



Kids!

THE CHILDREN'S NEWSLETTER OF HERITAGE CONSERVANCY

Spring 2020

Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day

Do you enjoy playing outside, looking for insects, climbing on trees, drinking clean water, or eating fresh fruit? If you answered yes to any of these, then you have an appreciation for nature and Mother Earth! Those are all things that we have because of a healthy environment, and we need to keep it that way.

50 years ago, a group of community members created a special day just to celebrate the Earth and to get people excited about taking care of the great outdoors, and they call it Earth Day! Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd. If we truly love the outdoors though, we should celebrate Earth Day every day and work to protect the environment and our local waterways throughout the year.

Not everyone has always been so excited to take care of the Earth, and still today, some people are harming the environment, which means that all of the plants and animals that depend on nature to live, including humans, could be harmed. Advocating for the environment and taking care of it is something that you can do throughout your life to keep our environment healthy and going in the right direction!



In this edition, you can learn about the history of Earth Day, ways to make a positive difference for the Earth and our local waterways, and reasons your fellow students are excited about nature.

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The History of Earth Day

By: Suki Wilder

April 22nd this year is special. It marks fifty years since several environmental issues led activists to found the first Earth Day back in 1970.

The decade before this day saw many environmental disasters. Oil spills harmed thousands of birds and sea animals. Rivers and waterways were so polluted with chemicals that one river in Ohio even caught on fire! (How can water catch on fire? When there are chemicals in it, those pollutants can catch on fire, even when they are in water.) Despite new rules on air pollution, cities across the United States still fell into thick smog from air pollutants, which made it harder for some people to breathe. To summarize, our Earth was not in healthy shape for any living creature.

Following the attempts of other activists, a politician named Gaylord Nelson and a student named Denis Hayes managed to organize the first Earth Day. They described it as an "environmental teach-in," geared mostly towards schools and communities. The day was a huge success for the environmental movement. Thousands of educational events were held around the country, and there were huge rallies in cities like New York and Washington, D.C. Congress even took the day off and two-thirds of its members spoke at Earth Day events. As many as 20 million people got involved in Earth Day celebrations in 1970. Demonstrations during Earth Day helped grow support for many new laws and environmental regulations. In the decade

following the first Earth Day, Congress passed several environmental protections through legislation such as the 1970 Clean Air Act, the 1972 Clean Water Act, and the 1973 Endangered Species Act. It also led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency, which holds an important role in how the government handles environmental problems. Since then, countries across the globe have adopted Earth Day. In the U.S., environmental activism has led to wide-spread recycling, regulations on cars that limit air pollution, and other ones that prevent industries from dumping toxic waste into waterways.



Despite all these changes, there are still a lot of environmental issues across the U.S. and the world that need to be addressed urgently. This still includes pollution from cars, agriculture, industries, too much recyclable trash being sent to landfills, and a lack of clean energy sources.

The biggest environmental problems right now, like plastic pollution in the oceans and climate change from greenhouse gases, can seem overwhelming. Each year, Earth Day serves as a reminder that there is something you can do to help with these big problems. Going to Earth Day events, learning more about environmental issues -- and writing your senator about them -- can go a long way towards helping the planet. It's a day to learn, be active, and most of all, appreciate the earth.

We hope you celebrate Earth Day every day!



Take the Earth Day Pledge

We want to make Earth Day every day by getting YOU involved! You can make a positive difference for the environment just by making a small change in your daily life. Small changes make a big difference.

Sign the pledge below to commit to making a positive impact for the environment in your daily life!

I _____ pledge to join the Earth Day 2020 celebration and help to protect the environment and our local waterways by making at least one change in my daily life.

What Can you do to help?

You can help to protect the environment and keep it healthy for plants, animals, and humans, and you can do that anytime of year! Here are some suggestions for small changes that add up:

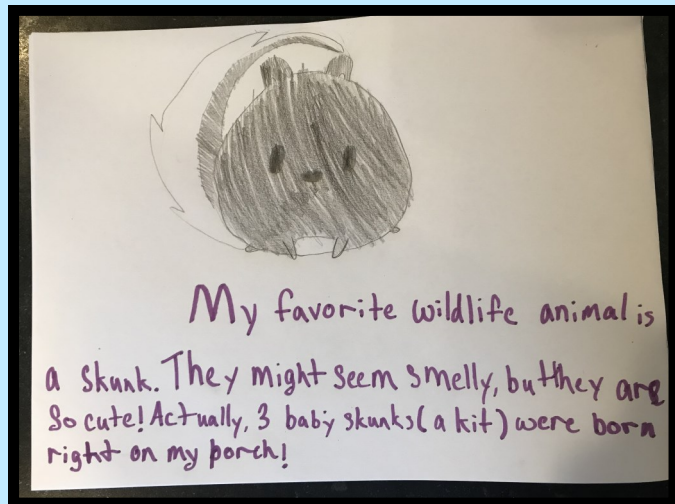
- With the help of an adult, pick up litter that you see outside so it doesn't get washed into our waterways and pollute our drinking water or harm wildlife.
- Plant a native tree or bush. Trees and other plants act as filters, helping to keep the natural world clean. They filter water, help prevent flooding, and clean our air.
- Even little things like walking or riding a bike instead of driving can help improve the quality of the air we breathe!
- Turn lights off when you leave a room to save electricity.
- Turn water off when you are brushing your teeth.
- Recycle items properly and throw away the rest in a trash can.
- Reduce your use of single-use plastic items like plastic straws, forks, and bags. These are items that can end up harming an environment.
- Use safe, natural products when possible. Don't use pesticides or fertilizers in your garden--these products can seep into the groundwater supply. Inside the house, try using natural cleaners rather than chemicals that could end up in your water supply!



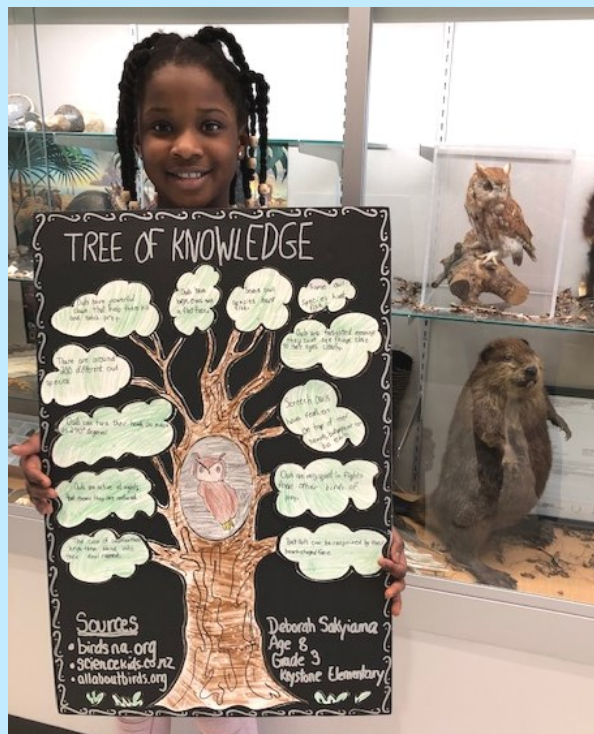
Kids' Creations

All of our readers are enthusiastic about nature, and we appreciate the creative submissions you guys shared with us!

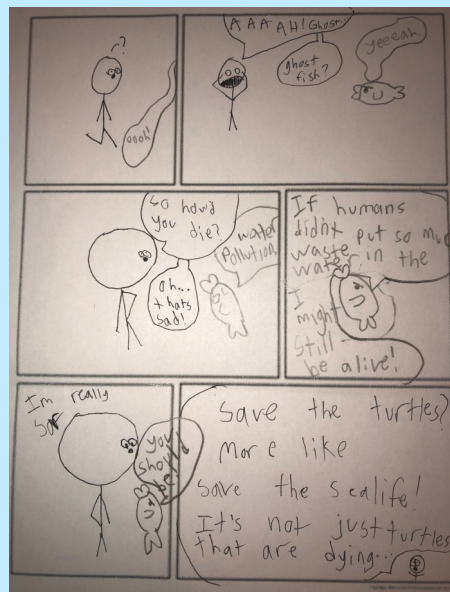
A couple of you shared your favorite animal—animals that depend on a healthy environment.



Ellie Rosato, age 10, Doylestown, PA

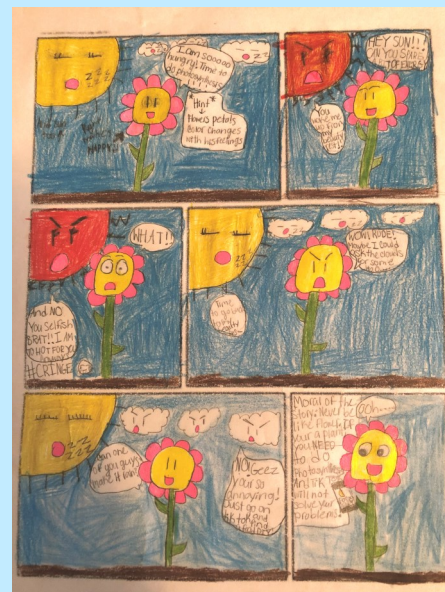


Deborah Sakyama is in Mrs. Foulke's 3rd grade class at Keystone Elementary School in Croydon. Deborah created a Tree of Knowledge all about owls to go near Keystone Elementary School's Nature Display Area. Deborah shared, "There are about 200 different owl species. I like knowing that there are a lot of owls out there."



Cartoons are fun, and they can teach a lesson-like why we need to help the environment!

These cartoons are from Mrs. Jahani's 3rd grade class at Keystone Elementary School in Croydon



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