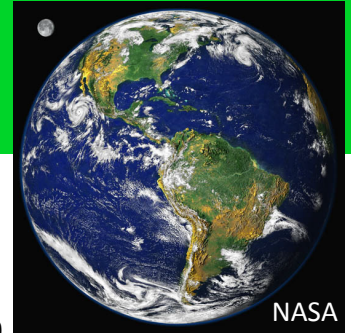


# SciNews



**Event:** Earth Day 2016!

## Important Dates and Numbers:

April 22: Earth Day

1970: Year of the inaugural Earth Day

7.8 billion: # of trees that Earth Day hopes to plant before their 50th anniversary in 2020

SciNews is on Facebook!  
[www.sites.psu.edu/scinews/](http://www.sites.psu.edu/scinews/)

## Event Description

Earth Day began in 1970 when Senator Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin decided to raise awareness of environmental issues. There was very little environmental consciousness in American society at the time and Earth Day is often considered the beginning of the modern environmental movement. Although environmental issues are hotly debated politically today, the initiation of Earth Day was supported by both parties, rich and poor, rural and urban populations, etc. Overtime, it has grown into a global movement celebrated around the world.

## Lesson Descriptions

*Students will attempt to separate the 3 different recyclable components of a juice box to demonstrate why some 'recyclable' products are not always so easy to recycle.*

Most counties (or townships) provide information online about what can be recycled, how to separate materials, and what to bring directly to them. In this lesson, students are presented with this information. For example, some recyclable materials must be returned to the workplace or school (batteries and light bulbs), grocery stores (polyethylene grocery bags), or the recycling company directly (large electronics). Other materials claim to be recyclable, but are very challenging to process at the recycling center. This is because they are "composite" products – meaning they are made using multiple different types of recyclable materials. Have students attempt to separate the aluminum, plastic, and paper from a juice box to illustrate this challenge. Discuss how they think they might classify a juice box – paper, plastic, or metal? Check if your local recycling company tells you how to dispose of them.

**Lesson Materials** - download from the SciNews website

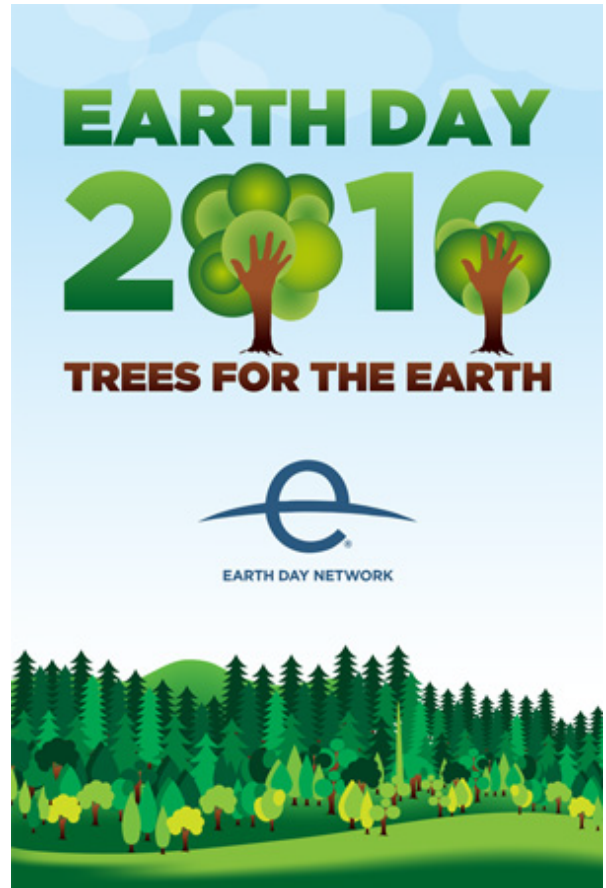
**(1) Local recycling protocols:** Look up your local recycling company (search by county or by town) and find out how and what they recycle. Share this information with your students or search together in class.

**(2) What happens to recycling?:** Watch this video to find out!

**(3) Juice Boxes!** Collect enough so there are at least 2/student.

### Next Generation Science Standards

*MS-LS2-4: Use empirical evidence to argue that physical or biological changes to an ecosystem affect populations.*



## Additional Media (see SciNews website for links!)

Check out the Earth Day website and learn more about its history and events near you!

## Alternative Lesson Plans (links on the SciNews website!)

Earth Day does a lot of education and outreach. For other, longer class activity ideas to celebrate Earth Day, download their lesson plan pdf.

It's also National Parks Week. Go to the NPS website and learn more about a park close to you!

Created by Michael Hudak & Erin DiMaggio  
 PSU/NASA Space Grant  
 Funded by PSU/NASA Space Grant  
<http://pa.spacegrant.org>  
 To subscribe to the SciNews listserv send a message with your name, affiliation, & email address to [scinews@ems.psu.edu](mailto:scinews@ems.psu.edu)