

Earth Day 2020

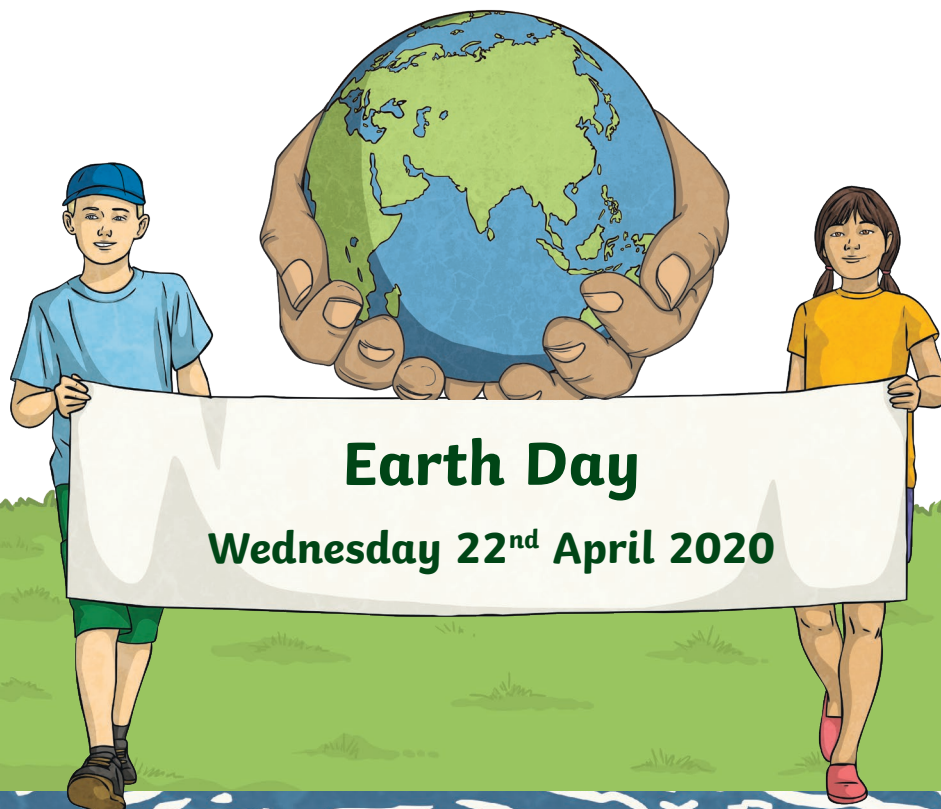
Earth Day happens every year on April 22nd. This year, Earth Day is all about taking action. People are thinking about different ways in which they can help look after our environment. A big clean-up of towns and the countryside is taking place. Many people all around the world are taking part. It is 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.'