Earth Day 2020

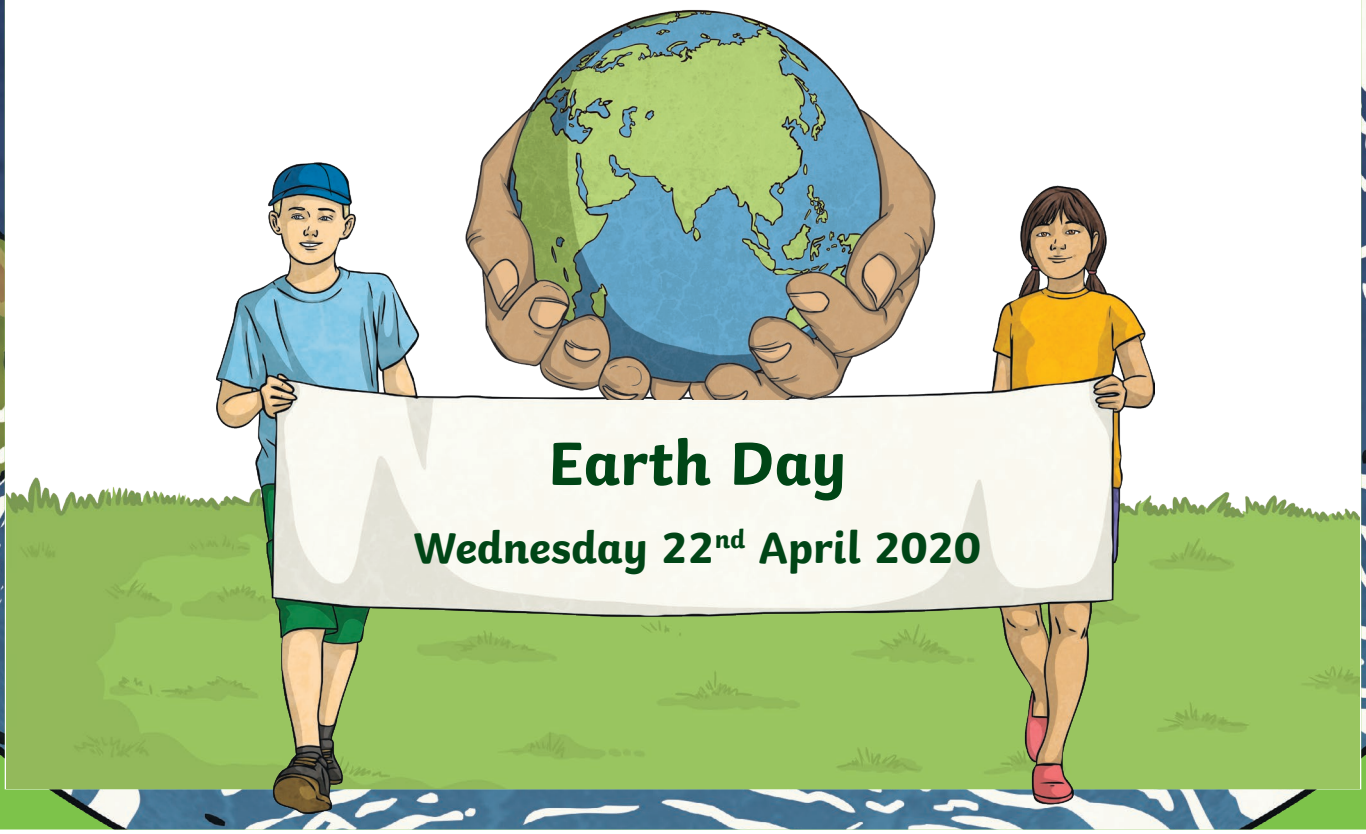
Earth Day is a worldwide event that happens every year on April 22nd. Around the world, people come together to celebrate the beauty and importance of nature and to raise awareness of how important it is to look after our planet. This year is Earth Day's 50th anniversary.

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.



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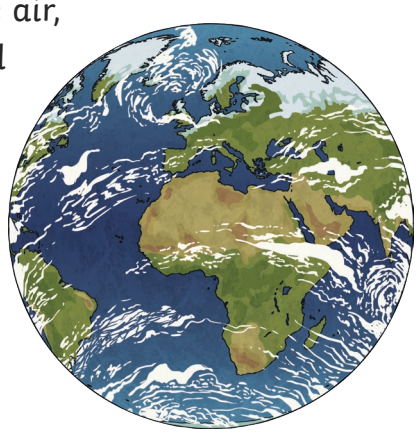
Plastics can also cause problems for humans and animals because as they break down, tiny pieces can end up in some food and water, which is then swallowed. By using less plastic in our houses and choosing plastic that can be recycled, we can help reduce the amount we have to throw away.

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!





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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?

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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.

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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.