



Are You Earthwise?

Are you a good friend to planet Earth? There are lots of easy things you can do in your home and school every day to help save the land, air, water, and even animals. So, let's celebrate Earth Day by learning new ways to help keep our planet healthy. Start by making a "Circles of the Earth" bracelet that shows how everything on Earth is related to everything else!

To begin, you need a 12-14" brown leather strap and colored beads (see list) to represent the circles of the earth. (Find them at a craft store).

First tie a knot on one end of the strap 1/2" from the end. Then string the beads on to the strap in the following order:

People (clear bead.) People, including farmers, act as guardians and stewards of all the circles of the earth.

Water (blue bead) is a circle. Water rains down on land. Water collects in oceans, rivers, lakes, and streams. It evaporates back up into the sky and collects in clouds. The clouds become heavy, and rain falls down to land again.

Plants (green bead) and soil (brown bead) are circles. Plants grow from soil. Plants provide food for animals. Animals provide food for other animals. Animals die and decompose. New soil is made. New plants grow.

Earth is a circle. Earth is spinning through space, rotating on its axis, revolving around the Sun. The Earth and Sun give us the circle of the seasons and the circle of night (**black bead**) and day (**orange bead**).

Air (white bead) is a circle. Animals breathe in oxygen and exhale carbon dioxide. Plants take in carbon dioxide, use it to make food, and give off oxygen. Animals breathe it in again.

The Sun (yellow bead) is a circle. The Sun provides warmth and light for all of the Earth's circles. Without the Sun, plants and animals would not survive. The Sun binds us together.

When all the beads are on, carefully thread the unknotted end back through the clear bead. Tie a knot at the end of the unknotted end. The clear bead acts as an adjuster bead.



Earth Day Makes History

1780-John Audubon, founder of the Audubon society, is born. The society promotes the conservation of wildlife, especially birds.



1872-Yellowstone becomes the nation's first national park.

1902-Ansel Adams is born. His famous black and white photographs of our national parks helped the environmental movement.

1905-The United States Forest Service is established.

1916-The National Park System is established.

1970-The first Earth Day, coordinated by Denis Hayes, gave 20 million Americans a chance to express concerns about the environment.

1970-The Environmental Protection Agency is established.

1972-The Clean Water Act becomes a law.

1973-The Endangered Species Act becomes a law.

1990-The National Environmental Education Act is established.

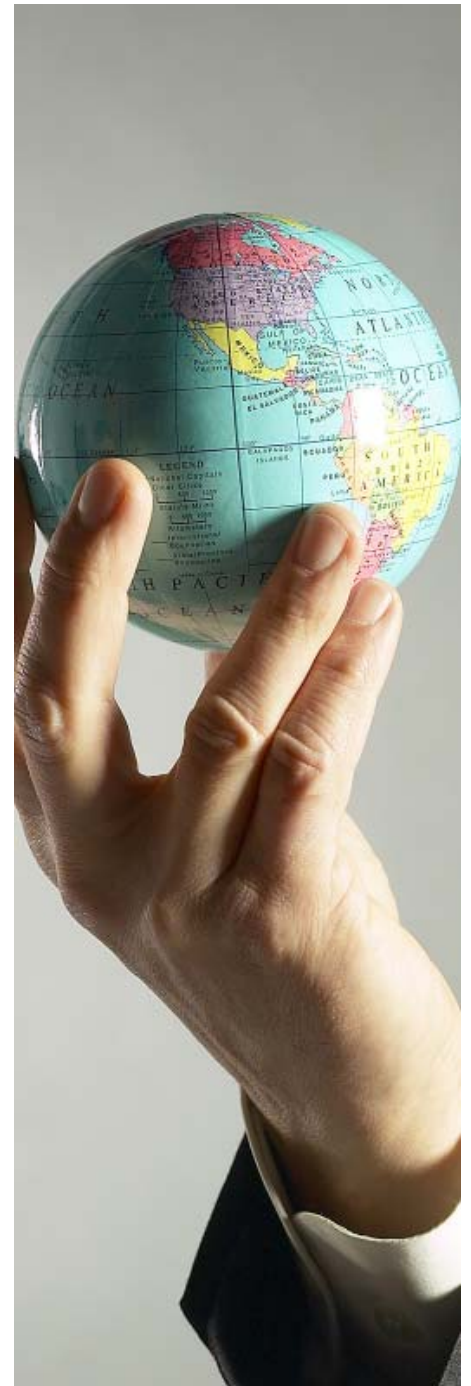
1991-Federal agencies begin using recycled products.

1994-The bald eagle is moved from an "endangered" species to a "threatened species."



2003-The Clean School Bus USA program updated 4000 school buses to reduce air pollution.

On the first Earth Day, people rallied for cleaner water and air. Today, we take steps to help keep our planet clean, like picking up litter. What steps do you take to help out? Keep reading for more ideas.



Here's How It Started

In 1970, a Senator from Wisconsin named Gaylord Nelson decided to spend one day teaching people about things that can harm our environment. He called it "Earth Day". The first Earth Day was very different than the one we celebrate today. On the first Earth Day, people protested and said they wanted cleaner water and air. Today, we do more than say we want a clean planet. We take steps to make it clean with activities, such as picking up litter. What steps will you take? Look inside for ideas.



Water Cycle Terrarium

Not only do you watch your plants grow, you get to see how the water cycle works.

Materials:

Soil mix
Pea-size gravel
10 grass seeds
3 green bean seeds
3 corn seeds
Plastic wrap
Rubber bands
Measuring rulers
2-liter plastic drink bottle
Razor blade or knife

1. Ask an adult to cut off the top of a 2-liter plastic drink bottle using a razor blade or knife.
2. Stand the bottle upright and place 1/2" (1 cm) of pea size gravel in the bottom of the 2-liter bottle, followed by 2" (5-6 cm) of lightly moistened soil.
3. Plant 3 green bean seeds and 3 corn seeds at a depth of 2 to 3 centimeters.
4. Sprinkle 10 grass seeds on the surface and add just enough soil to lightly cover the grass seed.
5. Cover the cut end of the terrarium with plastic wrap, using a rubber band to keep the top of the bottle tightly covered.
6. Place the terrarium in a brightly lighted area, but not in direct sunlight.
7. Observe the terrarium for two weeks. Measure the plants from the outside of the bottle.

Now see if you can answer these questions...

Which plant sprouted first?

Which plant grew the fastest?

Did you notice moisture inside the terrarium? Where did it come from?

How can you get rid of the moisture?

Does the amount of moisture stay the same?

Where does moisture on earth such as rain and snow come from?

Does the earth's moisture stay as constant as the moisture in the terrarium?

Why should we take care of our water on earth?



Recycling with Sidewalk Chalk

6 eggshells (saved from eggs you've eaten)
2 small dishes clean, smooth rock
1 tsp. flour spoon
1 tsp. very hot tap water strip of paper towel

1. Wash and dry the eggshells. Grind them outdoors on clean, smooth concrete with a clean, smooth rock. Grind until you get fine eggshell powder. Sweep it up with your hands and put it into a dish. Pick out any big pieces of eggshell and throw them away.

2. Measure flour and hot water into another dish. Stir until you get a paste. Add 1 tablespoon of the eggshell powder. Mix and mash until it all sticks together.

3. Shape and press the mixture firmly into a chalk stick. Roll it up tight in the strip of paper towel. Let it dry for 3 days. Your sidewalk chalk will get rock hard.

4. Tear the paper off one end. Write with the chalk, erase with your shoe!
(Hint: Sidewalk chalk is for sidewalks, not blackboards.)

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Blowin' in the Wind

You can make your own windmill, like the ones you see on a wind farm, out of paper, a straight pin, and a pencil.

1. Cut out and decorate a 6 inch by 6 inch piece of paper.
2. Fold it in half by matching one corner to an opposite corner.
(It will look like a triangle when you are done.)
3. Fold the paper in half again. (It will still look like a triangle.)
4. Unfold the paper and look at the crease marks. Use a straight pin to put a hole in the paper where the four crease marks meet in the center of your square.
5. Cut along the creases from each corner to the center. Be sure to stop cutting just before you reach the pin hole.
6. Your square should now look like four triangle-shaped flaps. Use the straight pin to make a hole in the top left corner of each of the four flaps. (No two holes should be in the same corner.)
7. Use your straight pin to curve the corners with the holes toward the center of the square by sticking the pin through all of the holes, including the center hole.
8. Push the pin into the eraser end of a pencil. Now bend the straight pin so that you can hold the pencil vertically and the windmill is facing you.
9. Blow on the windmill or run with it. The wind will make it turn!