Earth Day History

Subject: Content/ELA

Grade Level: Elementary School (K-3rd)

Time: 25 minutes

Objective: Students will read the one page about the history of Earth Day and identify content words during reading. Students will synthesize and summarize important information in their own words.

Introduction (10 minutes): Read the Earthday.org History

During reading, have students:

- Identify the important date
- Identify how many participated
- What did it lead to

Activity: (10 minutes):

Students will fill in the page with important information they identified during reading and summarize in their own words.

Conclusion (5 minutes):

Discuss why Earth Day is important today and what problems the planet is facing today.
EARTHDAY.ORG

The Beginning
Every year on April 22, we mark the anniversary of the first Earth Day in 1970.

Earth Day inspired 20 million Americans to demonstrate against the impacts of pollution.

Senator Gaylord Nelson and youth activist Dennis Hayes worked together to create a series of teach-ins across the the United States.

The teach-ins educated people about the harms of pollution and the need to protect the environment.

They called it Earth Day.

Conclusion
Earth Day started with people working together to help the planet. Today people celebrate the planet in many ways. Clean ups, tree planting and other activities are things anyone can do to make a difference.
Reading Questions

1. Who helped start Earth day?

2. What year was the first Earth Day?

3. How many people participated?

4. Why did it happen?

5. Why were people coming together?

6. How do you help the planet on Earth Day?