

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:

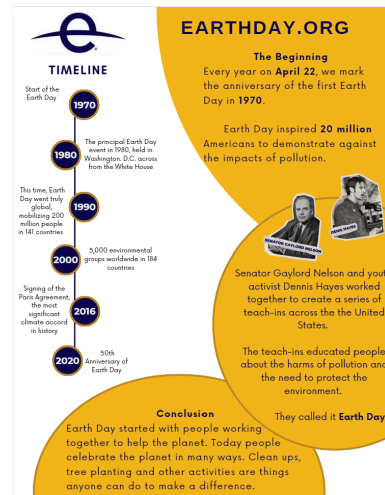
- Identify the important date
- Identify how many participated
- What did it lead to

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.





TIMELINE



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.



CLIMATE
EDUCATION

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**?