

Earth Day 2020

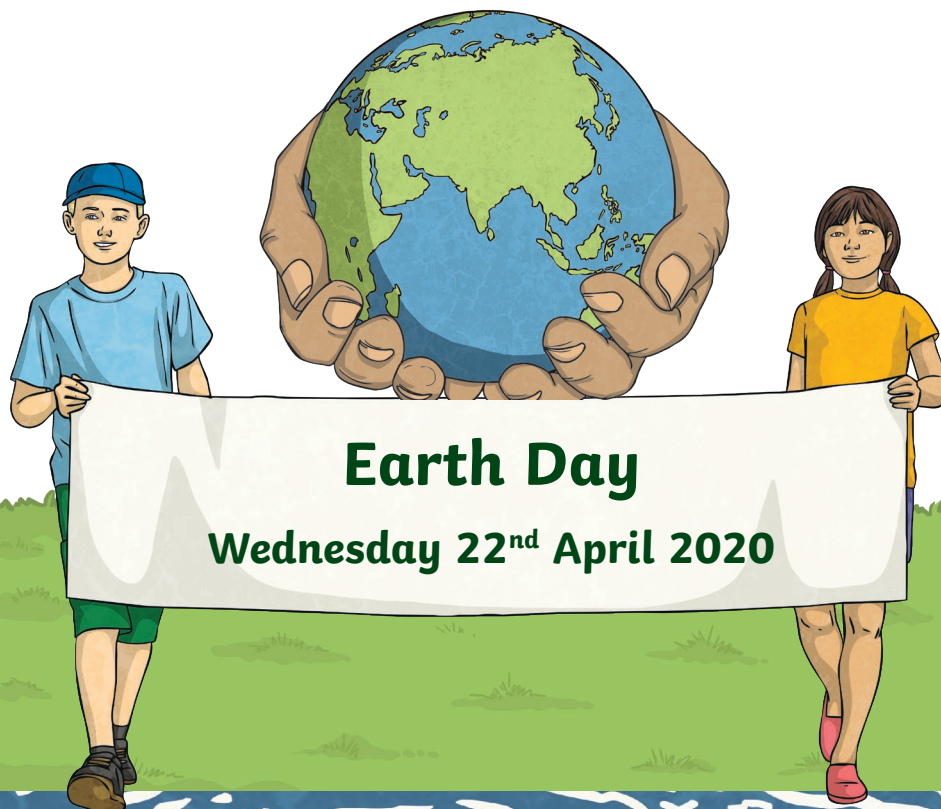
Earth Day happens every year on April 22nd. This year, Earth Day is all about taking action. People are thinking about different ways in which they can help look after our environment. A big clean-up of towns and the countryside is taking place. Many people all around the world are taking part. It is hoped that this will encourage others to help take care of the planet in lots of different ways. Even just one small change can make a difference.

Our Plastic Problem

Every year in the UK, we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic. Plastic does not disappear over time and lots of it cannot be recycled. That means that it will stay in the ground for many, many years. People can help by using less plastic in their houses and choosing plastic that can be recycled.

Why don't you try one of these ideas?

- Take the same plastic bag to the supermarket every time you go
- Use a reusable water bottle for your drinks
- Recycle plastic packets found at home, like shampoo and milk bottles.



Green Fingers



The plants on our planet are very important. They help take some of the warming gases out of the air and are food for important insects such as bees. Plants also create a safe home for many types of wildlife. Try planting some bee-friendly plants and trees in your garden. You could even have a go at growing your own vegetables. You don't need to have a garden to grow plants. Plant seeds in pots on your windowsill and watch them grow. Just don't forget to water them!

Eat Less Meat

Many people believe that one way to help our planet is by eating more food made from plants. This is because animals take up lots of space and need lots of food and water to keep them healthy. Even their poo is bad for the environment because it gives off a warming gas. See if you can have a meal without meat once a week. You could look for a meat-free version of your favourite foods like burgers, chilli and even sausages. Or, you could make a dish where plants are the star. Try it and see!



As you can see, there are lots of ways we can all take action and help the planet this Earth Day. What will you choose?



Questions

1. What day does Earth Day happen each year? Tick **one**.
 - 3rd May
 - 22nd April
 - 1st February
 - 22nd August
2. How many pieces of plastic do the UK throw away every year? Tick **one**.
 - 295
 - 295 thousand
 - 295 million
 - 295 billion
3. Which of these insects helps many different plants and trees to grow? Tick **one**.
 - Spiders
 - Bees
 - Flies
 - Ants
4. Number these sentences to show the order they appear in the text. The first one has been done for you.
 - You don't need to have a garden to grow plants
 - People can help by using less plastic in their houses
 - A big clean-up of towns and the countryside is taking place
 - See if you can have a meal without meat once a week
 - 1 This year, Earth Day is all about taking action
5. Write **one** way you can help in the fight against plastic.

6. Fill in the missing words to complete this sentence:

This is because _____ take up lots of _____ and need lots of _____ and _____ to keep them _____ .

7. In your own words, summarise what this year's Earth Day is all about.

Answers

1. What day does Earth Day happen each year? Tick **one**.
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 - 4 You don't need to have a garden to grow plants
 - 3 People can help by using less plastic in their houses
 - 2 A big clean-up of towns and the countryside is taking place
 - 5 See if you can have a meal without meat once a week
 - 1 This year, Earth Day is all about taking action
5. Write **one** way you can help in the fight against plastic.

Accept any one of the following answers: Reusing plastic bags, recycling packages and wrappers, using a reusable water bottle, use/buy less plastic.

6. Fill in the missing words to complete this sentence:

This is because **animals** take up lots of **space** and need lots of **food** and **water** to keep them **healthy**.

7. In your own words, summarise what this year's Earth Day is all about.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'This year Earth Day is all about taking action. Lots of people are doing a big clean up, but we can also help by recycling our plastic, planting trees and eating less meat.'

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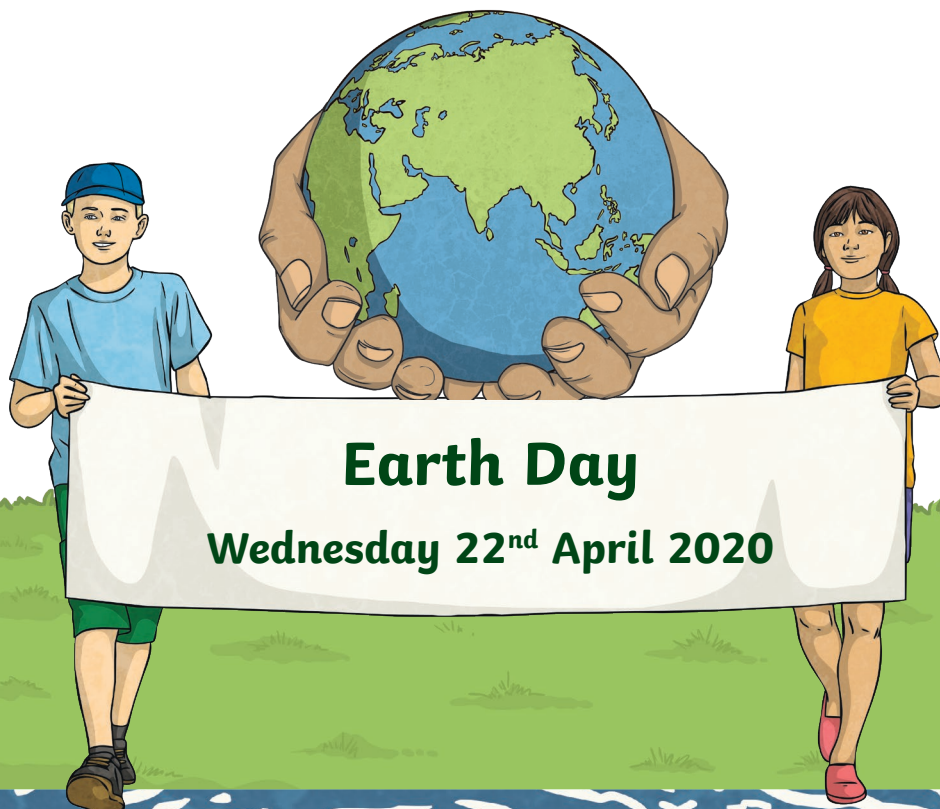
Earth Day is a worldwide event that happens every year on April 22nd. Around the world, people come together to celebrate the beauty and importance of nature and to raise awareness of how important it is to look after our planet. This year is Earth Day's 50th anniversary.

What Is the Aim of Earth Day?

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is Climate Action against climate change, which is starting to cause many problems around the world. . This means that people are thinking about different ways in which they can help to care for the planet and are meeting other people who want to do the same thing. A big clean-up of towns and the countryside is being organised and many people all around the world are taking part. It is hoped that this will encourage others to try to protect our environment and make changes to their lifestyles. Even just one small change can make a difference.

Our Plastic Problem

Every year in the UK, we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic. Plastic does not disappear over time and lots of it can't be recycled. That means that it will stay in the ground for hundreds, even thousands, of years.





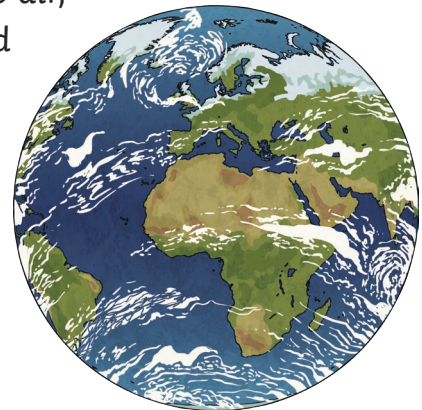
Plastics can also cause problems for humans and animals because as they break down, tiny pieces can end up in some food and water, which is then swallowed. By using less plastic in our houses and choosing plastic that can be recycled, we can help reduce the amount we have to throw away.

Why don't you try one of these ideas to help the fight against plastic?

- Take the same plastic bag to the supermarket every time you go
- Use a reusable water bottle for your drinks
- Recycle plastic food packets, like chocolate wrappers and cereal boxes.

Green Fingers

Looking after the plants in our gardens is a practical way to contribute to caring for our planet. Plants and trees are very important for many different reasons. They help take some of the warming gases out of the air, provide food for important insects such as bees, and make sure there is a safe home for lots of different types of wildlife. Try planting some bee-friendly plants and trees in your garden. You could even have a go at growing your own vegetables. You don't need to have a garden to grow plants. Plant seeds in pots on your windowsill and watch them grow. Just don't forget to water them!



Eat Less Meat

Many people believe that one way to help our planet is by eating more food made from plants rather than animals. This is because animals take up lots of space and need lots of food and water to keep them healthy. To find this space to farm animals, people are cutting down forests and woodland, which is destroying habitats for many species of wildlife. Even their poo is bad for the environment because it gives off a warming gas. See if you can have a meal without meat once a week. You could look for a meat-free version of your favourite foods like burgers, chilli and even sausages. Or, you could make a dish where plants are the star. Try it and see!

As you can see, there are lots of ways we can all take action and help the planet this Earth Day. What will you choose?



Questions

1. What is special about this year's Earth Day? Tick **one**.

- It is the first Earth Day
- It is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day
- It is the 100th Anniversary of Earth Day
- It is the last Earth Day

2. What is the theme of this year's Earth Day? Tick **one**.

- Climate Action
- Protect Our Species
- Plastic Pollution
- Save Our Water

3. What happens to the plastic we throw away? Tick **one**.

- It breaks down quickly and disappears
- It stays in the ground for many years
- It is used by animals to make their homes
- It becomes food for insects

4. Join the boxes together to complete the sentence. One has been done for you.

There are many ways that we can look after the Earth	is by eating more food made from plants rather than animals.
Every year in the UK	plants and trees in your garden.
Try planting some bee friendly	we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic.
Many people believe that one way to help our planet	and help make it a cleaner, safer place for everyone.

5. **Find** and **copy** one word which means the same as **useful**.

6. Why is animal poo bad for the environment?

7. **'Or, you could make a dish where plants are the star'**

Why do you think the author has chosen to use the word 'star' in this sentence?

8. What would you do to take action this Earth Day? Explain your reason using evidence from the text.

Answers

1. What is special about this year's Earth Day? Tick **one**.

- It is the first Earth Day
- It is the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day**
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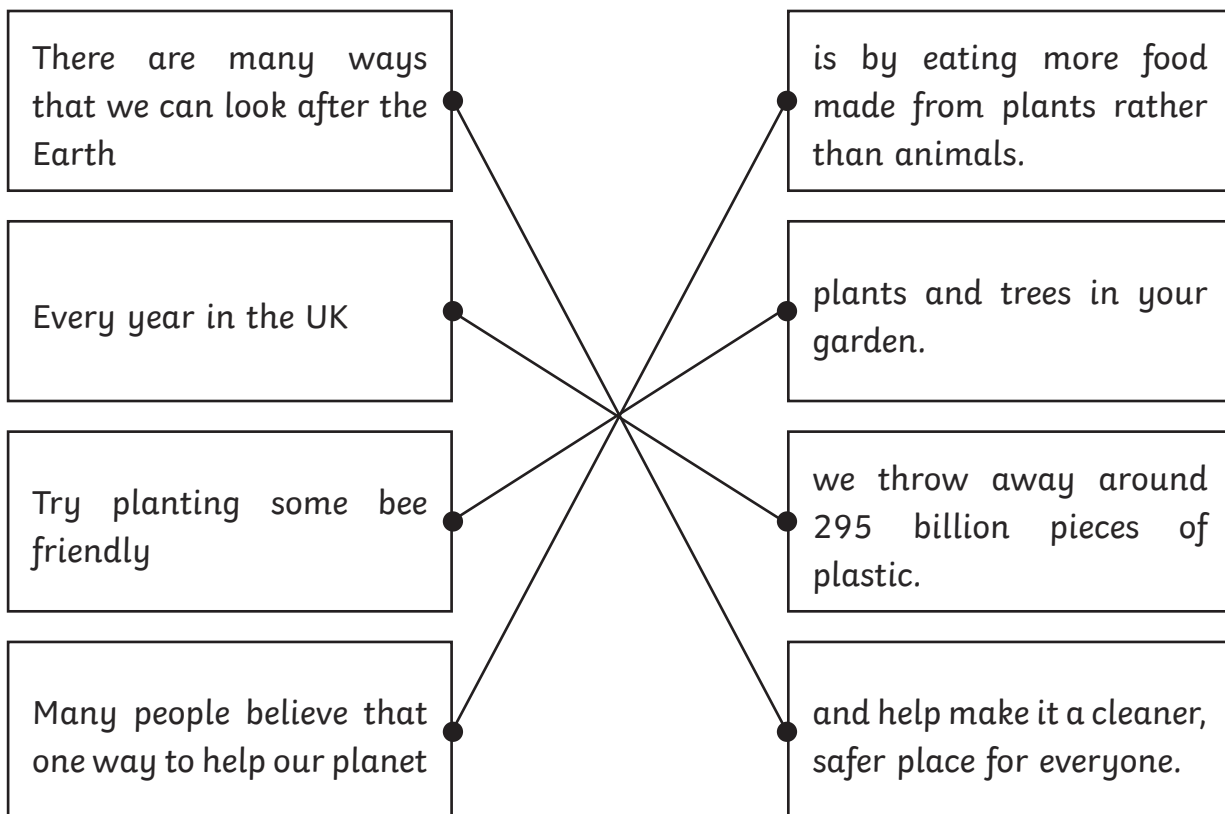
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5. **Find** and **copy** one word which means the same as **useful**.

practical

6. Why is animal poo bad for the environment?

Animal poo is bad for the environment because it gives off a warming gas called methane.

7. **'Or, you could make a dish where plants are the star'**

Why do you think the author has chosen to use the word 'star' in this sentence?

Pupils own responses, such as: To show that it is unusual for a vegetable to be the main attraction of a dish, as it is usually meat. It also makes the meals sound exciting.

8. What would you do to take action this Earth Day? Explain your reason using evidence from the text.

Pupils own responses, such as: I will look after plants and trees by planting some bee friendly plants in my garden and growing some vegetables, like carrots and potatoes.

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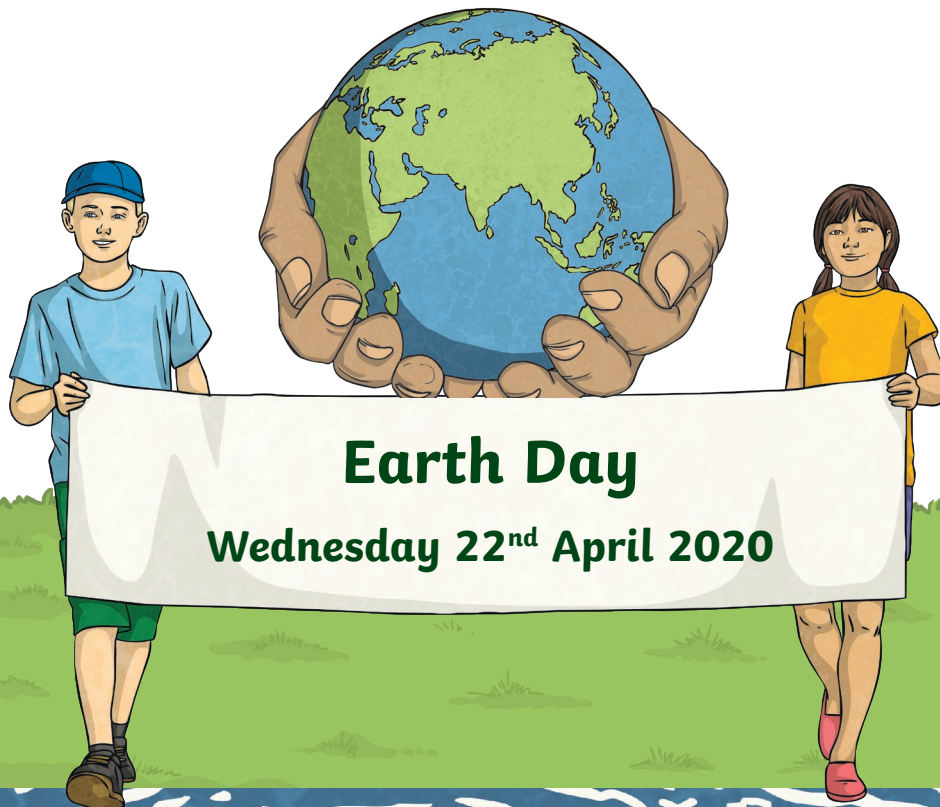
Earth Day is a global initiative that happens every year on April 22nd. Around the world, people come together to celebrate the beauty and importance of nature and to raise awareness of how important it is to look after our planet.

What Is the Aim Of Earth Day?

This year, on its 50th anniversary, Earth Day is all about Climate Action. This means that people are thinking about different ways in which they can help look after the planet and are meeting other people who want to do the same thing. A big clean-up of towns and the countryside is being organised and many people all around the world are volunteering to take part. It is hoped that this will encourage others to try to protect our environment and make changes to their lifestyle. Even just one small change can make a difference.

Our Plastic Problem

Every year in the UK, we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic. Plastic doesn't biodegrade over time and lots of it can't be recycled. That means that it will stay in the ground for hundreds, even thousands, of years.

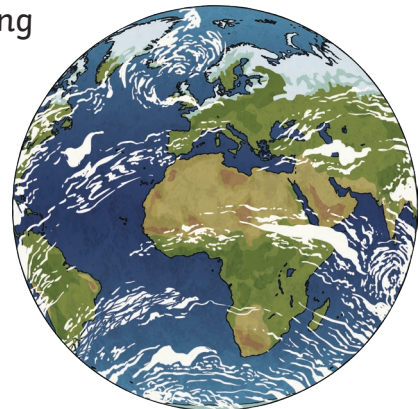




Plastics can also cause problems for humans and animals because as they break down, tiny pieces called microplastics can end up in some food and water, which is then ingested. Scientists think that this could lead to health problems, but it has not yet been widely researched. By using less plastic in our houses and choosing plastic that can be recycled, we reduce the amount we have to throw away. To help make a difference to our plastic problem, try taking the same plastic bag to the supermarket every time you go, using a reusable water bottle for your drinks or recycling plastic food packages, like chocolate bar wrappers and cereal boxes.

Green Fingers

Looking after the plants in our gardens is a constructive way to contribute towards protecting our planet. Plants and trees are crucial to the wellbeing of the planet for many different reasons. They help remove some of the warming gases, such as carbon dioxide, out of the air and provide food for important pollinating insects, like bees. Pollinating insects help make sure that a variety of plants can grow, providing enough food for humans to eat and making sure there is a safe home for a variety of species of wildlife. Try planting some bee-friendly plants and trees in your garden. You could even have a go at growing your own vegetables. You don't need to have a garden to grow plants. Plant seeds in pots on your windowsill and watch them grow. Just don't forget to water them!



Eat Less Meat

Many scientists believe that one way to help our planet is by eating more food made from plants rather than animals. This is because animals take up lots of space and need lots of food and water to keep them healthy. This is leading to the deforestation of woodland which is having a devastating effect on many species of plants and animals. Even cattle and sheep's poo is bad for the environment because it gives off a warming gas called methane. Just a small change can make a big difference. See if you can have a meal without meat once a week. You could look for a meat-free version of your favourite foods like burgers, chilli and even sausages. Or, you could make a dish where plants are the star. Try it and see!

As you can see, there are lots of ways we can all take action this Earth Day and help protect the planet for both current and future generations. What will you choose?



Questions

1. Where does Earth Day take place? Tick **one**.

- In the UK
- In the United States of America
- In Europe
- Worldwide

2. What event is being organised for Earth Day this year? Tick **one**.

- Go without electricity for an hour
- Clean up our towns and the countryside
- Walk to work and school
- Plant a tree

3. **Find** and **copy** the word that means the same as '**breaks down naturally**'.

4. Why is it a bad thing that plastic stays in the ground for many years?

5. Why do you think the writer has added 'just don't forget to water them!' to the section about growing your own fruit and vegetables?

6. In your own words, explain the importance of eating less meat.

7. '**As you can see, there are lots of ways we can all take action and help the planet**'

Thinking about the advice in the text, what do you think would be the most difficult action to take? Explain your reasoning.

8. Explain what you will do to be more environmentally friendly, using evidence from the text.

Answers

1. Where does Earth Day take place? Tick **one**.

- In the UK
- In the United States of America
- In Europe
- Worldwide**

2. What event is being organised for Earth Day this year? Tick **one**.

- Go without electricity for an hour
- Clean up our towns and the countryside**
- Walk to work and school
- Plant a tree

3. **Find** and **copy** the word that means the same as 'breaks down naturally'.

biodegrade

4. Why is it a bad thing that plastic stays in the ground for many years?

Pupils' own responses, such as: It is bad that plastic stays in the ground for many years because it takes up space needed by plants and animals. Animals could also eat the plastics which can make them sick.

5. Why do you think the writer has added 'just don't forget to water them!' to the section about growing your own fruit and vegetables?

I think the author has added this to remind children to water their plants because if they don't they will die/won't grow.

6. In your own words, explain the importance of eating less meat.

Pupil's own responses such as: It is important to eat less meat as it means that there will be less animals in the world taking up space and using up food and water. There will also be less methane warming up the air and more space for forests and trees.

7. **'As you can see, there are lots of ways we can all take action and help the planet'**

Thinking about the advice in the text, what do you think would be the most difficult action to take? Explain your reasoning.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it would be most difficult to eat less meat, because I really like meat with every meal and I don't really like vegetables.

8. Explain what you will do to be more environmentally friendly, using evidence from the text.

Pupils own responses, such as: I think the author chose to end the text with this so that the reader thinks they are talking directly to them and persuade them to think about what action they will take, so that they are also helping the environment.