



EARTH DAY— Think Globally Act Locally

On April 22, join people around the world to recognize how far we have come and keep working on what still needs to be done!

It's far better to reduce the toxicity and amount of solid waste in the first place than to cope with it after it has been created. Through source reduction, recycling, and composting, many environmental benefits and cost savings can be realized. Just remember the four "Rs"...

Reduce! Packaging serves many purposes. Its primary purpose is to protect and contain a product. It also can prevent tampering, provide information, and preserve hygienic integrity and freshness. Some packaging, however, is designed largely to enhance a product's attractiveness or prominence on the store shelf. Since packaging materials account for a large volume of the trash we generate, they provide a good opportunity for reducing waste. In addition, keep in mind that as the amount of product in a container increases, the packaging waste per serving or use usually decreases.

- 🌐 Reduce the amount of unnecessary packaging.
- 🌐 Adopt practices that reduce waste toxicity.

Reuse! Many products are designed to be used more than once. Reusable products and containers often result in less waste. This helps reduce the cost of managing solid waste and often conserves materials and resources.

- 🌐 Consider reusable products.
- 🌐 Maintain and repair durable products.
- 🌐 Reuse bags, containers, and other items.
- 🌐 Borrow, rent, or share items used infrequently.
- 🌐 Sell or donate goods instead of throwing them out.



Source: <http://www.epa.gov>

Recycle! When you've done all you can to avoid waste, recycle. Producing goods from recycled materials typically consumes less energy and conserves raw materials. Yet, our landfills are packed with many packages and products that can be recycled.

- 🌐 Choose recyclable products and containers and recycle them.
- 🌐 Select products made from recycled materials.
- 🌐 Compost yard trimmings and some food scraps.

Respond! Share information about recycling, and composting with others. Spread the word to family, friends, neighbors, local businesses, and decision-makers. Encourage them to learn more about solid waste issues and to work toward implementing and promoting source reduction, recycling, and composting. We all have the power to influence others and help create the type of world in which we want to live.

- 🌐 Educate others on source reduction and recycling practices.
- 🌐 Be creative—find new ways to reduce waste quantity and toxicity.

■ FORESTS: OUR PLANET'S ENDANGERED EDENS



Forests are prime reservoirs of biodiversity, as well as the ancient cradle of the human race. Anthropologists believe that species ancestral to ours lived amid the trees, later emerging to grassland savannas to explore and hunt.

Forests and woodlands over the world have changed over the millennia due to changes in climate and geology. In the modern world, forests are classified into various groups, including temperate-zone and tropical forests. Not all rain forests are in the tropics -- some are in cooler climates. And there are other kinds, such as riparian forests, that separate interior areas from coastlines.

According to the U.S. State Department, "one of every six known bird species, one of every 11 mammals, and one of every 15 reptiles" makes the Amazon rainforest its home. Unfortunately, as David B. Sandalow, Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, recently noted: "Tropical forests are disappearing at an alarming rate. Saws and bulldozers are leveling roughly 200 hectares per minute. A soccer field is close to two hectares, so we are losing about 120 soccer fields of tropical forest per minute, more than 7,000 soccer fields per hour, more than 170,000 soccer fields per day."

Forests are stores of food. About a dozen fruits - apples, peaches, strawberries, bananas, etc. - dominate world consumption. There are probably about 3,000 more kinds of fruits in the tropics, of which 200 are widely eaten. Tens of thousands of other grains, vegetables, and forms of plant food are out there waiting to cure starvation and create greater variety on the dinner table, if they are allowed to survive. The winged bean of New Guinea, for instance, is full of protein, is entirely edible, and can be fried, roasted, ground into flour, or served as a hot beverage. And it grows to a length of 4 meters in a few weeks. The Amazonian babassu palm, still found in a natural state, offers the world's highest yield of vegetable oil from its fruit. It can also feed livestock, produce thatching materials, and be burned for charcoal. Iguana meat is prized by many in the Southern Hemisphere. Scientists estimate forest-ranched iguanas can yield ten times the amount of meat as cattle on the same acreage of cleared land. Other less well-known, yet tasty, animals could produce much food without destroying their forest cover.

Around the world, 500 million people are thought to depend on forests for their livelihood - an incentive to preserve the health of forests and to protect them as a sustainable resource for future generations.

Source: based in part on „Forests our Planet's Endangered Edens" <http://usinfo.state.gov/products/pubs/biodiv/forest.htm>

■ **Earth Day was first observed** in Spring of 1970. An estimated 20 million people nationwide attended festivities out of which came the largest grassroots environmental movement in U.S. history, and the impetus for national legislation like the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts. It also sparked the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency.



By the twentieth anniversary of that event, **April 22, 1990**, more than 200 million people in 141 countries participated in Earth Day celebrations.

Earth Day is not without historical precedent. Both **Arbor Day** and **Bird Day** were established in the late 1800s to support forestation, conservation, and the appreciation of nature.

Source: loc.gov

facts

- About 4 billion trees are cut down every year. From 1990 to 1995, there was a net global forest loss of 112,600 square kilometers per year (equal to 33 soccer fields per minute).
- Rainforests are home to about half of the Earth's 5 to 10 million plant and animal species.
- 78 million acres of rainforest are destroyed each year.
- Approximately 40 percent of the world's remaining frontier forest is under moderate or high threat.
- Over 20% of all the carbon dioxide that is being added to the atmosphere through human activities is the result of deforestation

Source: <http://www.earthday.net>

■ Plant a Tree!

1. Prepare planting area by turning up soil in an area 3 to 5 times the size of the root ball.
2. Dig a hole in the center of the area, so that the tree rests on solid soil.
3. Backfill and use water to settle the soil.
4. Mulch a 3-6" deep ring around the tree, being careful not to pile mulch near the trunk. (Stake only if necessary due to high winds.)
5. Water every week and watch for signs of insects or disease. Signs of disease include yellowing leaves, foliage loss, discoloration of visible roots, and failure to grow.
6. Protect tree from damage caused by feet, lawnmowers, pets, etc.

Make a long-term plan for the tree's care. Water a new tree weekly for the first 6 months and keep an eye on it for at least 3-5 years. Plan who will look after the tree in the summer and in future years.

Source: www.earthday.net

■ Native Americans and Nature



Treat the Earth well: it was not given to you by your parents, it was loaned to you by your children. We do not inherit the Earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children.

Ancient Indian Proverb

The Lakota people feel that they share the Earth as equal partners with their animal relatives, especially the buffalo. As the once-central provider for nearly all of life's needs, the buffalo is philosophically connected with the creation of life. The Lakota end their ceremonies with the words "all my relatives," an expression of the belief that all life is connected.

The Great Plains teemed with millions of buffalo at the beginning of the 1800s. By 1883, because of overhunting, not one buffalo remained in Lakota territory. The disappearance of the buffalo, the animal that was central to the Lakota's economic and religious life devastated them.



Today Plains people manage growing herds. Most tribes are members of the Inter-Tribal Bison Cooperative, which seeks to preserve and increase tribal herds.

To learn more about the topic, please visit "American Indian and the Natural World," an online exhibit of the Carnegie Museum of Natural History at www.carnegiemuseums.org/cmnh/exhibits/north-south-east-west/index.html

■ Oceanographer Rewrites the Conventional Wisdom An Interview with Dr. Robert Ballard



Dr. Robert Ballard might be best known to the general public as the scientist who led a mission to the floor of the North Atlantic to rediscover the sunken hulk of the cruise liner Titanic, one of the most storied shipwrecks of all time. Ballard is also a pioneer in deep-sea science, still a fledgling discipline. He is linked to landmark scientific discoveries that overturned the conventional wisdom of their time. Ballard is also a member of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy that will soon issue a report proposing significant change in ocean policy.

Question: People on your staff say you've been known to wave your arm across a world map, with its vast blue expanses, and say, "All of this, we know nothing about." But you've been at this oceanography business for almost 40 years. Surely you know something?

Ballard: We know how much we don't know.

Question: That's the question then. What's the state of oceanography today in terms of your accumulation of knowledge about the deep seas?

Ballard: In the first place, we start with the fact that 72 percent of the Earth is under water. Then, the majority of that, 80-some percent, is deep water. A large amount of that is in the high seas, beyond the exclusive economic zones of other nations. Most of it -- the majority of it -- is in the Southern Hemisphere. We are a Northern Hemisphere-centric civilization. With most of the water in the Southern Hemisphere, most of the land is in the north. As a result, all the wars we have fought, all the lines of commerce [are mostly in the Northern Hemisphere], the places closest to home. We tend to spend a lot of time up there.



During the 18th and 19th centuries, England had more exploratory ships in the Southern Hemisphere than we have today. We're seldom down there. There are vast stretches of ocean that have never had an oceanographic ship pass over it.

Although we're up on Mars right now, we already have better maps of Mars than we have of the Earth's surface if we include all that undersea territory. We don't have very good [ocean] maps, particularly of the Southern Hemisphere. It's sort of ironic, for example, that Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin¹ went to the moon before ocean explorers went to the biggest mountain range on Earth² which was in 1973.

(1) Astronauts who first walked on the moon in 1969.

(2) The Mid-Atlantic range is more than 12,000 kilometers long, stretching almost from the North to the South Pole.

To read the full text of the interview and learn more about oceans, please see the electronic journal: Shared Oceans, Shared Future. Available online at: <http://usinfo.state.gov/journals/itgic/0404/ijge/ijge0404.htm>

Win Books!

To take part in a drawing for a set of Embassy publications e-mail us the answer to the following question:

Earth Day in 1970 led to the creation of what federal agency or legislation?

- United States Environmental Protection Agency
- Clean Air Act
- Clean Water Act
- All of the above

Send your answer to:
zoom@usembassy.hu

State your name, address, and age.

The deadline is May 15.

Winners will be notified by the end of May.

Good Luck!

ZOOM

in on america

Zoom is available online at

www.usembassy.hu/zoom.htm

Please send requests for subscription and comments to:
zoom@usembassy.hu

Regional English Language Office
Relobp@pd.state.gov

Information Resource Center
Infousabp@pd.state.gov

Mailing address:
U.S. Embassy
Public Affairs Section
1054 Budapest Szabadság tér 12.

Word Search

Earth Day Every Day



AIR
ANIMALS
CARE
CLEAN
CONSERVATION
EARTH
ECOSYSTEM
ENERGY
EXTINCT
FUEL
HABITAT
HOME
LANDFILLS
LITTER
OCEANS
OXYGEN
OZONE
PEOPLE
PLANTS
POLLUTION
PRESERVE
RAINFOREST
RECYCLE
RESOURCE
REUSE
SOIL
VOLUNTEER
WATER
WETLANDS
WORLD

V	O	X	K	R	Z	C	T	S	F	T	P	F	Y
P	Z	X	O	C	E	A	N	S	F	U	M	O	C
T	O	P	Y	M	E	C	R	U	O	S	E	R	O
P	N	K	O	G	D	N	Y	S	P	Y	T	L	N
E	E	H	G	L	E	T	D	C	G	A	S	C	S
X	N	O	S	L	L	N	N	R	L	L	Y	E	E
T	A	K	P	I	A	U	E	H	Q	E	S	V	R
I	E	V	O	L	U	N	T	E	E	R	O	R	Y
N	L	I	T	T	E	R	D	I	S	M	C	E	A
C	C	E	W	R	A	I	N	F	O	R	E	S	T
T	W	R	A	E	S	L	A	M	I	N	A	E	I
T	T	A	T	I	B	A	H	L	L	L	R	R	O
C	E	C	E	K	R	K	S	T	N	A	L	P	N
G	D	L	R	O	W	Y	B	Q	R	E	U	S	E

©1998 The Kid's Domain
<http://www.kidsdomain.com>

free for non-profit use

Celebrate Earth Day!

The Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe (REC) and the Municipality of Szentendre will host the by now traditional Earth Day Celebration:



April 24, Saturday, 10-16
REC Conference Center and Park
Ady E. út 9-11 (at the ship terminal), Szentendre

Program includes:

- Cultural and traditional events: "Ládafia" puppet theatre, "Kolompos Ensemble" (folk music and dance)
- Earth Day nature photo exhibition
- Natural products fair: bio-products, food, seeds, textiles, flowers, handcrats (the guests can also try...), traditional folk products, green books
- Green programs: gardening advisory service, alternative technologies, and many more

To learn more about REC and the Earth Day event, please visit:
www.rec.hu/foldnapja/e_index.html