



Girl Guides

Earth Day: *Sparks*

Sunday April 22, 2018





Sparks Earth Day Instant Meeting

This Earth Day, let's come together to protect our planet! Through this instant meeting, you'll 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 Fun 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



@girlguidesofcan

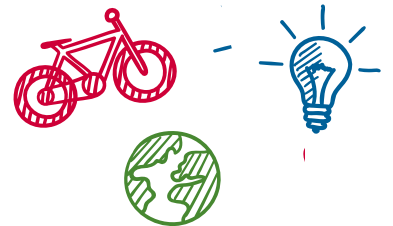


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Objectives and Outcomes

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 - Sparks

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:

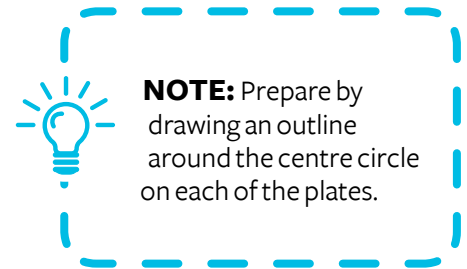
- Critical Thinking
- Gratitude

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 is the Earth a home to everyone and everything that lives here?
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 should we protect the Earth?





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:

Nature's Match

Everything we have comes from the Earth. See if you can match the product with the item from nature it comes from.

Skills you'll build:

- Critical Thinking
- Communication

You will need:

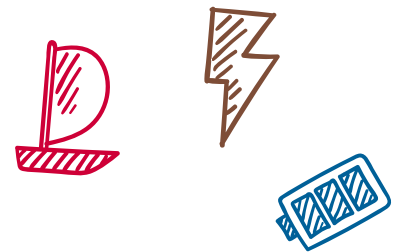
- Nature's Match Matching Cards (pg. 12)

Time it takes:

- 20 minutes

What to do:

1. Come together and talk about:
 - Where does paper come from?
 - Can you think of another product you use and what material in nature it comes from?
2. Give each girl a matching card.
 - You can use the same card twice if needed.
3. Have everyone walk around the room and look for their match.
 - Something found in the natural world will match with something made from that thing.
4. Once everyone has found their match, come together and have a seat.



Want more?

- Draw an apple pie on chart paper.
- Some things are made from many different materials. Where do all the things in apple pie come from?
- Have girls describe each part of the pie and identify what object from nature each part comes from.



TIPS: To guide everyone's thinking you can prompt them with an ingredient and ask where it comes from:

- Apples – apple tree
- Sugar – sugar cane
- Pie crust – wheat, egg from chicken, butter from cow





Stuff to talk about:

- Why is it important to remember that everything we have and use comes from the Earth?
- What could happen if the Earth can't provide what we want?

Timber Tag - Sparks



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:

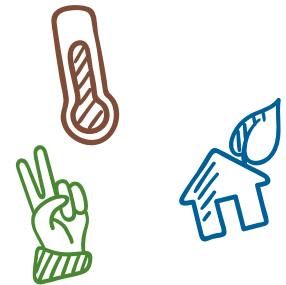
- 15 minutes

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?
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?

- Play another round! Anyone who was still in the game at the end of the first round can become loggers and everyone else can be trees.

Stuff to talk about:

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

Recycled Garden



(Modified from “Egg Carton Seed Starts from PBS Parents, <http://www.pbs.org/parents/crafts-for-kids/egg-carton-seed-starts/>)

Plants are an important part of our health and the health of the environment. In this activity, you will plant an egg carton garden that can be moved outside to become part of the larger environment.

Skills you’ll build:

- Responsibility
- Critical Thinking

You will need:

- Cardboard egg cartons, one per two or three people
- Scissors
- Potting soil
- Bowls for soil, one per small group
- Spoons, one each
- Seeds of a plant that’s easy to grow like cucumbers, bean sprouts or radishes
- Spray bottle filled with water
- Plastic resealable bags
- Recycled Garden Instructions (pg. 15)

Time it takes:

- 20-25 minutes



Before starting:

- Cut the egg cartons in half (6 carton cups each) or in thirds (4 carton cups each).
- Put enough soil in bowls for small groups to share.



What to do:

1. As a group, talk about:
 - What do plants need to grow and stay healthy?
 - How do plants help people stay healthy?
2. Give each person a cardboard egg carton and a spoon.



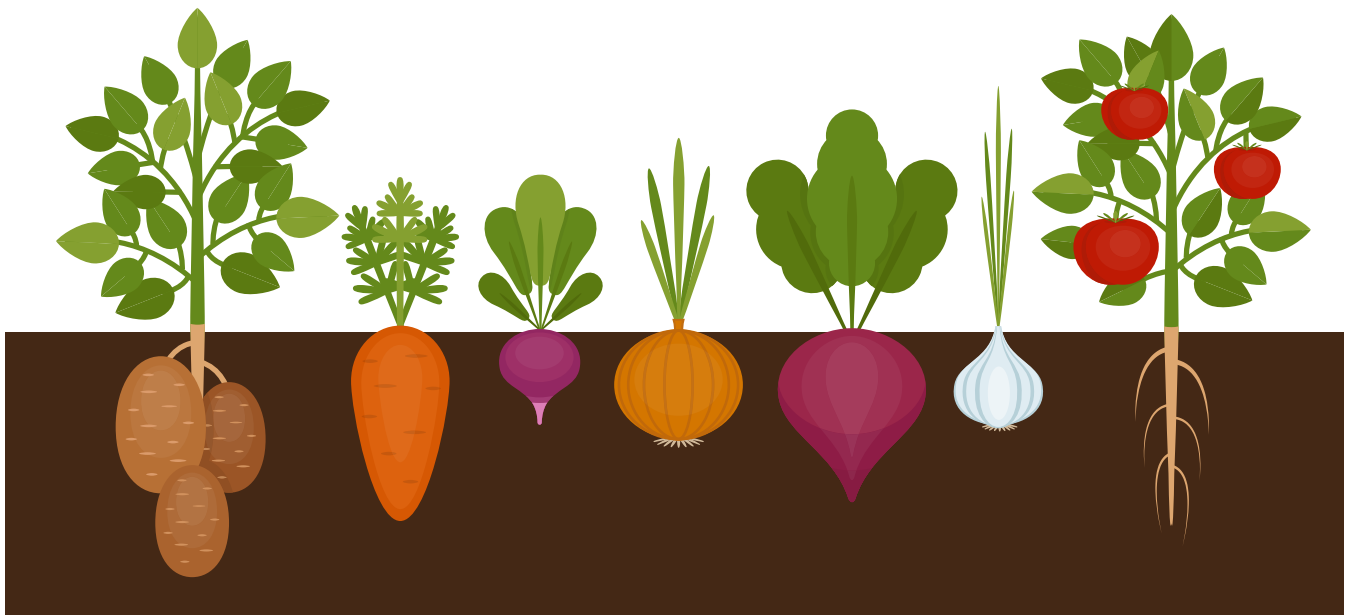


3. Use your spoon to add potting soil to each egg cup in your carton.
4. Use your finger to create a hole in the soil at the centre of each cup.
5. Place one seed in each hole. Cover it with soil.
6. Take turns spraying the soil with water until it's very moist.
7. When it's time to go home, carefully seal your recycled garden in a plastic bag.
8. When you get home, follow the Recycled Garden Instructions (pg. 15) to grown your garden until it's ready to be planted outdoors.
 - The instructions explain how to continue caring for the seeds and how to transfer the seedlings outside to a permanent spot.



Stuff to talk about:

- What will you do to help your seeds grow?
- Once your seeds sprout into seedlings, what can you do to keep them healthy?
- How can your small plants help make the environment healthier for everyone?





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 - Sparks

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:

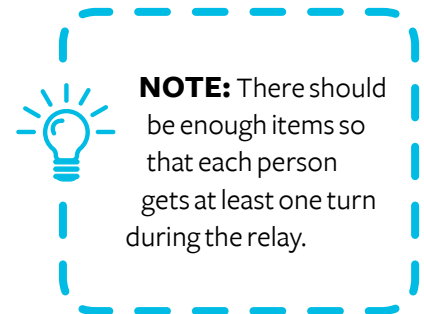
- Critical Thinking
- Teamwork

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, go through each group's bins.
 - If there are any items that did not end up in the correct bin, talk about why they belong in a different bin.
 - If there are any items that your group did not place in a bin, talk about whether they could be placed in a bin or if they could go somewhere else.

Stuff to talk about:

- How can recycling help the environment?
 - What are some things that could be made from the recycled materials?
- Why is composting good for the environment?
 - What is compost used for?
- How can garbage harm the environment?
 - What happens to garbage?
- Whose responsibility is it to protect the environment?



Eco-Fact:

- Recycling is good for the environment because it saves resources and energy.
- Compost is used for gardening and farming. It's good for the soil and helps plants and crops grow.
- 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.
- Protecting the environment is a responsibility we all share!

I Spy, I Share

I spy with my eye people who like to share! Play a different version of the game "I Spy" to find out how sharing can help everyone win the game.





Skills you'll build:

- Problem Solving
- Integrity

You will need:

- No materials needed

Time it takes:

- 15 minutes

What to do:

1. Come together and reflect on this question:
 - What could you do if there isn't enough of something for everyone?
2. Review how to play "I Spy."
 - In this version of the game there's no single right answer. Anything that fits the description is correct.
3. One person will call out "I spy with my little eye things that ..." and choose any kind of thing they like such as:
 - A colour
 - A shape
 - Size
 - Start with the letter ___
4. Everyone will run and stand touching or pointing at an item in the room that fits what was spied.
5. Continue to play until there are not enough items for every girl to tag her own.
6. Have everyone stop and look around. Ask:
 - What happened this time?
 - What can we change about the game so that everyone can tag something?
7. Test out some of the ideas.



NOTE: One way to play the game is to have the first person that touches an object reach out her hand for another person to hold. That person can reach their hand out too, and so on so that many people can be connected to the object.

Stuff to talk about:

- How did you feel when you realized there weren't enough objects for everyone to tag?
- What are some things we share that come from the Earth?
- Why do you think it's important that we share what the Earth gives us?
- What might happen if we don't?





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

Closing Activity: Make Your Mark on Earth - Sparks

Through the Earth Day Instant Meeting you explored environmental issues and the importance of sharing the Earth's resources. Think about your impact on the 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

Time it takes:

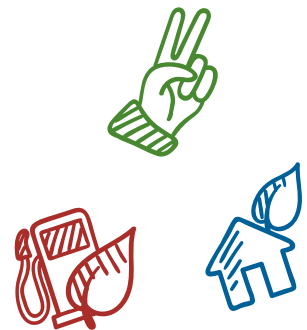
- 10 minutes

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.

Stuff to talk about:

- What's the one thing you are going to do to protect the Earth? Why did you choose this?
- What's something we can do as a unit to protect the Earth?



Nature's Match - Matching Cards



Rocking chair



Tree



T-shirt



Cotton



Potato chips



Potato in soil



Cornflake cereal



Corn field



Nature's Match - Matching Cards



Loaf of bread



Wheat



Cheese



Cow



Sweater



Sheep



Jam



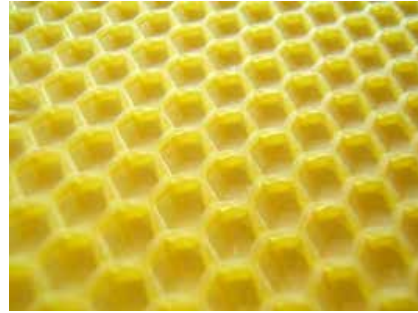
Grape vine



Nature's Match - Matching Cards



Crayon



Beeswax



Glass bottle



Sand

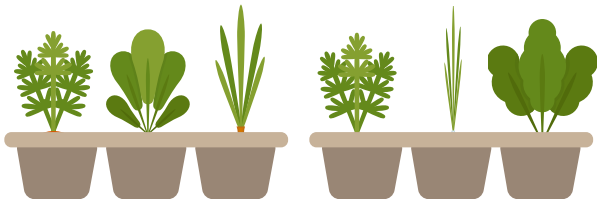




Recycled Garden Instructions

Now that your garden has made it home, here are some instructions you can follow to grow your seeds into plants.

1. Take your egg carton garden out of the sealed plastic bag. Put it in a place where it will stay warm and get lots of sunlight.
2. Keep your seeds in the warm, sunlit spot until they begin to sprout.
3. Make sure to water your seeds every day. The soil should stay very moist.
4. Once your seeds have sprouted into small seedlings, you can transfer them to a permanent location.
 - Tip: You may want to bring the seedling outside a couple of days before so they can adjust to the climate.
5. When you're ready to make the transfer, make sure the egg carton is very wet and saturated.
6. Tear off one of the egg carton cups.
7. Using a trowel, dig a hole in the soil.
8. Place the egg carton cup directly in the soil and cover it. It will decompose.
9. Continue digging holes and transferring your egg carton cups into the soil.
10. Water your seedlings every day to help them grow!
 - Tip: To prevent birds from eating your seedlings, try laying a protective material over them as they begin to grow. A white sheet or plastic drop cloth should work. Hold it in place with bricks. The cover can be removed once the plants are about 8 inches tall.



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