

The Green Team Gazette

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1970: A Very Good Year



1970 was a big year for environmental awareness. The Clean Air Act was written to address air pollution (and was later rewritten in 1990). Congress created the EPA (Environmental Protection Agency). The first Earth Day was April 22, 1970. What a better way to follow up April's Earth Day 2009 than by paying tribute in May to Clean Air Month. The Center for Disease Control and Prevention, and also the American Lung Association, dedicate May to improving air quality so as to create healthier living. By focusing on the freshness of May, you can approach a healthier planet...in turn focusing on ways you and your class can keep it that way.

(Facts from <http://www.cdc.gov/features/cleanairmonth/>)

April Showers Bring May Flowers



Spring rain brings about blossoms that symbolize post-winter rebirth. Fresh, clean air also helps bring about the revitalization of spring. Pollution, dirty air, and acid rain, however, do nothing to inspire images (or the reality) of beautiful May flowers. Rather, they paint a picture of withered, dying plants. Similarly, polluted air ushers in a myriad of health issues: respiratory problems, asthma, allergies, etc. Get your students to clear the air by brainstorming major polluters and things they can do to help bring about cleaner air.

Ah...The Fresh Smell of Clean



What does "clean" smell like? Lemony freshness? April showers? Lilacs in bloom? When it comes to your home, school, or business, what clean *should* smell like is...**nothing!** Not ammonia, nor bleach, nor air fresheners, nor chemicals. When you smell the lemony freshness (or whatever scent), you are smelling just that—chemicals! Chemicals that might be affecting your quality of life. Help spread the word that clean is fresh & clear & odor-free. Urge your students to help their parents investigate & over-haul family cleaning supplies cabinets. Aim to replace scented, chemically-filled products with eco-friendly substitutions. As a team, track the chemical changes that your class brings about.

Pollution Solution



Here are some online avenues to investigate while hunting for your own personal pollution solutions.

- Ⓞ NRDC's The Green Squad: Kids Taking Action for a Greener, Healthier School
http://www.nrdc.org/greensquad/intro/intro_4.asp
At this site you can meet the Green Squad, print out a progress report to use while clicking through the Green Squad's Cyber School, hunting pollutants.
- Ⓞ Meet the Greens
<http://www.meetthegreens.org/sitemap/#episodes>
Visit the site map to find the Fresh Air Episode and all of its mini-movies. Your students will love them.
- Ⓞ AIRNOW
http://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=aqikids_new.main
Find out a little bit about the Air Quality Index (AQI) by touring AIRNOW's two age-specific links about air quality. There's also a link to discover what the air quality index is where you live. Find out just what the AQI color scale means in terms of dirty and clean air.

What Can Kids Do to Clean the Air?

1. Encourage folks to drive less, carpool, ride bikes, or walk.
2. Help your parents choose scent-free and earth-friendly products so fewer chemicals get into the air.
3. Save energy when possible to reduce fossil fuel usage.
4. Reduce, reuse, recycle.
5. Pay attention to the Air Quality Index & limit your contributions to air pollution on purple days.
6. Take action & write letters to local politicians.



The Green Team Gazette

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CyneGreen, CGKidz, and 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, and edited by Danelle Hoffer. Additional contributors include: G.I.C.S. Science Teacher Tim Decker; G.I.C.S. Head of School Laura Kang; CGKidz creator, twelve-year old Riley Hoffer. To learn more

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