

Earth Day

Thursday 22 April 2021

What is **Earth Day**?

Earth Day is an annual day dedicated to awareness about the various environmental challenges that face our planet.

The idea of Earth Day first originated among the people fighting the **1969 Santa Barbara oil spill**.

Santa Barbara Oil Rig Spill 1969

The largest oil spill to have ever occurred in the waters off California.



American senator **Gaylord Nelson** was flying over the disaster in an aeroplane and was **so shocked** by the scale of it that he decided to create a day to help prevent future cases.



The **first Earth Day** took part on **April 22 1970** with millions of people demanding environmental change





Earth Day is
now
celebrated in
over **193**
countries



Facts about Earth

- **Age:** 4.6 billion years old (Life as we know it, has only existed on the planet for the last 150 million to 200 million years)
- **Position:** 3rd planet from the sun.
- **Size:** 5th largest planet in our solar system.
- **Diameter:** The Earth has an average diameter of 12,742 kilometers. (7,926 miles)
- The length of time it takes for Earth to orbit the Sun is 365 and a quarter days. To make up this extra quarter which isn't counted at the end of a year, we have an extra day every four years on 29th February.



The importance of Earth Day



The purpose of Earth Day is to show support for environmental protection and give a voice to public consciousness about the state of our planet after decades of uncontrolled pollution.

Earth Day Achievements

Within 5 years of the first Earth day in 1970 in the USA :-

- an amended **Clean Air Act**
- the **Clean Water Act**
- the **Safe Drinking Water Act**
- the **Endangered Species Act**

& Worldwide

- **Ozone layer recovering** due to ban on CFCs by Montreal Protocol 1987
- **Animals & plants** coming off the endangered list
- **Solar panels, hybrid vehicles & electric car technologies**
- **Kyoto Protocol 1997** - limiting greenhouse gas emissions
- **2015 Paris agreement** - limiting global warming to well below 2 degrees Celsius



August 2018

Greta Thunberg strikes outside Swedish parliament leading to **millions** around the world **demonstrating** against **climate change**



EARTH

WILL
SURVIVE
CLIMATE
CHANGE

HUMANS

NON



SYSTEM
CHANGE
CLIMATE
CHANGE

DOWN
BURN
OUR
EARTH

Socialist Worker
DEFY
TORY
RULE

Socialist Worker
SYSTEM
CHANGE
NOT
CLIMATE
CHANGE

Socialist Worker
SYSTEM
CHANGE
NOT
CLIMATE
CHANGE

3 simple ideas to celebrate
Earth Day

1. Plant Something

If you plant a tree, it will remove carbon from the atmosphere and enhance air quality. Planting a tree also helps moderate local climate by reflecting sunlight and providing shade.



2. Use a refillable water bottle

Using a reusable water bottle is a lot better for our planet. A plastic bottle can take hundreds of years to break down.

Did you know that each year 26 billion water bottles are thrown away?



3. Shop smart for clothes

Check out second hand clothing websites or charity shops to buy something that has already been used which is so much better for the environment.



Finally ...

Celebrate **Earth Day** by appreciating our planet **every day** of the year.



