

The Green Team Gazette

Volume 2, Issue 8

April 2010 ~ Earth Day Edition

Hooray for Earth Day

Where were you on April 22, 1970? That was the date of the very first Earth Day. With a resurgence in 1990, we now have an annual event dedicated to honoring our planet! What are you going to do to celebrate this 40th anniversary of Earth Day?



Earth Day Jeopardy

Games are always a big hit in the classroom...so what better way to celebrate Earth Day than adopting Alex Trebek's role for a rousing game of Jeopardy. Turn your bulletin board into a Jeopardy board by putting the questions below (or make up you own!) on the backs of colored cards.

Earth Day History

- 100 What day is Earth Day? *April 22nd*
- 200 What color is associated with Earth Day & the environment? *Green*
- 300 When was the first Earth Day? *1970*
- 400 How many years have we been celebrating Earth Day? *Current year minus 1970*
- 500 What would be a good way to celebrate Earth Day? *Answers will vary*

The 3 R's

- 100 What are the 3 R's? *Reduce, reuse, recycle*
- 200 Give an example of "reducing?" *Answers will vary*
- 300 Give an example of "reusing?" *Answers will vary*
- 400 Give an example of "recycling?" *Answers will vary*
- 500 Why are the 3 R's important? *They help eliminate waste, the growth of landfills, and natural resources.*

The Green Team Gazette is a publication co-sponsored by the founders of CynerGreen, CGKidz, and Eagle Cove School (formerly Gibson Island Country School), a Green School in Pasadena, Maryland. Our mission is to educate and share ways to "go green"—both big and small--and be environmentally-proactive at home, in school, and beyond. It is written by Vicki Dabrowka, third grade teacher & co-Green Team Leader at Eagle Cove School. To learn more visit www.cynergreen.com, www.cgkidz.com, and www.gics.org. You can also follow us at <http://greenteamgazette.blogspot.com/> or find us at "Green Team Gazette" on Facebook.



Please print on recycled paper.

Earth Day History	The 3 R's	What's It Called?	Pick a Number	Taking Action
100	100	100	100	100
200	200	200	200	200
300	300	300	300	300
400	400	400	400	400
500	500	500	500	500

What's It Called?

- 100 What is the name of trash when it is littered all over the ground? *pollution*
- 200 What is the name for the swirly, energy-saving lightbulbs? *CFL's or Compact Fluorescent Lightbulbs*
- 300 What is the name of the place your garbage gets dumped? *Landfill*
- 400 What is the name of the place you can put food scraps that will break down into soil? *Compost*
- 500 What is the name of the idea that the planet's temperature is heating up based on our pollution? *Global Warming or Climate Change*

Pick a Number

- 100 From the numbers 1–10, how many pounds of trash does the average person throw away a day? *4 pounds*
- 200 Choose from the numbers 1–10. American families use 100–175 gallons of water a day. How many gallons does the average family in Africa use? *5 gallons*
- 300 From the numbers 1–10, how many weeks does it take an aluminum can to go from being tossed in the recycling bin to becoming a brand new can? *6 weeks*
- 400 From the numbers 10–20, how many trees are saved by using a ton of recycled paper? *17 trees*
- 500 From the numbers 10–20, how many billion pounds of trash are dumped in the ocean per year? *14 billion pounds*

Taking Action

- 100 What is another way to get energy other than from electricity or fuel power? *Solar or wind power*
- 200 When grocery shopping, what is a way to protect the Earth? *Sample answers include: reuse cloth grocery bags, buy organic food, shop locally, etc.*
- 300 What is something you can do at school to help our planet? *Sample answers include: turning lights off, use recycled paper, use both sides of the paper, use CFL's, etc.*
- 400 When packing your lunch, what is something you can do to use less natural resources? *Sample answers include: use reusable containers, do not use plastic baggies, compost food waste, don't use plastic water bottles, etc.*
- 500 What is a way to save energy with your car? *Sample answers include: Carpool, do not let your car idle, buy a hybrid, etc.*

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Building a Better Bag

Sun Chips of Frito-Lay has a plan—a grand plan—in action! In April 2009 they announced that by Earth Day 2010 they were going to unveil the first fully-compostable chip bag ever. That bumps them a step higher on the 4R's Ladder (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Renewable) than they already were. Previously, their packaging of 2009 had been made with 33% of their bags coming from plant-based materials. Their new bags for 2010 release, which have been in the stores for approximately a month now, are designed to break down in 14 weeks when placed (empty) in a hot, active compost bin/pile. They're noticeably noisier due to their construction, which add to their message! This is a huge step away from the non-renewable foils and petroleum-based plastics that form other packaging in the snack industry.



As stated on their website:

**"So you eat the chips. The earth eats the bag.
And we all live in a cleaner world."**

Check out more from this leader of green packaging at http://www.sunchips.com/healthier_planet.shtml?s=content_compostable_packaging. Here you can see a time-lapsed video of their bags decomposing, and also see data sheets about their process of creating their new Earth-friendly, Earth Day bag.



Must-See Earth Day Websites

If you still need to hunt up some information about Earth Day, here are some websites you won't want to pass by!

- Planet Pals <http://www.planetpals.com/earthday.html>
Especially be sure to check out their Eco-friendly Booklist <http://www.planetpals.com/booklist.html> and their Ezine: EarthZine Online Magazine http://www.planetpals.com/pp_magazine.html
- Earth 911 <http://earth911.com/>
- Earth Day Network <http://www.earthday.net/>
- Enchanted Learning <http://www.enchantedlearning.com/crafts/earthday/>

Jane Goodall Turns 75 on April 3rd



Friday, April 4th, 2008 just a day after her 73rd birthday, Dr. Jane Goodall trekked not to Africa to study her beloved chimpanzees, but to the far corner of Pasadena, Maryland. Why, you ask? She came to speak to the students and staff of Gibson Island

Country School (as well as student representatives from 32 other schools) for our Roots and Shoots Fair. Our Fair was an outreach that stemmed from our Roots and Shoots Club and its leadership at the time, Maura Farrell. Started by Jane Goodall, Roots and Shoots is a youth organization she founded to involve children and teens in taking positive action on behalf of our worldwide human community, animals, and the environment. Now global in at least 100 countries, Roots and Shoots has many, many thousands of registered members.

On our campus, as the students sat in awe of Dr. Goodall's speech (after she invited them to join her in a bold, hooting chimpanzee call), the adults sat in awe of the fact that they were sharing the room with such an iconic and vibrant symbol of environmentalism.

April, no doubt, is an important month for Dr. Goodall due to it being her birthday month. But, it is probably equally important to her that she shares her month with Earth Day, a holiday that pays tribute to the sustainability of our planet.



To learn more about Jane Goodall's mission and her Roots and Shoots youth organization, go to any of the following sites:

- <http://www.janegoodall.org/>
- <http://www.rootsandshoots.org/>
- <http://www.rootsandshoots.org/aboutus/model>

To see more pictures of our GICS Roots & Shoots Fair, check out http://www.gics.org/environ_Jane_Goodall.htm

Poetic Planet

Feeling the inspiration of a song or a poem coming on to celebrate the birthday called Earth Day? If so, write one! Revamp an oldie but goodie tune, turning it into a new and improved planetary parody—it's amazing what you can do with "Mary Had A Little Lamb" or "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star." Or if a song eludes you, go online to "CanTeach" to read and recite some classic and clever Earth Day rhymes.

<http://www.canteach.ca/elementary/songspoems51.html>

