



## Lesson Plan 040106

Tell Someone About Earth Day (Target: Grades 3-6)

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### Time Requirements:

1. 40-50 minutes during Science class time

### Objectives:

1. Create awareness for Earth Day among students, parents, grandparents and others
2. Create awareness for the importance of environmental responsibility
3. Create “environment awareness” dialog between students and parents/guardians

### Materials:

1. Access to PCs and (optional) color inkjet printers
2. Rustle the Leaf Earth Day eCards (<http://www.rustletheleaf.com/funstuff.html>).
3. Rustle the Leaf Earth Day Printable Cards (part of this document)
4. Rustle the Leaf Earth Day Friends List (part of this document)
5. Earth Day Action List (part of this document)

### Methods:

1. (10 minutes) Hand out and review the Earth Day Action List. Discuss the many ways in which grown-ups can save energy, money and the Earth. Ask students which of the ideas might be appropriate for their own home/family situation.
2. (3-5 minutes) Hand out and review “Earth Day Friends List.” Discuss the importance of telling others about ways that they can celebrate Earth Day and make small changes in their lives to help reduce pollution.
3. (5-7 minutes) Have students write down the names of friends and grown-ups (parents, grandparents, etc.) to whom they would like to send an email (eCard) greeting or a printed Earth Day card.
4. (8-10 minutes) On the classroom computer(s), visit [rustletheleaf.com](http://rustletheleaf.com), go to the ‘Fun Stuff’ page, and open some of the Earth Day 2006 eCards. Show students how to send eCards to people on their lists, or to print some of the Printable Earth Day Cards in case they would prefer to send cards via mail.
5. (10-15 minutes) Pass out 2 of the printable Earth Day Card designs to each student. Have them fold the cards and write an Earth Day greeting message on the cards. Ask the students to take the cards home for their parents, and to share information about Earth Day with them.



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### Earth Day Action List

Easy ways to save money, enjoy life and preserve the Earth for future generations!

#### 1. Slow the Flow

A faucet leaking just one drop per second wastes over 1,300 gallons per year! A leak from a hot water source wastes both water and fossil fuel, creating more greenhouse gasses. Most repairs to plumbing fixtures pay for themselves within just a year. Fix it!

#### 2. Think Green When You Clean

Cleaning products that contain chlorine or petroleum distillates expose your family to toxins and then end up in the ecosystem. Choose nontoxic, naturally derived cleaning products, which are proven effective but won't cause long term damage to the Earth.

#### 3. Choose Both Sides

Every year, pulp mills release over one trillion gallons of chlorine-tainted water as part of the paper making process. Using the other side of the paper can cut that pollution almost in half! And choose recycled paper—especially processed-chlorine-free recycled paper.

#### 4. 'Green' Your Machine

Americans waste over 700 million gallons of gasoline each year just because tires aren't properly inflated. Millions more are wasted because our vehicles aren't properly tuned up. Keep your machine running 'Green!' You'll save money and reduce emissions!

#### 5. Meat Less for Dinner

Once a week, plan a meat alternative for dinner. Enjoy pasta with a marinara or Alfredo sauce, meatless chili burritos, or even grilled veggie burgers! Reducing meat consumption conserves fresh water, saves topsoil, and even reduces air pollution!

#### 6. Walk, Hike, Ride a Bike

If people in the U.S. would occasionally ride a bike for a short errand instead of driving a car, over 70 million gallons of fuel could be saved each year! And there's the added benefit of enjoying the fresh air and exercise! For short errands, take a hike!

#### 7. Plant a Tree Every Earth Day!

Over a 50-year lifetime, a tree generates \$31,250 worth of oxygen, provides \$62,000 worth of air pollution control, recycles \$37,500 worth of water, and controls \$31,250 worth of soil erosion. It also provides shade that keeps homes and cities cooler!

#### 8. Give Weeds a 'Hand'

Herbicides aren't the only way to control weeds, and they're certainly not the most environment-friendly way! Invest in a good pair of gloves and garden tools, and remove weeds by hand. Also, choose natural alternatives to pesticides for getting rid of pests!

#### 9. Lighten Your Energy Bill

There's a brighter way to light your home: new Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs). Compared to regular bulbs, CFLs last 10 times longer, use only 1/4 the energy and produce 90% less heat—yet they produce more light per watt! Brighten the future: go CFL!

#### 10. Reduce, Reuse Recycle

It's more than just a slogan. You can start making the world a 'greener' place today: return hangers to the cleaners, donate clothing and computers to charities, pack lunches in reusable.



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### Earth Day Friends List

Important People I Want to Tell about Earth Day!

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

How I Know Them \_\_\_\_\_

What I Sent \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

How I Know Them \_\_\_\_\_

What I Sent \_\_\_\_\_

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

How I Know Them \_\_\_\_\_

What I Sent \_\_\_\_\_

---

Name \_\_\_\_\_

How I Know Them \_\_\_\_\_

What I Sent \_\_\_\_\_

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

How I Know Them \_\_\_\_\_

What I Sent \_\_\_\_\_



EARTHDAY EVERYDAY EARTHDAY EVERYDAY EARTHDAY EVERYDAY EARTHDAY

**MAKE EVERY DAY EARTHDAY!**

A central illustration shows the Earth with a smiling face. Surrounding it are three other characters: a blue water droplet, a green leaf, and a grey cloud, all with smiling faces. The background consists of green rays emanating from the center, with yellow stars and small green swirls scattered throughout.

**RUSTLE THE LEAF**

**FIND OUT 10 THINGS YOU CAN DO TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE:**  
[WWW.RUSTLETHELEAF.COM/10THINGS.HTML](http://WWW.RUSTLETHELEAF.COM/10THINGS.HTML)

EARTHDAY EVERYDAY EARTHDAY EVERYDAY EARTHDAY EVERYDAY EARTHDAY





# MAKE EVERY DAY EARTHDAY!

**RUSTLE  
THE LEAF**



## 1 TURN YOUR WATER HEATER DOWN BY JUST 10 DEGREES!

MOST OF US SET OUR WATER HEATERS AT 140 DEGREES F, WHEN 120 DEGREES WILL DO. TURNING THEM DOWN EVEN 10 DEGREES WILL REDUCE YOUR GAS OR ELECTRIC BILL BY DOLLARS NOT CENTS AND STOPS AROUND 600 LBS OF CARBON EMISSIONS EACH YEAR.

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.POWERSCORECARD.ORG/REDUCE\\_ENERGY.CFM](http://www.powerscorecard.org/reduce_energy.cfm)

**FIND OUT  
10 THINGS  
YOU CAN DO  
TO MAKE A  
DIFFERENCE:**

## 2 REPLACE THE OLD AIR FILTER IN YOUR CAR OR TRUCK!

THIS SIMPLE CHANGE REDUCES YOUR FUEL CONSUMPTION BY AS MUCH AS 10%. WITH TODAY'S FUEL PRICES, THAT'S \$4 IN YOUR POCKET AT EVERY FILL-UP. PLUS, FOR EVERY GALLON OF GAS YOU SAVE, YOU STOP 22 LBS OF CARBON EMISSIONS FROM GOING INTO THE ATMOSPHERE!

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.FUELECONOMY.GOV/FEG/MAINTAIN.SHTML](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/FEG/MAINTAIN.SHTML)

## 3 REPLACE INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULBS WITH CFLs!

REPLACE JUST FOUR STANDARD BULBS WITH NEW COMPACT FLUORESCENT LIGHT BULBS AND YOU'LL SAVE \$100 OVER THE COURSE OF THEIR RATED LIFE, WHILE ELIMINATING OVER 5000 LBS OF CARBON EMISSIONS.

SOURCE: [HTTP://WWW.NEWDREAM.ORG/CONSUMER/CFL.PHP](http://www.newdream.org/consumer/cfl.php)

[WWW.RUSTLETHELEAF.COM/10THINGS.HTML](http://WWW.RUSTLETHELEAF.COM/10THINGS.HTML)



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ENVIRONMENTALISM IS ABOUT

**WRONG**

**IS NOT**

**RIGHT**

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