



Earth Day, Earth Month, or any day or month: Green Team and Classroom learning and activities

Every day is Earth Day! Although April 22 is Earth Day and April is Earth Month, these resources can be used **any day or any month** in-person, in virtual meetings, or via email or community boards.

Resources to build context

Questions for students - to be used with the reading or video recommendations

- What are some of the pressing environmental issues you would like to see addressed?
- How has Earth Day changed since it was started in 1970?
- What might restoring our Earth or protecting our natural resources mean to different people in your community and around the world?
- What will you do to reconnect with the Earth and help restore the Earth?
- What is environmental inequality and what role could environmental justice play in restoring the Earth?

What is Earth Day?

Reading and video recommendations can provide context for activities on page 2.

Elementary school recommendations

- [Earth Day Every Day](#) by Lisa Bullard – 4-minute video (grades K-3)
- [The Earth Gives More Read Aloud](#) – 6-minutes - with author Sue Fliess (grades K-2)
- [Earth Day celebration around the world](#) by Cool School – 2-minute video (grades K-5)

Middle and high school recommendations

- [When Rivers Caught Fire: A Brief History of Earth Day](#) by KQED - article includes links to videos about the movement (middle and high school)
- [Earth Day Animated History](#) by Five Minded – 3-minute animated video about the history of Earth Day (middle and high school)
- [How the largest environmental movement in history was born](#) by Sohie Yeo, the BBC, 4/21/20 (middle and high school)

Biomimicry

Many environmental problems are due to bad design. What better way than to celebrate and restore our Earth than by taking design inspiration from nature?

- [What is Biomimicry?](#) - 2-minute video by EarthSky/Fast Company (middle and high school)
- [Biomimicry, a short film](#) - 22-minute video by Tree Media (middle and high school)

Activities

- **Biomimicry Activities:** [30 days of Reconnection](#) – to help students reconnect with the environment and gain new insights from the natural world (middle and high school students independently; elementary school students with support)
- [15 Earth Day STEM Activities](#) to inspire students to care for our Earth (grades K-12)
- **Take Action on Plastic Pollution:** [Earth Day](#) suggests reducing plastic use with these 3 Rs - *Remove, Refuse, and Rally*. Invite grade 6 -12 students to [calculate](#) their plastic use and learn how many plastic items they consume and discard each year. Middle and high school students also can complete a [home survey](#) on the 4 R's (*Rethink, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle*) to help identify ways they can take action at home.
- [Activity guides](#) (elementary school): 11 activity guides from King County with concise classroom or Green Team lessons on reuse, waste reduction, and recycling.
- [12 Nature Walk Activities for Earth Day \(or any day!\)](#) to help students connect with nature - from Project Learning Tree (grades K-12)
- [30 Crafts and Activities Using Recycled Materials](#) – includes creating wildflower seed bombs, upcycling trash into flower art, making paper-mâché pots, and building terrariums (grades K-12)
- **Poetry and advocacy:** [Use the power of poetry to inspire action on environmental justice](#) with Power Poetry (middle and high school)