

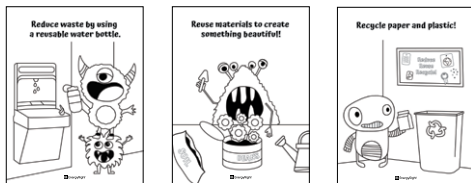
April activities

Earth Month

Earth Day is celebrated worldwide on **April 22**. But why limit the celebration to one day? Earth Month is a great way to wrap up the school year and your school's participation in School Uplift! Here are some fun, optional activities to help your students celebrate Earth Month and learn more about sustainability.

EnergyRight® Monsters coloring pages

Get your early elementary students fired up about Earth Month with the help of EnergyRight Monsters Watt, Zap, Breaker, Newton, Spark and Bolt. The adorable EnergyRight Monsters featured on the coloring pages help teach students the “three Rs”: reduce, reuse and recycle.



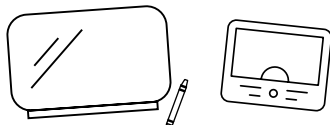
Coloring sheets can be found at the end of this section. You can also download them at [EnergyRight.com/business-industry/school-uplift/resources](https://www.energyright.com/business-industry/school-uplift/resources).

Collect junk mail

Invite your upper elementary classroom or club to learn about paper waste by collecting junk mail for one week.

Supplies

- Whiteboard or recycled paper
- Digital scale



¹ <https://facts.usps.com/table-facts>

² <https://www.sierraclub.org/sierra/let-s-ban-junk-mail-already>

³ <https://green.harvard.edu/tools-resources/how/4-tips-reducing-your-junk-mail>

Did you know that:

The United States Postal Service delivered **64.1 billion pieces of marketing mail** in 2020.¹

The average American adult receives **41 pounds of junk mail** (unsolicited mail such as credit card offers, coupons, flyers or catalogs) each year.²

To produce 41 pounds of junk mail for every adult in the U.S., approximately **80-100 million trees** must be cut down each year.³



Teacher key

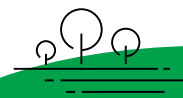
1. Send your students home with a parent/guardian **permission form** (see below for a sample form) to collect junk mail for one week.
 2. Remind students to **bring in their junk mail each day**.
 3. Using a whiteboard or recycled paper, **make a chart to track the quantity and total weight** of the daily mail for each student. (see callout example below)
 4. Ask each student who participates to **count the number of pieces** they bring in each day and write the total on the chart.
 5. Ask each student who participates to **weigh the pieces of junk mail** they bring in each day and write the total weight on the chart.
 6. At the end of the week, **add up the total quantity and weight** by each student and classroom/group.
 7. Lead a discussion about reducing paper use by asking students questions such as:
 - a. How can we **use less paper** in our classroom or club?
 - b. How can we **remember to use recycled paper**?
 - c. Could this chart paper (if chart is on paper) or junk mail be **reused** in some way?
- Hint: Consider creating artwork or hosting a schoolwide recycling drive.*
- d. How can we creatively **share what we've learned** with the school?

Sample permission letter (see page 8)

Dear Parent/Guardian:

We are celebrating Earth Month this year by learning more about the "three Rs": reduce, reuse and recycle. We need your help! Send your student to school with your junk mail so we can count it, weigh it, reuse it and recycle it.

Thank you!



Sample permission form (see page 8)

EARTH MONTH JUNK MAIL PERMISSION FORM

My student, _____, has my permission to bring junk mail — such as unsolicited offers, coupons, flyers or catalogs — to school for a classroom project.

I understand that these materials will be used in class and that I am responsible for removing or marking out any personal information (name, address, phone, etc.).

Parent/Guardian signature



Sample chart (see page 9)

Student Name	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total
Alisha	2 pieces	3 pieces				
	1.5 oz.	3 oz.				
Keshaun	7 pieces	2 pieces				
	10 oz.	2 oz.				
Alisha	2 pieces	3 pieces				
	1.5 oz.	3 oz.				

Additional activity ideas

- Have students create a schoolwide campaign on reducing paper use.
- Ask students to calculate how much junk mail students' families receive. (Base calculations on your classroom or group metrics.)
- Help your students find out how to unsubscribe from junk mail.
- Conduct a schoolwide "Paperless Day," and encourage classrooms to use recycled paper for any in-class assignments or activities.
- Find out how much paper is used by teachers and staff during a day, week or month. Calculate the equivalent number of trees used to produce that amount of paper.
 - Flex your math skills: One ream of paper (500 sheets) uses 6% of one tree.⁴

⁴ <https://www.worldatlas.com/articles/how-many-trees-does-it-take-to-make-1-ton-of-paper.html>



Additional resources

Going all out for Earth Month? Check out these resources for more great activity ideas and celebrations.



TVA

Learn how to make green choices and help clean up public waterways and lands. Visit [TVA.com/environment/enjoy-earth-day-with-tva](https://www.tva.com/environment/enjoy-earth-day-with-tva) to learn more.

Your local power company

Check with your local power company to see if they are hosting any events or activities for Earth Day.

Earthday.org

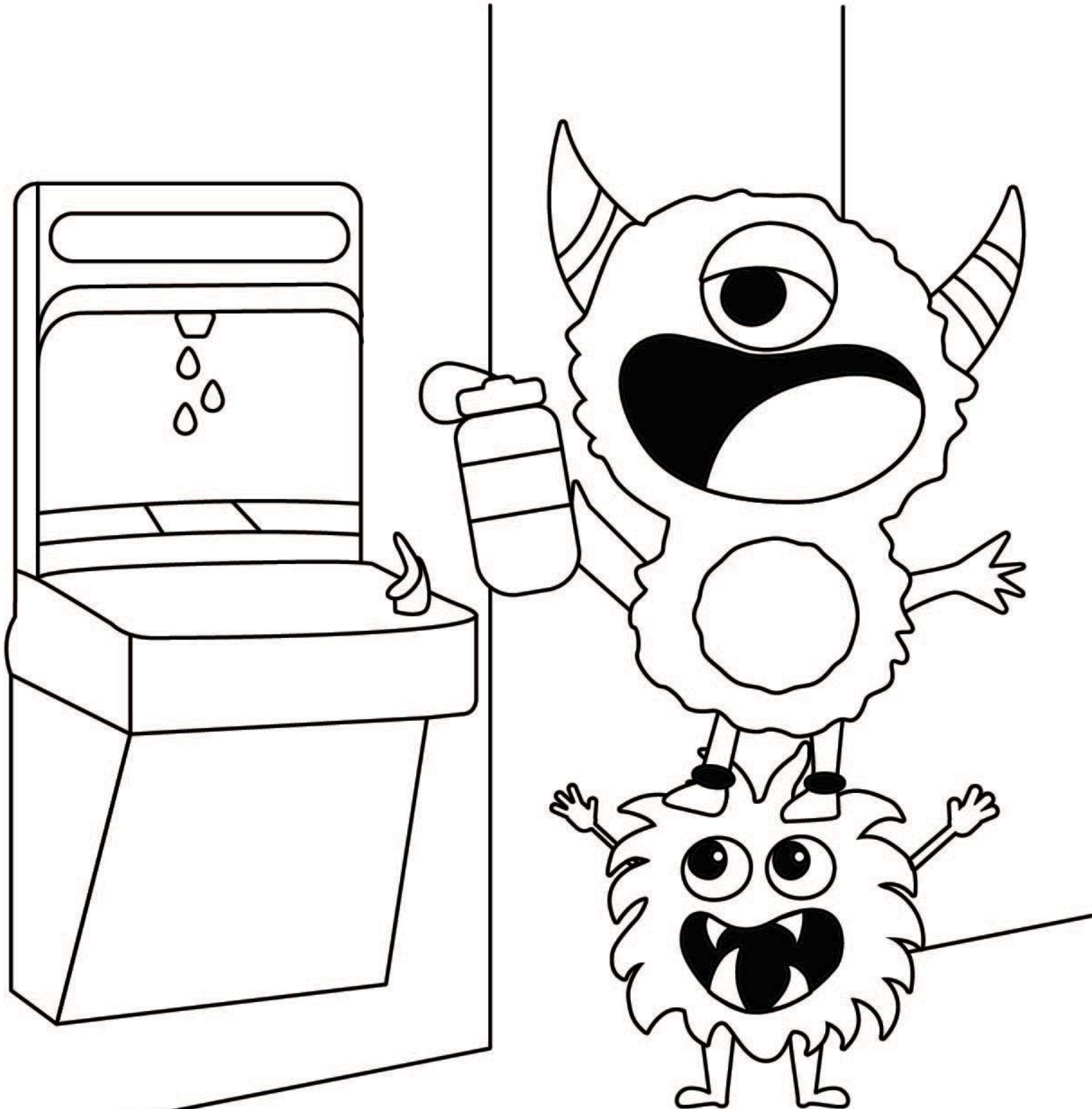
The online Earth Day Environmental Education Resource Library includes resources for classroom, at-home and community learning. Access toolkits, advocacy packets, editable PowerPoint timelines, quizzes and lesson plans. Visit [earthday.org/education-resource-library](https://www.earthday.org/education-resource-library) to learn more.

EPA

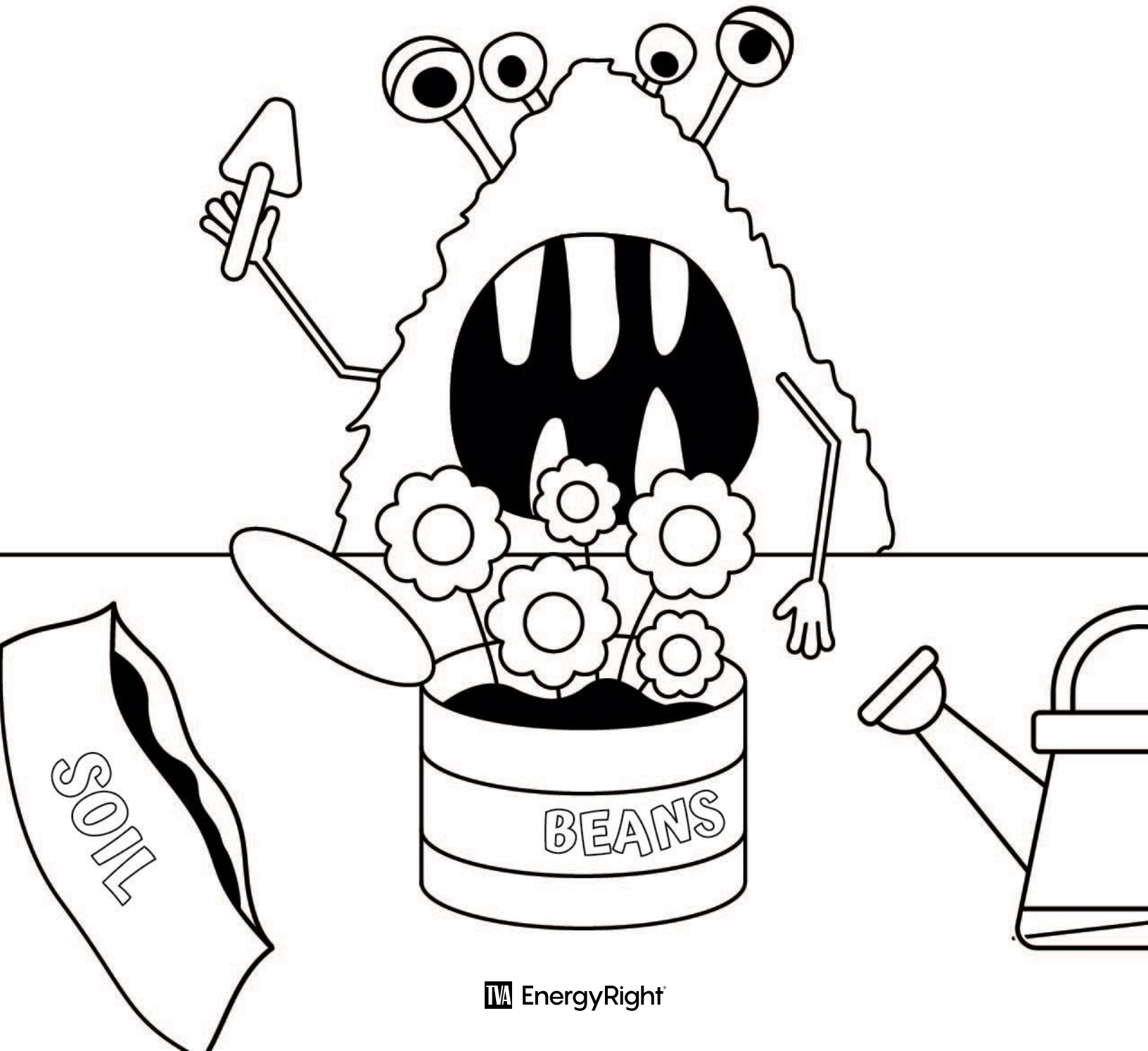
To celebrate Earth Day in the classroom, visit [epa.gov/earthday](https://www.epa.gov/earthday) for lesson ideas, facts and homework resources.



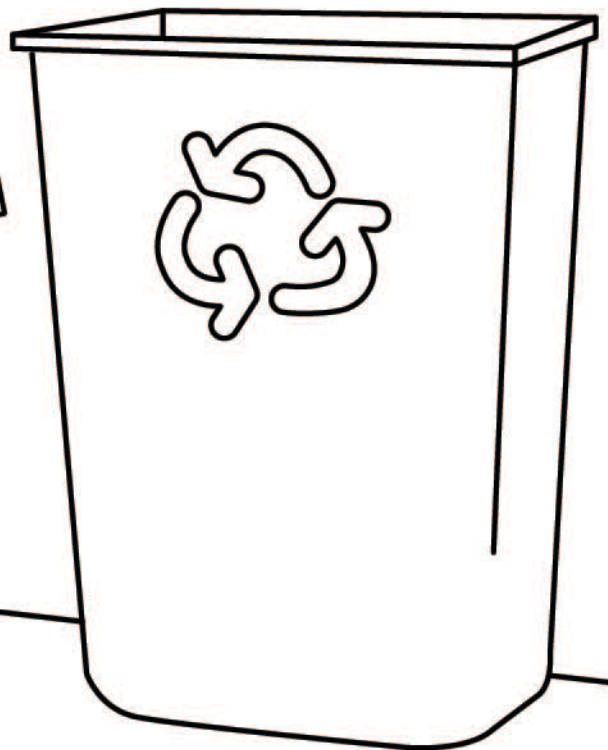
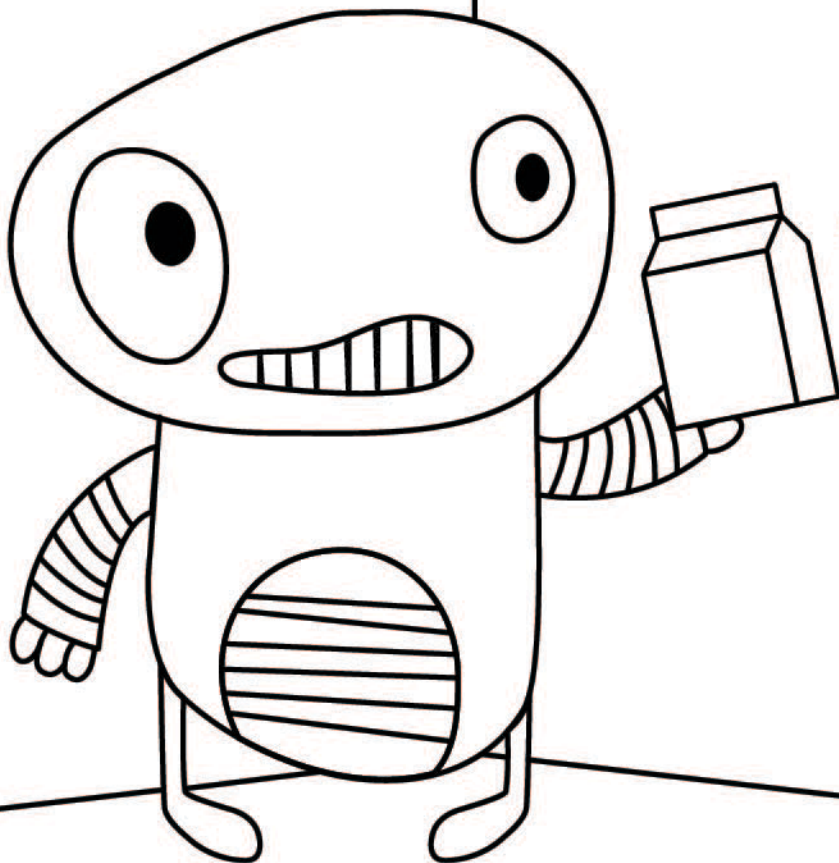
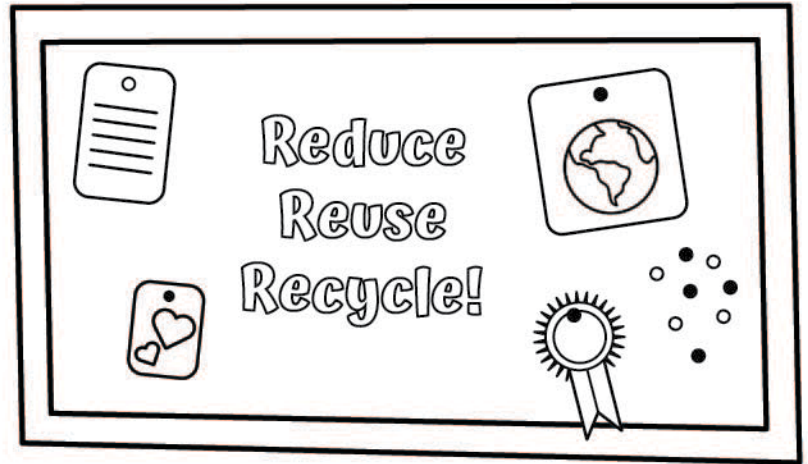
**Reduce waste by using
a reusable water bottle.**



Reuse materials to create something beautiful!



Recycle paper and plastic!



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EARTH MONTH

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Date

Student Name	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Total

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Earth Day Jeopardy

Get students fired up with a game of Earth Day Jeopardy! This is a fun, interactive way to teach students about the history of Earth Day and why it's just as important today. Jeopardy-style questions are also a great way to share sustainability and environmental science concepts.

Similar to Power Down Jeopardy from December's activities, Earth Day Jeopardy is hosted online, so you can play it in the classroom, during recess or after school. The game follows the Jeopardy TV show's rules, but it does not include Double Jeopardy, Final Jeopardy or Daily Doubles.

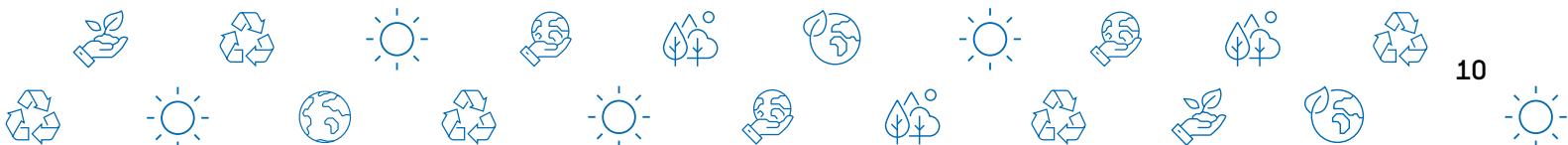
Earth Day Jeopardy themes

1. Earth Day History
2. Mother Earth
3. Environmental Awareness
4. Sustainability
5. Energy and the Environment

Setting up

Earth Day Jeopardy is available at jeopardylabs.com/play/school-uplift-earth-day.

1. Break up the class into teams of four, based on your class size. Teams will compete against each other.
2. Enter the number of teams into the starting page of the Jeopardy Labs game board.
3. Open the link to the print version of Earth Day Jeopardy, located under the "Press F11 for full-screen mode" button on the same page you entered the number of teams. This will open a new tab in your browser, which will display the answers to each question on the board. Don't let students see this screen before or during the game.

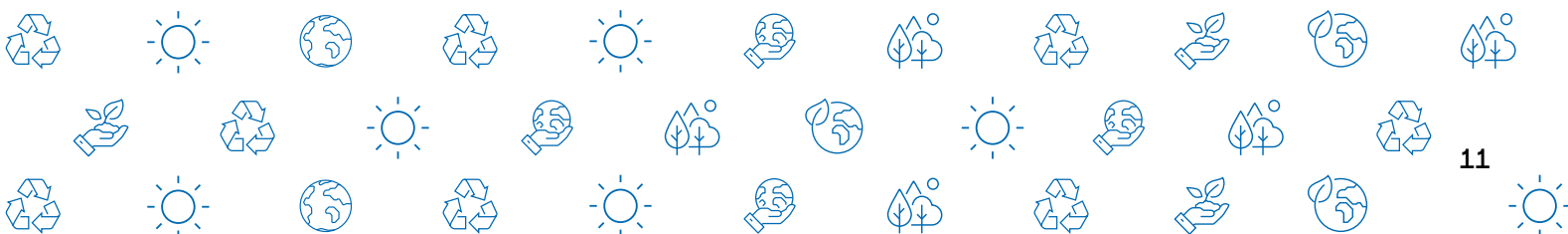


4. Press "Continue." This is the Jeopardy board. You should see a scoreboard for each team at the bottom of the screen.
5. Ask each team to choose an environment-themed name. By default, the scoreboard will say "Team 1," "Team 2," and so on, but you can enter your students' chosen team names by double-clicking on that space.
6. Designate a team captain. The captain is responsible for standing up to signal that their team would like to answer a question.

To play Earth Day Jeopardy

1. Select a team to pick the first category and point amount.
2. Click on the selected box to reveal the question.
3. Whichever team captain stands up first gets the initial attempt to answer the question.
4. If that team answers correctly, reveal the answer to the class by pressing the spacebar on your keyboard. If the team answers incorrectly, do not reveal the answer! Invite the team that responded second the opportunity to answer.
5. If the second team answers incorrectly, continue inviting teams in the order they stood up to answer. Once a team answers correctly, or there are no additional guesses, reveal the answer by pressing the spacebar.
6. The team that answers the question correctly will select the next category and point box.
7. Click the plus sign for any team that answered correctly. Click the negative sign for those that answered incorrectly.
8. The Earth Day Jeopardy board will automatically add or subtract the number of points a question is worth to or from the team's total score. Before returning to the main Earth Day Jeopardy board, give each team their respective score.

To return to the main Earth Day Jeopardy board, hit the escape key. The number in the box will fade, indicating the question has been answered. The game is over when all the answers have been revealed, the numbers have faded and the board is empty.



Game instructions

Read the instructions below to the teams before starting the game. Feel free to customize the instructions as necessary.

Script

To begin, one team will decide which category and point amount they would like to pick, such as Earth Day History for 200. Questions in each column are related to that category's theme. The question difficulty increases as the number value increases; 100 will be the easiest and 500 will be the most difficult.

Once you've selected your category and point amount, I will reveal the question and read it aloud. If you think you know the answer, alert your team captain. After the question has been fully read, your captain may stand up to share the answer. Correct responses can only be given after I [the teacher] have called on your captain. Captains, please wait to respond until you have been called.

If anyone on your team answers the question before they've been called on or speaks out of turn, your team will be deducted the amount of points the question was worth.

If your team captain is the first to stand up, they will answer the question on behalf of the team. If your team's answer is incorrect, your team will lose the designated points. The team who stood up second will then have a chance to respond.

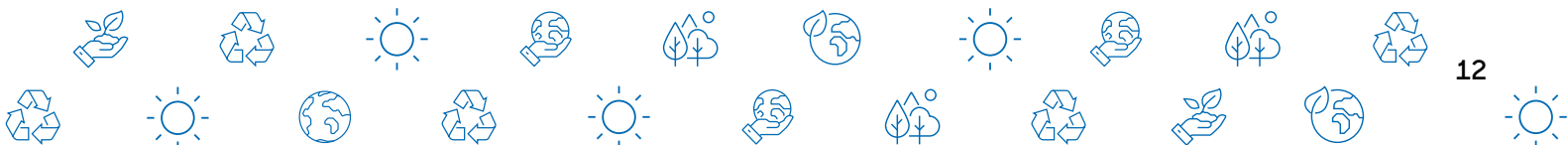
If the correct response is given, the second team receives the 200 points and selects the next category and point amount (such as Sustainability for 100).

If the second team answers the question incorrectly, the question goes to the next team that stood up until the question has been answered correctly or there are no teams left that are willing to guess. If no team can answer the question correctly, then the last team to give a correct answer will select the next category and point amount.

When the answers for each category have been revealed, the team with the most points wins!

Any questions? Good luck!

When the correct answer is revealed, use the opportunity to provide additional background information on the topic.



Additional resources

Going all out for Earth Month? Check out these resources for more great activity ideas and celebrations.

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Learn how to make green choices and help clean up public waterways and lands. Visit [TVA.com/environment/enjoy-earth-day-with-tva](https://www.tva.com/environment/enjoy-earth-day-with-tva) to learn more.

Use a **solar calculator** to learn how solar energy works, and calculate the cost and payback of solar for your school or home. Visit [EDT.TVA.gov](https://www.edt.tva.gov) to learn more.

Your local power company

Check with your local power company to see if they are hosting any events or activities for Earth Day.

Earthday.org

This online library includes resources for classroom, at-home and community learning. Access toolkits, advocacy packets, editable PowerPoint timelines, quizzes and lesson plans. Visit [earthday.org/education-resource-library](https://www.earthday.org/education-resource-library) to learn more.

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Ecochallenge

Ecochallenge is a platform that empowers your school community to connect their actions to science-based, sustainable solutions.

Your class or school community can earn points on the ecochallenge.org platform by completing and tracking energy-saving actions. Small groups, clubs, classes or entire grades can compete against one another to see who's the greenest and to drive sustainable habits. Or you can even take on your neighboring school or school district for green bragging rights!

Instructions

1. Visit campus.ecochallenge.org/users/join to create an account for your team.
2. Type in "School Uplift" in the "Organization" text box.
3. Enter the time period for your challenge in "Team Check-in Window." We suggest two to three weeks.
4. Select actions that your team will commit to completing throughout the challenge. Some examples of energy actions include "adjust your thermostat," "switch to cold water" and "complete an online energy audit."
5. Click "Invite Teammates" located on the left side of the "Dashboard" page and share the referral link with interested students. You may need to remind them to accept the invitation.
6. Start saving energy and completing the actions you've selected!
7. Go to the "Dashboard" and click "Check In" when actions have been completed. Select the daily or one-time actions that you have completed. Your team will earn points every time you "Check In" on an action. (Please note: Ecochallenge points are not connected to School Uplift grants.)

Helpful hint: Ecochallenge.org has video tutorials and answers to FAQs on their website. Visit campus.ecochallenge.org/about/resources for help with creating an account, forming teams or choosing actions that are right for your school community.



