

Save the Earth Activities!

Celebrate Earth Day, April 22nd, and at the same time promote environmental awareness with these Save-the-Earth activities!

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Ask students to collect articles and information about the earth's environment. Divide the class bulletin board and label each section with the headings air, land, water and animals.

Students can also collect the labels of products that claim recycled paper, biodegradable materials or species-safe products and display these on the class board.

RECYCLING FOR FUND RAISING

Encourage students to collect aluminum cans, plastic containers and glass bottles and jars as a class project. When a substantial quantity of recycled items have been collected, take them to a recycling center for reimbursement. With the money you have raised arrange for a class field trip. You may want to visit a business that uses recycled items to make new products, or tour a sewage treatment plant or recycling center.

ADOPT-A-CLEAN-TOWN

Some towns offer "Adopt-a-Street" or "Adopt-a-Park" programs. Inquire about programs your city might have to help promote graffiti and litter removal. With the help of parents, arrange for your students to volunteer to work cleaning up a park, beach or public area on a Saturday morning. Your students will be amazed at how much litter they can collect in just one morning.

PLANTS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Demonstrate to your students how plants and trees give off oxygen which is essential to every person.

Plant several small plants in an aquarium or large plastic bottle. Make sure your plants are established in your new terrarium before doing this experiment.

Using a lighter or match, light a small scrap of paper and drop it into the terrarium, quickly sealing the top. The burning paper will create enough smoke to fill the container. Have your students observe what happens. The smoke will soon disappear and become clear. Explain to the children that plants and trees do the same in our environment. They absorb the smoky "dirty" air and replace it with oxygen.

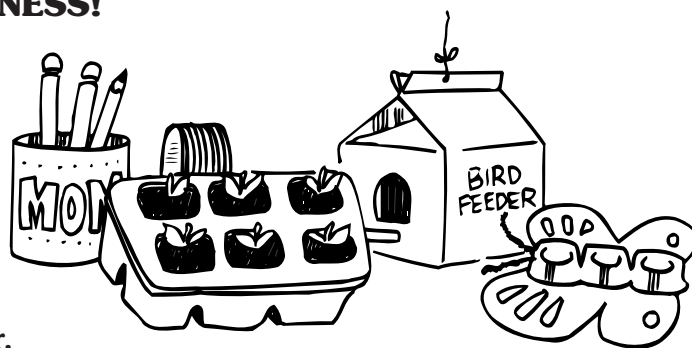


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RANDOM ACTS OF ENVIRONMENTAL KINDNESS!

Encourage your students to practice one act of environmental kindness each day! Suggest some of the following:

- Pick up a piece of litter.
- Remind others not to litter.
- Water a tree or flower garden.
- Help your family recycle newspapers, cans and bottles.
- Conserve water by taking a shorter shower.
- Find ways to re-use papers and items that are usually thrown away.
- Don't be wasteful with food at meal time.
- Don't buy products that are not environmentally friendly.



Ask students to record their random acts and report on them at the end of the week.

ARTISTIC JUNK

Encourage your students to think of ways they can recycle clean throwaways in artistic ways! Plan a day in which they can make these fun crafts from the things they have collected from home. Here are some ideas:

EGG CARTONS

- Make a seedling planter by using the paper type of egg carton. Fill each section with potting soil and plant with flower, vegetable or herb seeds. After the plants have sprouted, cut the sections apart and plant them directly into the soil outside.
- Cut the egg carton sections apart and make insect crafts such as ladybugs, caterpillars and butterflies.
- Make pretty spring flowers by cutting the styrofoam section of the egg cartons apart. Trim the sections into the shapes of flower petals. Attach the sections to pipe cleaners and add green paper leaves.

NEWSPAPERS

- Make papier-mâché from torn newspapers and wallpaper paste. Have kids cover blown balloons with the papier-mâché. When dry, they can be painted with poster paints.
- Make fireplace logs by rolling newspapers very tightly and securing them with string.

MILK CARTONS

- Pencil holders can be made by cutting the tops off small milk cartons and covering them with colored paper. Kids can decorate the holders any way they choose.
- Make a bird feeder by cutting an opening in one side of a milk carton. Insert a popsicle stick for a perch and fill with birdseed. Attach a string to the top and hang in a tree.

PAPER ROLLS

- Make napkin rings from two-inch sections of a toiletpaper roll or papertowel roll. Children can wrap colorful yarn around the sections to make the napkin rings.
- A music kazoo can be made with a toiletpaper roll, a square of waxed paper and a rubber band. Place the waxed paper over one end of the roll and attach with the rubber band. Children can decorate the roll and blow through the open end to play the kazoo.

PLASTIC CONTAINERS

- Plastic margarine tubs can be used to make hanging planters or desk organizers.