



50 YEARS EARTH DAY 2020

Mini Fact:

More than 190 countries now participate in Earth Day.

Do you and your family or classmates do special projects that benefit the planet? You may plant trees, pick up garbage or recycle glass, aluminum and paper.

On April 22, people all over the world will celebrate the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Let's find out more about this special day and how you can join in.

An early warning

For hundreds of years, some people have been concerned about the environment. They called this concern **conservation**. They were worried about **conserving**, or saving, our planet's resources. But until Earth Day, these conservationists were in the minority.

In 1962, a scientist, Rachel Carson, published a book called "Silent Spring." She caught everyone's attention with her accounts of birds dying from pesticides. She warned that people were in danger, too.

Young people lead

Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin thought it was possible to organize the nation to clean up our planet. In 1970, he recruited Denis Hayes to organize the first Earth Day.

Hayes was a student at Harvard University. He asked thousands of volunteers, mostly students, to plan events to be held all over the country. Organizers picked April 22 because



photos courtesy earthday.org

most colleges would be on spring break. This meant students would be able to work at the Earth Day events.

The power of people

Hayes and student volunteers got the word out by mailings and phone calls. There was no internet to spread the message to a lot of people at once.

More than 20 million Americans took part in that first Earth Day. Students from about 2,000 colleges and 10,000 elementary and high schools rallied for our planet.

Earth Day at 50

This year, the theme is **Climate Action**. Earth Day organizers believe climate change is the biggest challenge to the future of people and the life systems that allow us to live on Earth.

One part of Earth Day will be the Earth Challenge 2020. Organizers hope to involve 1 million people around the globe in collecting data about air quality, water quality, pollution and human health.



photo courtesy National Portrait Gallery

Rachel Carson

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Try 'n' Find

Words that remind us of Earth Day are hidden in this puzzle. Some words are hidden backward, and some letters are used twice. See if you can find:

ACTION, ANNIVERSARY,
CARSON, CHALLENGE,
CLIMATE, CONSERVATION,
DATA, DAY, EARTH,
HAYES, INVOLVED,
NELSON, ORGANIZE,
OUTSIDE, PLANET,
POWER, STUDENTS,
THEME, VOLUNTEERS.

I O P O W E R P L A N E T Z A
N O I T C A C H A L L E N G E
V N O S L E N S T N E D U T S
O E D I S T U O J H T R A E U
L M J Z O R G A N I Z E L D Q
V E S R E E T N U L O V M A H
E H F H E T A M I L C O R Y A
D T V B A N N I V E R S A R Y
K X N O I T A V R E S N O C E
F F Z J A T A D N O S R A C S



Cook's Corner

Simple Salad

You'll need:

- 2 medium tomatoes, sliced and quartered
- 1 large cucumber, peeled, halved and sliced
- 1 tablespoon sugar

What to do:

1. Place tomatoes and cucumber in a medium bowl.
2. In a smaller bowl, combine sugar, pepper, salt and basil. Whisk in vinegar and water to blend thoroughly.
3. Pour dressing mixture over vegetables.
4. Cover and refrigerate for several hours before serving. Serves 2.

- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil (optional)
- 1/4 cup apple cider vinegar
- 3/4 cup water



* You'll need an adult's help with this recipe.

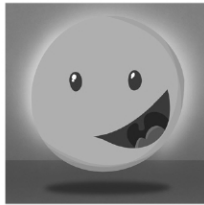
7 Little Words for Kids

Use the letters in the boxes to make a word with the same meaning as the clue. The numbers in parentheses represent the number of letters in the solution. Each letter combination can be used only once, but all letter combinations will be necessary to complete the puzzle.

1. kitchen furniture (5) _____
2. wise-looking birds (4) _____
3. actress Millie Bobby (5) _____
4. hard to hold on to (8) _____
5. part of a minute (6) _____
6. not for the public (7) _____
7. it shows who's winning (10) _____

VATE	SCO	BRO	ERY
OND	WN	BLE	SLI
OW	PRI	REB	TA
OARD	PP	SEC	LS

Answers: table, owls, Brown, slippery, second, private, scoreboard.



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Working together

In 1970, people saw the environment as something outside of themselves. Today, experts say, people are more aware. They realize the environment includes everyone's home.

Be part of change

One of the best things you can do to understand the environment is to go outside. Experts say kids and adults are now spending about 90 percent of their time indoors. Just going outside can help us see our world differently.

Many students across the country are helping to turn their schools green. Students are doing everything from raising money for solar panels for their schools to changing the lightbulbs to energy-saving bulbs.

Get involved

It's easy to get involved with Earth Day. You can go to earthday.org to get ideas. For example, you can organize a cleanup of a local area and register it with Earth Day.

Do you have a recycling program at your school? If you don't, maybe you could start one.



Resources



On the Web:

- earthday.org/earth-day-tips/
- earthday.org/earth-day-quizzes/

At the library:

- "Not for Me, Please! I Choose to Act Green" by Maria Godsey
- "Thank You, Earth: A Love Letter to Our Planet" by April Pulley Sayre

Mini Jokes



Eva: What do planets like to read?

Earl: Comet books!

Eco Note



Do you ever see a cockroach in your house? Ewww! You're not alone, though. People think roaches like dirty places, but even the cleanest homes can have them. Your family can do a lot to control roaches before they come in. How? **Clean up** spills and crumbs, and clean dirty dishes right away. **Dry them out:** Wipe up water on counters. Roaches need water to live. **Remove** stacks of newspapers and empty boxes and bags. These make good hiding places for roaches.

adapted from epa.gov/kids

For later:

Look in your newspaper for Earth Day events happening in your area.

Teachers: Follow and interact with The Mini Page on Facebook!



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