



Earth Day Activity Ideas

Officially created in 1970 by Wisconsin Senator Gaylord Nelson, Earth Day, which falls on April 22, was started as a grassroots celebration of our planet. “The American people finally had a forum to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes, and air — and they did so with spectacular exuberance,” Nelson once wrote.

Ideas for Activities at an Education Table (or elsewhere)

1. Pine cone bird feeders

Take a pine cone and tie a hanger on it. Then either use honey or peanut butter to coat it, then roll it around in a bucket of bird feed mixed with oatmeal. It's super messy and a lot of fun!

2. Lending a hand for mother earth

Take a super long sheet of roll paper and roll it out into the lawn or wherever you are tabling. Then, have hand paints available and a brush. Have each person paint their hand or dip in a tray, then place their handprint on the rolled out paper. Underneath they have to write a word or a sentence with a promise to the Earth—how to live environmentally friendly...this was lively and the art produced at the end was pretty moving and inspiring.

3. Wish boxes

Also really fun and engaging...decorate a shoe box and ask people to write their wishes to the world and place them in there. Then, you can write a letter to the local paper asking them to publish the wishes. This was fun because it created visibility on community priorities.

4. Earth Day Trivia boards or questions

Another wonderful activity that involves people and adds a little education: Have a few boards set up with true or false Earth Day facts on them. Each person has to go up and put a “leaf” on the one that seems true. If they’re right they get a piece of candy (or whatever prize). Another way to do it is have trivia questions on pieces of paper, then they pick up one questions and try to answer it for a prize.

5. Water-Use Board

Water is always a fun issue to play with. The water use board is really awesome! There are two ways to do this.

1. Put a picture of a cow, a pair of jeans, a corn field, etc. on a board and then have people guess how many gallons of water each takes to make. Or put them in order of what takes most to least water to produce.

2. Another way is to put the gallons of water on the board on a chart and have pictures to be posted by guessers on what takes that amount of water to make. It's jaw dropping. <https://www.watercalculator.org/water-use/the-hidden-water-in-everyday-products/> or https://www.abcwua.org/education/pdfs/Guess_Water_complete.pdf

6. The Water Test

The bottled water industry has to come to an end—the plastics and the privatization of water across the globe is a HUGE deal. Doing the taste test is super fun and will surprise people. Have three samples out. Show two bottles of labeled water (dasini, poland springs?) and one tap. Each person gets to taste the water samples and say which is the best. The fun part is- they are ALL tap water from same source! They shouldn't taste different because they are all the same thing and people will have to start thinking of saving plastic. Keep a tab of votes and write an LTE about your experience.

Don't Forget! Earth Day Activities certainly aren't just for kids.

Check out these ideas specifically for Adults from

<https://www.inverse.com/article/14658-earth-day-activities-tips-2017>

1. March for Science

Show your support of science by marching in the March for Science either at the main event in Washington D.C. or at another sanctioned gathering [near you](#) (there are more than 500 recognized satellite marches, more than 300 are in the United States). Like the Women's March on Washington, there will most likely be a large turnout of people peacefully supporting and encouraging progress and scientific endeavors.

2. Hit the Beach While You Can

Hit the beach now, because according to the World Economic Forum, the oceans will have [more plastic than fish by 2050](#). [Pacifica Beach Coalition](#) hosts an annual Earth Day beach party. It's got everything you could ask for if you live near San Francisco: a beach clean-up, granola bar-making, food, and live traditional Celtic music.

3. Drink Organic Wine

Even if organic wine is partly just a marketing ploy and one of the least-understood by consumers *and* most taken-advantage of by shop owners, Earth Day is a great excuse to have a few too many. Here is an explanation of the [different terms and level of eco-friendly wines](#).

4. Party with NASA

Whether in the Nation's Capital or at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida, both locations feature [plenty of hands-on activities](#) and demonstrations on why the government's space agency is the best organization to trust about saving the Earth. In Florida, you can do everything from test drive electric cars to learn from "master gardeners and pollinator specialists."

5. Watch a Science Documentary on Netflix

There are a wide array of documentaries at your fingertips. Whether you're interested in space, physics, or bees, Netflix has something to satiate your science needs.

6. Unsubscribe!

Remove yourself from junk-mailing lists. We're talking planet-harming snail mail, not the stuff clogging your email inbox. As prolific as junk email has come, more than 100 million trees are still sawed down just to make the paper for those ads and coupons no one even uses. Earth Day organizers state that the average adult has 41 pounds of junk mail stuffed into their mailbox each year, and 44% of that ends up in the landfill unopened. Three consumer registries can help you cut down: DMAchoice, CatalogChoice, and 41Pounds.