

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt Activity

Materials:

- 18 Earth Day fact cards (pages 2–6)
- Earth Day questions worksheet (pages 7–8)
- scissors and scotch tape

Preparation

Print the fact cards and cut them apart.

Make copies of the Earth Day questions worksheet (2-sided).

Each student will need his or her own copy.

Hide all 18 Earth Day fact cards around your classroom where students will be able to find them.

You can put them on the back of your classroom door, on chairs, on the computer keyboard, on the sides of student desks, or wherever you like.

Activity

Students receive copies of the question worksheet. They have to search the classroom to find the fact cards to answer the questions.

After they have completed the question sheet, you can go over the answers together with the class.

Management tips

You may want to make this a silent activity so students don't share answers with each other.

You can have the kids work by themselves or with partners.

Don't be afraid to hide the facts in tough places. Kids think it's more fun when they have to search around a little.

Examples of good hiding spots might include:

- sticking out of a book, like a bookmark
- the back of the classroom door
- lying flat on the classroom bookshelf
- on the side of the bookshelf
- on the back of the teacher's chair

Have a plan for students who finish early. You may want to have an assignment for them to complete when they're done, or you may have them help other students find fact cards.



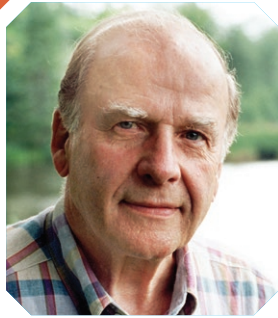


Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

1



Earth Day was founded by Senator Nelson from Wisconsin. In 1969 there was a huge oil spill, and Senator

Nelson decided that he wanted to do something to help the Earth. He created Earth Day as a way to remind people that it is important to protect our planet.

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

2



Earth Day is always celebrated on April 22. About 20 million Americans celebrated the first Earth Day in 1970. People gathered at schools, universities, and community sites across the United States.

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

3



While there is not an official flag for Earth Day, some people may fly a blue flag with an image of the Earth on it.

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

4



Did you know that only 1% of all the water on Earth is usable? Almost 97% of the world's water is salt water and undrinkable. The other 2% is in ice caps and glaciers.



Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

5



Even though Earth Day started in the United States, it is now celebrated all over the world. Other countries started to celebrate it in 1990. Over 190 countries celebrate Earth Day now!

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

6

Plastic waste never really goes away. When a plastic bottle is thrown out, instead of recycled, it just breaks down into tiny pieces. Before you throw away a plastic bottle, think about whether it can be recycled.



Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

7



Cardboard breaks down a lot quicker than plastic. A toilet paper tube can take about two months to decompose. A plastic bottle can take more than 450 years to break down in a landfill.

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

8



An average American uses more than 50 gallons (189 liters) of water in just one day! This is about the amount of water that can fit in a bathtub. You can use less water by turning off the faucet when you brush your teeth or taking a quick shower instead of a bath.



Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

9



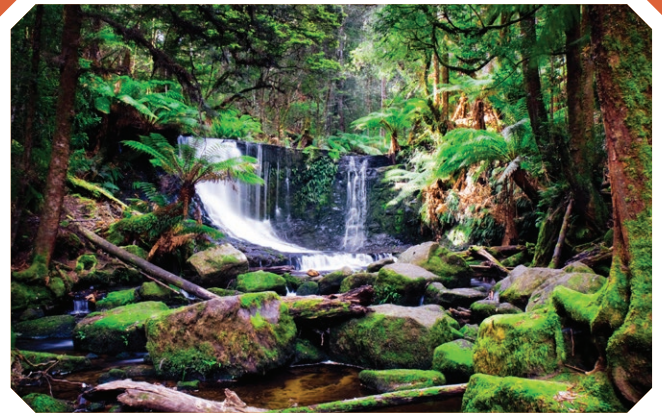
Waste, such as plastic, thrown into the ocean can be very dangerous for sea life. Marine animals, like sea turtles, can get tangled in it or mistake it for food and get sick.

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

10



There are 5 major rainforests in the world. Rainforests help produce 20% of the oxygen in the world.

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

11

Trees produce oxygen we need to breathe. But did you know that trees also absorb the carbon dioxide we breathe out?



Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

12



Tropical rainforests have the most biodiversity. This means that there are many different species of plants and animals living there. More than half of the world's plant and animal species live in rainforests.



Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

13



Cutting down trees reduces the amount of oxygen in the air. One large tree can provide a day's worth of oxygen for 4 people!

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

14



Solar energy is a type of energy harnessed from the sun. Solar panels collect the sunlight and change it into electrical energy. Solar panels produce energy even on a cloudy day.

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

15

Large wind turbines create energy using the wind. Most wind turbine tower can reach up to 295 feet (89 meters) tall. That is almost as tall as the Statue of Liberty!

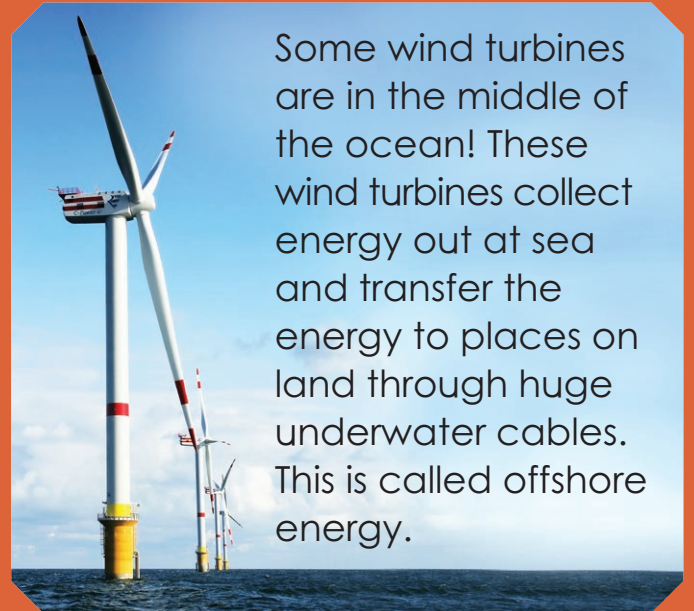


Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

16



Some wind turbines are in the middle of the ocean! These wind turbines collect energy out at sea and transfer the energy to places on land through huge underwater cables. This is called offshore energy.



Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

17



Some countries call Earth Day "International Mother Earth Day." It is still celebrated on the same day, April 22.

Scavenger Hunt

Earth Day

Fact Card

18



Every year there is a new theme for Earth Day. One year the theme was "Invest in Our Planet." Another year the theme was "Planet vs. Plastics."

Name: _____

Side A

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: Who founded Earth Day?

Fact Card 2: When was the first Earth Day celebrated?

Fact Card 3: Is there an official Earth Day flag?

Fact Card 4: What amount of water on Earth is usable?

Fact Card 5: Is the United States the only country that celebrates Earth Day?

Fact Card 6: What happens to a plastic bottle if it is thrown out instead of recycled?

Fact Card 7: About how long does it take for a plastic bottle to break down?

Fact Card 8: How much water does an average American use in one day?

Fact Card 9: Why is waste dangerous for sea life?

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: What is one reason rainforests are important?

Fact Card 11: What are two ways that trees help humans?

Fact Card 12: True or False: Tropical rainforests have the most biodiversity.

Fact Card 13: How much oxygen can one large tree supply?

Fact Card 14: True or False: Solar panels cannot make energy when it is cloudy.

Fact Card 15: True or False: A wind turbine tower is almost as tall as the Statue of Liberty.

Fact Card 16: What is it called when wind turbines collect wind out at sea?

Fact Card 17: What is another name for Earth Day?

Fact Card 18: What is an example of a theme for Earth Day?

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 1: Who founded Earth Day?

Senator Nelson

Fact Card 2: When was the first Earth Day celebrated?

April 22, 1970

Fact Card 3: Is there an official Earth Day flag?

no

Fact Card 4: What amount of water on Earth is usable?

1%

Fact Card 5: Is the United States the only country that celebrates Earth Day?

No. Over 190 countries celebrate it.

Fact Card 6: What happens to a plastic bottle if it is thrown out instead of recycled?

It will break down into tiny pieces.

Fact Card 7: About how long does it take for a plastic bottle to break down?

450 years

Fact Card 8: How much water does an average American use in one day?

more than 50 gallons (189 liters)

Fact Card 9: Why is waste dangerous for sea life?

Sea animals can get tangled in the waste. They could also mistake it for food.

Earth Day Scavenger Hunt

Fact Card 10: What is one reason rainforests are important?

They produce 20% of the world's oxygen.

Fact Card 11: What are two ways that trees help humans?

They produce oxygen and they absorb carbon dioxide.

Fact Card 12: True or False: Tropical rainforests have the most biodiversity.

true

Fact Card 13: How much oxygen can one large tree supply?

a day's worth of oxygen for 4 people

Fact Card 14: True or False: Solar panels cannot make energy when it is cloudy.

false

Fact Card 15: True or False: A wind turbine tower is almost as tall as the Statue of Liberty.

true

Fact Card 16: What is it called when wind turbines collect wind out at sea?

offshore energy

Fact Card 17: What is another name for Earth Day?

International Mother Earth Day

Fact Card 18: What is an example of a theme for Earth Day?

"Invest in Our Planet" or "Planet vs. Plastics"