

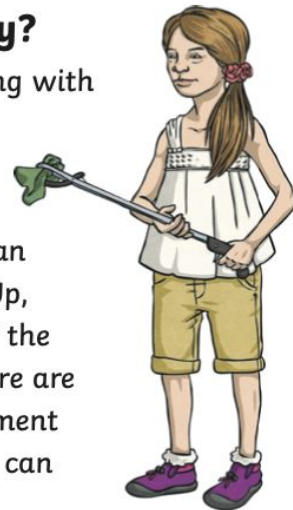
# Earth Day 2020

This year is Earth Day's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The theme of the event is Climate Action. People are working together to tackle the worrying issue of climate change, which is causing many problems around the world. There are many ways that we can look after the Earth and help make it a cleaner, safer place for future generations.



## What Is the Aim of Earth Day?

The organisers of Earth Day are working with many other partners globally to bring about change in many aspects of life. This year, on 22<sup>nd</sup> April, a worldwide 'cleanup' of the planet's green and urban spaces, called the Great Global Clean Up, is taking place. It is hoped to be one of the largest volunteer events in history. There are lots of ways YOU can help the environment this Earth Day. Even one small change can make a big difference.



## Our Plastic Problem


Every year in the UK, we throw away around 295 billion pieces of plastic. Plastic doesn't biodegrade, which means it doesn't break down and disappear, for hundreds, even thousands, of years. Many types of plastic can't be recycled. This means that lots of it ends up staying in landfills or ends up in our oceans and rivers. Because of this, 90% of the world's seabirds and more than 50% of the world's sea turtles have plastic in their stomachs. Plastic is even finding its way into the stomachs of some whales and dolphins.

By carefully sorting your household rubbish so that all recyclable materials are disposed of properly and by reusing plastic products, you can do your bit to help solve this plastic crisis.



## What's the Buzz?

Looking after the plants in our gardens is a practical way to contribute towards protecting our planet. Plants and trees are important because they help take some of the warming gases out of the air and they provide food for pollinating insects like bees. These stripy, furry fliers help many plants grow by carrying pollen from one plant to another. Thanks to bees, many species of plants are pollinated in forests and meadows, which means fruits can grow and become food for wild animals. Help to protect this species by creating a bee-friendly habitat.



**Follow these tips to attract as many bees as possible.**

- Choose flowers with one flower top, such as daisies and marigolds;
- Avoid using pesticides in your garden;
- Plant different types of flowers that bloom at different times to attract bees from spring to autumn.

## Eat Less Meat

Scientists think that if more humans switched to a diet focused on plants, rather than eating meat regularly, it would be much better for the planet. It is thought this would reduce the amount of land needed for farming by up to 70%. Interestingly, it also appears that if more people had a plant-based diet, it would greatly lower the amount of warming gases released into the air. See if you can convince your family to reduce the amount of meat they eat - there are lots of creative and tasty alternatives being developed every year!

As you can see, there are lots of ways we can all take action this Earth Day to protect the planet for current and future generations. What will you choose?

# Questions

1. What event is happening on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April? Tick **one**.

- Global Switch Off Day
- No Plastic Day
- Great Global Clean Up
- Walk to Work Day

2. Fill in the missing words to complete the sentence:

Even \_\_\_\_\_ small \_\_\_\_\_ can make a big \_\_\_\_\_.

3. Look at the section titled **What Is the Aim of Earth Day?**

**Find** and **copy** one word that means the same as 'city'.

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4. How much plastic does the UK throw away each year?

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5. What is one tip the text gives for creating a bee-friendly habitat?

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6. Why is plastic waste causing so many problems?

Use evidence from the text to explain your reasoning.

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7. Based on the text, what do you think the difference is between a plant-based diet and a meat-based diet? Explain your reasoning.

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