

## **Earth Day History and Future: Campaigning for Our Earth**

Subject: Social Sciences/ ELA/Computer Science

Grade Level: Middle and High School (6-12th grade)

Time : 60 minutes

- Students will understand the significance of Earth Day and its importance in promoting environmental awareness and action.
- Students will develop critical thinking and teamwork skills by creating their own Earth Day campaign aimed at raising awareness and promoting positive environmental actions within their community.

### **Introduction (15 minutes):**

1. Begin by discussing the concept of Earth Day and its history. Read the 1 pager with information.
2. Engage students with questions:
  - Why is it important to celebrate Earth Day?
  - What are some environmental issues facing our planet today?

### **Activity 1: Understanding Earth Day (30 minutes):**

1. Divide students into small groups and assign each group a specific aspect of Earth Day, specifically looking at the Earthday.org campaigns (Global Cleanup, Climate Education, etc) via the website [HERE](#)
2. Instruct students to research a specific campaign. Students will look at what makes a campaign successful and what action steps they would take for that campaign to make it successful. They will fill out the information on the Student Research Sheet below.
3. Each group will then synthesize and create a 10 minute overview presentation

### **Conclusion (15 minutes):**

1. Each group will present their Earth Day campaign to the class.
2. After all presentations, facilitate a class discussion on the different approaches and strategies presented.
3. Reflect on the importance of taking action to protect the environment and how individuals can make a difference through initiatives like Earth Day campaigns.

## Student Research

Campaign name:

Why is the campaign important? What are the goals:

What are the next steps you can do to contribute to the campaign (writing letters, convenings, etc).



## TIMELINE

Start of the modern environmental movement

1970

1980

The principal Earth Day event in 1980, held in Washington, D.C. across from the White House

This time, Earth Day went truly global, mobilizing 200 million people in 141 countries

1990

2000

5,000 environmental groups worldwide in 184 countries

Signing of the Paris Agreement, the most significant climate accord in history

2016

2020

50th Anniversary of Earth Day

Check out our website



# EARTHDAY.ORG

Every year on **April 22**, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in **1970**.

Earth Day inspired **20 million** Americans to demonstrate against the impacts of 150 year of industrial development which had left a growing legacy of serious human health impacts.



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**.



education@earthday.org



@earthdaynetwork



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