

Earth Day

1. As pupils enter

Play your chosen music and display one of the focus images if you wish.

2. Introduction

Ask the assembly if anyone has heard of Earth Day. If anyone has, ask them to explain what Earth Day is. If not, ask everyone to suggest what Earth Day might be about. Gather responses. When ready, tell pupils: **Earth Day is a special day each year when people around the world come together to raise awareness of environmental issues and their impact on the planet. Earth Day is not a new thing...but its importance today is greater than ever because of the growing threat posed by climate change. We're going to watch a short video about Earth Day and, as you watch, think about what simple things you could do to help...**

3. Play the video

The duration is 4' 14". Final words: 'Can you do one thing today to help?'

4. After the video - Time to talk

Aid pupils recall of the video and their understanding of it by asking some, or all, of the following questions:

- **Can you remember what day Earth Day is each year?** (22 April)
- **The first ever Earth Day in 1970 happened in response to what?** (Oil spill)
- **Why do you think this event inspired 20 million people to come together and protest?** (Oil is very polluting - oil spills kill wildlife)
- **What is climate change?** (The long-term change in weather patterns)
- **What effect is climate change having on our planet?** (Droughts, hurricanes, etc - looking for an awareness of increased frequency and severity)
- **What is the main cause of climate change?** (Human activity - in particular the burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas)
- **What can we do to try to reduce the future impact of climate change?** (Stop burning fossil fuels and use cleaner energy - eg wind and solar)
- **What are some of the things we can all do to protect and preserve our planet?** (Any reasonable response - eg planting flowers for pollinators / planting trees to absorb carbon dioxide / reducing the amount of single-use plastic we use / walking, cycling or scooting to school instead of driving)

Conclude by asking pupils: **Turn to the person next to you and tell them one simple thing you could do today to help make a difference.**

5. Opportunity to sing

If your assembly is to include a song this would be a good time to sing.

Video page

6. Opportunity to reflect

Focus your reflection on the reasons we mark Earth Day every year.

Sit quietly now as we think about the things we've heard today...

We've heard that Earth Day is an opportunity on one special day each year to raise awareness of environmental issues and the impact of climate change in particular...

We've heard how climate change is already having an impact around the world and its consequences could get worse...

But we've also heard about some of the ways we can all help to make a difference and slow the effects of climate change...sometimes by doing very simple things...

As we mark Earth Day, let's remember that it's our responsibility to look after our planet, because it's the only one we've got...

How could you help to make it Earth Day every day?

7. Opportunity for prayer

Begin with your usual address and:

Thank you for the people who work to raise awareness of the environmental issues facing our beautiful, but fragile planet.

Thank you for giving us the power to have an impact on the future by making changes now.

Help us to remember that change happens when we take action.

Amen.