Celebrate Earth Day!

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Introduction

The first Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970, the same year that President Richard Nixon signed the legislation that created the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Its founder, Senator Gaylord Nelson, envisioned it as a grassroots celebration that would raise awareness of environmental issues. In celebration of the 35th anniversary of this historic event, visit the following sites to learn more about it and get ideas for making Earth Day every day.

History

All About Earth Day
http://earthday.wilderness.org/history/
The origins of Earth Day as told by Senator Gaylord Nelson

EPA's Environmental Progress
http://www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm
A nice timeline of the significant progress made during the agency's life. See also *The Guardian: Origins of EPA* at http://www.epa.gov/history/publications/origins.htm. Other publications about EPA's history are available at http://www.epa.gov/history/publications/index.htm.

Portal Sites

Earth Day Network
http://www.earthday.net/default.aspx
Founded by the organizers of the first Earth Day in 1970, Earth Day Network (EDN) promotes environmental citizenship and year round progressive action worldwide. The site includes a searchable database of Earth Day events for both the U.S. and other countries. There are also links to downloadable materials for Earth Day 2005, including an Earth Day Organizer's Guide.

Earth Day U.S. Government Portal
http://www.earthday.gov/
The portal for U.S. government Earth Day events and information. Site includes links to Earth Day events via the Earth Day Network, links to government web sites, and tips for taking action at home, at work, and in the classroom. It also includes a link to U.S. EPA's history of Earth Day.

Earth Day Canada
http://www.earthday.ca/EDy2k/Home/homefrm1.html
This site offers a Canadian perspective, including events and educational materials.

Activities

Earth Day Activity Ideas
http://www.ecokids.ca/pub/eco_info/topics/environmental/earthday_events.cfm
If you're trying to teach the young people in your life the importance of protecting the planet, this Earth Day Canada website can help. It lists ideas for getting kids involved in Earth Day, like challenging family members to help reduce greenhouse gases or holding a contest to see who can create less litter at lunch.

Earth Day Ecological Footprint Quiz
http://www.earthday.net/footprint/index.asp
This Ecological Footprint Quiz estimates how much productive land and water you need to support what you use and what you discard. After answering 15 questions you'll be able to compare your Ecological Footprint to what other people use and to what is available on this planet.

Earth Dinner
http://www.earthdinner.org/
On April 22, start a new Earth Day tradition: "Invite Mother Earth to dinner." This website suggests gathering your friends and family to celebrate the environment over a meal of organic, sustainable foods. You'll find tips on planning the menu and shopping locally, and even a list of "table topics" to help you focus the conversation on the environment.

Greening Our Schools Earth Day Activities
http://www.greeningschools.org/docs/earthdayeeactivities.pdf
This fact sheet provides elementary teachers with a year's worth of lessons that support the mission of Earth Day.

Make Earth Day Every Day

Earth 911
http://www.earth911.org/master.asp
The site's slogan is "Making Every Day Earth Day!" It has links to local services and events as well as more general information.

Earth Action Center
http://www.nrdc.org/action/tips.asp
Tips from the Natural Resources Defense Council on making your lifestyle greener.

World in the Balance
http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/worldbalance/

Companion web site to the PBS "Nova" episode that aired on April 20, 2004. It addressed how environmental changes and a growing population are affecting the earth. The site includes related articles, photographs, interviews and activities.