Earth Day

Introduction

In this activity, students research and find out more about Earth Day. They then create a presentation to tell others about Earth Day and how to make every day an Earth Day.

This activity involves students in doing research on the Earth Day website at: https://www.earthday.org/ and completing a digital treasure hunt. They can do this part of the activity either in the classroom or at home if they don’t have internet access at school.


Level: Secondary B2

Time: 90 – 120 minutes (some of this can be homework)

Aim:

- To raise students’ awareness of Earth Day and how to find and share more information about protecting the environment.

Preparation:

- Make copies of the worksheets for students.
Procedure:

Lesson 1

- Write up the title of the lesson “Earth Day” on the board.
- Ask students what they know about Earth Day.
- Try to elicit information by asking questions, e.g.
  - What day of the year is Earth Day?
  - When did Earth Day start?
  - Who started Earth Day?
  - What happens on Earth Day?
  - Why do we need an Earth Day?
- Elicit as many answers as possible from them, but don’t confirm them.
- Give the student a link to the Earth Day website and ask them to explore the site and try to answer the questions. Note: If students can’t access the internet from school, ask them to do this for homework.
- Next, ask the students to share what they discovered and clarify their answers.
- Next, tell the students you want them to do a digital Treasure Hunt.
- Tell them they will search the Earth Day website and try to find a variety of resources.
- Give the students the treasure hunt worksheet and ask them to try to find the information. Tell them to copy a link to the page where they find the information.
- Note: If students can’t access the internet from school, ask them to do this for homework. They could ask their parents or carers to help.
- Check and clarify the students’ answers.
- Discuss Earth Day with the students, or get them to discuss in groups:
  - How effective do you think Earth Day is?
  - What do you think it has achieved?
  - How do you think you could help?
  - How could everybody help?
- When they have finished the discussion, get some feedback from them.
Ask the students to work in groups to prepare a presentation about Earth Day. Ask them to include an explanation of:
- What Earth Day is and how it started.
- What it aims to achieve and how.
- What we can all do to help.
- The most important issues to help with.
They could do their presentations to students in other classes.

**Materials:**

**Reading activity 1**

1. What day of the year is Earth Day?
2. When did Earth Day start?
3. Who started Earth Day?
4. What happens on Earth Day?
5. Why do we need an Earth Day?

**Reading activity 1**

1. 22nd April
2. 1970
3. Senator Gaylord Nelson
4. There are a wide range of different events all over the world.
5. To campaign for the protection of the environment.

**Earth Day - Treasure Hunt**

1. Where can you find a fact sheet about bees?
2. How many species of bees exist on Earth?
3. Where can you find a quiz about upcycling food?
4. What percentage of the food we produce is never eaten?
5. Where can you find out about artists for the earth?
6. How can artists for the earth help?
8. Where can you find the Earth Day Instagram page?
9. What is the aim of the Canopy Project?
10. Where can you find out if the Earth Day organization is active in your country?
Additional resources

Climate Action in Language Education lesson plans

- This series of twelve lesson plans provides teachers with step-by-step guidance and resources. They are an ideal starting point to help to address issues of sustainability in the classroom.
  
  https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/climate-action-language-education-lesson-plans

Earth Hour

- Earth Hour is an annual event which asks you to switch off all your lights for one hour. The aim is to involve as many people as possible in positive change for our planet. This article includes language development activities for students.
  
  https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/magazine-zone/earth-hour
The world water crisis

- World Water Day takes place every year on March 22nd. How much do you know about the water you drink and use every day? Watch this video and learn about the world water crisis. This article includes language development activities for students.

https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/video-zone/world-water-crisis

Sustainable development goals

- How can we make the world a better place? Listen to this song and learn how people plan to improve the world. This article includes language development activities for students.

https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/video-zone/sustainable-development-goals

A Plastic Ocean

- A Plastic Ocean is a new documentary that looks at the problems that are caused when plastic waste goes into the sea. Watch the trailer and find out more about how plastic can be dangerous to sea animals and human health.

https://learnenglishteens.britishcouncil.org/study-break/video-zone/plastic-ocean

Environmental problems

- This lesson plan for teachers of teenage and adult students at level B1 and above is based on the theme of climate change. Students will develop their dictionary skills pronunciation of weak syllables in long words.

https://www.teachingenglish.org.uk/article/environmental-problems