

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

# Why Do We Celebrate Earth Day?

Earth Day, celebrated annually on April 22nd, traces its roots back to the 1970s environmental movement in the United States. This day is credited to Senator Gaylord Nelson, who was inspired to create a national day focusing on environmental awareness after witnessing the detrimental effects of an oil spill off the coast of Santa Barbara in 1969. Nelson's vision was to inspire people from all walks of life, advocating for environmental conservation and policy reforms. On April 22, 1970, millions of Americans took to the streets, parks, and auditoriums, protesting against pollution and demanding a healthier, sustainable environment. This widespread activism led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and paved the way for significant environmental legislation, including the Clean Air Act and the Clean Water Act.

For students, Earth Day holds significance as it highlights the power of collective action and individual responsibility in safeguarding our planet. It serves as a reminder that small steps, like recycling, reducing waste, and conserving resources, can collectively make a substantial impact. Earth Day also provides an opportunity for students to engage in various educational activities, from planting trees and cleaning up local parks to learning about climate change. It instills a sense of environmental stewardship, encouraging young minds to become proactive advocates for a sustainable future.



Who is credited with the inception of Earth Day and what inspired him?

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What were some of the outcomes of the activism surrounding the 1st Earth Day in 1970?

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What does Earth Day teach students about working together?

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Name 2 small steps a student your age can take to help the planet.

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