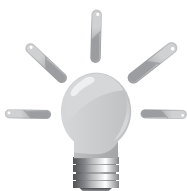
Name _____

Date _____

Earth Day Challenge

Directions: Fill in the blank squares so that each Earth Day term is used only once in each row, column, and each of the four large squares

	energy	conserve	
Earth			recycle
conserve			energy
	Earth	recycle	





Picture This!

Directions: Combine recycling with a mosaic for this picture frame.

Materials

- hot glue (to be handled by an adult)
- 12 craft sticks
- mosaic materials; discarded greeting cards, heavy-colored-paper scraps, buttons, magazines, etc.
- scissors
- glue

Steps

1. Hot-glue together the sticks as shown below to make the frame.
2. Cut squares from various material to fit on the sticks, or arrange buttons or other objects on the sticks.
3. Glue in place.
4. Write something about Earth Day, such as “Think Green,” on a sheet of construction paper.
5. Glue the paper to the back of the frame so the phrase can be seen.

