

What can your class do?

Ideas for Earth Day and every day

GETTING STARTED

- Start a class discussion about Earth Day. What does the day mean to your students? Why is it important to take care of the Earth all year round? What is our commitment to future generations?
- Share articles and news clips about global warming. Why is this issue so important today and why is education about it so necessary? What can we do to help?
- Brainstorm a list of simple Earth-friendly actions that people can do every day, such as changing to energy-efficient lightbulbs, carpooling, picking up litter, and using both the front and the back of scrap paper.
- Have students research Henry David Thoreau, John Muir, Rachel Carson, and other naturalists. What can we learn from these individuals?

YOUR SCHOOL

- Start a schoolwide Earth Day campaign! Decorate your classroom and the hallways with posters that have students' environmental slogans. Have your class sign the pledge on the front of this poster.
- Have students share pro-environment ideas or a cheer for Earth Day over the loudspeaker or on your school's radio or television station.
- Clean up your school's playground or a local park. Give students free time afterwards to play games and enjoy the clean space they have created.
- Challenge students to a game of Earth Day Jeopardy. Create your own or use the one on the Education World Web site: www.education-world.com/a_lesson/dailylp/dailylp/dailylp075.shtml
- Write poems for the Earth. Encourage students to try their hand at haiku, acrostic poems, or shape poems.

INTERNET RESOURCES

Environmental Protective Agency Kids Club
www.epa.gov/kids

This site helps children explore their environment and learn how to protect it.

Center for Environmental Education Online
www.ceeonline.org

This site is a dynamic resource for educators and students, founded by Jayni and Chevy Chase.



REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

- Have students bring in recyclable items and sort them according to your state's recycling regulations. Keep a running count of how many items have been collected in each category. You may want to make it even more interesting by having classes compete to see who recycles the most material.
- Make creations from recyclable materials, such as tire swings or pinecone bird feeders for the playground.
- Decorate old t-shirts and make them new again.

YOUR COMMUNITY

- Invite park rangers, environmentalists, or government officials to speak with students about local policies and volunteering opportunities.
- Decorate trash bags with Earth Day messages for use at a local supermarket.
- Spread the word . . . have each student share a tip for helping the environment with 10 friends or family members in person, on the phone, or via e-mail. Discuss how much impact can be made by sharing knowledge and using our voices and minds.
- Learn about the environment you live in and have the class do research specific to your region. Create materials to share with residents on the beauty of the region and how to keep it safe.