

Ice Breaker: Earth Day List (STEM, Life Skills)

Grade Range: PreK-5 **Time:** 15 Minutes

Synopsis: After learning some fun Earth Day Facts, the students will work together to brainstorm a list of ways that they can help the Earth!

Materials:

- Teacher's chalkboard/white board/smart board
- Writing utensil
- Earth Day Fact List

Instructions:

- 1.** Read students the fun earth day facts listed below
- 2.** Follow up the facts by asking students to raise their hands to share one way they can help to protect the Earth
- 3.** Write students' ideas on the board.
- 4.** Ask the students to pledge to be better about taking care of our earth by trying at least two of the things on the list that you've just created. Ask them to try those things for one whole week!

Earth Day Fun Facts from Popsugar.com

- Recycling one aluminum can saves enough energy to watch a TV for three hours - it's equivalent to half a gallon of gasoline.
- Earth Day is a relatively new holiday and was first celebrated on April 22 in 1970. More than 20 million Americans participated in this first Earth Day celebration
- Earth Day was founded by a senator of Wisconsin and the day is credited for creating the environmentalism movement.
- April 22 is the first official day of Spring in the Northern hemisphere and of Fall in the Southern hemisphere and was chosen to be Earth Day for this reason.
- Never underestimate the importance of recycling: if every newspaper was recycled, we could save about 250,000,000 trees each year. Unfortunately, only 27% of all American newspapers are recycled.
- More than 20,000,000 Hershey's Kisses are wrapped each day, using 133 square miles of tinfoil. All that foil is recyclable, but not many people realize it.
- Only 11% of the earth's surface is used to grow food.
- The world's first national park was started in 1872 at Yellowstone National Park in the US.
- The first major international conference on environmental issues was held in Sweden in 1972 and was sponsored by the United Nations.
- The first wildlife refuge was formed on Pelican Island Florida in 1903.
- The patron Saint of ecologists is St. Francis and the first proclamation of Earth Day was made by the mayor of San Francisco in 1970.
- A highlight of the annual Earth Day ceremony at the United Nations is the ringing of the Peace Bell that was given to the UN by Japan. It is made from coins given by school children to further peace on our planet.