

REAPS READER

Have you helped the environment today?



Happy Earth Day!!



The very first Earth Day was celebrated on April 22, 1970. This day was created by American Senator, Gaylord Nelson, to make people aware of the importance of keeping our planet healthy and clean. On that day, people made promises to help the environment and make positive changes in their community. Since then, more than 500 million people in over 180 countries have participated in Earth Day activities!

Stuff to do!

- ⇒ **Earth Day Assembly:** Your assembly might include: a guest speaker, information displays, sketches/plays about the environment, and environmental storytelling.
- ⇒ **Litter less Lunches:** Hold a contest to see which classroom makes the least amount of garbage at lunchtime during Earth Month.
- ⇒ **Composting:** Introduce an outdoor compost receptacle or a small indoor worm composting bin to your school.
- ⇒ **Schoolyard Or Community Clean-Up:** Organize a schoolyard or community clean-up. Remove garbage from nature sites and shorelines to protect your community's wildlife and to make the place visually appealing.
- ⇒ **Green Up Daily PA Announcements:** Read different eco-facts over the morning announcements during Earth Month.
- ⇒ **Coordinate A "Lights Off!" Campaign:** Turn off the lights in all of the classrooms for two or three hours per day during Earth Month.
- ⇒ **Plant Native Trees And Flowers:** Spruce up your schoolyard or local park to keep the planet healthy. Make sure to remove the weeds manually and not use pesticides.
- ⇒ **Walk to School Week:** Organize "walking/wheeling Wednesdays" or "Physical Fridays", which encourages taking active transportation to and from school.
- ⇒ **Walking School Buses:** Establish supervised walks to school to eliminate driving and traffic volume in school zones.
- ⇒ **Tote-Your-Own-Trash Day:** Tote your trash around with you for one day or week to get an idea of how much garbage we throw out! At the end of the day or week, you can develop your own personal action plan with goals to reduce, reuse and recycle.
- ⇒ **Swap Event:** Students can bring in their old toys, video games, and books to swap.
- ⇒ **Arrange A Used Battery Drive:** Ask everyone to bring in their used batteries so that they can all be brought to a recycling depot.
- ⇒ **Create An Idle-Free Zone On Your School Grounds:** Make sure to educate everyone on why engine idling is bad for the environment and our health. Visit our "Switch Off!" section.
- ⇒ **Hold A School Art Exhibit:** Display photography, sculptures and various art pieces that focus upon the environment.
- ⇒ **Make Bird Houses And Feeders Or Other Wildlife Feeding Stations:** These can be installed around the schoolyard by students and/or sold as a fundraiser.



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