



Practice Task: EARTH DAY



PART 1: Research (approx. 60-90 mins)

Student Directions:

Your Assignment:

Planners of your city's Earth Day events are sponsoring an Earth Day essay competition to show the significance of Earth Day in the past, present and future. You will examine several sources about Earth Day. Then you will answer three questions about what you have learned. In Part 2, you will write an explanatory essay about Earth Day for the essay competition.

Steps You Will Follow:

To plan and write your essay, you will do all the following:

1. Read an article and two flyers.
2. Watch three videos.
3. Answer three questions about the reading and the videos.
4. Plan and write your essay.

Directions for Beginning:

You will now watch the videos and read the article and flyers. Take notes because you may want to refer to your notes while writing your essay. You can refer to any of the sources as often as you like.

Source Information:

- Article:** *Earth Day Takes Center Stage*; New York Times, Up Front Magazine
- Flyers:** Earth Day Celebration, Marysville, WA
Earth Day Celebration, Beverly Hills, CA
- Video #1:** Frank Blair, Greenhouse Warning on Earth Day 1970: NBC News (2:53)
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o0YLMuPA_Jo
- Video #2:** *Earth Day 1970 Part 13 Conclusion CBS News with Walter Cronkite* (2:39)
<https://youtu.be/pCcxlQYdH24>
- Video #3:** Earth Day 1970 A Grassroots Moment That Sparked a Movement (3:27)
<https://youtu.be/IVEHVKB2uKA>



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NOTE TAKING TOOL

SOURCE	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
Video #1: <i>Frank Blair</i>			
Video #2: <i>Walter Cronkite</i>			
Video #3: <i>Earth Day, 1970</i>			



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NOTE TAKING TOOL

SOURCE	PAST	PRESENT	FUTURE
Article: <i>Earth Day Takes Center Stage</i>			
Flyers: <i>Earth Day Celebrations</i>			



TIMES PAST

Gray Skies: A factory in Altoona, Pennsylvania, in 1947

1970

Planet Earth

Anger at the nation's increasingly polluted air and water helped fuel an environmental movement and efforts to protect America's natural resources

BY PATRICIA SMITH

Back in the 1960s, the oily, brown water of Cleveland's Cuyahoga River was so toxic and filled with garbage, residents joked that if anyone fell in, they wouldn't drown, they'd decay.

So it wasn't a total surprise to locals when the Cuyahoga River caught fire in June 1969 after some oil-soaked debris was ignited, most likely by sparks from a passing train. But to the rest of the nation, the idea of a flaming river was shocking.

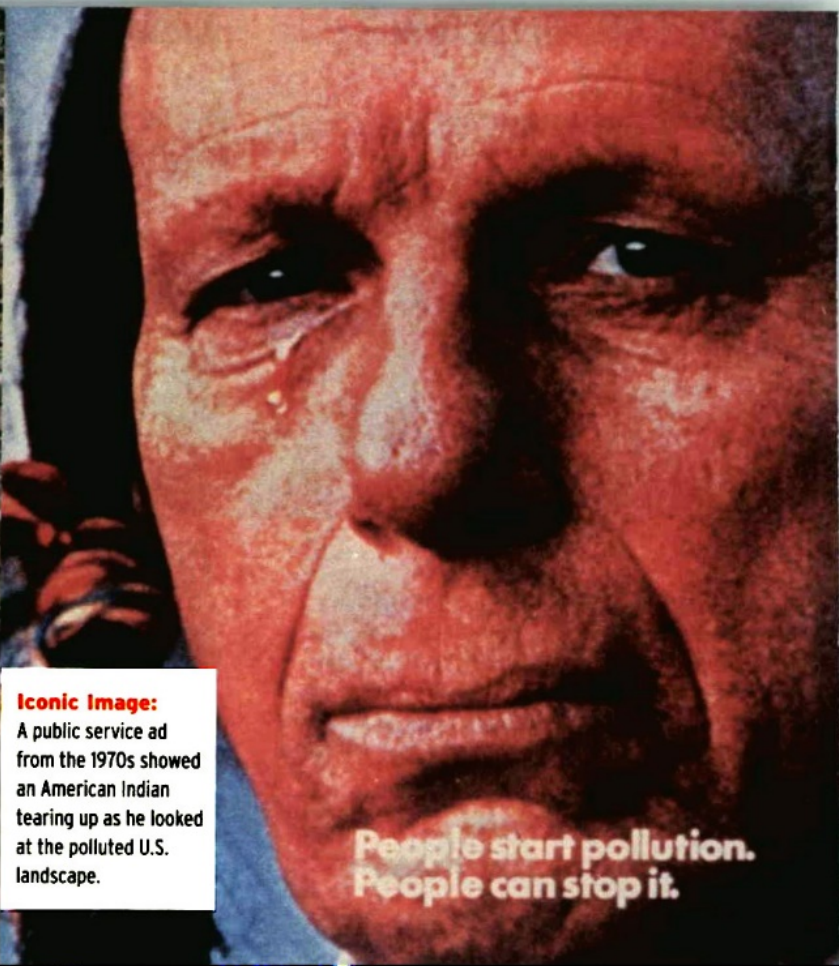
Six months earlier, a thick oil slick had washed over the beaches of Santa Barbara, California. The disaster, which went on to blacken 40 miles of scenic coastline, was the result of a blowout on an offshore oil rig.

"The Cuyahoga River fire, in combina-

HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON/MAGNUM PHOTOS (ALTOONA, PA)



First Earth Day: 20 million Americans, like these in New York City, took part on April 22, 1970.



Iconic Image: A public service ad from the 1970s showed an American Indian tearing up as he looked at the polluted U.S. landscape.

Takes Center Stage

tion with the Santa Barbara oil spill, had a very powerful motivating force on the environmental movement,” says Jonathan Adler, an environmental historian at Case Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

So powerful, in fact, that 1970 became the year the environmental movement really took off and began to have an impact on our national policy and our daily lives. Forty years later, we’re still reaping the benefits—and facing new challenges.

The Tumultuous '60s

The 1960s were a decade of protests and social movements that changed America, including the civil rights movement, the anti-war movement (against the Vietnam War), and the women’s movement. It was in this

social and political context that the environmental movement developed.

It wasn’t just high-profile environmental disasters like the Santa Barbara oil spill and the Cuyahoga River fire that got people angry and spurred them to act. On the coasts, beaches were often closed because of the raw sewage being dumped into the oceans. And across the country, it was common for factories to dump their waste directly into rivers: In western Massachusetts, people remember the Housatonic River changing color from one day to the next, depending on what color paper the Crane mills were making.

Dense smog hung over the nation’s cities. In Los Angeles, some businessmen changed their shirts during the day because the soot

in the air had soiled them by lunchtime. In New York, the air was sometimes so dirty that tourists couldn’t see the city below from the Empire State Building’s observation deck.

No one really thought much about pollution back then. The U.S. was still in the midst of the post-World War II boom: Factories across the country produced everything from cars to washing machines. And as millions of people moved to the suburbs, car sales—and the pollution they produced—soared.

“There was no consciousness of the environment at all in the 1950s and ’60s—nobody even knew what the word ‘ecology’ was,” says Rich Borden, an environmental studies professor at College of the Atlantic in Maine.

“At that time, smoke coming out of smokestacks was seen as a sign of progress. A few

TIMELINE Environmental Milestones

SILENT SPRING Rachel Carson



1962

Silent Spring is published. It condemns the overuse of pesticides, and is widely credited with helping to launch the environmental movement.

1969

The Santa Barbara oil spill in California and the Cuyahoga River fire in Ohio focus attention on the nation's environmental problems.

1970

20 million Americans participate in the first Earth Day. President Nixon creates the Environmental Protection Agency and signs the Clean Air Act.

1972

The Clean Water Act prohibits the discharge of toxins and raw sewage into waterways. That same year, the pesticide DDT is banned in the U.S.

1973

The Endangered Species Act is signed into law. Since then, many endangered species like the bald eagle (above) and the grizzly bear have been brought back from the brink of extinction.

years later, it was seen as something we had to regulate and be careful of.”

That change began in 1970. On April 22, nearly 20 million people, many of them young, participated in rallies and teach-ins around the country to celebrate the first Earth Day. The event was intended to alert the public to the environment's poor condition and encourage Americans to get involved in fixing it. It remains, to this day, one of the largest political actions in the nation's history.

'Environmental Magna Carta'

As interest in the environment grew, the government began to respond. In 1970, the National Environmental Policy Act—sometimes referred to as the “environmental Magna Carta”—required the federal government to consider the environmental consequences of all major policy decisions: Whenever there are plans to widen a highway, build an airport, or dredge a river, you're likely to hear talk about an “environmental impact statement.” This is required under NEPA to consider what effects the project will have on the environment and how to minimize them.

In July 1970, President Richard Nixon issued an executive order creating the

Environmental Protection Agency (E.P.A.) to enforce laws that protect the environment and public health.

Later that year, Nixon signed the Clean Air Act, a landmark law designed to reduce air pollution. At the time, cars used leaded gasoline, so the exhaust contained lead—a toxin that stunts brain development. One of the most important provisions of the Clean Air Act mandated the gradual elimination of lead from gasoline. It also required factories to install filters on their smokestacks to remove the most-toxic chemicals.

In 1972, Congress passed the Clean Water Act, requiring factories to stop dumping their waste into waterways, and communities to stop dumping raw sewage into rivers and oceans. The following year, the Endangered Species Act created a list of plants and animals on the brink of extinction and provided extra protections for them.

“What you saw happen in the 1970s was Congress laying the foundation for the modern environmental regulatory state,” says Jay Turner, a professor of environmental studies at Wellesley College in Massachusetts.

By the end of the decade, more than 8,000 pieces of environmental legislation

were introduced in Congress (though not all passed), according to John Adams, founder of the National Resources Defense Council. “It was a revolution that took place,” he says.

Bipartisan Support

One reason so much was accomplished in the 1970s is that many of the steps taken were embraced across the political spectrum. President Nixon was a Republican, and Democratic and Republican support in Congress made passage of some very sweeping legislation possible.

The new environmental regulations had a significant impact. Sewage treatment plants were built. Factories stopped using rivers as waste-disposal systems and began filtering their emissions.

Over time, much of the smog disappeared and many rivers returned to health. The Cuyahoga River in Cleveland, which after the 1969 fire became the national symbol of environmental disaster, is now a place where residents fish for smallmouth bass.

Animals such as the bald eagle and the grizzly bear, which were close to extinction in the early '70s, have rebounded and have since been removed from the endangered



1980

Congress creates the Superfund, which has set aside billions of dollars to clean up hazardous-waste sites across the U.S.

1989

The Exxon Valdez oil tanker strikes a reef off Alaska and spills 500,000 barrels of crude oil into Prince William Sound.

1997

The Kyoto Protocol, an international agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, is adopted by 122 countries, but never ratified by the U.S. Congress.

2007

Former Vice President Al Gore's documentary, *An Inconvenient Truth*, focuses public attention on the issue of climate change.

2010

In April, an offshore oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico explodes and 4 million barrels of crude flow into the Gulf, the largest spill in history. The well is capped in July.

ERIC LEE/PARAMOUNT CLASSICS/SCRIPPS HOWARD PHOTO SERVICE/NEWS.COM (AL GORE); PAUL BUCK/VEPA/CORBIS (BP OIL SPILL); TED SOOJ/CORBIS (LOS ANGELES SKYLINE)

species list. By the time lead was entirely eliminated from gasoline in the mid-1980s, doctors in the U.S. reported a significant drop in the amount of lead found in the blood of their patients.

"The great triumph of what we did in 1970 is on the whole much cleaner air and much cleaner water," says Jim Tripp of the Environmental Defense Fund.

Beyond that, many environmentalists point to a much less tangible—but also critical—achievement: a widespread public awareness about the importance of environmental protection.

Today's Issue: Climate Change

In the early 1970s, the U.S. was a global leader on environmental protection. In the next decade, many countries followed the American example and created environmental ministries and environmental-protection laws similar to those in the U.S.

Today, most scientists point to climate change as the most significant environmental challenge. But it's a much tougher issue for Washington to address for several reasons: A segment of the American population remains skeptical about climate-change science. Even



Clearer Days: Downtown L.A. today

An Improving Picture

	THEN	NOW
Number of Smog-Alert Days in Los Angeles	102 (1976)	0 (2009)
Carbon Monoxide Emissions (in Tons)	204 million (1970)	88 million (2007)
Estimated Number of Bald Eagles	2,000 (1971)	70,000 (2007)

SOURCES: SOUTH COAST AIR QUALITY MANAGEMENT DISTRICT, E.P.A., THE NEW YORK TIMES, BALDEAGLEINFO.COM

some of those who believe it is a serious problem are leery of the cost of proposed solutions—and their impact on the economy and employment at a time when the nation is struggling to emerge from recession.

Environmental issues also don't have the wide bipartisan support they enjoyed 40 years ago. All these factors help explain why the U.S. has been slower than many other industrialized countries to take steps to address climate change.

"Today, the challenges are much more long-term and much less visible," says Turner, the Wellesley professor. "It doesn't foster the same climate of crisis politics, but the stakes are even higher."

Nevertheless, it's clear that the environmental movement has had an impact on the way Americans think.

"Environmental issues today have a prominence that they didn't have before," says Adler, the environmental historian at Case Western. "There is not a major American institution, governmental or non-governmental, that doesn't have to consider environmental values in the way it conducts itself. That's as true of Walmart as the U.S. military." ●



Come join the 2012 Earth Day Celebration

of the Allen/Quilceda Watershed
 Saturday, April 14th 10am - 2pm Rain or shine!
 Qwuloolt Estuary Restoration Project Site,
 Harborview Park, 4700 60th St. NE, Marysville, WA 98270*

- The first 200 participants get a free Earth Day 2012 T-shirt.
- Stamp your shirt with all the parts of a healthy watershed.
- Plant a native tree or shrub to help restore the Qwuloolt Estuary.
- Drop in or stay for the whole event. Registration is preferred.
- Come prepared for all weather conditions and to get your hands dirty. Wear sturdy shoes or boots.
- Plants, tools, gloves, water and snacks will be provided for volunteers.
- To register contact: Stephanie Leeper, 425-328-9205, stephanie@soundsalmonsolutions.org
- *For directions and more information for this event, visit Sound Salmon Solutions' event page: <http://qr.net/hfjv> or scan the below QR code with your mobile device.
- (TTY: 711 or WA Relay Center at 800-833-6388). Translation services and accommodations for persons with disabilities are available upon request

QR code-Scan me!



Sponsors:

aqwa team
 Allen / Quilceda Watershed Action Team





**SUNDAY
APRIL 14
9AM TO 1PM
BEVERLY HILLS
FARMERS'
MARKET**



Come Join the Earth Day Celebration at the Farmers' Market

Learn how to “live lightly”
on planet Earth

- **Energy Conservation:**
VISIT THE SOCAL EDISON MOBILE UNIT AND LEARN ABOUT REBATE PROGRAMS AND APPLIANCE BUYING TIPS.
- **Emergency Preparedness:**
VISIT THE MOBILE EARTHQUAKE SIMULATOR. EMERGENCY KITS & EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE.
- **Recycling:**
LEARN ABOUT OUR TWO-STREAM WASTE SYSTEM. DROP OFF DISPOSABLE DRY-CELL BATTERIES AND PRINTER CARTRIDGES. GET FREE COMPOST AVAILABLE IN 20-POUND BAGS, WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

AND, MUCH MORE FOR ALL AGES TO ENJOY!

FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE
BEVERLY HILLS PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT
(310) 285-2467

WWW.BEVERLYHILLS.ORG/EARTHDAY



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PART 2: Essay (approx. 60-90 mins)

Student Directions:

You will now have 60-90 minutes to review your notes and sources, plan, draft, and revise your essay. You may use your notes and refer to the sources. You may also refer to the answers you wrote to questions at the end of part 1, but you cannot change those answers. Now read your assignment and the information about how your essay will be scored, then begin your work.

Your assignment:

Planners of your city's Earth Day events are sponsoring an Earth Day essay competition to show the significance of Earth Day in the past, present and future. Write an essay that explains the historical importance of Earth Day, its current emphasis, and what experts suggest as a focus for the future. Use information from both print and video sources in your essay.

How your essay will be scored:

1. **Statement of Purpose/Focus** – how well your response is fully sustained and consistently and purposefully focused.
2. **Organization** – how well the ideas progress from the introduction to the conclusion using effective transitions.
3. **Elaboration of Evidence** – how well you provide support evidence for your topic and includes effective use of sources.
4. **Language and Vocabulary** – how well you effectively express ideas using precise language that is appropriate for your audience and purpose.
5. **Conventions** – how well you follow the rules of usage, punctuation, capitalization, and spelling.

Now begin work on your essay.

- Review your notes.
- Plan your essay using the template provided
- Write your essay
- Revise and edit for a final draft





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Planning My Essay

Essay Components
Introduction: Capture the reader's attention.
Statement of purpose or controlling idea:
Earth Day: Historical Importance
Earth Day: Current Emphasis
Earth Day: Future Focus
Conclusion:

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