Introduction to Earth Day

Learn all about Earth Day and why it’s important.

GRADES
3 - 5

SUBJECTS
Earth Science, Geography, Human Geography

CONTENTS
1 PDF, 1 Link

OVERVIEW

Learn all about Earth Day and why it’s important.

For the complete activity with media resources, visit:
http://www.nationalgeographic.org/activity/introduction-earth-day/

DIRECTIONS

1. Talk about Earth Day.
What do you already know about Earth Day? What is Earth Day all about? Earth Day is one specific day every year when countries all over the world focus on protecting the environment.

2. Read a magazine article about Earth Day.
With a family member, read the National Geographic Explorer! magazine article “Celebrate Earth.” See if you can answer the questions below.

• When did the first Earth Day take place? Why?
3. Brainstorm ways to make every day Earth Day.
Why might it be important to celebrate Earth Day every day? We need to think about and protect the environment every day to help it most. Together, read the National Geographic Kids “Take Action for a Green World” article and talk about what it means to reduce, reuse, and recycle. What are other ways you can make small changes in your home that have a big impact?

4. Choose one change and use it in your home every day.
Choose one way you would like to make every day Earth Day in your home, such as recycling more, using less electricity, taking reusable bags to stores, or another idea. Make it a daily habit and be sure to talk about the impact your daily actions have.

What You’ll Need

REQUIRED TECHNOLOGY

- Internet Access: Required
- Tech Setup: 1 computer per classroom, Projector

RECOMMENDED PRIOR ACTIVITIES

- None

BACKGROUND

Background Information
Earth Day is a day to celebrate the Earth’s environment and help raise awareness of threats to our planet’s health. Earth Day takes place every year on April 22 in the United States. You can learn about Earth Day in order to figure out how to help protect the Earth every day.

**Vocabulary**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Part of Speech</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Earth Day</td>
<td>noun</td>
<td>April 22, an international holiday to honor the need to protect the environment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>recycle</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>to clean or process in order to make suitable for reuse.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reduce</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>to lower or lessen.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>reuse</td>
<td>verb</td>
<td>to use again.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**For Further Exploration**

**Websites**

- [Earth Day Network](#)
- EPA: Earth Day
- EPA: Recycle City Game
- EPA: Environmental Kids Club

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