



WOW!
More than a billion people across the globe take part in Earth Day each year.

Get involved in Earth Day

Participate in a global event by making a difference in your community.

Earth Day is coming up on April 22. The day is a time to focus on the natural world and raise awareness of the major challenges the planet faces. This year's Earth Day theme, "Planet vs. Plastics," is intended to raise awareness of the health risk of plastics and advocate for the rapid phase-out of all single-use plastics. Here are some simple ways you can get involved and encourage others in your community to do the same.

Attend an event

On April 22 and the days before and after, people will gather at Earth Day events. These could include marches or rallies to raise awareness of climate change, educational events that teach new things about the Earth, or cleanups of local natural areas. You can visit earthday.org/earth-day-2024 to find events taking place close to where you live.

Make simple changes

You can help support this year's mission in fighting plastic waste by making some changes at home. For example, you can ask your family to reconsider buying disposable plastic water bottles. If your household

eliminates the use of three plastic water bottles a day, that's 1,095 plastic bottles you'll keep out of landfills per year. You and your family could also commit to putting produce in reusable bags at the grocery store and using washable containers instead of plastic baggies for lunches and leftovers.

Find out how your school is celebrating

Ask leaders at your school whether any events are being planned for Earth Day. You can also contribute ideas for activities. For example, you can suggest a planting day on the grounds of your school and add native plants, which will purify the air by absorbing carbon dioxide and releasing oxygen. You could also speak with an art teacher about hanging student-created artwork in school hallways to raise awareness about protecting the planet.

Advocate for change

Earth Day is a perfect opportunity to have your voice heard. You can talk to your family or friends about what you plan to do to help the Earth, which might inspire them, too. Make your commitment and share it with us using the form on the next page.



Have a planting day.

What's happening around the world



More than 193 countries, including these three, observe Earth Day.

India Special events will raise awareness of protecting Asian elephants (above). Most Asian elephants live in India, and they are endangered due to habitat loss and illegal hunting.

Canada A nationwide campaign is focused on reducing pollution. People are being encouraged to walk or ride their bikes instead of taking a car on Earth Day.

France A "Run for the Planet" race will be held near Paris, France. Race profits will be donated to the eco-friendly charity of each participant's choice.



How I'll help the Earth

Use this form to organize your thoughts about ways you and others can protect the planet. Then ask an adult to email it to hello@theweekjunior.com. Find extra forms at kids.theweekjunior.com/activities.

First name _____ Age _____ State _____

In honor of Earth Day, how will you pledge to help the planet?

What is your hope for the Earth five years from now?

Draw a picture of what taking care of the Earth looks like to you.

By submitting this form, you give *The Week Junior* consent to print it in the magazine and online. Please get your parent/guardian's permission before sending it to us.