

Earth Day 2018: End Plastic Pollution

What Is Earth Day?

Earth Day is held on April 22nd every year. It was first celebrated in 1970.

More than 190 countries hold events which are about the need to protect the environment and stop damaging the Earth.

In 2018, the theme for Earth Day is 'End Plastic Pollution'. This year's theme explores how important it is to end plastic pollution across the world.

What Is Plastic Pollution?

The biggest problem with unwanted plastic is the damage it causes to the world.



End Plastic Pollution

1. Humans buy and use a lot of plastic because it is cheap and easy to make.

2. They then throw this away.

3. Plastic is strong because it was made to last. So when it is thrown away, it takes hundreds of years to rot away.

4. Lots of the plastic ends up in our streams, rivers and the ocean.

The amount of plastic on the planet is increasing more and more rapidly, meaning it is threatening our planet through:

- injuring sea life;
- littering beaches and landscapes;
- clogging rubbish dumps;
- making humans (and other animals) ill.



Did You Know...?

- There are 6.3 billion tonnes of plastic waste on Earth.
- Plastic bags are killing over 100,000 marine animals and birds every year.

What Can You Do to 'End Plastic Pollution'?

The Three Rs: First Reduce, Then Reuse, Then Recycle

There are lots of things we can all do to help end plastic pollution.

- **Reduce:** Avoid single-use plastics, such as straws and takeaway cups. Talk to your family, head teacher or school council about how your school and family can reduce their plastic use.
- **Reuse:** Instead of buying new ones, refill and reuse water bottles and lunch bags. Use fabric bags for carrying shopping, rather than plastic bags.
- **Recycle:** Always recycle plastic when you can instead of throwing it away with the normal rubbish.



Questions

1. What is the theme for Earth Day this year? Tick one.

- Protect the Environment
- Stop Damaging the Earth
- End Plastic Pollution
- Plastic Pollution

2. How is plastic threatening the planet? Tick one.

- poisoning sea life
- littering beaches
- making humans ill
- all of the above

3. How many billion tonnes of plastic waste are there on Earth? Tick one.

- 1970
- 6.3
- 100,000
- 190

4. Which of these is **not** a way you can help? Tick one.

- reduce
- remake
- reuse
- recycle

5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

Earth Day is held in more than _____ to focus on the need to _____
the environment and stop _____ the Earth.

6. Give two examples of single-use plastics.

1. _____

2. _____

7. What do you think you could do to help end plastic pollution?

Answers

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- Protect the Environment
- Stop Damaging the Earth
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- Plastic Pollution

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5. Fill in the missing words in this sentence:

Earth Day is held in more than **190 countries** to focus on the need to **protect** the environment and stop **damaging** the Earth.

6. Give two examples of single-use plastics.

Accept the following answers: straws, takeaway cups

7. What do you think you could do to help end plastic pollution?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I could talk to the school council to suggest that school stops buying plastic toys for the playground and buys wooden toys or recycled toys instead.