

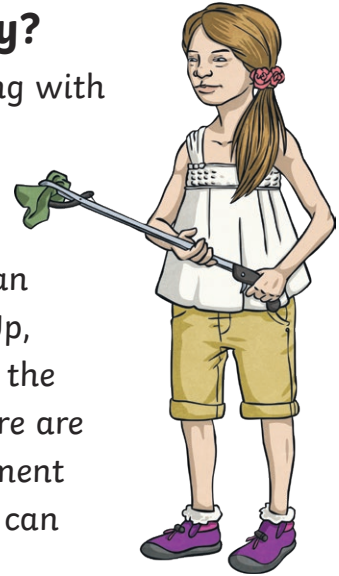
Earth Day 2020

This year is Earth Day's 50th anniversary. The theme of the event is Climate Action. People are working together to tackle the worrying issue of climate change, which is causing many problems around the world. There are many ways that we can look after the Earth and help make it a cleaner, safer place for future generations.



What Is the Aim of Earth Day?

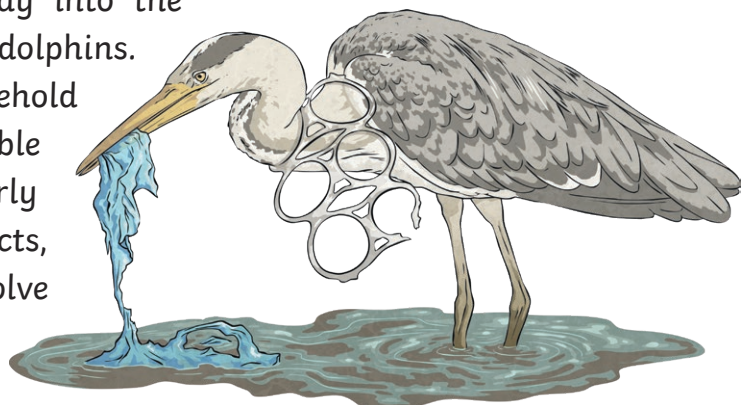
The organisers of Earth Day are working with many other partners globally to bring about change in many aspects of life. This year, on 22nd April, a worldwide 'cleanup' of the planet's green and urban spaces, called the Great Global Clean Up, is taking place. It is hoped to be one of the largest volunteer events in history. There are lots of ways YOU can help the environment this Earth Day. Even one small change can make a big difference.



Our Plastic Problem

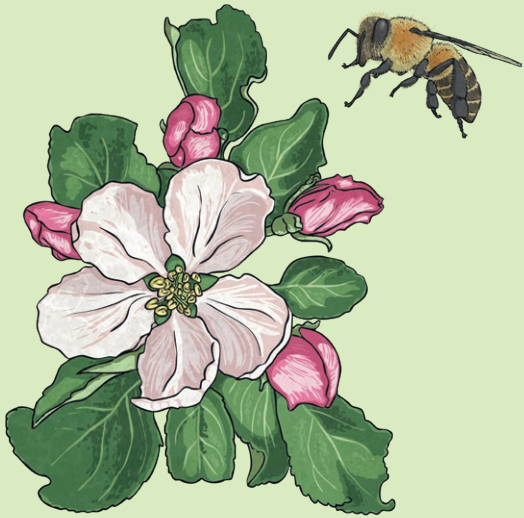
Every year in the UK, we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic. Plastic doesn't biodegrade, which means it doesn't break down and disappear, for hundreds, even thousands, of years. Many types of plastic can't be recycled. This means that lots of it ends up staying in landfills or ends up in our oceans and rivers. Because of this, 90% of the world's seabirds and more than 50% of the world's sea turtles have plastic in their stomachs. Plastic is even finding its way into the stomachs of some whales and dolphins.

By carefully sorting your household rubbish so that all recyclable materials are disposed of properly and by reusing plastic products, you can do your bit to help solve this plastic crisis.



What's the Buzz?

Looking after the plants in our gardens is a practical way to contribute towards protecting our planet. Plants and trees are important because they help take some of the warming gases out of the air and they provide food for pollinating insects like bees. These stripy, furry fliers help many plants grow by carrying pollen from one plant to another. Thanks to bees, many species of plants are pollinated in forests and meadows, which means fruits can grow and become food for wild animals. Help to protect this species by creating a bee-friendly habitat.



Follow these tips to attract as many bees as possible.

- Choose flowers with one flower top, such as daisies and marigolds;
- Avoid using pesticides in your garden;
- Plant different types of flowers that bloom at different times to attract bees from spring to autumn.

Eat Less Meat

Scientists think that if more humans switched to a diet focused on plants, rather than eating meat regularly, it would be much better for the planet. It is thought this would reduce the amount of land needed for farming. Interestingly, it also appears that if more people had a plant-based diet, it would greatly lower the amount of warming gases released into the air. See if you can convince your family to reduce the amount of meat they eat - there are lots of creative and tasty alternatives being developed every year!

As you can see, there are lots of ways we can all take action this Earth Day to protect the planet for current and future generations. What will you choose?

Questions

1. What event is happening on the 22nd April? **Tick one.**

- Global Switch Off Day
- No Plastic Day
- Great Global Clean Up
- Walk to Work Day

2. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence:

Even _____ small _____ can make a big _____.

3. Look at the section titled **What Is the Aim of Earth Day?**

Find and **copy** one word that means the same as 'city'.

4. How much plastic does the UK throw away each year?

5. What is one tip the text gives for creating a bee-friendly habitat?

6. Why is plastic waste causing so many problems?

Use evidence from the text to explain your reasoning.

7. Based on the text, what do you think the difference is between a plant-based diet and a meat-based diet? Explain your reasoning.

8. In your own words, summarise why Earth Day is important.

Answers

1. What event is happening on the 22nd April? **Tick one.**

- Global Switch Off Day
- No Plastic Day
- Great Global Clean Up**
- Walk to Work Day

2. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence:

Even **one** small **change** can make a big **difference**.

3. Look at the section titled **What Is the Aim of Earth Day?**

Find and **copy** one word that means the same as 'city'.

urban

4. How much plastic does the UK throw away each year?

295 billion pieces

5. What is one tip the text gives for creating a bee-friendly habitat?

Accept any of the following:

- **Choose flowers with one flower top, such as daisies and marigolds;**
- **Avoid using pesticides in your garden;**
- **Plant different types of flowers that bloom at different times to attract bees from spring to autumn.**

6. Why is plastic waste causing so many problems?

Use evidence from the text to explain your reasoning.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Plastic is causing so many problems because it doesn't biodegrade and is ending up in our rivers and oceans where it is swallowed by whales and other sea creatures.

7. Based on the text, what do you think the difference is between a plant-based diet and a meat-based diet? Explain your reasoning.

Pupils' own responses, such as: A plant-based diet uses less land and releases less warming gas into the air. A meat-based diet needs more land and releases more gas into the air.

8. In your own words, summarise why Earth Day is important.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Earth Day is important because we need to raise awareness about climate change and how we can all work together to look after our planet.

Earth Day 2020

Earth Day is a global event that happens every year on 22nd April. The first Earth Day was held in America in 1970. Around 20 million Americans marched in many different cities to protest for laws to protect the environment. Now, 50 years later, 1 billion people from over 192 countries are taking action in many different ways to protect our planet against climate change and preserve it for current and future generations.



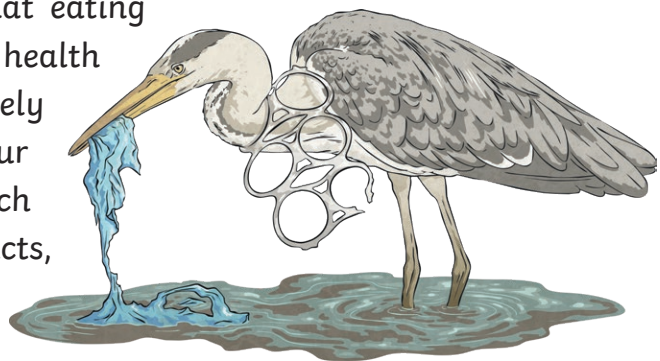
What Is the Aim of Earth Day?

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is Climate Action. The aim is to educate as many people as possible about the importance of looking after our natural world - helping millions of people to make small but important changes. On 22nd April, a worldwide 'cleanup' of the planet's green and urban spaces will take place. It is hoped to be one of the largest volunteer events in history. Many people are also organising climate change rallies and protests. Hopefully, these events will inspire many people, including schools, governments and businesses, to take action to protect our planet and move towards a zero-carbon future.

There are lots of ways YOU can help the environment this Earth Day.

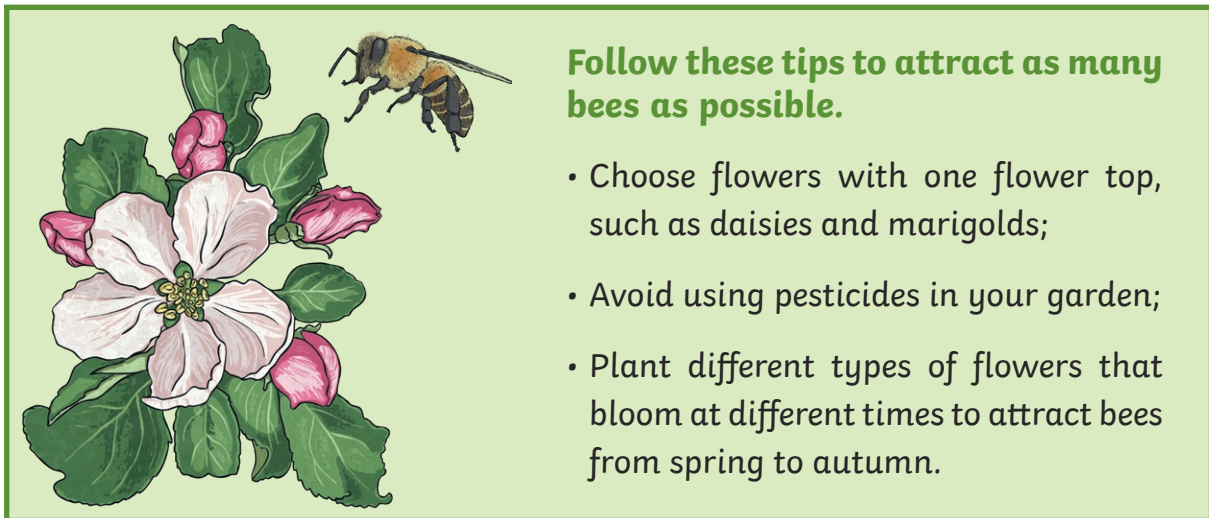
Our Plastic Problem

In the UK, we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic yearly. Plastic doesn't biodegrade and lots of it can't be recycled. This plastic waste ends up in the world's oceans and river systems. Current research shows that 90% of the world's seabirds and more than 50% of the world's sea turtles have plastic in their stomachs. It is even finding its way into the stomachs of marine mammals such as whales and dolphins. Plastics can also cause problems for humans because, as they break down, tiny pieces of plastic can end up in our food and water. Scientists think that eating these microplastics could lead to health problems but it has not yet been widely researched. By carefully sorting your household rubbish to recycle as much as possible and reusing plastic products, you can do your part to solve the plastic problem.



What's the Buzz?

Plants are a vital part of our planet's ecosystem. They help take warming gases, such as carbon dioxide, out of the atmosphere and provide food for important pollinating insects, like bees. These stripy, furry fliers help a variety of plants to grow by carrying pollen from one plant to another. They are incredibly important to our delicate ecosystem. It is because of bees that many species of plants are pollinated, which then provide food for wild animals. Help to protect this crucial species by creating a bee-friendly habitat, either in your back garden or in your local area.



Follow these tips to attract as many bees as possible.

- Choose flowers with one flower top, such as daisies and marigolds;
- Avoid using pesticides in your garden;
- Plant different types of flowers that bloom at different times to attract bees from spring to autumn.

Eat Less Meat

Deforestation and the destruction of natural habitats to make space for farm animals to graze is having a devastating impact on the planet. Studies suggest that switching to a plant-based diet would be more sustainable. It is thought this would reduce the amount of land needed for farming. Interestingly, it appears that a plant-based diet would also have a positive impact on emissions of warming gases, also called greenhouse gases. The amount of energy from fossil fuels used to produce a calorie of animal protein is more than 11 times higher than the amount used to produce the same amount of grain protein. See if you can convince your family to reduce the amount of meat they eat - there are lots of creative and delicious alternatives being developed every year!

As you can see, there are many ways we can take action to help the planet this Earth Day. What will you choose?

Questions

1. What day does Earth Day happen each year? **Tick one.**

- 3rd May
- 22nd April
- 1st February
- 22nd August

2. Number these sentences to show the order they appear in the text.
The first one has been done for you.

- Plants and trees are a vital part of our planet's ecosystem.
- Scientists think that this could lead to health problems.
- Plastic doesn't biodegrade over time.
- See if you can convince your family to reduce the amount of meat they eat.
- 1 The first Earth Day was held in America in 1970.

3. What kind of future would the Earth Day organisers like to move towards?

4. How much plastic does the UK throw away each year?

5. Look at the section titled **What's the Buzz?**
Find and copy the word that means the same as 'vital'.

6. **'There are lots of ways YOU can help the environment'**
Why do you think the author wrote the word 'YOU' in capital letters?

7. Why do you think scientists have not yet researched the impact of microplastics on human health?

8. Summarise why plants are important.

9. What do you think would be a good theme for next year's Earth Day?
Explain your reasoning.

Answers

1. What day does Earth Day happen each year? **Tick one.**

- 3rd May
 22nd April
 1st February
 22nd August

2. Number these sentences to show the order they appear in the text.
The first one has been done for you.

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3 Scientists think that this could lead to health problems.
2 Plastic doesn't biodegrade over time.
5 See if you can convince your family to reduce the amount of meat they eat.
1 The first Earth Day was held in America in 1970.

3. What kind of future would the Earth Day organisers like to move towards?

A zero-carbon future

4. How much plastic does the UK throw away each year?

295 billion pieces

5. Look at the section titled **What's the Buzz?**

Find and copy the word that means the same as 'vital'.

crucial

6. **'There are lots of ways YOU can help the environment'**

Why do you think the author wrote the word 'YOU' in capital letters?

Pupils' own responses, such as: To emphasise how important is that the reader also makes changes to their life to help the environment.

7. Why do you think scientists have not yet researched the impact of microplastics on human health?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think it hasn't been researched because plastic hasn't been around that long and we are only starting to realise that it might cause problems.

8. Summarise why plants are important.

Pupils' own responses, such as: Plants are vital to our ecosystem because they take some of the warming gases that are making climate change worse out of the air. They are also food for important insects.

9. What do you think would be a good theme for next year's Earth Day?
Explain your reasoning.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think next year's Earth Day will be about the food we eat because it has a big impact on the environment and climate change. I think we will be asked to choose more food that isn't wrapped in plastic and asked to dispose of our food responsibly and not just throw it away. I also think we will be asked to think more about our diet and how much meat we eat.

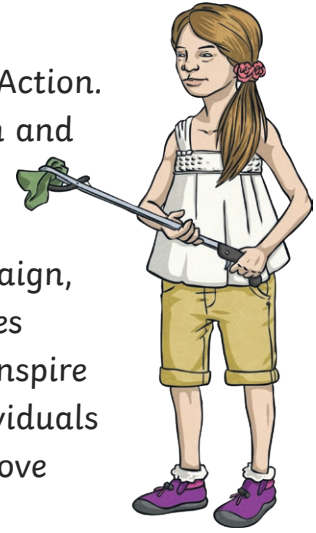
Earth Day 2020

Earth Day is a global event that happens every year on 22nd April. The first Earth Day was held in America in 1970. Around 20 million Americans rose up to march for the environment, and now, 50 years later, 1 billion people from over 192 countries are taking action to protect and preserve our planet.



What Is the Aim of Earth Day?

The theme for Earth Day 2020 is Climate Action. A worldwide clean-up of the planet's green and urban spaces has been organised. It is hoped to be one of the largest volunteer events in history. In addition to this campaign, people are organising climate change rallies and protests. Hopefully, these events will inspire schools, governments, businesses and individuals to take action to protect our planet and move towards a zero-carbon future.



There are lots of ways YOU can help the environment this Earth Day.

Our Plastic Problem

In the UK, we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic yearly. Plastic doesn't biodegrade and lots of it still can't be recycled. This is having a devastating impact on marine life. A recent study found that 90% of the world's seabirds and more than 50% of the world's sea turtles have plastic in their stomachs. Shockingly, plastic is even finding its way into the stomachs of marine mammals, including whales and dolphins. In recent years there has been growing concern that plastic also has a negative impact on the health of humans. As they break down, tiny pieces of plastic can end up in our food and water. Scientists predict that these issues could lead to health problems, but it has not yet been widely researched. By carefully sorting your household rubbish to recycle as much as possible and reusing plastic products, you can do your part to solve the plastic problem.



What's the Buzz?

Plants are a vital part of our planet's ecosystem. They take warming gases like carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and provide food for important pollinating insects, like bees. These stripy, furry fliers ensure that a variety of plants grow by carrying pollen from one plant to another. They are incredibly important in our fragile ecosystem. It is because of bees that many species of plants are pollinated in forests, meadows and other ecosystems, producing a variety of fruits that serve as food for many wild animals. Destruction of habitat, change in weather due to climate change and the use of chemicals called pesticides are causing numbers of bees to decline rapidly. Help protect this crucial species from extinction by creating a bee-friendly habitat, either in your back garden or in your local area.



Follow these tips to attract as many bees as possible.

- Choose flowers with one flower top, such as daisies and marigolds;
- Avoid using pesticides in your garden;
- Plant different types of flowers that bloom at different times to attract bees from spring to autumn.

Eat Less Meat

Deforestation and the destruction of natural habitats to make space for farm animals to graze is having a devastating impact on the planet. Studies suggest that switching to a plant-based diet would be more sustainable. It is thought this would reduce the amount of land needed for farming. Interestingly, it appears that a plant-based diet would also have a positive impact on emissions of warming gases, also known as greenhouse gases. The amount of energy from fossil fuels used to produce a calorie of animal protein is more than 11 times higher than the amount used to produce the same amount of grain protein. It is believed by some experts that switching to a plant-based diet on a worldwide scale would reduce greenhouse gas emissions by approximately 49%. See if you can convince your family to reduce the amount of meat they eat - there are lots of creative and delicious alternatives being developed every year!

The Future

In November 2020, the UK will host the 26th UN Conference about climate change. Over 30,000 delegates, including heads of state, climate experts and campaigners, will come together to agree on a united approach to addressing climate change. Everyone agrees that the time is now to take action against climate change - what part will you play?



Questions

1. When was the first Earth Day held? **Tick one.**

- 22nd April 2019
 22nd April 2000
 22nd April 1990
 22nd April 1970

2. Match the section of the text to the summary of its contents.

Our Plastic Problem

A plant-based diet may prove to be more sustainable for the planet.

Eat Less Meat

Campaigners want people all over the world to take action against climate change.

What Is the Aim of Earth Day?

Plastic waste is causing problems for humans and animals.

3. What percentage of sea turtles were found to have plastic in their stomachs?

4. Why does the text say we should protect the bees?

5. Do you think that the Earth Day organisers are succeeding in their mission to raise awareness of climate change? Explain your answer.

6. Summarise what you have read in the 'Our Plastic Problem' section.

7. Read the **What's the Buzz?** section.

What do you think the words '**decline rapidly**' mean and why do you think the author chose this language?

8. Discuss why it might be difficult for people to switch to a plant-based diet.

9. Do you think that the UN conference in 2020 will be successful? Explain your answer.

10. **'Everyone agrees that the time is now to take action against climate change - what part will you play?'**

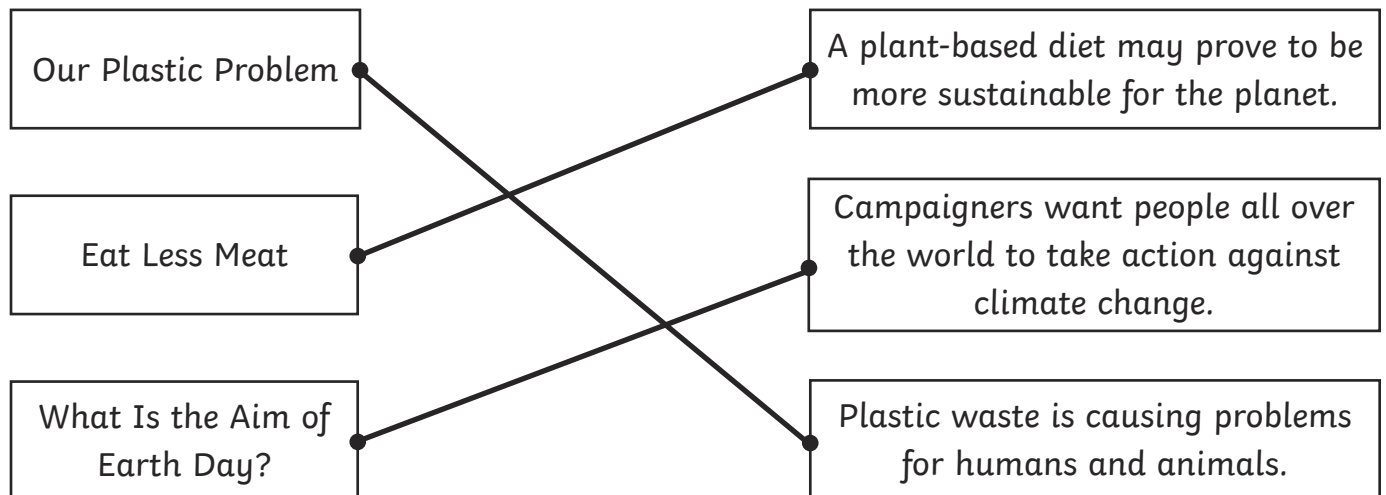
Why do you think the author ended the text with this sentence?

Answers

1. When was the first Earth Day held? **Tick one.**

- 22nd April 2019
 22nd April 2000
 22nd April 1990
 22nd April 1970

2. Match the section of the text to the summary of its contents.



3. What percentage of sea turtles were found to have plastic in their stomachs?

More than 50%

4. Why does the text say we should protect the bees?

Pupil's own response, such as: They take warming gases out of the air/they provide food for bees.

5. Do you think that the Earth Day organisers are succeeding in their mission to raise awareness of climate change? Explain your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: Yes, because they started off with 20 million people involved and now there are 1 billion people taking part.

6. Summarise what you have read in the 'Our Plastic Problem' section.

Pupil's own response, such as: The problem with plastic is that it doesn't biodegrade, so old plastic ends up in the ground and in the sea. It is now being found in the stomachs of animals and our food and water, so we need to use less of it and get rid of what we do have properly.

7. Read the **What's the Buzz?** section.

What do you think the words '**decline rapidly**' mean and why do you think the author chose this language?

Pupil's own response, such as: 'Decline rapidly' means to decrease in a short period of time. The author chose this language to show how worrying it is that the number of bees is decreasing so much because bees are very important in our ecosystem because they impact the growth of many plants. The author is trying to show that the decrease in numbers of bees is particularly upsetting because it is due to humans that this is happening.

8. Discuss why it might be difficult for people to switch to a plant-based diet.

Pupil's own response, such as: I think people might find it difficult to change to a plant-based diet as we are very used to eating our favourite foods, such as spaghetti bolognese and sausages, and it might be hard to sacrifice those for food we are not used to, such as veggie burgers. Some people might not believe that a plant-based diet really is more sustainable because we haven't tried it before and there is no proof it will definitely work.

9. Do you think that the UN conference in 2020 will be successful? Explain your answer.

Pupil's own response, such as: Yes, because lots of experts will be able to share what they know and important people with power and knowledge will work together to decide what to do about all the different problems we face.

10. '**Everyone agrees that the time is now to take action against climate change - what part will you play?**'

Why do you think the author ended the text with this sentence?

Pupil's own response such as: I think the author chose to end the text with this sentence to emphasise the importance of taking action now and to encourage the reader to think about how they can contribute to making the world a better place, making them feel that the text was written directly to them and not to anyone else.