

My First Earth Day Toolkit



**EARTH DAY 2025
FAMILY TOOLKIT**



The History of Earth Day



The Beginning

Senator Gaylord Nelson and youth activist Dennis Hayes worked together to create a series of teach-ins across the United States. The teach-ins educated people about the harms of pollution and the need to protect the environment.

Teach-ins are a way to talk about an important issue to a group of people within a community. Teach-ins are a tool for learning that was important for the first Earth Day. Denis Hayes and other passionate members reached out to teachers, students and families to encourage them to listen to their story and why they needed to take action towards caring for the planet.

They called it Earth Day.

Resources: [History of Earth Day](#)
[Reading and Timeline](#)





Earth Day Today

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Earth Day inspired 20 million Americans to demonstrate against the impacts of over 150 years of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts. Earth Day is celebrated all over the world now. Many people choose ways to show their love for their Earth by participating in clean ups, planting trees, and advocating for policy changes in their community.



Earth Day Activities

Family Discussions

Try these conversation starters with your learners to get them thinking about Earth Day and ways to create lasting sustainable choices at home and in the community.



1

**WHY DO YOU THINK
EARTH DAY IS IMPORTANT?**



Q: What does the Earth do for us...?

A: Gives us water, food, and all the resources to live happily

2

**WHAT CAN WE DO TO MAKE SURE WE
KEEP THE PLANET CLEAN AND SAFE?**



Q: What do we do with our plastic or food when we are done?

A: We recycle, put in compost, etc.

3

**WHAT IS SOMETHING NEW WE CAN
TRY IN OUR HOME/COMMUNITY?**



Earth Day Education: At Home

Learn at Home

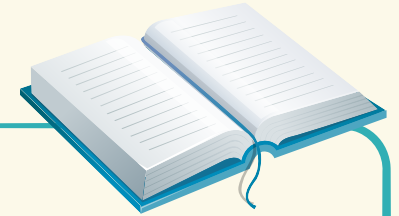
Composting & Food Waste



Activities at Home

- Make a “compost soup” using a bin and teach your learners what can and cannot be composted.

Books



Compost Stew:
An A to Z Recipe for the Earth
by Mary McKenna Siddals

Pollinators



- Garden Pollinators Planning Worksheet

Animal Pollinators
by Jennifer Boothroyd

Single Use Plastics



- Scavenger hunt around the house to identify single-use plastics and teach your learners how to recycle them.
- Plastic pollution sheet

What a Waste: Trash, Recycling, and Protecting our Planet
by Jess French

Earth Day Education: At Home

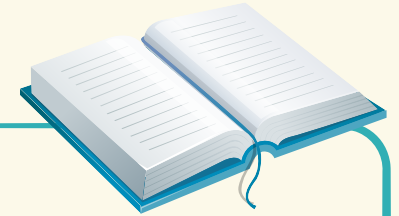
Learn at Home

Fast Fashion



- [How To Care For Your Clothes Toolkit](#)

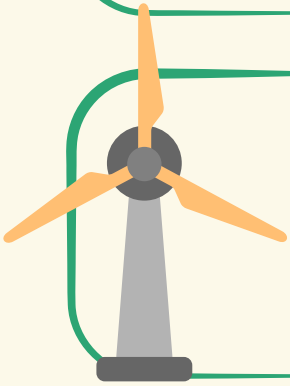
Books



Slow Fashion

by Megan Anderson, Jenna Campton and Carolyn Ang

[Renewable Energy](#)



- [Renewable Energy in Schools](#)

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind, Young Reader's Edition

by William Kamkwamba and Bryan Mealer

Canopy Project



- Plant a tree with your learner or donate to have a [tree planted](#) in your honor.

We Planted a Tree

by Diane Muldrow and Bob Staake



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