



## March/April Green Team Activities: Earth Month 2021

April 22 is Earth Day and April is Earth Month! Earth Day Network, the organizer for Earth Day worldwide, selected **Restore Our Earth** as the theme for Earth Day 2021.

Below are resources to help students understand Earth Day and take action. Activities can be used asynchronously via email or community boards, or synchronously in virtual meetings.

### Resources for building context

1. **What is Earth Day?** Reading and video recommendations below can be used for virtual book clubs or to provide context for activities.

#### *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)

2. **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)
3. **Questions for students** - to accompany the reading and video recommendations
  - How has Earth Day changed since it was started in 1970?
  - What are some of the pressing environmental issues you would like to see addressed?
  - What might “restoring our Earth” mean to different people in your community and around the world?
  - What is environmental inequality and what role could environmental justice play in restoring the Earth?
  - What will you do to reconnect with the Earth and help restore the Earth?

## Activities

1. **Play the King County Earth Month Scavenger Hunt Challenge** - launches **March 29** at noon! Students and Green Teams (grades 4 - 12) as well as families can join as teams or individuals anytime during the game period from March 29 through April 30.

Each day during the Challenge, one or two missions will be released. Players answer questions and take photos to earn points, complete missions, and learn about sustainability. The Challenge can be played for free on any Google or Apple device (such as mobile phone, Tablet, or Chromebook) via GooglePlay or the App Store.

Watch for instructions in the March and April program newsletters.

2. **Biomimicry Activities for Earth Month: [30 days of Reconnection](#)** – activities 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)
3. **Take Action on Plastic Pollution: [Earth Day](#)** suggests adding 3 Rs - *Remove, Refuse, and Rally* - to reduce plastic use. Invite grade 6 -12 students to [calculate](#) their plastic use to 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 (*Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rethink*) to help identify ways they can take action at home.
4. **[15 Earth Day STEM Activities](#)** to inspire students to care for our Earth (grades K-12)
5. **[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)
6. **[12 Nature Walk Activities for Earth Day \(or any day!\)](#)** to help students connect with nature - from Project Learning Tree (grades K-12)
7. **Advocacy: [Use the power of poetry to inspire action on environmental justice](#)** with Power Poetry (middle and high school)
8. **Register for the King County Green Schools Virtual Gathering for Green Team leaders.** Earth Day/Earth Month activities will be discussed. Date: Wed., **March 10** at 4:00 p.m. Register [here](#). Middle and high school Green Team students are welcome to participate.
9. **Put the next King County Green Schools webinar on your calendar.** Topic: **Sustainability and social justice.** Date: Thurs., **April 29** at 4:00 p.m. Watch for an announcement and registration link in the program's April newsletter. Middle and high school students are welcome to attend.

March 1, 2021