

# Vocabulary

Please match the word to its meaning. Then make a few sentences of your own.

- |                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| 1. anthropologist         | a. width, distance, length  |
| 2. circumference          | b. molten rock or magma   |
| 3. diameter               | c. to be at the center of attention                               |
| 4. volcano                | d. to protect, look after   |
| 5. lava                   | e. to consume , burn up, use                                      |
| 6. to be in the spotlight | f. a scientist who studies the behavior and development of humans |
| 7. to collaborate         | g. opening in earth's crust that ejects gasses and molten rock    |
| 8. to guzzle              | h. with great impact, vigor or zeal                               |
| 9. to safeguard           | i. boundary, edge, outer limits                                   |
| 10. like gangbusters      | j. to work together   |



## EARTH DAY

Earth Day 2014 is right around the corner and this year the theme is "Green Cities."

## What do you know about its history?

On April 22, 1970, **anthropologist** and environmentalist Margaret Mead started the first **Earth Day**, an event to increase public awareness of the world's environmental problems.

Watch this video of Margaret Mead: <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/earth-day/videos/margaret-mead-speaks-at-first-earth-day>

**Earth Day** created an environmental movement. It began on April 22 and raised public awareness of air and water pollution, Senator Gaylord Nelson, a Democrat from Wisconsin, brought environmental issues **into the national spotlight**.

By the early 1960s Americans were becoming aware of the effects of pollution on the environment. Rachel Carson's 1962 bestseller "Silent Spring" highlighted



Historical photo from June 22, 1969, when an oil slick and debris in the Cuyahoga River caught fire and burned high enough to destroy bridges.

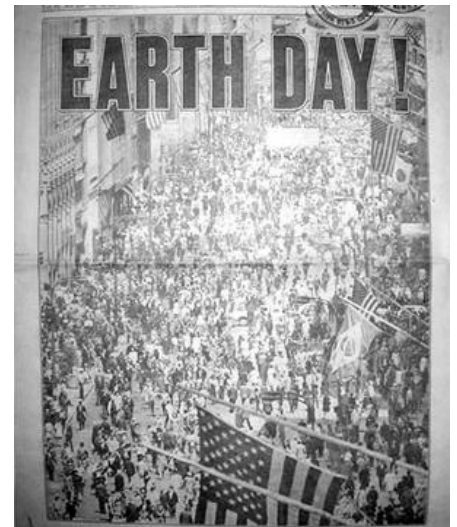
the dangerous effects of pesticides on America's countryside. Later in 1969, a fire on Cleveland's Cuyahoga River focused on the problem of chemical waste disposal. Until that time, protecting the planet's natural resources was not part of the national political agenda. Factories pumped pollutants into the air, lakes, and rivers with few legal penalties. Big, gas-guzzling

cars were a sign of prosperity. Only a small portion of the American population were recycling.

U.S. Senator Nelson was determined to convince the federal government that the planet was at risk. In 1969, Nelson developed the idea for **Earth Day** after he dreamed about a large-scale, environmental demonstration "to force this issue onto the national agenda."

Nelson announced the [Earth Day](#) concept at a meeting in Seattle in the fall of 1969 and invited the entire nation to get involved. He later remembered, "The wire services carried the story from coast to coast. The response was electric. It took off [like gangbusters](#). Telegrams, letters and telephone inquiries poured in from all across the country. The American people finally had an opportunity to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes and air." According to Nelson, "[Earth Day](#) worked because of the response at the [grassroots](#) level. We didn't have the time to organize 20 million demonstrators and thousands of schools and local communities. That was the remarkable thing about [Earth Day](#). It organized itself."

On April 22, rallies were held in Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and most other American cities, according to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In New York City, Mayor John Lindsay closed off 5th Avenue to traffic for several hours and spoke at a rally in Union Square with actors Paul Newman and Ali McGraw. In Washington, D.C., thousands of people listened to speeches and performances by singer Pete Seeger and others, and Congress went into recess so its members could speak at [Earth Day](#) events.



The first [Earth Day](#) was effective at raising awareness about environmental issues and changing public attitudes. According to the EPA, "Public opinion polls showed a change in priorities after [Earth Day](#) 1970. When asked in May 1971, 25% of the U.S. public said that protecting the environment was an important goal, a 2,500% increase over 1969." During the 1970s, a number of important pieces of environmental legislation were passed, among them the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act. Another key development was the establishment in December 1970 of the EPA, which protects human health and safeguards the natural environment—air, water and land.



Since 1970, **Earth Day** celebrations have grown. In 1990, **Earth Day** went global, with 200 million people in over 140 nations participating, according to the **Earth Day Network (EDN)**, a nonprofit organization that coordinates **Earth Day** activities. In 2000, **Earth Day** focused on clean energy and involved hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries and 5,000 environmental groups, according to EDN. Activities ranged from

a traveling, talking drum chain in Gabon, Africa, to a gathering of hundreds of thousands of people at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Today, the **Earth Day Network collaborates** with more than 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. According to EDN, more than 1 billion people are involved in **Earth Day** activities, making it "the largest secular civic event in the world."

### What do you know about *Global Warming*?

Watch this video to learn how global warming has changed the face of the earth: <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/earth-day/videos>



## Do you know 20 fun Earth facts?

Fill in the blanks.

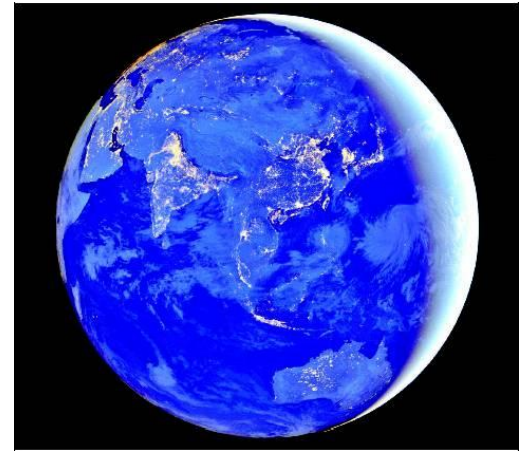
1. The **Nile River** is the \_\_\_\_\_ river on Earth. It measures 6,650 kilometers in length.
2. **Mt. Everest** is the \_\_\_\_\_ mountain on Earth. Its peak measures 8848 meters above sea level.
3. The \_\_\_\_\_ point on Earth is the **Dead Sea** measuring 377 meters below sea level.
4. The **Amazon Rainforest** is the \_\_\_\_\_ tropical rainforest on Earth.
5. The **Sahara Desert** is the \_\_\_\_\_ desert on Earth, covering approximately 1/3 of Africa.
6. The **Atlantic Ocean** is the \_\_\_\_\_ ocean of the major oceans.
7. Earth is approximately 70% \_\_\_\_\_. Of that, 97% is salt water and remaining is fresh water.
8. Is the Earth \_\_\_\_\_? Almost! It's slightly flattened at the North and South poles.
9. Earth is the \_\_\_\_\_ planet from the sun.
10. Earth is 150 million kilometers away from the \_\_\_\_\_.
11. It takes 8 minutes for the energy from the sun to reach \_\_\_\_\_.



12. Earth rotates around the sun at about 1,000 miles per \_\_\_\_\_.

13. Earth is the \_\_\_\_\_ largest planet in **diameter**.

14. Earth is referred to as the \_\_\_\_\_ planet.  
Earth looks blue because from outer space the oceans and atmosphere combine to make our planet look blue.



15. Earth's \_\_\_\_\_ measure is almost 40,233 kilometers.

16. Earth's \_\_\_\_\_ is 12,875 kilometers.

17. 80% of all life on Earth lives under the surface of the \_\_\_\_\_.

18. Most \_\_\_\_\_ take place under the water.

19. Magma is the hot liquid rock under the surface of the Earth.  
When magma comes out of a volcano it is known as \_\_\_\_\_.

20. If an \_\_\_\_\_ occurs from under the sea it can cause a tsunami.

## What can I do to help?

One way to help the environment is recycling, but more specifically, there are three factors that help us focus our efforts: **reduce, reuse and recycle**.



To **reduce** something. If you eat 3 sweets instead of 10 per day, you are reducing the number of sweets you eat, and therefore reducing the amount of sugar you consume. In this case, the concept of **reducing** is linked to making less garbage.

**For example:** If you buy lots of small juice boxes they make a lot of garbage. If you buy one big juice box and refill washable bottles, you're making less garbage. Give 2 more examples of ways to reduce garbage.

To **reuse** something. If you fill a plastic bottle with water instead of throwing it away, you are reusing it. The concept of **reusing** is linked to using an item more than once.

**For example:** If the supermarket gives you your groceries in a plastic bag, you can keep the bag and use it the next time you go to the market.

Give 2 more examples of reusing.

To **recycle** something. The concept of **recycling** is linked to turning something that was once useful into another useful item.

**For example:** Materials that can be recycled are paper and glass.

What other materials may be recycled?

## Earth Idioms:

Read each idiom, its meaning and example.

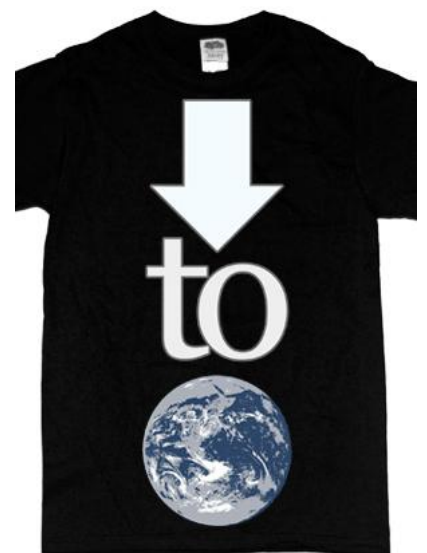
Then make sentences of your own.

### 1. How on earth...? How in the world...?

When asking a question, "How on earth..." and "How in the world..." emphasize the fact that something incredible or very hard to believe happened.

"How on earth did you get that job? (it was very hard to get)";

"How on earth did you fix that car!?! (it was impossible to fix)".



2. **down-to-earth** - someone who is practical and realistic. It can also be used for things or ideas.

Steven is a dreamer, but luckily his wife Sarah is **down-to-earth**, so she takes care of their day-to-day lives.

We need someone with practical, **down-to-earth** ideas that work in the real world.

3. **heaven on earth** - something extremely good

Brian's parties are **heaven on earth** - the food and the music are marvelous!

4. **like nothing on earth** - very untidy, unusual or strange

Alice was **like nothing on earth** in that electric yellow dress!

5. **hell on earth** - an extremely unpleasant situation

Soldiers who survived the war in the jungle described it as **hell on earth**.

## Discussion Questions:

1. Do you think **Earth Day** is important?  
Why or why not?
2. Do you **recycle**? Why or why not?
3. What is one thing you can do on **Earth Day** to help the planet?
4. List five ways you can keep the planet clean.

LOVE YOUR MOTHER...



**EARTH**

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