

EARTH DAY TIMELINE

Objective: Students will identify important dates in environmental history.

Illinois State Goals: 18.B.

Top Book Hits:

I Love Our Earth by Bill Martin, Jr.; **ISBN-13:** 978-1580891066

Earth Day by Linda Lowery; **ISBN-13:** 978-1575056203

Materials Needed:

- Historical event strips for each group

Procedure:

1. Begin by asking students to think about important dates in environmental history.
2. Divide students into small groups. Give them the historical event strips provided with this lesson. (Note: These strips can simply be copied and cut apart. You may want to choose different colored paper for each group set to make sorting them afterwards easier.)
3. Without using any additional materials, have students put the events in order of time they occurred. When all the groups have finished, facilitate a class discussion to determine as a class the proper order. Students could line up in the room to make one large human time line as a class.



Explore More: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Earth Day & Every Day
<http://www.epa.gov/earthday/>

Earth Day Time Line

- 1780 John Audubon, founder of the National Audubon society, is born. The society promotes the conservation of wildlife, especially birds.
- 1872 Yellowstone becomes the nation's first national park.
- 1881 President authorizes public lands be set aside as forest reserves.
- 1882 The world's first hydroelectric (water) power station was built in Appleton, Wisconsin.
- 1897 The National Forest System was established, followed by the United States Forest Service in 1905.
- 1902 Ansel Adams is born. His famous black and white photographs of our national parks helped the environmental movement.
- 1905 The United States Forest Service is established.
- 1908 Henry Ford produced the Model T car which was designed to run on ethanol, gasoline or any combination of the two fuels. This was the first flex-fuel car.
- 1916 The National Park System is established.
- 1970 The first Earth Day, coordinated by Denis Hayes, gave 20 million Americans a chance to express concerns about the environment.
- 1970 The Environmental Protection Agency is established.
- 1972 The Clean Water Act becomes a law.
- 1973 The Endangered Species Act becomes a law.
- 1974 The Safe Drinking Water Act was passed and required the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the quality of public drinking water.
- 1990 The National Environmental Education Act is established to educate the public about environmental decisions.
- 1990 Federal agencies begin using recycled products.
- 1992 EPA launched the Energy Star® Program to help consumers identify energy-efficient products.
- 1994 The bald eagle is moved from an "endangered" species to a "threatened species".
- 2003 The Clean School Bus USA program updated 4000 school buses to reduce air pollution.
- 2005 The Energy Policy Act created regulations to ensure all gasoline sold in the U.S. contains set percentages of renewable fuels (such as ethanol).
- 2005 National NeighborWoods month was created to celebrate organizations that participate in local tree planting programs.
- 2006 WaterSense is launched to raise awareness about the importance of water efficiency.
- 2009 The "Change the World, Start with Energy Star" national campaign was launched to help fight climate change through energy efficiency.

Sequencing Strips of Events

Recommendation: These strips can simply be copied and cut apart. You may want to choose different colors for each group set to make sorting them afterwards easier. Please be sure to mix these strips up as they are listed in order

John Audubon, founder of the National Audubon Society, is born. The society promotes the conservation of wildlife, especially birds.

Yellowstone becomes the nation's first national park.

President authorizes public lands be set aside as forest reserves.

The world's first hydroelectric (water) power station was built in Appleton, WI.

The National Forest System was established, followed by the United States Forest.

Ansel Adams is born. His famous black and white photographs of our national parks helped the environmental movement.

The United States Forest Service is established.

Henry Ford produced the Model T car which was designed to run on ethanol, gasoline or any combination of the two fuels. This was the first flex-fuel car.

The National Park System is established.

The first Earth Day, coordinated by Denis Hayes, gave 20 million Americans a chance to express concerns about the environment.

The Environmental Protection Agency is established.

Give credit where credit is due...this activity adapted from IL Earth Day Ag Mag.

The Clean Water Act becomes a law.

The Endangered Species Act becomes a law.

The Safe Drinking Water Act was passed and required the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate the quality of public drinking water.

The National Environmental Education Act is established to educate the public about environmental decisions.

Federal agencies begin using recycled products.

EPA launched the Energy Star® Program to help consumers identify energy-efficient products.

The bald eagle is moved from an “endangered” species to a “threatened species”.

The Clean School Bus USA program updated 4000 school buses to reduce air pollution.

The Energy Policy Act created regulations to ensure all gasoline sold in the U.S. contains set percentages of renewable fuels (such as ethanol).

National NeighborWoods month was created to celebrate organizations that participate in local tree planting programs.

WaterSense is launched to raise awareness about the importance of water efficiency.

The “Change the World, Start with Energy Star” national campaign was launched to help fight climate change through energy efficiency.