



Girl Guides

Earth Day: Brownies

Sunday April 22, 2018





Brownies Earth Day Instant Meeting

This Earth Day, let's come together to protect our planet! Through this instant meeting, you'll connect with nature, learn about environmental justice and take action to make the Earth a safe and healthy place for everyone.

Earth Day programming should take you one meeting to complete. Mix and match activities that are interesting to you and your unit. They can be led by anyone. The Making a Difference crest is available to celebrate all your hard work.

For your meetings why not include:

- The starter activity
- 2-3 activities
- The closing activity

Share your experiences with us on social media using **#EarthDay** and the tags:



Girl Guides of Canada



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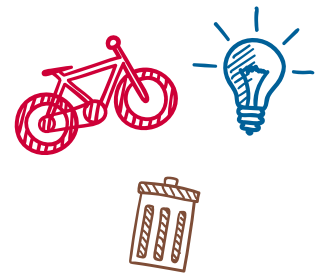


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Objectives and Outcomes

Objective:

- Explore ways to share the Earth with each other and make it a safe and healthy place for everyone.



Outcomes:

You will:

- Develop the understanding that a healthy Earth supports healthy people
- Recognize the importance of sharing and protecting the Earth's resources



Look for the **OUTDOOR** icon throughout this instant meeting. This icon identifies activities that can easily be done outdoors with little or no modifications.



Look for the **TECH NEEDED** icon throughout this instant meeting. This icon identifies activities that work best with technology included.





≡ **BEGIN** the Instant Meeting with this Starter Activity ≡

Starter Activity: Earth is Home - Brownies

Earth is the only home we have! In this activity you will create a paper plate Earth and think about why it's important to cherish the Earth.

Skills you'll build:

- Critical Thinking
- Gratitude

You will need:

- Paper plates, one each
- Pencils or pencil crayons to write your name
- Reusable tablecloth for painting over
- Plastic plates or paint palettes
- Blue and green finger paints

Time it takes:

- 10 minutes

What to do:

1. Show a globe or a picture of the Earth to the group.
2. Talk about:
 - How many people do you think live on Earth?
 - o Earth is home to about 7.5 billion people!
 - Who/what else lives on Earth?
 - How are all living things on Earth like a family?
3. Give each person a paper plate.
4. Write your name or initials on the back of the plate.
5. Give everyone blue and green finger paints to share.
6. The plate represents the Earth. Use the finger paints to draw the land and water found on Earth.
7. When you're finished, let your plate dry. You'll come back to the craft during the closing activity.





Stuff to talk about:

- What gifts does the Earth give us? What gifts do we give the Earth?
- Why is it important to protect the gifts the Earth gives us? How can protecting those gifts help us to protect each other?





 **CONTINUE** your meeting by selecting one or two activities from each of the themes below. 

Theme 1: Healthy Earth, Healthy Us

The health of the Earth is affected by people, and also affects people. When we pollute the Earth and use more of what it provides than we actually need, we harm the Earth and put our health and safety at risk. In these activities, you'll explore how keeping the Earth healthy can protect all of us.

Theme Activities: Needs & Wants Footprints

Everything we use comes from the Earth including the things we need and the things we want. In this activity, you'll explore the difference between needs and wants and discover how sharing can allow everyone to get the things they need.

Skills you'll build:

- Critical Thinking
- Observation
- Social Awareness

You will need:

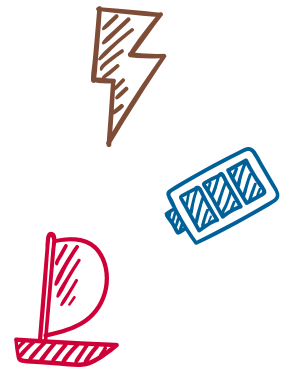
- Needs & Wants Footprint Template (p.14)
- Print materials including old magazines, flyers, and advertisements
- Scissors, one pair each
- Glue stick, one stick each or enough to share
- Colouring supplies

Time it takes:

- 20 minutes

What to do:

1. Come together and talk about:
 - What are needs? What are some examples?
 - What are wants? What are some examples?
 - How do we use the environment to get the things we need and want?
2. Have everyone get into small groups.
3. Give each person a Needs and Wants Footprints template. Give half the small groups lots of magazines, flyers and advertisements and more pairs of scissors and glue sticks than they need. Give the other half only one or two print materials, a couple pairs of scissors and a couple glue sticks to share.
4. Look through the print materials and cut out pictures of wants and needs. Glue them to the matching footprint.
5. After a few minutes, do a quick check-in:
 - What do you notice about the amount of materials each group has? Is this fair?





- How does it feel to have fewer materials than you need to do the activity?
- How can we make the situation fairer so that everyone can complete the activity?

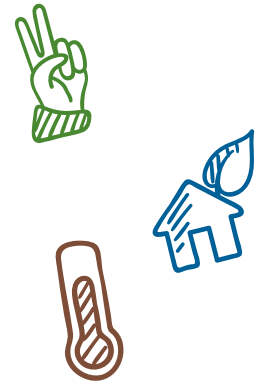
6. Together, decide on the best ways to share the materials.
7. Continue filling in your needs and wants footprints when supplies have been shared.
8. When everyone is finished, stand in a circle and place your footprints on the ground.
9. Walk around the circle and take a look at everyone's needs and wants. When you return to your footprints, have a seat.



NEEDS are things that are necessary for humans to survive and be healthy. **WANTS** are things that we like to have but do not need. All of our needs and wants come from the Earth. Some people have more than they need, while others don't have enough of the things they need. There are enough resources on Earth for everyone to get the things we need if we share.

Stuff to talk about:

- What do you notice about everyone's needs and wants?
 - What's similar?
 - What's different?
- Do you think there's enough on Earth for everyone to get the things they need?
- Why is it important to share the things that come from the Earth?



Timber Tag: Brownies



Trees are necessary to the health of people, animals and the environment. In this tag game, you'll observe what happens when trees are cut down and forests are destroyed. Timber!

Skills you'll build:

- Critical Thinking
- Observation

You will need:

- Duct tape
- Orange cones (optional)

Time it takes:

- 15 minutes

Before starting:

- Cut strips of duct tape about a foot in length.
- 2-3 girls will be loggers and the rest will be trees. Girls will need two strips of duct tape each. Fold over one end to create a lip.
- You may want to prepare some additional strips in case any can't be reused after the first round.
- If you're playing outside, use orange cones to create boundaries for the play space.

What to do:





1. Share what you know:

- Why do people cut down trees?
- What are some of the things we use trees for?
- Why do people need trees to survive?



2. Choose 2-3 volunteers to be loggers.

3. Everyone else will be trees. Imagine that you're all in the forest.

4. Give each tree two strips of duct tape. Each strip represents a branch. Stick one piece of tape to each sleeve with the lip at the bottom.

5. Loggers will chase the trees and try to tear off their branches. Branches can be dropped on the ground.

- If a tree has both branches torn off, they have been chopped down. You are out and must stand off to the side of the forest.

6. Play until most of the trees are out.

7. Have everyone stop and look at the forest floor. Think about what a real forest looks like when its trees are chopped down.

Want more?

- Now that the trees are chopped down, what can you do to regrow the forest? Play again, but this time, help the trees that have been chopped down get back into the forest. Once a girl is tagged out, she becomes a seed. Tag the seeds to bring them back into the forest. If a seed is tagged by a logger, she can do five moves, like jumping jacks or arm circles, to stay in the game.



Stuff to talk about:

- What happens if too many trees are cut down? How would people, animals, and nature be affected?
- How can planting trees help the environment?
- What else can you do to protect trees?
- How can we make sure that forests stay healthy so people, plants and animals can be healthy?



Water Pollution Solution

The best solution to pollution is preventing it from happening in the first place! In this activity, you'll see how pollution affects freshwater environments (e.g. lakes and rivers) and how difficult it can be to remove the pollutants.





Skills you'll build:

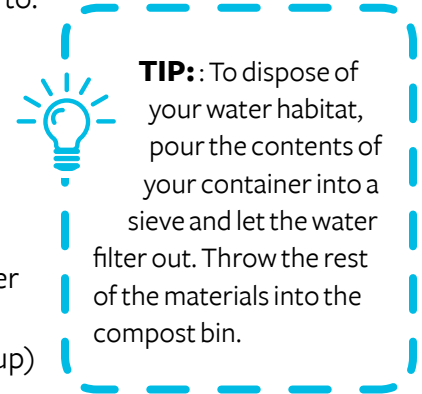
- Observation
- Problem Solving
- Responsibility

You will need:

- Large bowls or reusable containers (at least 2-3 inches deep), one per group
- Small bowl, one per group
- Tools for removing pollutants – at least one tool per girl, same tools for each group; examples could include but are not limited to:
 - Spoons
 - Eye droppers
 - Small sieves or soup skimmers
- Water (enough to fill each bowl/reusable container)
- Dixie cups (4 per group)
- Dried chickpeas (a small handful of each per group)
- Dried black beans (a small handful per group)
- Dried lentils (a small handful per group)
- Food colouring
- Vegetable oil (1 tablespoon per group)
- Couscous (1 small handful per group)
- Shredded paper (1 small handful per group)
- Large sieve

Time it takes:

- 25-30 minutes

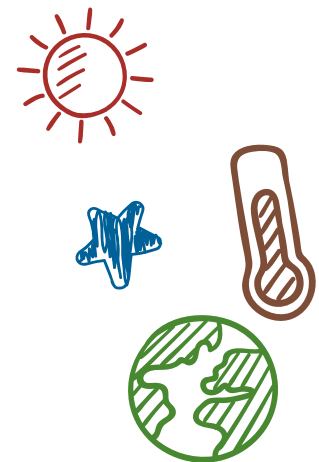


Before starting:

- Organize each group's materials, and place them in separate areas around the room. Each group will need a large bowl or reusable container, a small bowl, and various tools to remove the pollutants.
- Each group should also have 4 cups, each filled with a small handful of each: chickpeas, black beans, lentils and couscous.
- Have a couple jugs of water prepared to pour into each group's container.

What to do:

1. As a group, consider:
 - What do we use freshwater for? Why is it important?
2. Have everyone get into small groups and move to their materials.
3. Create a freshwater habitat:
 - Fill your container halfway with water.
 - Have someone in your group add chickpeas to your container to be the plants.





- Have someone in your group add black beans to your container to be the fish.
 - Have someone from your group add lentils to your container to be all the other small creatures, like insects.
4. Add a couple of drops of food colouring to be the chemicals that pollute the water from nearby farming.
 5. Add a tablespoon of vegetable oil to be the pollution in the water from an oil spill.
 6. Add a small cup of couscous to be the sewage that leaked and polluted the water.
 7. Add shredded pieces of scrap paper to be the garbage people have thrown in the water.
 8. Looking at your container, talk with your group for a moment about:
 - How can water pollution affect the environment? Think about the plants, fish and insects that live in the water as well as the people and land animals that use it.
 9. As a group, use your tools to try to remove the pollutants from the water.
 - Put anything you remove in a small bowl.
 - Try not to catch and remove any of the plants, fish and insects. If you do, they also must be put in the bowl.
 10. After about 10 minutes, have everyone walk around the room and compare each other's containers.

Stuff to talk about:

- What happened when you tried to remove the pollution from the water?
- Did any plants, fish or insects end up being removed, too? Why might this be a problem?
- Why is preventing pollution from happening in the first place a better solution than trying to fix the problem later?
- What can you do to protect freshwater?

THEME 2 – Share & Protect

Every person on Earth has the right to a safe and healthy environment. In these activities, you will explore ways that you can protect the Earth and share resources in a way that's fair for everyone.



Theme Activities: Curbside Collection Relay: Brownies



Sorting waste is never a waste of time. In this activity, you'll think about what you're throwing away and where it ends up after it's been put to the curb for pickup.





Skills you'll build:

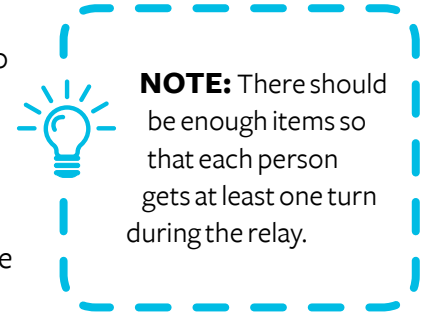
- Critical Thinking
- Teamwork

You will need:

- Masking tape
- Garbage bags, one per group
- Six bins (three for each group)
 - Label two bins 'Recycle', two 'Compost' and two 'Garbage'
- Two sets of the following items placed in two garbage bags, one for each group
 - Recyclables (e.g. plastic containers, cardboard containers, milk cartons)
 - Compost items (e.g. food products, napkins); to avoid creating food waste use printed images
 - Garbage items (e.g. hot drink cups, chip bags, candy wrappers); to avoid messy items use printed images

Time it takes:

- 25 minutes



Before starting:

- Prepare materials for each group's garbage bag.
 - Any 'actual' items need to be thoroughly cleaned.
 - If you don't have actual items, printed images will work great.
- Use the masking tape to create a starting line.
- Place each group's prepared garbage bag behind the starting line.
- Place each group's bins in a row about six meters from the starting line.



What to do:

1. As a group, share what you know:
 - What is garbage? Recycling? Compost? Review some examples of each.
2. Split everyone into two groups and have them stand behind the starting line.
3. Take everything out of your garbage bag. Make sure it stays behind the starting line. Have everyone in your group select one item and form a line facing the bins.
4. When the relay begins:
 - The first person in line will think about what bin their item belongs in. If they aren't sure, they can talk with their group.
 - The first person will move to their group's bins and place their item in the one they have chosen.
 - The first person will return to their line and tag the next person who will repeat the process with a different item.





5. Once both teams have finished, ask the group:
 - What does it mean to reuse something?
6. Go through each group's bins together. Have everyone share their ideas for how items could be reused. If there are any items that did not end up in the correct bin, talk about why they belong in a different bin.
7. Ask the group:
 - What does it mean to reduce the waste we create?
 - Why is reducing waste important for protecting the environment?
8. In your groups, go through the bins and pull out the things that could be reduced or that you could avoid using in the first place. For example, if there was a plastic water bottle, it could be removed and you could suggest using a reusable water bottle instead.
9. Review everyone's ideas for the items that could be reduced.

Stuff to talk about:

- Where does garbage go after it is collected? How can garbage harm the environment?
- How is composting used? Why is composting good for the environment?
- Why is recycling helpful for the environment?
- Why is it important to reduce and reuse?

Eco-Fact:

- Garbage goes to either a landfill where it's buried or to an incinerator where it's burned. It can cause pollution, hurt plants and animals, and cause harm to people's health.
- Compost is used for gardening and farming. It's good for the soil and helps plants and crops grow.
- Recycling is good for the environment because it saves resources and energy.
- Reducing and reusing prevents more energy from being used and more waste from being created.



Small World Necklaces

(Activity modified from "It's a Small World" from learningtogive.org; craft modified from "Earth Day Necklace" from kitchencounterchronicle.com)

The Earth can seem quite small when we think about how we're all connected. In this activity, you will create Earth pendants and reflect on the things we share with people around the world.





Skills you'll build:


- Critical Thinking
- Social Awareness
- Responsibility

You will need:

- Ingredients to make dough:
 - 1 cup all-purpose flour
 - 1/2 cup iodized salt
 - 1/2 cup water
 - Rolling pin or alternative to roll dough, a few to share
 - 1 1/4 inch circular cookie cutters, a few to share
 - Round metal icing tip or straw
 - Parchment paper
 - Baking sheet
- Acrylic paints: Blue and green, or blue and yellow
- Paint brushes, one each or enough to share
- Pallets or plastic plates, a few to share
- Ribbon or string cut long enough to wear as a necklace, one piece each
- Necklace fasteners, one each (optional)
- Beads of four or more colours (preferably an even number), enough for each to have four or more different coloured beads

Time it takes:

- 30-45 minutes



NOTE: You can do this craft over one or two meetings:

- One meeting: Have someone prepare the dough and cut the pendants at home prior to the meeting.
- Two meetings: During the first meeting make the dough and cut the pendants together. Have someone bring them home to bake. Bring them back for the unit to finish during the second meeting.

What to do:

1. Use the following instructions to make a batch of basic salt dough:
 - Sift together flour and salt in a medium sized bowl.
 - Slowly pour the water in and stir the ingredients together until a dough forms. You may need less or more water. Give each person a turn to stir the ingredients.
 - Form the dough into a ball. Give each person a small piece of dough from the ball.
 - Roll out the dough on a lightly floured surface to 1/4 inch thickness.
 - Cut out your pendant with the circular cookie cutter.
 - Use the narrow end of a round metal icing tip or a straw to put a hole at the top of the pendant for ribbon.
 - Place the pendants on a parchment paper lined baking sheet and bake in the oven at 250°F for two hours.
2. Paint the pendants to look like Earth using the acrylic paints.
3. As the pendants dry, reflect on these questions:
 - What does it mean when people say “It’s a small world”?
 - Have you ever been somewhere and seen someone or something familiar that



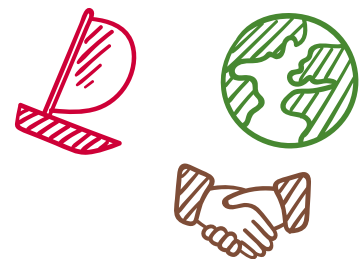


surprised you? How does that make the world seem smaller?

- What are some things that come from the Earth that we share with each other?
4. Come up with four or more things or resources we share with people around the world. For each resource, decide which colour bead will represent it. Examples of resources include:
 - Water
 - Air
 - Soil
 - Trees
 - Crops
 - Livestock
 5. Loop the ribbon or string through the pendant and tie a knot to secure it in place.
 6. Add each resource bead to your necklace.
 7. Use a necklace fastener to tie a loop and clasp to the ribbon or simply tie the ribbon in a knot at the end to close the necklace.
 8. Wear your necklace to remind yourself that the Earth is small and everyone shares the same resources.

Stuff to talk about:

- Why is it important to protect the things we share that come from the Earth?
- What could happen if we don't share the Earth's resources?
- Whose responsibility is it to protect and share the Earth's resources? What can you do to protect and share the Earth's resources?





≡ **CONCLUDE** the Instant Meeting with the following Closing Activity. ≡

Closing Activity: Make Your Mark on Earth - Brownies

Through the Earth Day Instant Meeting you explored environmental issues and the importance of sharing the Earth's resources. Think about your impact on Earth and the actions you can take to make a positive difference.

Skills you'll build:

- Responsibility
- Compassion

You will need:

- Earth plates from Starter Activity
- Colouring Supplies
- Chart paper
- Marker

Time it takes:

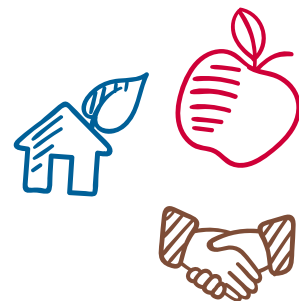
- 10 minutes

What to do:

1. As a group, brainstorm:
 - How can we protect the Earth to keep it safe and healthy for everyone?
2. Give everyone their Earth plate and colouring supplies.
3. On your Earth plate, draw one thing you can do to protect the Earth. It can be something you do at home, in school or even at Girl Guides.
4. Share what you've drawn with everyone in the group.
5. Ask the group:
 - Which of the things you drew on your paper plates are things we can do as a unit?
 - Is there anything else you can think of that we can do as a unit to protect the Earth?
6. Record responses on chart paper. Hang the chart paper where everyone can see it.

Stuff to talk about:

- Why did you pick the one thing you're going to do? How can that action protect the Earth?
- Where can you keep your Earth plate to remind yourself of the thing you chose?
- How can you remind each other to do the things on the unit chart? Why is working together important for protecting the Earth?





Needs & Wants Footprint Template

