

# Earth Day

The celebration of Earth Day began in California in San Francisco. The first Earth Day celebration was held on March 21, 1970, which was the first day of spring. Earth Day is now celebrated all over the world, either on the first day of spring or on April 22.

Earth Day is important because it reminds us to stop and look at the problems of our environment and to evaluate what we can do to prevent those problems. Most experts agree that the most serious problems affecting Earth are pollution and loss of resources.

Pollution causes damage to air, soil, and water. This damage affects all life on Earth. First, pollution is caused by industries. For example, water pollution can be caused by run-off from factories. Second, pollution is caused by individuals. For example, gas-powered automobiles that people drive release chemicals into the air that make it difficult for humans, animals, and plants to breathe. Taking steps to prevent or limit pollution in our own lives and throughout the world is probably one of the most important things we can do to maintain life on Earth.

Another serious problem is loss of resources. We lose resources when we use them carelessly. We need to reduce the amount we use and the amount we throw away. We need to fix things and reuse them rather than throwing them out. We need to recycle materials that are recyclable by separating out plastic, glass, and recyclable paper from other garbage. These are things that everyone can do.

Being aware of the problems in our environment is very important. Taking steps to prevent those problems is even more important. As individuals, we can follow the rules of “reduce, reuse, recycle” daily. As families, we can try to use materials that are environmentally friendly and to limit our dependence on materials that cause pollution and resource loss. As members of a community, we can educate ourselves on limiting pollution and resource loss and can write to our government officials to let them know our priorities.

**What can you do to help the Earth?**