

EARTH DAY



The celebration of Earth Day began in California, in the city of San Francisco. The first Earth Day celebration was held on March 21, 1970, which was the first day of spring. Earth Day is now celebrated all over the world, either on the first day of spring or on April 22nd.

We need to take care of Earth every day, not just on Earth Day. Earth Day is important because it reminds us to stop and look at the problems of our environment, and to evaluate what we can do to prevent those problems.

Most experts agree that the most serious problems affecting Earth are **pollution** and **loss of resources**.

Pollution causes damage to air, soil, and water. This affects all life on Earth. Pollution is caused by industries. For example, water pollution is caused by run-off from factories. Pollution is also caused by individuals. For example, automobiles release chemicals into the air that make it difficult for humans, animals, and plants to breathe. Taking steps to prevent or limit pollution in our own lives and throughout the world is probably one of the most important things we can do to maintain life on Earth.

We **lose resources** when we use them carelessly. We need to *reduce* the amount of things we use and the amount of things we throw away. We need to fix things and *re-use* them, rather than throwing them out. We need to *recycle* materials that are recyclable, by separating out plastic, bottles, and recyclable paper from other garbage. These are things that everyone can do.

Being aware of the problems of our environment is very important. Taking steps to prevent those problems is even more important. As individuals, we can follow the rules of “reduce, reuse, recycle” daily. As families, we can try to use materials that are environmentally friendly and to limit our dependence on materials that cause pollution and resource loss. As students, we can work in teams to educate ourselves and others. As citizens, we can write to government representatives to let them know our priorities.

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS ABOUT *EARTH DAY*

1. What is the purpose of this writing?
 - a. to entertain
 - b. to persuade
 - c. to inform
 - d. none of these

2. Where did Earth Day begin?
 - a. in Atlanta, Georgia
 - b. in San Francisco, California
 - c. in Detroit, Michigan
 - d. none of these

3. What is the purpose of Earth Day?
 - a. It's a day for cleaning up the air and water.
 - b. It's a day for pollution and industrial waste.
 - c. It's a day for visiting other planets.
 - d. It's a day for thinking about the problems of Earth.

4. According to the article, the two worst problems for Earth are:
 - a. Pollution and resource loss
 - b. Industries and individuals
 - c. Reduce and recycle
 - d. Families and citizens

5. According to the article, which of the following can we do to protect Earth?
(circle all that apply)
 - a. build homes
 - b. limit our use of resources
 - c. prevent waste
 - d. eat less food
 - e. sort garbage from recyclable material
 - f. use things more than once
 - g. not use any industries
 - h. learn and teach others about Earth
 - i. write letters to the mayor, the governor, the president...

RESPOND: What do you do now to help protect Earth? Do you think you do enough? After reading this article, do you feel like doing more, or do you feel satisfied with your efforts?

Name _____ Date _____

ANSWERS TO *EARTH DAY*

1. c
2. b
3. d
4. a
5. b,c,e,f,h,i

RESPOND: This question can be assigned as a writing project or used as a discussion question.