**Earth Fun Facts**

# **Earth Day Facts**

* Earth Day was founded in the United States and the very first Earth Day took place on April 22nd, 1970
* April 22nd, 2016 marks the 26th Anniversary of Earth Day in Canada
* Earth Day was renamed officially by the UN in 2009 as International Mother Earth Day
* Earth Day organizations worldwide have registered 2,023,250,378 Acts of Green!
* Earth Day is now celebrated by more than a billion people in 180 nations around the world, and more than 100,000 schools register to take part in Earth Day initiatives. Register your school/group at [www.earthday.ca](http://www.earthday.ca)

# **Earth, Environment and Impact Facts**

* There are more living organisms in a teaspoon of soil than there are people on Earth
* Only about 0.003% of the water on Earth can be used by humans, and oceans cover 71% of the Earth’s surface
* 20% of the Earth’s oxygen is produced by the Amazon Rainforest which represents more than half of the Earth’s rainforests
* According to WWF, Earth lost 40% of its wildlife in the past 40 years
* According to Ray Kurzweil (Inventor), all of the world’s energy needs can be met with 1/10,000th of the light from the sun that falls on Earth each day
* Making paper using recycled materials creates 35% less water pollution and 74% less air pollution than making paper using new materials
* Making cans from recycled aluminum uses 95% less energy than making them from scratch!
* It takes 49 L of water to make a bottle of water, 140 for a cup of coffee, 530 to make a bike and 147,630 for a car!
* According to World Bank statistics 2013, Canada has 607 vehicles for every 1,000 people, a significant source of greenhouse gas emissions (for comparison, the Netherlands Antilles is 1214 per 1000, and US is 820 per 1000).
* Global warming has raised the Earth’s average surface temperature about 0.8oC since the industrial revolution
* Earth has lost a third of its agricultural land in the past 40 years

**Earth Day – 20 Take Action Tips**

1. Recycle your batteries
2. Eat local foods
3. Make your own household cleaner out of water,

vinegar and baking soda

1. Lock your windows to help keep the cool air out
2. Take speed showers – under 5 minutes!
3. Join the Rooting4Trees campaign at earthday.ca, and be

a part of planting 25,000 legacy trees, or plant a tree in your own yard

1. Sort your waste properly
2. Use a reusable water bottle
3. Put on a sweater instead of turning the heat up
4. Open the curtains and turn off the lights, especially

when the sun is out and shining

1. Unplug devices when they aren’t being used
2. Organize a community clean-up or yard sale
3. Bring your own bags to the grocery store
4. Donate unwanted/unneeded items - even clothes can

be recycled into new furniture and more

1. Hang your clothes out to dry and get a natural fresh

air scent

1. Pack your freezer full for efficiency
2. Plant flowers for the bees
3. Use cloth napkins instead of paper towels
4. Borrow something instead of buying your own
5. Get outside every day!

**Useful Links and Resources**

**Clean Foundation** – Talking Climate Change with Kids (a resource created to help you broach the topic of climate change with young children)

 <http://clean.ns.ca/programs/youth-engagement/talking-climate-change-with-kids/>

**Earth Guardians** – 50 Simple Ways to Cut Carbon (accessible and achievable ways to make a difference)

 <http://www.earthguardians.org/50simplethings/>

**EcoKids** part of Earth Day Canada (offers free learning activities and resources for teachers, students, parents and communities that engage children in environmental action)

 <https://ecokids.ca/>

 http://ecokids.ca/teachers/about-environment/learning-activities/

**EcoMentors** part of Earth Day Canada (offers free curriculum and topic linked lesson plans)

 <http://ecomentors.ca/resources_lesson_plans.php>

**History** – Earth Day Timeline (A perspective on Earth Day and how it has grown from one man’s vision)

 <http://www.history.com/topics/holidays/earth-day-timeline>

**Resources for Rethinking** - Earth Day 2016 (lots of resources for environmental and sustainability education, lesson plans, opportunities for project funding, ecoLeague and ProjectFLOW)

<http://www.resources4rethinking.ca/en/theme/earth-day-2016>

# **Lesson Plans**

**Ecological Footprint:** How can we tread a little lighter on the planet?

 <https://www.ecokids.ca/teachers/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2015/08/LP_EN-Ecological-Footprint_FLAT1.pdf>

**No Idling at School** – School Air Quality Assessment

 <http://lsf-lst.ca/en/projects/teacher-resources/additional-resources/recipes/idiling>

**Sum of the Parts** – Project WET – Watershed Pollution

 <http://www.hvatoday.org/assets/PDFs/Project-WETs.pdf>

**Map It. Bike It. Walk It.** – Leaning about your school’s catchment area

<http://www.geography.org.uk/resources/mapitbikeitwalkit/>