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There's no doubt we all take Mother Earth for granted. We have been given a beautiful planet to call home, and sometimes we need a reminder of how to treat her right.How Earth Day StartedU.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin founded Earth Day as a national environmental teach-in — the first one was held on April 22, 1970 — and he was later awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom for his work. Nelson hoped to raise public awareness of the dangers of pollution. Today, the holiday has turned into something much bigger.The first Earth Day succeeded in focusing nationwide awareness on environmental issues, and it transformed public attitudes. “When polled in May 1971, 25 percent of the U.S. public declared protecting the environment to be an important goal, a 2,500 percent increase over 1969,” according to the Environmental Protection Agency.Global Earth DayWe’ve come a long way since the first Earth Day. By 1990 the holiday had gone global, with 200 million people in more than 140 nations participating. By 2000 the holiday honed in on clean energy, involving hundreds of millions of people in 184 countries and 5,000 environmental groups. Today, the Earth Day Network consists of 17,000 partners and organizations in 174 countries. Approximately one billion people in 192 countries take part in what is the largest civic-focused day of action in the world.Today, the official Earth Day website describes it as “a day of political action and civic participation. People march, sign petitions, meet with their elected officials, plant trees, clean up their towns and roads. Corporations and governments use it to make pledges and announce sustainability measures. Faith leaders, including Pope Francis, connect Earth Day with protecting God’s greatest creations, humans, biodiversity and the planet that we all live on.”These small changes can be a big help to the environment.Simple Eco-Friendly Actions You Can Take EverydaySo what can you do to live a more sustainable life? These days we have so many choices, such as buying green cleaning products that are non-toxic for the environment, as well as using reusable products for everyday household goods. You can also take advantage of sustainable landscaping or even look into composting your scraps of food. So this is Earth Day...and what have you done? If the answer is little or nothing, this post is for you, my beauty obsessives. I’ve gathered up three easy eco-friendly activities for your pleasure and your conscious.Totalbeauty.com’s Totally Green Sweepstakes. Just by sounding off on beauty products, you can make a generous contribution to healthychild.org, a worldwide charity devoted to protecting children from environmental health hazards. It’s so easy—from now until June 5, just log onto totalbeauty.com, search for a green item (they’re clearly tagged on the site) and review it. The site will donate \$1 for every write-up. You’ll also be automatically entered to win hundreds Earth-Day-ish prizes (think conflict-free diamonds, eco-spa trips, and a hybrid car filled with beauty products).__Recycle with Bond No. 9.___Wait, stop! Don’t chuck that empty bottle of Bond No. 9 in the trash—simply bring it to any Bond No. 9 store or Saks Fifth Avenue, where an employee will take the bottle, give you a refillable pocket spray free with a new purchase, and then whisk the empty bottle away where it will be sanitized, refurbished, refilled, and decorated. And to *think *you were going to toss that bottle in the trash.Clean up with Noodle & Boo. I’ve mentioned my love of Noodle & Boo bar soaps before, but if my endorsement wasn’t enough, surely this is: For every Believe Honey Bar you buy, 100 percent—100 percent—of the profits will go to the Raise Your Hand Campaign, a charity that helps fund water purification systems. Noodle & Boo just began sponsoring Herrera, a small village in Ethiopia.Who said it’s not easy being green? Earth Day is a time when millions of people worldwide celebrate and renew their personal commitment to environmental stewardship. And it has never been more important, or more urgent, for you and people everywhere to take personal action, to adopt a greener lifestyle, and to share your concerns about the environment. Today, the environmental problems facing the world are enormous. Earth’s finite resources are being stretched to the limit by rapid population growth, air, water and soil pollution, and much more. Global warming, spurred by our use of fossil fuels for energy and transportation as well as mass-scale agriculture and other human activities, threatens to push our planet beyond its ability to support human life unless we can meet the growing need for food, energy and economic opportunity within a sustainable environment. In the face of such huge global problems, it is easy to feel overwhelmed and powerless, and to find ourselves asking, “What difference can one person make?” The answer is that one person can make all the difference in the world: Rachel Carson was just one person who wrote Silent Spring, a book credited with launching the environmental movement in the United States. John Muir was one person who saved the Yosemite Valley, founded the Sierra Club, and inspired generations of conservationists who continue to do life-giving work. Wangari Maathai is one person who started planting trees and empowering women in her native Kenya, and eventually was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for 2004 for her contribution to sustainable development, democracy and peace. Al Gore is just one person who traveled for years to any conference room or auditorium where people would gather to hear his call to action and see his slide show, which became the Academy Award-winning film and best-selling book, An Inconvenient Truth Each of us has the power through our daily decisions and lifestyle choices to make our homes and communities more environmentally friendly, but our power doesn’t end there. There is no question that solving many of the problems currently threatening our global environment will require the resources and enlightened action of government and industry. Yet, because government and industry exist to serve the needs of their citizens and customers, how you live your life, the demands you and your neighbors make for products and services that help to preserve rather than erode the environment, will influence those actions and, ultimately, help to determine the future of planet Earth and the fate of mankind. Anthropologist Margaret Mead said, “Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.” So make some changes in the way you live your life. Use less energy and fewer resources, create less waste, and join with others who share your beliefs to urge government representatives and business executives to follow your lead toward a more sustainable world. Here are a few ways you can get started: Happy Earth Day. RD.COM Knowledge FactsEvery editorial product is independently selected, though we may be compensated or receive an affiliate commission if you buy something through our links. Santi Visalli/Getty ImagesEarth Day first came into being on April 22, 1970, followed in 1972 by World Environment Day. It has been celebrated ever since, slowly but surely picking up steam as more and more people have recognized the importance of taking care of the earth. MANAN VATSYAYANA/Getty ImagesEartth Day remained a grassroots affair for 20 years, before going global and spreading out to 140 countries in 1990. It’s now celebrated in over 190 countries, with an estimated 1 billion people the world over participating each year. These important Earth Day facts along with these Earth Day quotes will motivate you to do your part. Janet Fries/Getty ImagesGaylord Nelson, a two-term governor of Wisconsin (1958 to 1962), was responsible for focusing his state’s environmental policy, establishing a single Department of Resource Development, a Youth Conservation Corps, and setting aside \$50 million to buy land and convert it to parks and wilderness areas during the years he was in office. This earned him the nickname “Conservation Governor.” Nelson was then elected a U.S. senator, where he became known as a champion for the earth, asserting that “Environment is all of America and its problems. It is rats in the ghetto. It is a hungry child in a land of affluence. It is housing not worthy of the name; neighborhoods not fit to inhabit.” Test your eco-smarts with our Earth Day quiz. Millard Smith/Getty ImagesFrustrated by a lack of support for environmental policy among his fellow senators, but inspired by the various youth movements of the ‘60s that were pushing hard for meaningful societal change, Nelson devised the idea of a teach-in for the environment in 1969. The plan was to drum up public support for the nascent environmental movement, with an eye toward engendering the political will to make change. Nelson’s idea was so popular that he had to hire an 85-person team to get the first Earth Day off the ground. American Stock Archive/Getty ImagesWe may think of man-made climate change as a recent development, but it’s a critical Earth Day fact: Even decades ago, the country was a polluted place in need of help. Public lands were dilapidated, factories were free to dump toxins into our waters, and industries could churn out pollutants into our air without regulation. As a result, species began collapsing—oysters, for example, were gone from New York Harbor by the early 20th century. Around the time of the first Earth Day in 1970, people were starting to realize that pollution and toxic waste could lead to cancer and other serious health issues. Bettmann/Getty ImagesNelson chose this date in the third week of April to appeal to his core demographic—students—and April 22 fell between their spring break and final exams. Enormous, inspirational, rallies were held all over the country, with 20 million people—10 percent of the U.S. population at that time—taking to the streets. These 50 powerful photos prove the Earth still needs our help. Bill Clark/Getty ImagesThe impact of that first Earth Day was immediate and profound; by December of 1970, President Richard Nixon had established the Environmental Protection Agency and the Clean Air Act was devised and passed that year. Swiftly on their heels came the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, the Federal Environmental Pesticide Control Act, and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act, among other critical pieces of legislation. Joe Sohm/Visions of America/Getty ImagesOn the occasion of its 20th birthday in 1990, Earth Day’s organizers decided the time had come to take the movement global— 200 million people in 141 countries participated. The impacts of that day were enormous: it kicked off massive initiatives to recycle and paved the way for the 1992 United Nations Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro. Check out these at-home Earth Day activities for kids you can arrange this year. Chris Hondros/Getty ImagesBy the time of Earth Day’s 30th anniversary, coinciding with a brand new millennium, Earth Day was being announced by the United Nations. “At the end of the 20th and the dawn of the 21st century, the human species had entered a new era where the nature of the entire planet was being fundamentally changed,” the international organization said in a statement about the day. “Humankind was facing epidemics, massive holes in the ozone layer, and the change in global climate. In that context, it was necessary to have an informed citizenry, which would take a leadership role in pulling the political and economic forces in the right direction. It was time for a formidable shift, both at high and low levels. In the year 2000, a decision had been made to focus on energy and climate change.” EDUARD MUZHEVSKYI/SCIENCE PHOTO LIBRARY/Getty ImagesThe year 2000 also marked the era when the Internet helped spread the message of the need for strong environmental policy far and wide. Being virtually connected allowed 5,000 environmental groups to find each other and coordinate their messaging. It allowed people from 184 countries to join in marches and demonstrations and acts of organizing. PeopleImages/Getty ImagesIn 2016, the theme of Earth Day was “Trees for the Earth” with the goal of planting 7.8 million trees in time for Earth Day’s 50th anniversary in 2020. Here’s the big difference between weather and climate (and 10 other nature words everyone gets wrong). Paul Morigi/Getty ImagesAlthough the March for Science began as its own separate movement in February 2017, by April of that year, it joined Earth Day marches and celebrations in Washington, D.C., and 360 other cities. While the group’s aims of protecting science from “manipulation by special interests,” and opposing policies that “threaten to further restrict scientists’ ability to research and communicate their findings” are not solely related to the health of the Earth, they do go hand in hand with supporting environmentalists and earth scientists. Learn the difference between climate change and global warming. RIZWAN TABASSUM/Getty ImagesWhile yes, Earth Day has become a global phenomenon, it still counts on local initiatives to demonstrate the power of change on a smaller but still-critical level. A few examples: In 2015, Tanzania led efforts to protect the Usambara Mountains, including teaching residents about how to conserve water, while in Puerto Rico, celebrations centered around the establishment of a new eco-park and an initiative began to keep the island trash free for 100 days. Learn more about Kenya’s strict ban on plastic bags. JAY DIRECTO/Getty ImagesAs Earth Day’s founding organization reports, all this interest and action has not been without its counterpart from climate change deniers, lobbyists, politicians, and more. Despite the challenges, it’s an Earth Day fact that the day is considered “the largest secular observance in the world.” That is no small feat and, although corporate interests continue to plague meaningful efforts at policy change to make the world more livable, the fact that by 2010 Earth Day had coordinated with 75,000 global partners—and that number has only grown since then—is cause for celebration. Find out 10 things the U.S. doesn’t recycle but other countries do. Jeff Pudlinski/500px/Getty ImagesThe theme for this year’s Earth Day is “Restore the Earth.” It’s dedicated to focusing on “natural processes, emerging green technologies, and innovative thinking that can restore the world’s ecosystems,” reports EarthDay.org. These countries are replacing plastic in the most brilliant ways. Originally Published: March 30, 2021 is last day on earth available on pc. can i play last day on earth on pc. is last day on earth on pc. can you get last day on earth on pc