



# 2020 Earth Day Toolkit



## Arts & Crafts

### Earth Balloon Stamping

**Conversation:** The earth is made up of land and water. Can you name some animals that live on land? (Examples: dog, cat, bird, giraffe, elephant, bear, tiger, lion, etc.) What about animals that live in water? (Examples: fish, shark, dolphin, stingray, etc.)

**Activity:** Pour blue and green paint onto a paper plate. Blow up a balloon. Use the balloon as a sponge to transfer the paint to the construction paper. The print should look like planet earth.

**Supplies:**

- Blue paint
- Green paint
- A balloon
- Paper plate
- Construction paper



### Make a Bookmark



**Conversation:** What does it mean to reuse something? (To reuse something means to use something more than once or to find another purpose for something.) Can you name something you've reused before? (Examples: a grocery bag reused as a garbage bag, a book given to a friend to read, an empty jar as a storage container, old papers as scratch paper, leftover food in a new recipe, donating old clothing, etc.) Today we will reuse a cereal box in a creative way.

**Activity:** Cut a rectangle shape out of an empty cereal box. If you want, you can decorate the rectangle shape with drawings or stickers. Then, with a hole punch, punch a hole in the top of the rectangle and tie a ribbon through the hole. You have reused a cereal box to be a bookmark!

**Supplies:**

- Empty cereal box
- Scissors
- Optional: hole punch, ribbon, stickers, crayons

## Upcycled Garden



**Conversation:** Upcycling is the process of transforming waste materials into new, useful materials. This activity takes used milk cartons, jars, tires or anything you have around the house and transforms them into planters.

**Activity:** Explore what items around the house you currently don't need that could be used as a planter, then seek some inspiration from the Internet or the pictures to the left to build your own! Place soil in your chosen object, and add seeds or an already existing plant to its new home.

**Supplies:**

- Object(s) that can be re-purposed as a planter
- Soil/dirt
- Seeds or another plant to be moved into new planter container

## Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

**Conversation:** The earth is full of beautiful things! There are living things, and non-living things. Can you name some living things? (Examples: plants, animals, etc.) Do you know some things that are non-living? (Examples: rocks, sticks, dirt, etc.). There are lots of beautiful, natural things at our house/apartment/park that are waiting to be found.

**Activity:** Take the Scavenger Hunt Checklist outside to find things that complete the list! Discuss items that are found and talk about how they contribute to our planet. Do they decompose and help recycle nutrients back into the soil? What part do they play in our ecosystem? Do they use photosynthesis?

This activity could also be a race if there are multiple children participating!

**Supplies:**

- Scavenger Hunt Checklist (attached)
- Bucket or basket



## Carbon Footprint Activity



**Conversation:** A carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases (primarily carbon dioxide) that we release into the atmosphere. There are so many individual ways we can contribute to help sustain our planet and reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. Let's talk about some ways we can participate everyday in making our Earth and home a better place to live.

**Activity:** Grab some chalk and go outside! On a sidewalk or driveway, draw a giant footprint. Inside, write down how you can reduce your carbon footprint to help make the Earth a little greener. Some examples include carpooling, or walking or biking rather than driving in a car.

**Supplies:**

- Just chalk!

# Family Earth Pledge

**Conversation:** It is important to be aware of ways we can save energy. Every day we can make smart choices. When we leave the room, we should turn off the lights. When we go outside, we should shut the door behind us. What are some other things we can do to be smart with energy? (Example: turn off sink water when we aren't using it, recycle and reuse grocery bags, walk or ride bikes instead of driving, take shorter showers, plant a garden, etc.)

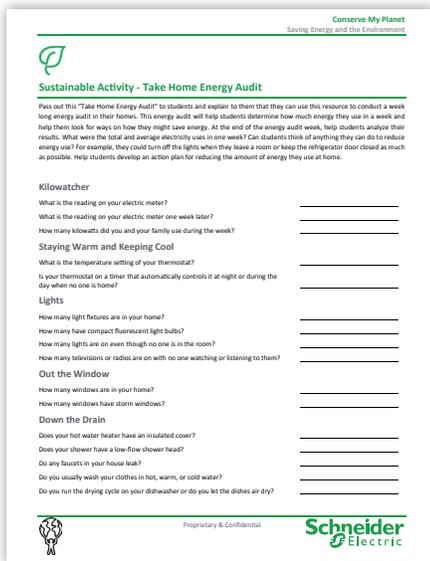
**Activity:** Gather the family around the table. What is your family going to do to be smarter with energy? Write your family's energy promise down and hang it on a place where everyone will see it, like the refrigerator. Remember to be smart with energy not only this week, but all the time!

**Supplies:**

- Paper
- Pencil
- Optional: Family Energy Pledge document (attached)



# Home Energy Audit



**Conversation:** We are using power, water, natural gas or propane to power everything in our home, from the air conditioner and refrigerator, to our lights, hot water, Internet router, every time we flush the toilet, take a bath or a shower, etc. Small changes in our habits or in the types of products we buy can make a big difference on our household utility usage and costs. The links in the activity below will help students and families understand their baseline usage and opportunities to save energy and money.

**Activity:** Students can complete the home energy audit to see how efficient they are operating at home and identify opportunities to increase efficiency and save money. Use the included worksheet to write down your usage from your home's meter. Review your audit notes and see what adjustments you can make to help your family save. After implementing more green behaviors and thinking about ways to reduce consumption, how does that affect your meter readings a week later? A month later?

**Supplies:**

- Utility meter
- Audit sheet (attached)
- Aside from our handout, other home audit resources can be found here: [https://www.teachengineering.org/lessons/view/cla\\_lesson7\\_household\\_energy](https://www.teachengineering.org/lessons/view/cla_lesson7_household_energy)

# RIO (Recycled Items Only) Runway

**Conversation:** The sustainability industry is growing and offers so many different types of careers from the financial sector to construction management and product development. Even companies that are not in the sustainability industry are investing in sustainability to support their community and environment and to leverage the profitability associated with it.

**Activity:** Create a fashion statement out of recycled materials and see whose costume is the best.

**Supplies:**

- Recyclable items only!



# Make an Acrostic Poem for EARTH

**Conversation:** Do you know how to spell “Earth”? We are going to make an acrostic poem out of the word “Earth.” An acrostic poem is made when the first letter of each line of the poem spells out a word. An example acrostic poem is below:

Shines brightly  
Under it is hot  
Not seen at night

This acrostic poem is for the word “SUN.” Do you see how the first letter of each line works to spell “sun”?

**Activity:** Write an acrostic poem for the word “Earth.” Think of ways to describe planet earth that can be used in this poem. Then, decorate around the poem by drawing planet earth or things that can be found on the earth.

**Supplies:**

- Piece of paper
- Pencil
- Optional: crayons or markers
- Creativity!



# Earth Day Word Search

**Earth Day Word Search**

V J K C I G O U J W B V I D M A S E A R  
H F E R S T H D O K G T C P R W E D S I  
C O W Q S B U U P N L D V C R S W U I T  
T O A P O L L U T I O N M T J X R F W G  
S L T U E U O Y W P P T S L F Z E G K O  
X H E W Y O F V Z E H W Q B O Z G S P S  
P X R U N E K P U O E P H R E U S E J M  
P I P B Q A C V L P E A Q S X I L T L P  
Z C H C P R H P R L G S N V L O X R A X  
S S K T Q T B A T E R N Y P M W R F N J  
Z R W F V H N E E N E R G Y F O B E D X  
Z D S J J Y X A J O G G O C E A N E E S  
T T R A S H A N H U P D X N A T U R E  
I Y J Y A N V T B A V G L O O G W J Y G  
L T M X M Y K M S N Y B A R F A K I J E  
G D H I Q Y J Q E I J T H U V R Y C J J  
R N B D O O B K K M G T Y N S D P R M I  
E F A B S A V E Q A X G T E D E Z M X B  
E N Z Z C L E A N L A X O I L N H U E N  
N H X F V M J D K S M S N D K D U L X E

POLLUTION	ANIMALS	ENERGY	GARDEN
NATURE	PEOPLE	EARTH	CLEAN
GREEN	OCEAN	REUSE	TRASH
WATER	SAVE	LAND	

Build your own custom worksheet at [www.education.com/worksheets-generator/](http://www.education.com/worksheets-generator/)  
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**Conversation:** Talk through each of the words on the word search list. What do they each mean? Why are these things important? What are ways we can apply this word to our everyday lives in a way that would improve our planet?

**Activity:** Complete the Word Search (pictured left).

**Supplies:**

- Earth Day Word Search (attached)
- Pencil or highlighter

# Our Family Energy Pledge

Handwriting practice lines consisting of solid top and bottom lines with a dashed midline, repeated 10 times for writing a pledge.

Item#: 207927



# Earth Day Word Search

V J K C J G O U J W B V I D M A S E A R  
H F E R S T H D O K G T C P R W E O S I  
C O W Q S B U U P N L D V C R S W U I T  
T Q A P O L L U T I O N M T J X R F W G  
S L T U E U O Y W P P T S L F Z E G K O  
X H E W Y O F V Z E H W Q B Q Z G S P S  
P X R U N E K P U O E P H R E U S E J M  
P I P B Q A C V L P E A Q S X I L T L P  
Z C H C P R H P R L G S N V L O X R A X  
S S K T Q T B A T E R N Y P M W R F N J  
Z R W F V H N E E N E R G Y F Q B E D X  
Z D S J J Y X A J O G G O C E A N E E S  
T T R A S H A N H U P D X N A T U R E E  
I Y J Y A N V T B A V G L O O G W J Y G  
L T M X M Y K M S N Y B A R F A K I J E  
G D H I Q Y J Q E I J T H U V R Y C J J  
R N B D O O B K K M G T Y N S D P R M I  
E F A B S A V E Q A X G T E D E Z M X B  
E N Z Z C L E A N L A X Q I L N H U E N  
N H X F V M J D K S M S N D K D U L X E

POLLUTION

ANIMALS

ENERGY

GARDEN

NATURE

PEOPLE

EARTH

CLEAN

GREEN

OCEAN

REUSE

TRASH

WATER

SAVE

LAND

# Earth Day Word Search



POLLUTION

ANIMALS

ENERGY

GARDEN

NATURE

PEOPLE

EARTH

CLEAN

GREEN

OCEAN

REUSE

TRASH

WATER

SAVE

LAND

# Outdoor Scavenger Hunt

- Something Fuzzy
- A Seed or Acorn
- A Piece of Litter
- Something Straight
- Something Round
- Two Different Types of Leaves
- Something that can Make Noise
- A Pinecone
- Something Green
- A Stick
- Something Beautiful





## Sustainable Activity - Take Home Energy Audit

Pass out this “Take Home Energy Audit” to students and explain to them that they can use this resource to conduct a week long energy audit in their homes. This energy audit will help students determine how much energy they use in a week and help them look for ways on how they might save energy. At the end of the energy audit week, help students analyze their results. What were the total and average electricity uses in one week? Can students think of anything they can do to reduce energy use? For example, they could turn off the lights when they leave a room or keep the refrigerator door closed as much as possible. Help students develop an action plan for reducing the amount of energy they use at home.

### Kilowatcher

What is the reading on your electric meter? \_\_\_\_\_

What is the reading on your electric meter one week later? \_\_\_\_\_

How many kilowatts did you and your family use during the week? \_\_\_\_\_

### Staying Warm and Keeping Cool

What is the temperature setting of your thermostat? \_\_\_\_\_

Is your thermostat on a timer that automatically controls it at night or during the day when no one is home? \_\_\_\_\_

### Lights

How many light fixtures are in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

How many have compact fluorescent light bulbs? \_\_\_\_\_

How many lights are on even though no one is in the room? \_\_\_\_\_

How many televisions or radios are on with no one watching or listening to them? \_\_\_\_\_

### Out the Window

How many windows are in your home? \_\_\_\_\_

How many windows have storm windows? \_\_\_\_\_

### Down the Drain

Does your hot water heater have an insulated cover? \_\_\_\_\_

Does your shower have a low-flow shower head? \_\_\_\_\_

Do any faucets in your house leak? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you usually wash your clothes in hot, warm, or cold water? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you run the drying cycle on your dishwasher or do you let the dishes air dry? \_\_\_\_\_





April 22

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Earth Day Poem

Name:

Date: