



# Earth Day Celebrations

Activity

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## Activity

*April 22 is Earth Day. This was first launched as an environmental awareness event in the United States in 1970 and Earth Day is celebrated as the birth of the environmental movement. Earth Day is the largest, most celebrated environmental event worldwide. In Canada it has grown into Earth Week and Earth Month to accommodate the number of events and projects. More than 6 million Canadians join 500 million people in over 180 countries in staging events and projects to address local environmental issues. Nearly every school child in Canada takes part in an Earth Day activity.*

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The EC Team should set this time aside at the start of the year as they make plans for the school calendar. Events need to be planned in September to coincide with Earth Day Celebrations. A small group of interested teachers, parents, students and support staff can form a committee to plan school-wide activity.

## Steps to Take

1. The EC team will mark this date on the school calendar at the start of the year as part of the EarthCARE program and plan events to celebrate Earth Day.
2. A small working group shall be created in September that will be responsible for this activity.
3. The committee should involve interested members of the local community.
4. Members of this group will contact agencies to get the material to assist them in their planning.
5. Use the material available in planning an Earth Day activity for the school
6. Student members of the EC team will work with the Earth Day committee to help plan suitable activities for April 22.
7. Create EarthCARE posters to celebrate the day and ask people what they are going to do – make suggestions! What's your role?
8. Individual classes can initiate a small project that will be demonstrated or culminate on Earth Day.
9. The committee will create a letter to go to parents explaining the program activity and ask for volunteers.
10. The Earth Day committee will publicize and promote the event. The group will assist in the running of the school wide activities and celebrations but all school members will be involved in the Earth Day celebrations.

## Communications

This program activity will be included in the school year calendar. Information about the event will be included in all school or class newsletters, EC newsletter and other home and school communication strategies. Include information on the school web site describing the school event.



### ***Stakeholder Involvement***

Parents, students, custodians, teachers and support staff are all involved in this activity.

### ***Mentorship***

Earth Day activities provide excellent opportunities for mentorship with community organizations, local businesses and parents. If the school determines that they want to plant a tree, then a landscape gardener can be asked to come to the school to speak to the Earth Day committee. Members of the local community should be encouraged to be involved and can be included in the Earth Day committee.

### ***Role of Class***

- This activity can be done as a school activity with each class having a part of the event to organize – this will be determined by the Earth Day committee
- Each class will be responsible for their part of the celebrations
- Each class will record the work done in preparing for the event
- Each class will keep track of any incentive awards they receive for involvement in this program activity
- Each class will share their information with the EC team on a regular basis

### ***Lesson Plan Links***

The connection to lesson plans will depend on the activity selected by the Earth Day committee. It could involve planning a school garden or tree, conducting a school cleanup or creating Earth Day posters.