

Current Event: Earth Day

Prime Social Studies (and Language Arts as cross-curricular) – April 27th – May 1st, 2020

*A cross-curricular lesson

Objective / Goals:

- To review or learn about Earth day which was celebrated last week on an international level.
- Reflect and create with a focus on this current event.

Did you celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd?

If not, that is ok because Earth Day isn't just on April 22. It's every day. How will you celebrate Earth Day and help make a difference year-round?

By celebrating Earth Day, you're part of a community of over 1 billion people who take part every year.



Earth Day seeks to highlight and promote efforts dedicated to the protection of the environment. As we enter the 21st century, we face many environmental crises, including global warming, deforestation, endangered wildlife, shortages of potable water and widespread pollution, all which negatively affect our planet's resources and can have adverse effects on our long-term lifestyle and health.

In 1970, a US Senator named Gaylord Nelson was inspired to bring about mass public awareness of environment problems. He heavily promoted the day across the nation in an effort to gather the largest amount of public support possible and ultimately, in the hopes of elevating environmental protection onto the national political agenda. This day in 1970 marked the creation of United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts. Today, Earth Day is celebrated by billions of people around the world and is observed in over 190 countries. Worldwide, Earth Day celebrations utilize educational programs to inform people of ways that can help protect the environment and its natural resources. It is observed annually on April 22nd and is celebrated as International Earth Day.

Canadian Connection:

On April 22nd, millions of Canadians celebrated in the 50th year of Earth Day, the largest environmental event in the world. This year, Earth Day draws attention to its Green Cities campaign, hoping cities will transition to using sustainable, green technologies.

In honour of Earth Day, here are six facts about Canada that you may not know:

- Each year, 6 million Canadians participate in Earth Day.
- Each Canadian emits 14.7 metric tonnes of carbon dioxide on average every year.
- Canada's average winter temperature in 2013 was 1.6 C above baseline temperature.

- From 1948 to 2013, temperatures in Northern British Columbia and the Yukon increased by 5.4 C.
- Albertans are 25 per cent less likely than others to say that increased flooding is definitely the result of climate change.
- Six in 10 Canadians believe that climate change is real and caused by human activity.

Now that you have some background information on Earth Day which was celebrated internationally last week, choose one of the following 4 options to complete:

Option #1:

Step 1 - Imagine you are a commander of a spaceship sent to research planet Earth. Upon your return to our planet, come up with the Top 10 List of Things that Make Earth Unique. You may use Google Earth to “fly” over the earth or you may wish to brainstorm on your own what you believe the 10 things are that make Earth unique.

Step 2 – Explore preserving our environment and the incredible balance that exists on our planet to support the amazing plant and animal species that exist. Beside your list of 10 things that make the earth unique, classify the things on your list as either *naturally occurring* or *man made*.

Step 3 – create a word collage of your list.

Option #2:

Step 1 – Imagine you are a commander of a spaceship that is sent to research planet Earth. Write a letter to someone explaining what you saw.

Step 2 – Ensure you include details that bring your experience to life for the reader.

Option #3:

Step 1 – Brainstorm: make a web or list of everything you think of when you think of planet earth or Earth day.

Step 2 – Use your words to write a poem (any style you would like) about Earth Day or an action for change that we should be making to protect our planet earth.

Option #4:

Write a letter to yourself with 2 pledges you make to yourself to help celebrate Earth Day every day. Ensure you include the actions you will take and explain them.

Grade 8 Language Arts

Writing

Continue with your journal entries. Remember to:

- reflect on the day's events (what did you and your family do?)
- collect the questions and thoughts that you had running through your head (it's ok to add that the big question of the morning was whether get out of your PJs or not)
- find one thing (people/ideas/objects) that you are thankful for and describe it (them)

There is no assigned length for these and there is no right or wrong response: simply work towards capturing your daily reality as best as you can. Quick sketches can also be used to enhance and effectively capture your day.

Big Ideas

“Overcoming Obstacles – Steven Claunch”

Watch this video:

<https://ed.ted.com/lessons/there-s-no-dishonor-in-having-a-disability-steven-claunch#watch>

- What did you think of the video? (Did you like it? Why/why not?)
- What does the Steven teach us about overcoming obstacles?
- Steven highlighted that everyone has their own set of unique obstacles to overcome, some of which are obvious, while others are less apparent. What is an obstacle that you have overcome or are working toward overcoming? Describe it and how you worked (or are working on) it.

If you're looking for more thought provoking videos, try:

- <https://ed.ted.com/>
 - <https://thekidshouldseethis.com/>
 - <https://ted.com>
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Reading

Pick a book, any book, that you want to (or at least are willing to try to) read and record your progress in a chart like this:

Date	Book Title	Pages Read	Time Reading
April 20	Scythe	1-25	30 minutes
April 21	Scythe	26-75	60 minutes
April 22	Scythe	76-100	30 minutes

If you don't have any books that you want to read, look for free ones through apps on your phone, computer, or tablet.

You can read dozens of classics (from Jane Austen's **Pride and Prejudice** to **Moby Dick** by Herman Melville) for free here: http://www.gutenberg.org/ebooks/search/?sort_order=downloads

[Some other sites to check out for reading material:](#)

- <https://www.getepic.com/>
 - <https://www.teenbookcloud.com/Home.aspx>
 - <https://www.edumedia-sciences.com/en/>
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The Treasure of Lemon Brown

Before you read this selection, think about this:

What is one piece of advice that you would like to share with someone at least five years younger than you? Why?

Follow the link below.

<https://www.swl.k12.oh.us/Downloads/lemon%20brown%20student.pdf>

To answer:

1. Why does Greg go to the abandoned building?
2. What does Lemon Brown reveal to Greg about his past?
3. What is Lemon Brown's treasure? Why does it mean so much to him?
4. What does Lemon Brown mean when he says that everyone's got a treasure?
5. What do you think Greg's treasure(s) might be?