Earth Day 2020

Earth Day is a global initiative 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.

What Is the Aim Of Earth Day?

This year, on its 50th anniversary, Earth Day is all about Climate Action. This means that people are thinking about different ways in which they can help look after 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 volunteering to take part. It is hoped that this will encourage others to try to protect our environment and make changes to their lifestyle. 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 doesn't biodegrade 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.



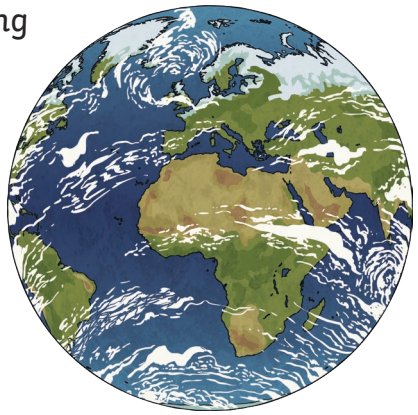
visit twinkl.com



Plastics can also cause problems for humans and animals because as they break down, tiny pieces called microplastics can end up in some food and water, which is then ingested. Scientists think that this could lead to health problems, but it has not yet been widely researched. By using less plastic in our houses and choosing plastic that can be recycled, we reduce the amount we have to throw away. To help make a difference to our plastic problem, try taking the same plastic bag to the supermarket every time you go, using a reusable water bottle for your drinks or recycling plastic food packages, like chocolate bar wrappers and cereal boxes.

Green Fingers

Looking after the plants in our gardens is a constructive way to contribute towards protecting our planet. Plants and trees are crucial to the wellbeing of the planet for many different reasons. They help remove some of the warming gases, such as carbon dioxide, out of the air and provide food for important pollinating insects, like bees. Pollinating insects help make sure that a variety of plants can grow, providing enough food for humans to eat and making sure there is a safe home for a variety of species 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!





visit twinkl.com

Eat Less Meat

Many scientists 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. This is leading to the deforestation of woodland which is having a devastating effect on many species of plants and animals. Even cattle and sheep's poo is bad for the environment because it gives off a warming gas called methane. Just a small change can make a big difference. 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 this Earth Day and help protect the planet for both current and future generations. What will you choose?



visit twinkl.com

Questions

1. Where does Earth Day take place? Tick **one**.

   - ◯ In the UK
   - ◯ In the United States of America
   - ◯ In Europe
   - ◯ Worldwide

2. What event is being organised for Earth Day this year? Tick **one**.

   - ◯ Go without electricity for an hour
   - ◯ Clean up our towns and the countryside
   - ◯ Walk to work and school
   - ◯ Plant a tree

3. **Find** and **copy** the word that means the same as '**breaks down naturally**'.

_____

4. Why is it a bad thing that plastic stays in the ground for many years?

_____

5. Why do you think the writer has added 'just don't forget to water them!' to the section about growing your own fruit and vegetables?

_____

6. In your own words, explain the importance of eating less meat.

_____

_____

7. **'As you can see, there are lots of ways we can all take action and help the planet'**
   Thinking about the advice in the text, what do you think would be the most difficult action to take? Explain your reasoning.

_____

_____

visit twinkl.com

8. Explain what you will do to be more environmentally friendly, using evidence from the text.

visit twinkl.com