



Celebrating Earth

✦ B2 Level

✦ Duration: 1 hour

✦ Group lesson

✦ Age: adults, teens

✦ Flipped classroom lesson*

✦ Lesson goals

Students can give clear, systematically developed descriptions and presentations, with appropriate highlighting of significant points, and relevant supporting detail.

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At home

Exercise 1: Skim the text. What is Earth Day? What are some of the major environmental problems facing our planet today?

Earth Day is celebrated on April 22nd every year to raise awareness about environmental issues and promote sustainability. The planet we live on is facing many challenges, but there are also many solutions that can help us protect it for future generations. In this article, we will discuss some of the major problems facing our planet and what we can do to help.

One of the biggest problems facing the Earth is climate change. Human activities such as burning fossil fuels, deforestation, and agriculture have caused an increase in greenhouse gas emissions, which trap heat in the atmosphere and lead to rising temperatures. This has resulted in more extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and hurricanes. To combat climate change, _____ (a).

Another major issue is pollution. Plastic waste is a major contributor to pollution in our oceans, causing harm to marine life and ecosystems. To reduce plastic waste, _____ (b). We can reduce air pollution by using clean energy sources like wind and solar power, and supporting policies that limit emissions from industrial activities.

Loss of biodiversity is another problem facing the Earth. Deforestation, habitat destruction, and overfishing are all contributing to the loss of species and ecosystems. To protect biodiversity, _____ (c).

Water scarcity is also a major concern, with many regions facing shortages due to climate change and overuse. To conserve water, _____ (d). Supporting policies that protect water resources and reducing our consumption of meat and dairy can also help reduce water usage.

In conclusion, Earth Day is an important reminder that we need to take action to protect our planet. By making small changes in our daily lives and supporting policies that promote sustainability, _____ (e). Let's work together to ensure a healthy and sustainable future for all.

*Flipped classroom teaching is an instructional strategy which is aimed at increasing student engagement and learning outcomes. Students learn material at home, and then use class time to discuss the material and work on activities related to it. To have this class, assign the "AT HOME" part as homework in advance.

Exercise 2: WE CAN! Fill in the gaps in the text with the sentences below:

1. **we can** support conservation efforts, choose sustainably sourced products, and reduce our consumption of animal products like meat and dairy
2. **we can** reduce our carbon footprint by using public transportation, walking or biking instead of driving, and using energy-efficient appliances
3. **we can** help address the major environmental challenges facing our world
4. **we can** use reusable bags and containers, recycle properly, and avoid single-use plastics like straws and water bottles. Air pollution is another concern, with harmful chemicals released into the air from factories and vehicles
5. **we can** fix leaks, take shorter showers, and use water-efficient appliances

Exercise 3: Match the following words with their definitions:

a. to increase knowledge and understanding of a particular issue or topic among people

b. problems related to the natural world, such as pollution, climate change, and deforestation

c. to encourage actions that help preserve the environment and its resources for future generations

d. using less energy to perform a task or function, resulting in reduced energy consumption and cost savings

e. to convert waste into reusable material through a process of collection, sorting, and processing

f. items made of plastic that are intended to be used only once before being disposed of, such as straws, bags, and utensils

g. the variety of living organisms in a particular ecosystem or on Earth as a whole

h. goods that are produced using methods that do not harm the environment or deplete natural resources

i. a situation where there is a limited supply of something relative to demand, such as water or food

j. to do something to address a problem or issue, rather than just talking about it or ignoring it

k. the amount of greenhouse gases, primarily carbon dioxide, released into the atmosphere as a result of human activities, such as driving cars or using electricity

l. the act of using up resources, such as food, energy, or materials

promote sustainability

single-use plastics

environmental issues

recycle

sustainably sourced products

carbon footprint

take action

consumption

energy-efficient

raise awareness

scarcity

biodiversity

In class

Exercise 1: Watch the video and answer the questions:

1. Does nature need people?
2. What do you think is the biggest impact that humans have had on our planet?
3. How important is it for individuals to take responsibility for their own environmental impact?
4. Have you ever participated in any environmental initiatives or campaigns? If so, which ones?



Exercise 2: Read 4 opinions about different ways to help the environment and express your own opinion on one of them.



John

"I'm all for reducing meat consumption to help the environment. I've been a vegetarian for three years now and it has made a big difference in my carbon footprint. Plus, I feel healthier and more energized."



Tom

"I don't know, I have mixed feelings about recycling. Sometimes I just don't have the patience or energy to rinse out every milk carton or soda can. But on the other hand, I know it's the right thing to do, and if everyone does it, we could make an impact."



Karen

"Biking instead of driving is so important! Climate change is real and if we don't do something about it, our planet is in trouble. We need to take action now before it's too late. Riding my bike makes me feel like I'm doing my part."



Jackie

"OMG! I can't even believe how wasteful some people are being with water! The world is literally dying and people still won't take a 2 minute shower instead of a 20 minute one? It's just so selfish!"

Exercise 3: In small groups of 2-3 people choose the environmental problem that makes you worried the most, describe its impact on the environment and come up with 4-6 ways how you as a small group can contribute to solving this problem.

- Use the target vocabulary from homework (at least 5 words)
- Include some logical examples and your opinions
- Use linking words
- Your presentation should take 3-5 minutes
- You have 15 minutes to prepare, make notes according to the following plan:

PLAN

Introduction

- Introduce the environmental problem that you are most concerned about
- Explain why this problem is important to you

Main part

- Describe the impact of the chosen environmental problem on the environment
- Present 4-5 ways how you can contribute to solving this problem

Conclusion

- Summarise your main points

Possible words and expressions for the introduction:

- One of the most pressing issues facing our planet today is...
- As someone who cares deeply about the environment...
- The environmental problem that worries us the most is...

Possible words and expressions for the conclusion:

- It is up to each and every one of us to take action...
- Let's all work together to create a better, healthier planet...
- We owe it to ourselves, to future generations, and to the planet we call home...



Correct answers and teaching tips

At home

Exercise 2: WE CAN! Fill in the gaps in the text with the sentences below:

- (a) we can reduce our carbon footprint by using public transportation, walking or biking instead of driving, and using energy-efficient appliances
- (b) we can use reusable bags and containers, recycle properly, and avoid single-use plastics like straws and water bottles
- (c) we can support conservation efforts, choose sustainably sourced products, and reduce our consumption of animal products like meat and dairy
- (d) we can fix leaks, take shorter showers, and use water-efficient appliances
- (e) we can help address the major environmental challenges facing our world

Exercise 3: Match the following words with their definitions:

- a. raise awareness
- b. environmental issues
- c. promote sustainability
- d. energy-efficient
- e. recycle
- f. single-use plastics
- g. biodiversity
- h. sustainably sourced products
- i. scarcity
- j. take action
- k. carbon footprint
- l. consumption

In class

Exercise 3: In small groups of 2–3 people choose the environmental problem that makes you worried the most, describe its impact on the environment and come up with 4–6 ways how you as a small group can contribute to solving this problem.



Usage of the target vocabulary (0-5)

Excellent: at least 5 words from the target vocabulary

Fluency of speech (0-5)

Excellent:

- Can produce stretches of language with a fairly even tempo;
- Can use a variety of linking words efficiently to mark clearly the relationships between ideas.

Description of the problem and its impact (0-5)

Excellent: described in detail with some logical examples and students' opinions.

Ways to contribute to solving it (0-5)

Excellent: at least 4 ways have been mentioned.