



Earth Week 2020

APPRECIATION

50 YEAR-ANNIVERSARY of Earth Day

On Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020 will be the 50th year we have celebrated Earth Day! The first Earth Day took place in 1970 and 20 million people in the United States participated. Today it is celebrated by over 1 billion people all around this world! In honor of Earth Day we are celebrating **Earth Week** with Home Explorers. This week is all about appreciating and thanking our planet for everything it gives us!



Why do we have an Earth Day?

The first Earth Day began in 1970 in response to large amounts of air pollution, oil spills and chemical use that was happening all across the country. In 1970 1 in 10 Americans came out in the streets to protest and demand environmental regulations. This led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, which is still part of our government today! In 1990 the Earth Day movement went global, and today over 190 countries participate in some way!



This is a day when people come together to not only celebrate Mother Earth, but also to make the public aware of the problems that our **environment** may be facing.

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt: Find your way around the Earth!

You will need:

- A pencil
- Your observation journal
- Printer (optional)

Instructions:

1. Either print the scavenger hunt list (Click [HERE](#) for the printed version) or copy down the list on the next page into your nature notebook.
2. Take a walk around your neighborhood or at a park and look for everything on the scavenger hunt list.
3. Check things off as you find them. Remember to leave everything where you found it.
4. This is a time to reflect and pay attention to all of the little things that nature provides us with!

EXPERIMENT 2: Fill in the blank!

This week is all about appreciating the Earth and doing what we can to have less of an impact on the environment. Take a moment to fill in the blanks with your favorite things below. You can do this in your head or write it out in your nature notebook.

My favorite thing to do outside is _____.

_____ is my favorite kind of weather.

In the Spring, I love seeing the _____ start to change.

I remember once seeing a _____ in the wild and thinking how awesome it was!

(an animal or plant)

Nature Walk Scavenger Hunt

SEE IF YOU CAN CHECK OFF ALL OF THE THINGS ON THIS LIST!
REMEMBER TO LEAVE ALL NATURE THINGS WHERE YOU FOUND THEM



2 DIFFERENT KINDS OF FLOWERS THAT ARE ALSO DIFFERENT COLORS



A BIRD SITTING IN A TREE OR EATING A WORM



SIGNS OF AN ANIMAL, LIKE FEATHERS, SCAT OR TRACKS



LOOK UNDER A LOG OR ROCK FOR COVERED CRITTERS LIKE WORMS, BEETLES OR PILL BUGS



A CLOUD THAT LOOKS LIKE YOUR FAVORITE ANIMAL
(DO NOT STARE IN THE DIRECTION OF THE SUN)



HUG AT LEAST 2 KINDS OF TREES! COMPARE THE DIFFERENCES IN THE WAY THE BARK FEELS AND SMELLS!



SEE IF THERE IS LITTER AROUND WHERE YOU'RE WALKING. THIS IS SOMETHING THAT IS NOT SUPPOSED TO BE THERE!



FIND A SPIDER AND TRY COUNT ALL 8 LEGS



FIND A BEE AND LOOK FOR POLLEN ON ITS LEGS



FIND 2 KINDS OF TREE SEEDS. CHECK TO SEE IF ANY ANIMALS HAVE TRIED TO EAT PARTS OF THE SEED



FIND MOSS OR LICHEN GROWING ON A TREE OR ROCK. FEEL IT AND SEE WHAT THE TEXTURE REMINDS YOU OF!





EXPERIMENT 3: Take a step forward

Earth Week is a great time for you and your family to learn more about your impact on the world. How many resources do you use on an annual basis? How much waste do you create? Do you recycle? The universal way to learn about your impact is by calculating your carbon footprint. A carbon footprint score tells you how your energy use compares to the rest of the world and how many resources we would need if everyone lived like you do. Here's an example score for someone who drives everyday by themselves in an old car:



It's a strange idea to imagine needing more than 1 Earth, but its saying that if everyone on Earth used that much energy, there wouldn't be enough to go around on just 1 planet. This is why it's important to know what our impact is, and then take steps to reduce our footprint!

Take the Foot Print Score with your family here: <https://www.footprintcalculator.org/>

THINK ABOUT IT! Energy Use

This is a great time to start thinking about how to reduce your home's energy use. Take a look at the list below for potential ways you and your family can reduce energy use at home! Don't be afraid to try something new for a few days and see if you can make the adjustment!! Every little bit helps 😊

- Set your home's thermostat a few degrees lower on cold days (or higher on hot days). For each one-degree change, your family can save up to 5 percent on your home's heating and cooling costs!
- Turn off lights and all electronics (like computers, televisions and video-games) when you leave a room.
- Use the microwave instead of the oven for cooking your meals when possible.
- Use machines like washers, dryers and dishwashers after 8 p.m. when energy use is lower. Always make sure these machines are full before running them.
- Open your blinds or curtains on sunny winter days to let the sun shine into your home.
- Save hot water by taking short showers instead of baths.
- Turn off the water while you brush your teeth.
- Occasionally hold a ribbon up to the edges of your home's windows. If air is leaking into—or out of—the house, the ribbon will move. If you find a leak, let someone in your family know so they can fix it.

Thanks for conducting science with me for this Home Explorer activity from Umpqua Watersheds Education Program.
Join me for new activities posted every week!

- Ms. Robyn

