



April 22nd is Earth Day

Here are some things you can do to make our planet a better place to live.

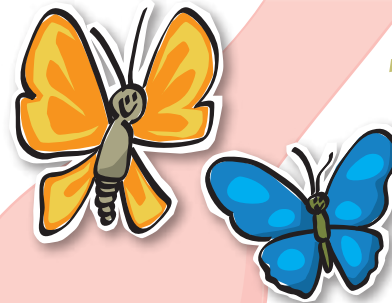
Here are some things you can do to help plants and wildlife.

☺ Do not disturb the natural habitats of plants and animals. Do not pick wildflowers or gather critters for pets. →



☺ Talk to people at home or to your teacher about planting a garden to attract butterflies and birds. These gardens provide habitats to replace those taken away by buildings, streets, and parking lots. ↓

☺ Pet waste has bacteria that can threaten fish and wildlife. Clean up after your dog so its waste can't drain into lakes, rivers, and streams during a rainstorm. →



Reduce
the amount of garbage you make.

Reuse
things instead of throwing them out.

Recycle
paper, plastic, glass, and aluminum.

☺ Fix something that's broken instead of throwing it away.

☺ When you buy something, carry it home without a bag or take your own bag to the store.

☺ Avoid using throw-away forks and cups.

☺ Refill empty bottles of water instead of buying new ones.

☺ Use both sides of every sheet of paper. Save scrap paper for recycling.

☺ Buy and use things that are made to last.

☺ Buy goods that require less wrapping and packaging.

☺ Reuse empty jars as holders for things like pencils and pens.

☺ Instead of throwing out food waste and grass clippings, use them to make compost, which turns into new soil.

☺ Separate trash so you can recycle paper, glass, aluminum cans, and plastic.

☺ Take old cell phones and other electronic equipment to a recycling center.

Your Part

There are many ways to reduce your carbon footprint. One way is to use less energy. Another is to consume food items that require less energy during the production process.

☺ Compact Fluorescent Lights, or CFLs, use 75 percent less energy than standard bulbs. Plus, they last longer. Talk with adults in your home about choosing CFLs instead of standard bulbs.



☺ Help move furniture away from radiators, so heat goes into a room and is not absorbed by the furniture.



☺ Homes should not be kept freezing in summer and boiling in winter. Ask adults to keep

the indoor temperature at 75°F in summer and 68°F in winter.

☺ To cut down on pollution linked to shipping and packaging food, plant a vegetable garden. Talk with adults who buy your food about choosing food that is grown locally (within 100 miles of home).

☺ Processed foods, which are frozen, canned, or packaged, carry a big carbon footprint. Eating fresh food reduces your carbon footprint. Whenever possible, choose baked potatoes instead of potato chips. Eat an apple instead of applesauce.

