

Resources/Ideas to Celebrate Earth Day and Arbor Day with your Kids

Earth Day is on Thursday, April 22 and Arbor Day is on Friday, April 30.

1. Take a walk around your neighborhood and pick up litter.
2. Start a vegetable or flower garden in your backyard.
3. Project Learning Tree Activities
 - The Shape of Things
In this activity, children will focus on the many shapes that are found in both natural and built environments by creating “shape necklaces” (or bracelets) by cutting out circles, squares, triangles, rectangles, ovals, and hearts from different colored construction paper and then trying to find those shapes in nature.
 - Adopt a Tree
In this activity, children “adopt” a tree, by closely examining and describing an individual tree using their five senses.
 - The Fallen Log
In this activity, kids become familiar with small organisms by observing fallen logs. They’ll gain an understanding of how decomposition takes place and a better appreciation for microhabitats and communities.
 - Have Seeds will Travel
In this outdoor investigation, children observe, collect, and classify plant seeds.
 - How Big is Your Tree?
In this activity, children will measure trees in different ways and become familiar with tree scale and structure. They will also learn the importance of standard units of measure and measuring techniques.
4. <https://environmentamerica.org/blogs/greener-together/ame/virtual-earth-day-curriculum-ideas>
 - a. K-3 create a self-portrait out of foraged materials you find in your yard
 - b. Grade 4-6 making a bag out of an old shirt
 - c. Grade 7-12 conducting a home energy audit
5. *The Plastic Problem* video <https://www.pbs.org/video/the-plastic-problem-7kdvzo/>
6. *Changing Seas* video about manatees <https://www.changingseas.tv/season-8/802/>
7. Identify tree species in your backyard using the free LeafSnap app or <https://www.arborday.org/trees/whattree/> tree guide
8. Conduct a nature scavenger hunt in your backyard using the attached pdf document to identify the items to look for.
9. Earth Day upcycled arts and crafts
 - Make your own birdfeeder out of a plastic water bottle.

<https://www.thespruce.com/make-a-plastic-bottle-bird-feeder-386547>



- Make your own birdhouse out of a cardboard milk carton.

<https://kinderart.com/art-lessons/crafts/milk-carton-birdhouse/>



- Make your own egg carton flowers. You can either use paint and a straw for the stem or colored tissue paper/glue with a pipe cleaner stem.

<https://www.iheartartscrafts.com/egg-carton-flowers-kids-craft/>



10. Take the plastic pollution quiz to determine how much you know about plastic and its effect on our oceans. <https://www.earthday.org/oceans-and-plastic-pollution-quiz/>
11. Take the deforestation and biodiversity quiz to test your knowledge. <https://www.earthday.org/deforestation-and-biodiversity-quiz/>
12. Go to <https://www.discoverwater.org/> for games, videos, and art projects that will educate kids about water quality and managing water resources.
13. Macroinvertebrates identification video: Learn about the different types of aquatic insects living in our streams and their importance for water quality. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AV-UI9vRyfw>
14. Use the Runoff Simulation to show how land use and soil determine whether rainfall infiltrates into the soil, runs off, or is evaporated and transpired by plants. <https://runoff.modelmywatershed.org/>
15. Learn how to classify the soil in your backyard by texture using the Natural Resources Conservation Service guide to soil texture chart: https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/soils/edu/?cid=nrcs142p2_054311
16. Soil Glue
 - Learn how surface soil particles are held together by various organic substances. The gluing of soil particles together into aggregates helps maintain pores and channels in the soil for air and water to enter and move through it. See attached pdf for the lesson plan.