

Digital Access is on Pages 4-5

EARTH DAY Reading Comprehension 4TH & 5TH GRADE: 2 TEXTS

The image displays a collection of Earth Day-themed educational materials. In the foreground, a laptop screen shows an article titled "Earth Day History" with the following text:

Earth Day History

Earth Day takes place each year on April 22. It's an international celebration that honors and fights to protect the planet. People come together across the world to help stop pollution, share solutions for environmental problems, and celebrate the planet.

Earth Day was founded in the United States in 1970. It was a reaction to a pair of environmental disasters that took place the previous year. The first was a massive oil spill off the coast of California that began in January 1969. The spill dumped oil into the Pacific Ocean for eleven days. The second calamity took place in Cleveland, Ohio in June of the same year. The city's heavily polluted Cuyahoga River burst into flames. Those events brought environmental problems into the national consciousness.

Many people were horrified by these events. One was U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson. Nelson thought that this kind of outrage could help the planet. He saw how much energy people put into fighting for peace and civil rights. He thought that this same passion could be turned toward environmental issues. Nelson organized the first Earth Day. That first year, over 20 million Americans across the country came together in support of the planet.

Twenty years later, the movement went global. In 1990, Earth Day had two hundred million participants from 141 countries. Today, over 192 countries observe Earth Day. Activities come in all shapes and sizes. Some people take individual actions, such as picking up garbage in their favorite parks. People sometimes join together to make larger statements. For example, in 2011, a large network of volunteers planted 28 million trees in Afghanistan. In 2012, 100,000 people in China rode bikes. Their goal was to bring attention to the dangers of automobile emissions.

Surrounding the laptop are several worksheets with titles like "Using Context Clues", "Our Earth Day Celebration", "Evaluating Summaries", "Sequencing Events", "Identifying Theme", "What Could You Do?", "What's That Ph...", "Earth Day History", and "Main Ideas". The worksheets include fields for Name and Date, and some have tables for recording information. A globe and a lightbulb are also visible in the background.

Looking for more Earth Day activities?



For more holiday and seasonal reading comprehension activities like this one, check out this bundle!

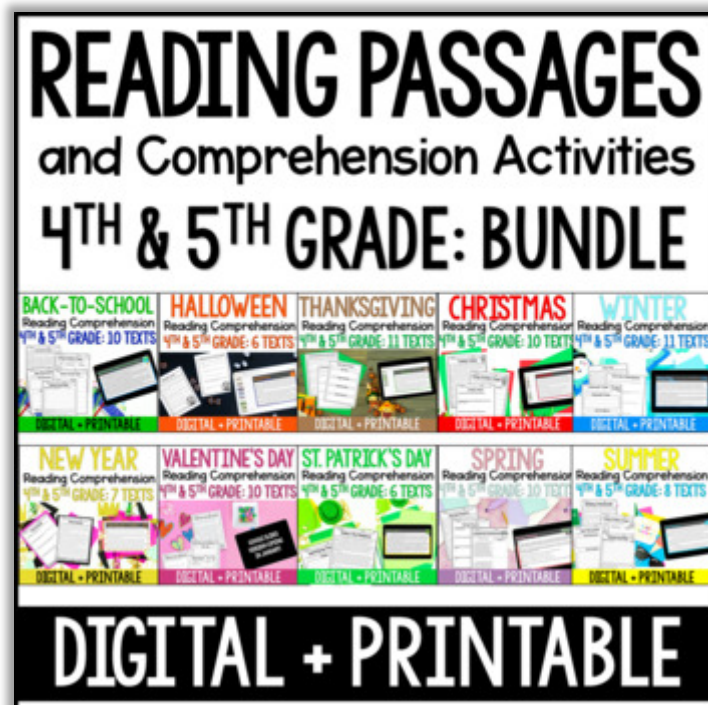


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GOOGLE SLIDES DETAILS

1. Make sure that you're logged in under the Google Account you want to use the file with, which is most likely your school account.
2. Click on the text on the next page to access the files. The webpage will ask you to **make a copy**. By default, Google Drive will save your copy in your main drive, not a folder.
3. Each slide contains text boxes for students to type their answers into.
4. To assign specific slides from the Google Slides file, make a copy of your master. (You can do this by right-clicking on the file, or while the file is open, going to FILE > MAKE A COPY.)
5. Rename your new copy. Delete any pages you don't want to assign.
5. If you're using the file with Google Classroom, make sure that you make a copy for each student when assigning the file. Otherwise, all of your students will be editing the same copy.

Digital Access

Title	Access Link
All Texts and Activities	<u>Click here to COPY to your drive.</u>
Nonfiction Text: Earth Day History (TEXT ONLY)	<u>Click here to COPY to your drive.</u>
Nonfiction Text: Earth Day History (TEXT & ACTIVITIES)	<u>Click here to COPY to your drive.</u>
Fiction Text: Earth Day Festival (TEXT ONLY)	<u>Click here to COPY to your drive.</u>
Fiction Text: Earth Day Festival (TEXT & ACTIVITIES)	<u>Click here to COPY to your drive.</u>

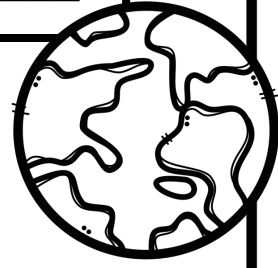
[Need a step-by-step guide for assigning
Google Slides in Google Classroom?
Click here!](#)

NONFICTION: EARTH DAY HISTORY

Name _____

Date _____

Earth Day History



Earth Day takes place each year on April 22. It's an international celebration that honors and fights to protect the planet. People come together across the world to help stop pollution, share solutions for environmental problems, and celebrate the planet.

Earth Day was founded in the United States in 1970. It was a reaction to a pair of environmental disasters that took place the previous year. The first was a massive oil spill off the coast of California that began in January 1969. The spill dumped oil into the Pacific Ocean for eleven days. The second calamity took place in Cleveland, Ohio in June of the same year. The city's heavily polluted Cuyahoga River burst into flames. Those events brought environmental problems into the national consciousness.

Many people were horrified by these events. One was U.S. Senator Gaylord Nelson. Nelson thought that this kind of outrage could help the planet. He saw how much energy people put into fighting for peace and civil rights. He thought that this same passion could be turned toward environmental issues. Nelson organized the first Earth Day. That first year, over 20 million Americans across the country came together in support of the planet.

Twenty years later, the movement went global. In 1990, Earth Day had two hundred million participants from 141 countries. Today, over 192 countries observe Earth Day. Activities come in all shapes and sizes. Some people take individual actions, such as picking up garbage in their favorite parks. People sometimes join together to make larger statements. For example, in 2011, a large network of volunteers planted 28 million trees in Afghanistan. In 2012, 100,000 people in China rode bikes. Their goal was to bring attention to the dangers of automobile emissions.

Name

Date

1. What two environmental disasters in 1969 led to the founding of Earth Day?

2. Before the first Earth Day, what else did Senator Nelson notice that people put a lot of energy into fighting for?

3. What are two facts about the first Earth Day?

4. In your own words, why did so many people in China ride bikes on Earth Day in 2012?

Earth Day History



1. What two environmental disasters in 1969 led to the founding of Earth Day?

A huge oil spill took place off the coast of California, and a river in Cleveland, Ohio caught fire.

2. Before the first Earth Day, what else did Senator Nelson notice that people put a lot of energy into fighting for?

Senator Nelson noticed that people put a lot of energy into fighting for peace and civil rights.

3. What are two facts about the first Earth Day?

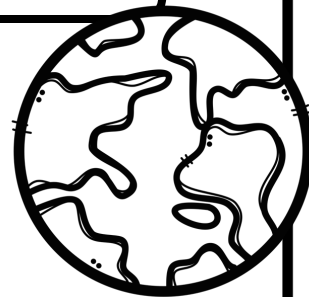
More than 20 million people participated in it, and it only took place in the United States.

4. In your own words, why did so many people in China ride bikes on Earth Day in 2012?

People in China rode bikes to call attention to how much air pollution was caused by cars.

Name _____ Date _____

Using Context Clues



Using context clues from the text, determine the meanings of the words in the table.

Word	Context Clues	Definition
international		
reaction		
calamity		
consciousness		
outrage		
network		

Using Context Clues



Using context clues from the text, determine the meanings of the words in the table.

Word	Context Clues	Definition
international	Clues will vary.	involving two or more countries
reaction	Clues will vary.	something that happens as a result of something else
calamity	Clues will vary.	an event that causes great harm or suffering
consciousness	Clues will vary.	awareness or knowledge about something
outrage	Clues will vary.	a strong feeling of anger or shock resulting from a bad or harmful event
network	Clues will vary.	a group of people who work together

Name _____ Date _____

Sequencing Events



Directions: Cut out and read each event. Sort the events in the order they occurred.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	



Earth Day was founded when Senator Gaylord Nelson organized the first Earth Day.

One hundred thousand people in China rode bikes.

The Cuyahoga River caught fire.

More than 192 countries observe Earth Day.

Volunteers planted 28 million trees in Afghanistan.

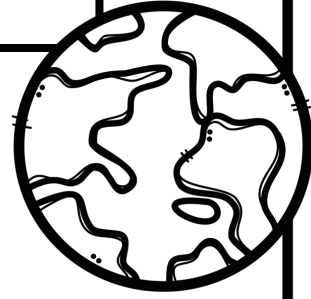
A massive oil spill took place off the coast of California.

Earth Day became an international event.

Earth Day History

ANSWER KEY

Sequencing Events



Directions: Cut out and read each event. Sort the events in the order they occurred.

1	A massive oil spill took place off the coast of California.
2	The Cuyahoga River caught fire.
3	Earth Day was founded when Senator Gaylord Nelson organized the first Earth Day.
4	Earth Day became an international event.
5	Volunteers planted 28 million trees in Afghanistan.
6	One hundred thousand people in China rode bikes.
7	More than 192 countries observe Earth Day.



Earth Day was founded when Senator Gaylord Nelson organized the first Earth Day.

One hundred thousand people in China rode bikes.

The Cuyahoga River caught fire.

More than 192 countries observe Earth Day.

Volunteers planted 28 million trees in Afghanistan.

A massive oil spill took place off the coast of California.

Earth Day became an international event.

Earth Day History

Name _____ Date _____

Main Ideas

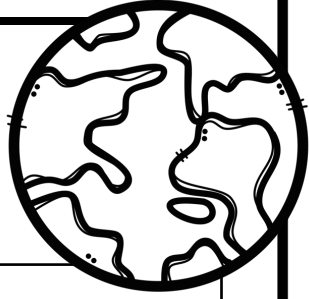


Write the main idea of each paragraph in the table.

Paragraph	Main Idea
1	
2	
3	
4	
Overall Main Idea of Text	

ANSWER KEY

Main Ideas



Write the main idea of each paragraph in the table.

Paragraph	Main Idea
1	Each year on Earth Day, people gather to honor the natural world.
2	Earth Day was founded after a couple of natural disasters took place in 1969.
3	Senator Gaylord Nelson founded Earth Day as a way to tap into people's outrage about harm to the environment.
4	Earth Day has grown a lot over the years and is celebrated in many different ways.
Overall Main Idea of Text	Earth Day is an international celebration every year to honor the natural world.

Name _____ Date _____

Our Earth Day Celebration

Write a letter to your principal to share your opinion on how you can celebrate Earth Day at your school. Use details from the informational text in your letter.



FICTION: EARTH DAY FESTIVAL

Name _____ Date _____

Earth Day Festival



Jeffrey was hiking through the woods, which he rarely did. It was a nice spring day, so he decided to take the long way home through the state park. It was delightful. The April sun washed over him like a warm Caribbean wave. However, this feeling was quickly replaced when Jeffrey saw a soda can sitting atop a tuft of moss like a wart on the forest's beautiful face.

Jeffrey's heart deflated like an old balloon. How could someone litter in this beautiful place? He picked it up and continued on. He then saw a plastic bag waving from a tree like a flag of surrender. He picked that up, too, and put the can inside. During the rest of the walk, Jeffrey picked up several more pieces of trash. He had seen many more in the distance, too, but he had to get home before dark. By the time he returned home, Jeffrey felt very sad. There was just too much for him to clean up by himself.

Jeffrey grabbed the mail. In the stack was a flyer about an Earth Day festival the town was holding. That gave Jeffrey an idea.

Jeffrey texted everyone he knew. Across the phone, his fingers danced like a concert pianist's. He asked each friend to tell everyone he or she knew to gather at 9 a.m. on Earth Day at the park entrance.

Earth Day arrived. A huge crowd gathered at the park. Jeffrey's smile exploded into fireworks. He handed out biodegradable trash bags, and everyone got to work. By that afternoon, they had covered every square inch of the park, and every speck of trash was gone. It was just one park, but it was a start. Jeffrey now knew what could happen when people came together to help the planet.

Name _____ Date _____

Earth Day Festival



1. What time of year did Jeffrey's hike take place? How do you know?
2. How did Jeffrey find out about the Earth Day festival?
3. Why did so many people show up at the park?
4. In paragraph 5, what is the meaning of the sentence, "It was just one park, but it was a start"?

ANSWER KEY

Earth Day Festival



1. What time of year did Jeffrey's hike take place? How do you know?

Jeffrey's hike took place in the spring. Paragraph 1 says, "It was a nice spring day".

2. How did Jeffrey find out about the Earth Day festival?

A flyer about the festival came in the mail.

3. Why did so many people show up at the park?

Jeffrey texted everyone he knew and asked them to come to the park on Earth Day. He also asked each person to text everyone he or she knew.

4. In paragraph 5, what is the meaning of the sentence, "It was just one park, but it was a start"?

The sentence means that the group's efforts on Earth Day didn't solve the entire problem of trash, but their efforts still mattered. They cleaned up the park, and they showed that a lot can happen when people work together.

Name _____ Date _____

Identifying Theme



Complete the graphic organizer by describing a possible theme that matches the story.

Theme

Text Evidence

Identifying Theme



Complete the graphic organizer by describing a possible theme that matches the story.

Theme

A lot can be accomplished when many people work together.

Text Evidence

In paragraph 2, Jeffrey was sad that there was too much trash for one person to pick up. In paragraph 5, many people gathered at the park on Earth Day. By that afternoon, they had picked up all of the trash.

Name _____ Date _____

What's That Phrase?



Determine the meanings of the phrases from the story.

Phrase	Meaning
"washed over him like a warm Caribbean wave"	
"like a wart on the forest's beautiful face"	
"like an old balloon"	
"like a flag of surrender"	
"like a concert pianist's"	
"exploded into fireworks"	

ANSWER KEY

What's That Phrase?



Determine the meanings of the phrases from the story.

Phrase	Meaning
"washed over him like a warm Caribbean wave"	like a soothing dip into warm, gentle water
"like a wart on the forest's beautiful face"	like a flaw that makes something less lovely
"like an old balloon"	like something that has lost whatever had given it life earlier
"like a flag of surrender"	like something that announces a loss
"like a concert pianist's"	used with great skill
"exploded into fireworks"	Something suddenly became visible.

Name _____ Date _____

Evaluating Summaries



Read each incorrect summary of the story. Write what is wrong with each.

Incorrect Summary	What is wrong with the summary?
Jeffrey was enjoying a hike through the woods in a state park until he came upon some trash. After he got home and saw an Earth Day flyer, he had the idea to contact a lot of people about picking up trash in the park. A huge crowd showed up on Earth Day, and they cleaned up the entire park.	
Jeffrey was enjoying a hike through the woods in a state park until he came upon some trash. He picked up several pieces but saw many others that he didn't have time to pick up. He had the idea to contact a lot of people about picking up trash in the park on his birthday. A huge crowd showed up on his birthday, and they cleaned up the entire park.	

Evaluating Summaries



Read each incorrect summary of the story. Write what is wrong with each.

Incorrect Summary	What is wrong with the summary?
<p>Jeffrey was enjoying a hike through the woods in a state park until he came upon some trash. After he got home and saw an Earth Day flyer, he had the idea to contact a lot of people about picking up trash in the park. A huge crowd showed up on Earth Day, and they cleaned up the entire park.</p>	<p>leaves out important information</p> <p>(He picked up trash on his hike.)</p>
<p>Jeffrey was enjoying a hike through the woods in a state park until he came upon some trash. He picked up several pieces but saw many others that he didn't have time to pick up. He had the idea to contact a lot of people about picking up trash in the park on his birthday. A huge crowd showed up on his birthday, and they cleaned up the entire park.</p>	<p>wrong information</p> <p>(The event took place on Earth Day, not his birthday.)</p>

Name

Date

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

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