



Earth Day 2020

Say Thanks!

Happy Earth Day!



Today, April 22nd is Earth Day! It is, in fact, the 50th year that Earth Day has been celebrated! Today is all about sharing the love with Mother Earth and thanking her for all that she gives us!

Today's activities are all about showing the Earth how grateful we are to live on it! We will learn how to show our planet spirit!

Learn More!

Head over to the official Earth Day website earthday.org and learn about the actions you can take! All day today, the site is hosting online events, videos and speakers! Tune in to join a global movement to protect our planet!

CRAFT 1: Sign Up for Earth Day

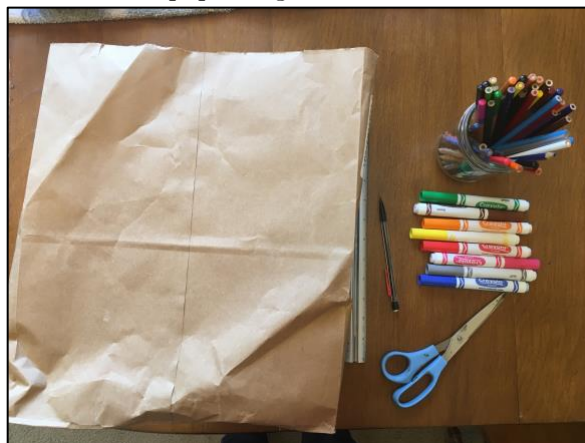
Usually, Earth Day includes big parades and marches for the Earth. People wave around big signs asking for change from our government to protect the planet! Even though we can't go out and march together, we can still show our support for everyone who walks by! Make a sign to hang in your window and show appreciation for the Earth! You can use one of the examples below, but also be creative and come up with your own message!

You will need:

- Recycling cardboard, paper bag or used paper
- Markers or Paint
- Pencil

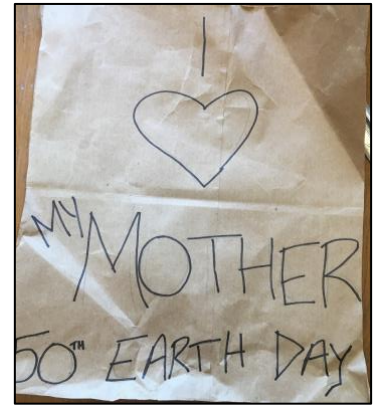
Instructions:

1. Find a large piece of recycled cardboard, or cut up a used paper bag or tape a few pieces of paper together. A pizza box could work great as well! (I used a paper bag)



Here's a picture of my friends and I at a very rainy Earth Day parade a few years ago on the coast!

- Use a pencil to sketch out your design first and erase any mistakes. I like to look up pictures online or in books to help guide my drawing! Then I go over my pencil with a black marker
- Color in your sign with paint or markers and let it dry. I like to turn all of the "O" letters into litter Earths



- Hang up your sign in your window for everyone to see as they walk by!

Here are some more sign ideas:

Less plastic would be fantastic!
 Mother Earth doesn't like quitters; pick up your litter
 Biodiversity or bust!
 No Nature, no future
 There's no eARTH without ART
 The climate's changing; why aren't we?
 Let's rise up before the seas do
 The Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth
 Let's not just Hope for change, Let's BE the change.
 There is no planet B
 What we stand for is what we stand on!
 We Speak for the Trees! (from Dr. Seuss)



CHALLENGE! Action for the Earth

You've made your sign! Great job! Now it's time to look inward and see what changes we can keep making at home to reduce our carbon footprint! This is all about creating a more **sustainable** lifestyle. Sustainability means that our actions and the resources we use (like food, water, gas, clothes, cars) are at an amount that still leaves enough resources for future generations without overworking the planet!

Instructions:

- Research the different suggestions below for how to reduce your footprint and become more sustainable in different categories
- Talk with your family about things you can do together
- Set up an **ACTION PLAN** with goals that you can work towards for the rest of this month and beyond!
- It's never too soon to get involved and take a step forward in helping our planet together!
- You can click on the tips below for more information!



Actions to Reduce Food Waste

- only buy what you need
- understand 'use by' vs 'best before' dates
- use what you have
- avoid serving too much
- know your moulds
- share extra food with others
- repurpose waste where possible

Actions to Reduce Energy Use

- Turn off the light when it's not in use
- Put more clothes or a blanket on when it's cold
- Turn off and unplug appliances when not in use
- Draught-proof your windows and doors
- Install energy efficient globes
- Walk, cycle or catch public transport
- Purchase energy efficient appliances
- Dry your clothes in fresh and sunshine
- Do full loads of washing only

Actions to Reduce Water Use

Conserving Water At Home

10 ways to reduce your consumption, lower your bills, and help the environment

- Upgrade Your Appliances** (Bath, Washing Machine, Toilet)
- Turn Off The Tap** (Faucet icon) - For every minute that a faucet runs two gallons of water are used.
- Water Your Lawn Right** (Sun icon) - Water during sunrise or sunset to avoid losing water to evaporation.
- Cut Your Grass Effectively** (Grass icon) - Keep your grass height at 2 inches to give it shade and help it retain moisture.
- Use Grey Water** (Water drop icon) - Grey water is relatively clean, used water from your bathroom sinks, showers, washing machine, & other appliances. It can be reused to water plants and gardens.
- Use your dishwasher wisely** (Dishwasher icon) - New dishwasher models use less water than hand washing and clean more thoroughly let you skip a pre-wash!
- Compost** (Compost bin icon) - Garage disposals use a lot of water and they also add a considerable amount of solids to your septic tank. Compost instead!
- Check For Leaks** (Leaking pipe icon) - A faucet leaking at one drip per second can waste 3,000 gallons a year
- Take Shorter Showers** (Stopwatch icon)
- Reuse and Re-wear** (Clothing icon) - Save water on laundry loads by re-wearing lightly worn clothes

Actions to Reduce your Carbon Footprint

PROTECTING OUR PLANET STARTS WITH YOU

- BIKE MORE DRIVE LESS** (Bicycle icon)
- reduce REUSE recycle** (Recycling symbol icon) - Cut down on what you throw away. Follow the three "R"s to conserve natural resources and landfill space.
- choose sustainable seafood** (Fish icon) - Learn how to make smart seafood choices at www.FishWatch.gov.
- PLANT A TREE** (Tree icon) - Trees provide food and oxygen. They help save energy, clean the air, and help combat climate change.
- EDUCATE** (Books icon) - When you further your own education, you can help others understand the importance and value of our natural resources.
- CONSERVE WATER** (Faucet icon) - The less water you use, the less runoff and wastewater that eventually end up in the ocean.
- SHOP-WISELY** (Shopping bag icon) - Buy less plastic and bring a reusable shopping bag.
- Don't send chemicals into our waterways.** (Spray bottle icon) - Choose nontoxic chemicals in the home and office.
- Volunteer!** (Hands icon) - Volunteer for cleanups in your community. You can get involved in protecting your watershed too!
- Long-lasting light bulbs - ARE A - BRIGHT IDEA** (Light bulb icon) - Energy efficient light bulbs reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Also flip the light switch off when you leave the room!

oceanservice.noaa.gov



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

