



Celebrate Earth Day!

Ideas to connect to and care for nature around you on Earth Day and everyday

Introducing Earth Day

Did you know that the first Earth Day was more than a half century ago? Earth Day was first conceived as a day to promote peace, to honour the Earth, and as a day for environmental learning and action. This was at a time when environmental awareness was growing, with concerns about increasing air and water pollution. The first Earth Day was celebrated in the United States on April 22, 1970 and it launched the modern environmental movement. The movement went global in 1990, with Canada and other countries joining in the cause. Today Earth Day is the largest participatory environmental movement on the planet, with over 190 countries taking part each April 22nd -over a billion people each year! [Earth Day Canada](#) aims to help people and organizations reduce their environmental impact-- on Earth Day and every day.

Here are some activities and projects to connect to nature, care for and celebrate Earth Day:

- **Learn how the earth's tilt affects seasonal and daily patterns.** Make [shadow plots](#) to safely study the sun's movement across the sky and notice how it changes through the day or through the seasons. Maybe your shadow plot will help you plan the best places for your Earth Day tree-planting event!
- **Spend time outdoors.** Go for a walk and connect with nature and learn more about your local environment. Bring a bag to collect any garbage you see on your walk.
- **Observe and notice nature.** What colours, textures, smells and sounds of spring are around you? Create your own scavenger hunt or try this [Notice Nature- Spring Scavenger Hunt](#).
- **Appreciate earth's wonders.** Create nature mandalas or temporary structures out of natural objects that are on the ground- cones, petals, branches, rocks.
- **Invent treasures from trash.** Use recyclable materials to build something for your garden- suncatchers, mobiles, windchimes or plant labels. Or think of things you can create with items such as milk cartons, toilet paper and paper towel rolls, egg cartons, and more without making them "unrecyclable" when finished—such as by avoiding permanently gluing paper, plastic, metal or adding glitter or mixing materials that will render the waste non-recyclable. Challenge each other to come up with new inventions, games or art projects with the materials.
- **Nurture the soil.** Soil is alive and important. Investigate soil and then show your earthy appreciation by making a compost pile.
- **Grow your own plants.** Make your own seed bombs with native plants and then plant them. Learn how [here](#). Remember to make sure not to spread species or transport outside your local area as this will cause damage to ecosystems by bringing in species that are not native to those areas.
- **Construct naturescapes or wildlife habitats** for your home or school with soil and native plants to increase colour, sounds and food webs. Start dreaming and planning your naturescape with [these resources](#) from HCTF Education.
- **Build tiny homes for wildlife,** construct a [bug hotel](#), a [toad abode](#), or a [native bee home](#).
- **Attract birds to your yard.** Make a [bird-friendly backyard](#) by building nest boxes, making bird feeders and more. Select your region of BC to learn about birds native to your area.

- **Invite wildlife guests in your garden.** Attract beneficial animals for natural pest control in the garden.
- **Plant flowers that support pollinators** like hummingbirds, bees, and butterflies, and then watch for flower visitors and do a pollinator survey to contribute to citizen science.
- **Plant a tree and plant hope.** Trees provide shade, habitat for wildlife, and absorb carbon. The tree you plant at home or in your schoolyard will be a gift for generations to come.
- **Conserve water.** Add a rain barrel collection system or rain garden at your school or backyard.
- **Prevent the spread of invasive species.** Learn more about what's native and invasive in your area and the simple things we can do to prevent the spread and protect BC's biodiversity. Join the Community Science Network with the Invasive Species Council of BC for opportunities to take action in your community. Or try some curriculum-based activities or games with your learners!
- **Join a community conservation group.** Get involved with initiatives in your local area like habitat restoration or enhancement projects.
- **Be a citizen scientist!** Join the movement to help monitor biodiversity. Use the iNaturalist app to help document and share your discoveries.
- **Try a sustainability pledge.** See how you can reduce your impacts – drive less and bike or walk more; buy foods with less packaging; buy local foods; pack a litter-free lunch. Ask where your food comes from and select items that have little packaging or are locally made.
- **Host and celebrate an Earth Day event.** Involve the whole school or community in a litter cleanup in the schoolyard, in the community, or at a park or beach. Start with a school-wide assembly or community gathering and include guests such as the Mayor, School Board member, Indigenous Education Coordinator, or local community supporters.
- **Set-up special recycling stations** for self-sorting of recyclables or be a mobile recycle center. Track what you have kept from the landfill. Share your accomplishments on Earth Day.

Ready to start your own action project for Earth Day?
Get more project ideas and how to get started with HCTF Education HCTF Education's Leap into Action guide.

Make everyday Earth Day!