

Earth Day 2021: Restore Our Earth

What Is Earth Day?

On Earth Day, people across the world take part in activities to help protect our planet.



Did You Know...?

Earth Day takes place every year on 22nd April.



The theme for the 2021 Earth Day is 'Restore Our Earth'. This theme helps people to think about natural ways of fixing some of the changes that humans have made to the planet.

What Is Global Warming?

Much of the world's energy is made by burning fossil fuels like coal or oil. This releases large amounts of a gas called carbon dioxide, also spelt CO₂, into the air and has caused a rise in the Earth's temperature, known as global warming.



Did You Know...?

Global warming causes icebergs to melt, sea levels to rise and more extreme weather events.



What Is Deforestation?

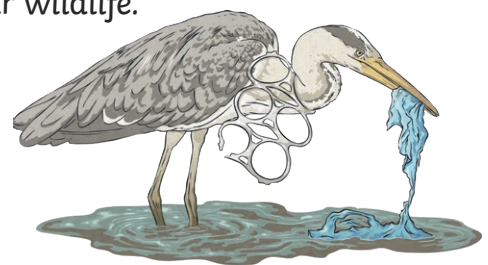
Large areas of the Earth's forests are being cut down for wood or to make space for farming land. This is called **deforestation**.

Trees and plants are important because they produce oxygen and take CO₂ out of the air. Deforestation also destroys animals' habitats and is causing a lot of them to become **endangered**.



What Is Plastic Pollution?

Plastic is used to make many products and there is currently around 9 billion tons of plastic on Earth. A lot of this plastic ends up in our oceans and can harm our wildlife.



Did You Know...?

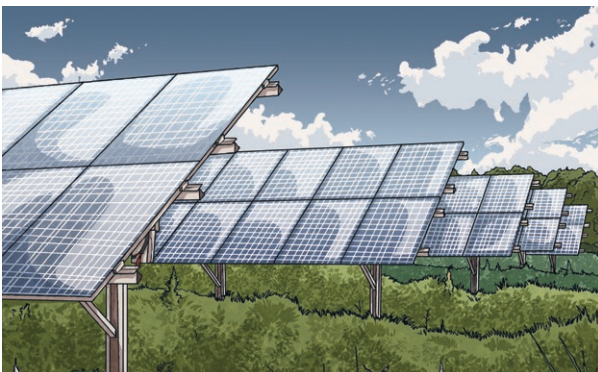
Plastic takes around 500 years to rot away.



How Can We Help Restore Our Earth?

Many plans have been put into action to try to solve some of the changes that are affecting our planet.

Countries around the world are now using natural energy, like sunlight, wind or water. This energy is better for the planet and helps to reduce global warming.



Did You Know...?

Many people now drive electric cars which do not run on fossil fuels.



People have been regrowing trees, especially in areas where forests have been cut down. These trees help to take CO₂ out of the air and create new homes for animals to live.

Reusing and recycling plastic means that less new plastic is needed. Everyday items are also available which use little or no plastic.



Glossary

deforestation: Cutting down large areas of trees.

endangered: At risk of becoming extinct or wiped out.

Questions

1. How often is Earth Day held? Tick one.

- ☐ every month
- ☐ every ten years
- ☐ every year
- ☐ every two years

2. Draw **four** lines to match each term to its correct definition.

global warming

deforestation

CO₂

endangered

At risk of becoming extinct.

The rise in the Earth's temperature.

Cutting down large areas of trees.

A gas that is produced by burning fossil fuels.

3. Which of these is not caused by global warming? Tick one.

- ☐ melting icebergs
- ☐ plastic in the oceans
- ☐ extreme weather events
- ☐ rising sea levels

4. Which of the following help to take CO₂ from the air? Tick **two**.

- ☐ cars
- ☐ oceans
- ☐ trees
- ☐ plants

5. Fill in the missing word.

Countries around the world are now using _____ energy, like sunlight, wind or water.

6. Which cars do not burn fossil fuels?

7. Look at the section called **What Is Plastic Pollution?**

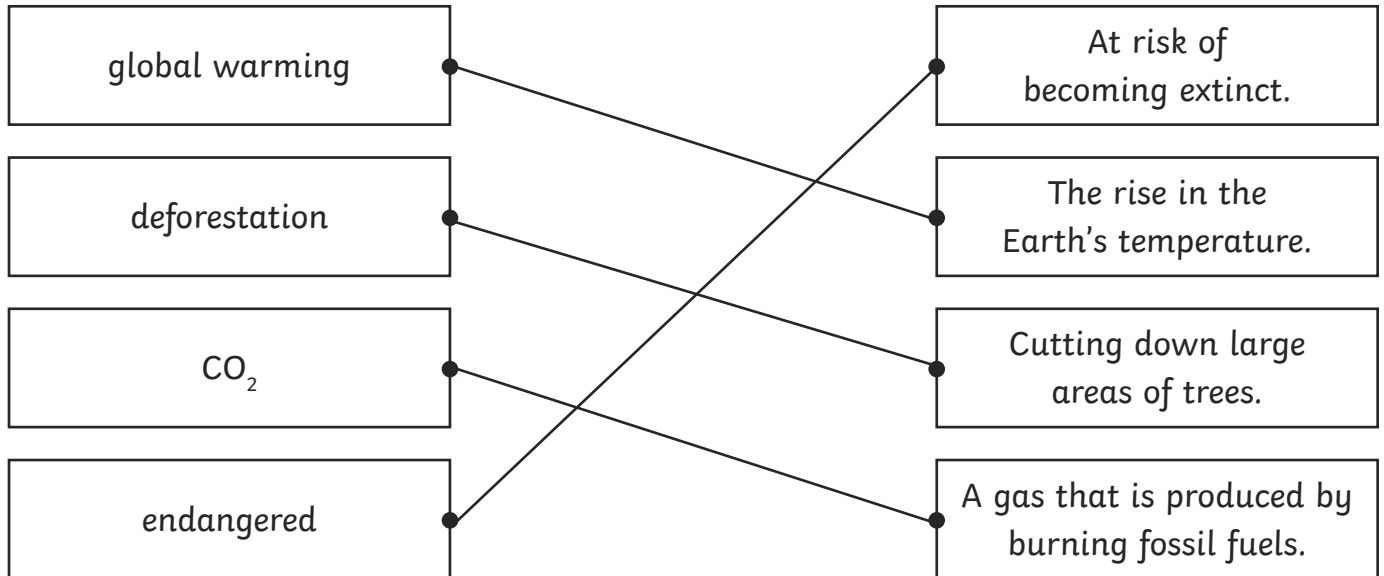
Explain why you think this illustration was chosen.

Answers

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- ☐ cars
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- ☒ **trees**
- ☒ **plants**

5. Fill in the missing word.

Countries around the world are now using **natural** energy, like sunlight, wind or water.

6. Which cars do not burn fossil fuels?

Electric cars do not burn fossil fuels.

7. Look at the section called **What Is Plastic Pollution?**

Explain why you think this illustration was chosen.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think this illustration was chosen because it shows the reader exactly how wildlife can be harmed when plastic ends up in the ocean.

Earth Day 2021: Restore Our Earth

What Is Earth Day?

Earth Day is held yearly on 22nd April. On this day, people across the world take part in activities to help protect our planet.

The theme for the 2021 Earth Day is 'Restore Our Earth' which means to tackle some of the changes that humans have made to our planet like global warming, **deforestation** and pollution.



What Is Earth Day?

Most of the world's energy is powered by burning **fossil fuels**. This releases large amounts of carbon dioxide gas, also spelt CO₂, into the air. This has caused an unnatural rise in the Earth's temperature, known as global warming.



Did You Know...?

Global warming is causing icebergs to melt, sea levels to rise and more extreme weather events, such as flooding and hurricanes.



What Is Deforestation?

Forests cover a large area of the Earth and these trees and plants produce valuable oxygen and take CO₂ out of the air. However, much of the world's forests are being cut down for wood or to make space for farming land. This process is known as deforestation. Deforestation destroys many animals' habitats and is causing a lot of them to become **endangered**.



How Is Plastic Affecting the Planet?

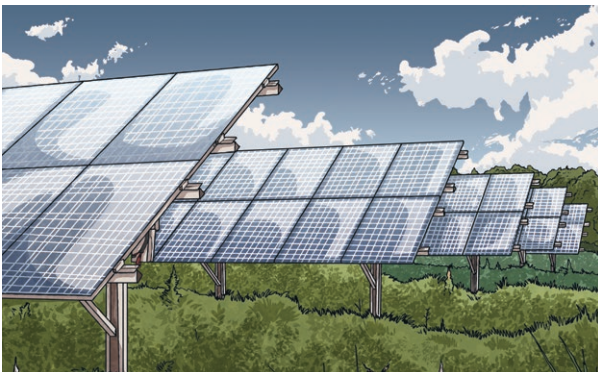
Plastic is used to make many products and there are currently around 9 billion tons of plastic on Earth. Plastic takes around 500 years to rot away after it has been used. Large amounts of unwanted plastic end up polluting our oceans and harming wildlife.



How Can We Help Restore Our Earth?

Many plans have been put into action to try and solve some of these problems affecting our planet.

Around 190 countries have signed a document called The Paris Agreement which is a promise to help reduce global warming. Lots of these countries are now using 'green' energy which uses the Earth's natural powers, like sunlight, wind or water.



Did You Know...?

Many people now drive electric-powered cars which don't use fossil fuels and are better for the planet. The UK has promised to stop all sales of new diesel and petrol cars by 2030.



Tree-planting projects have been regrowing trees, especially in areas where forests have been cut down. These trees help to take CO₂ from the air and create new homes for animals.

Many people have been working hard to recycle and reduce the plastic that they use. In the UK, paper straws are being offered in bars and restaurants instead of plastic ones and plastic bags are no longer free of charge.



Glossary

deforestation: The act of clearing large areas of trees.

endangered: At risk of becoming extinct or wiped out.

fossil fuels: Fuels such as coal or gas.

Questions

1. The theme for the 2021 Earth Day is 'Restore Our Earth'.

What does 'restore' mean? Tick one.

- ☐ to cool down
- ☐ to repair
- ☐ to store away
- ☐ to meet

2. Which of the following are extreme weather events? Tick **two**.

- ☐ flooding
- ☐ fog
- ☐ hurricanes
- ☐ rainfall

3. Draw **four** lines and complete each sentence.

Burning fossil fuels...

are being cut down for wood and farming land.

Plastic...

takes around 500 years to rot away.

Electric cars...

releases large amounts of CO₂ into the air.

Large areas of forests...

do not run on fossil fuels.

4. Which was the name of the document which around 190 countries have signed? Tick one.

- ☐ The Paris Document
- ☐ The Paris Promise
- ☐ The Paris Agreement
- ☐ The Paris Change

5. When is Earth Day held?

6. Find and copy one word from the text that shows that oxygen is important.

7. **The UK has promised to stop all sales of new diesel and petrol cars by 2030.**

Explain why you think the UK has promised this.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about global warming.

Answers

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- ☒ **flooding**
- ☐ fog
- ☒ **hurricanes**
- ☐ rainfall

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Burning fossil fuels...	are being cut down for wood and farming land.
Plastic...	takes around 500 years to rot away.
Electric cars...	releases large amounts of CO ₂ into the air.
Large areas of forests...	do not run on fossil fuels.

4. Which was the name of the document which around 190 countries have signed? Tick one.

- ☐ The Paris Document
- ☐ The Paris Promise
- ☒ **The Paris Agreement**
- ☐ The Paris Change

5. When is Earth Day held?

Earth Day is held yearly on 22nd April.

6. Find and copy one word from the text that shows that oxygen is important.

valuable

7. **The UK has promised to stop all sales of new diesel and petrol cars by 2030.**

Explain why you think the UK has promised this.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think the UK has promised to do this because they want to help to reduce global warming by reducing the CO₂ that is produced from burning fossil fuels. Now that there are electric cars available, they may want to encourage people to use these instead.

8. Summarise what you have learnt about global warming.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I have learnt that global warming can be caused by burning fossil fuels like coal and gas. This releases harmful CO₂ gas into the air which is causing the Earth's temperature to rise. This rise in temperature is causing icebergs to melt and sea levels to rise.

Earth Day 2021: Restore Our Earth

What Is Earth Day?

Earth Day is held annually on 22nd April. On this day, people across the world take part in activities to help protect our planet.

The theme for the 2021 Earth Day is 'Restore Our Earth'. This theme focuses on natural ways of healing the planet rather than accepting the changes that have happened as a result of human actions, like global warming, **deforestation** and pollution.



How Is Earth's Climate Changing?

Humans have had a huge impact on the planet, particularly in the last century. Most industry, electricity and transport is now powered by burning **fossil fuels**. This releases large amounts of carbon dioxide gas, also spelt CO₂, into the Earth's atmosphere. This has helped to cause an unnatural climate change, known as global warming. The Earth's



surface temperature has risen 1.2°C since the year 1880. Global warming has caused glaciers to melt, sea levels to rise and more unpredictable and extreme weather events.



What Is Deforestation?

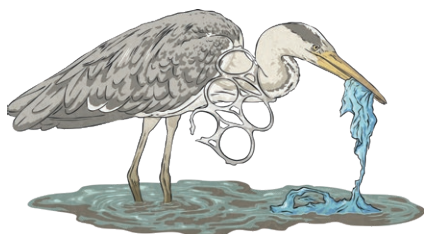
Around 30% of the Earth is covered in forests. Trees produce valuable oxygen and help absorb CO₂ from the atmosphere. However, much of the world's forest is being cut down for farming land or timber as part of a process known as deforestation.

Most of the animals that live on land — including elephants and rhinos — live in forests and deforestation destroys these animals' homes and is causing many of them to become **endangered**.



How Is Plastic Affecting the Planet?

Plastic is used to make many products and there is currently around 9 billion tons of plastic on Earth. Plastic takes at least 500 years to **decompose** and some scientists believe it never fully disappears. Because of this, large amounts of unwanted plastic ends up polluting our oceans. Much of it is broken down into small particles, called microplastics which can be swallowed by animals.

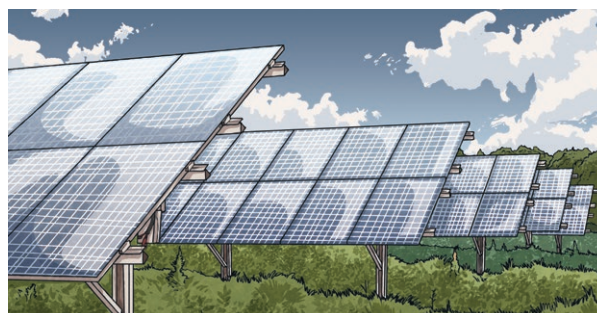


How Can We Help Restore Our Earth?

Many plans have been put into action to try and tackle some of the issues affecting our environment.

In 2015, around 190 countries signed a contract called The Paris Agreement: a promise to keep global warming below 2°C. Lots of countries are now using renewable 'green' energy which uses the Earth's natural powers, like sunlight, wind or water.

Many people now drive electric-powered cars which release little or no CO₂ and are better for the environment. What is more, the UK has announced that it will end all sales of new diesel and petrol cars in 2030.



In order to help to absorb CO₂ and create new habitats for animals, tree-planting projects aim to regrow trees, especially in areas where forests have been cut down. Carbon offsetting is a process where people can try to balance the carbon that their activities produce by planting trees to help absorb this carbon.

Many people have been working hard to recycle and reduce the plastic that they use. In the UK, paper straws are being offered in bars and restaurants instead of plastic ones and plastic bags are no longer free of charge.



Glossary

decompose: To rot away.

deforestation: The act of clearing large areas of trees.

endangered: At risk of becoming extinct.

fossil fuels: Fuels such as coal or gas.



Questions

1. The theme 'Restore Our Earth' focuses on... Tick **two**.

- ☐ protecting our planet
- ☐ learning about our planet
- ☐ healing our planet
- ☐ changing our planet

2. Draw **four** lines to match each amount to the correct statement.

190

The amount, in tons, of plastic that is on Earth.

9 billion

The proportion of the Earth's surface that is covered in forests.

30%

The number of years that it takes for plastic to decompose.

500

The approximate number of countries that have signed The Paris Agreement.

3. Find and copy one word which shows that the weather events caused by global warming are not easy to forecast.

4. What are small particles of plastic called?

5. Fill in the missing words.

In order to help to _____ CO₂ and create new _____ for animals, tree-planting projects aim to regrow trees.

6. ... the UK has announced that it will end all sales of new diesel and petrol cars in 2030.

Why do you think the UK is waiting until 2030 to do this?

7. The Earth's surface temperature has risen 1.2°C since the year 1880.

Explain why you think this is.

8. Discuss which of the issues affecting the planet you feel is the most important to address.

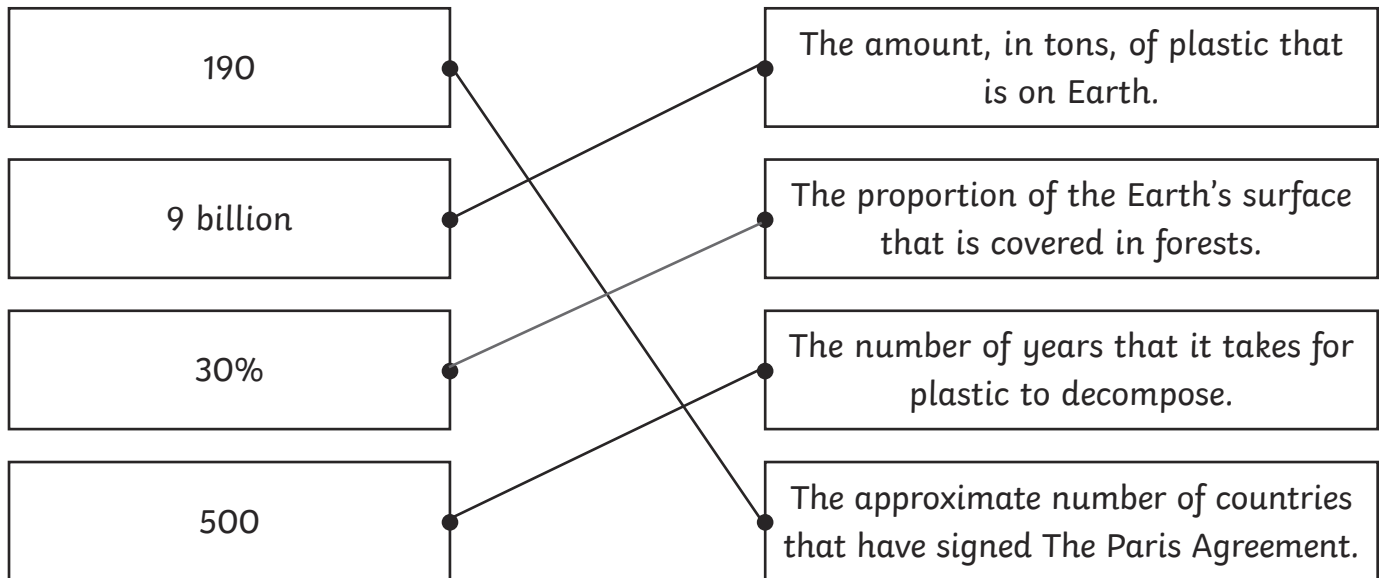
Explain your answer.

Answers

1. The theme 'Restore Our Earth' focuses on... Tick **two**.

- ☒ **protecting our planet**
- ☐ learning about our planet
- ☒ **healing our planet**
- ☐ changing our planet

2. Draw **four** lines to match each amount to the correct statement.



3. Find and copy one word which shows that the weather events caused by global warming are not easy to forecast.

unpredictable

4. What are small particles of plastic called?

Small particles of plastic are called microplastics.

5. Fill in the missing words.

In order to help to **absorb** CO₂ and create new **habitats** for animals, tree-planting projects aim to regrow trees.

6. ... **the UK has announced that it will end all sales of new diesel and petrol cars in 2030.**

Why do you think the UK is waiting until 2030 to do this?

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think they are waiting until 2030 because ending sales of petrol and diesel cars is a big change. A lot of people still drive petrol and diesel cars and companies need time to design and make cars that use alternative power.

7. The Earth's surface temperature has risen 1.2°C since the year 1880.

Explain why you think this is.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that the temperature has risen since 1880 because this was around the time when fossil fuels were being burnt. Perhaps there were more factories around this time.

8. Discuss which of the issues affecting the planet you feel is the most important to address.

Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: I believe that it is important to address the problem of deforestation. Trees and plants absorb CO₂ and if we keep cutting them down, then there will be none left. This will have a devastating impact on wildlife and may make more species become extinct.