



Earth Day Activity Guide

- fun ways for kids ages 3-8 to protect the planet -



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Every month Green Kid Crafts subscribers get a box of earth friendly craft kits in the mail that teach them about nature while they flex their creativity and build confidence. Here, we've put some of our favorite 'out of the box' craft and activity ideas that both celebrate and sustain the Earth.

Happy Crafting!

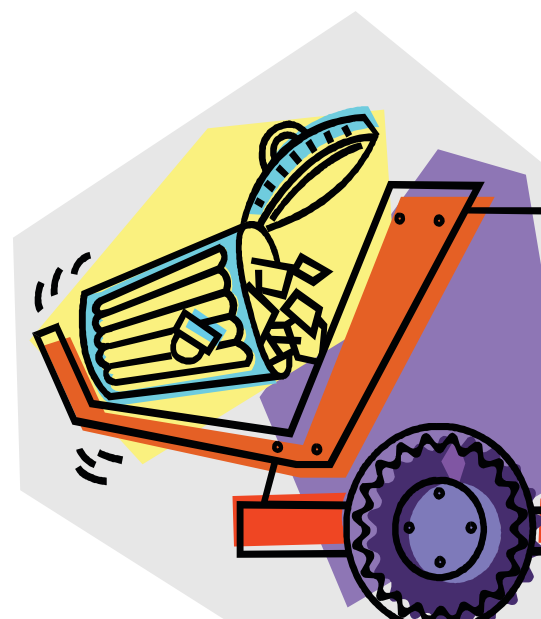
Reduce

This guide will teach you how to be a Planet Protector by following the three R's: Reducing, Reusing and Recycling. These simple steps make a big difference by cutting down on the amount of waste on the planet:

- **Reducing:** buying and using less "stuff"
- **Reusing:** using what we have already
- **Recycling:** turning things that can't be used into something that can

There are many ways that you can reduce the amount of trash you make. For example, every time you want to purchase something new, ask yourself if you really need it. Most of the time, you'll realize that you don't. Try to purchase reusable items as much as possible, and look for products that use as little packaging as possible, since you'll just have to throw that out anyway. And of course, always remember to take along your own reusable shopping bag.

Talk with your family and make a list of 3 ways that you can reduce the amount of "stuff" you use.



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10 Ways You Can Be A - Planet Protector -

1. Turn off the TV and go play outside!
Walk to the park, take a hike, or play in your backyard. People protect what they know, so get to know your natural surroundings.
2. Have fun recycling by making a game of separating recyclables – it's like a twist on "Memory".
3. Save energy by turning off the lights when leaving the room or the house. See who in the family can remember to turn off the lights first?
4. Decorate a reusable tote to take shopping.
5. Craft and play with natural materials and avoid plastics and craft foams, which are costly to produce, laden with chemicals, and not biodegradable.
6. Find opportunities to walk or ride your bike instead of driving. See if you can avoid one car ride each week.
7. Shut off the water when brushing your teeth.
8. Find new uses for old toys, or donate them to others.
9. Grow some of your own food in a garden, or herbs in an indoor herb garden.
10. Tell your friends how important it is to be a Planet Protector!

You and your family can find more ideas on our blog at GreenKidCrafts.com.



Rainsticks

With just an empty plastic bottle, some toothpicks and a really small grain (like couscous or quinoa), you can make your own rainsticks. Use them to soothe a younger sibling or to make some music!



Reuse

Finding ways to reuse things you already have can be a lot of fun, and keeps more trash from going into landfills.

Paper Roll Binoculars

These fun specs are simple to make using paper rolls, scrap paper and ribbon.

1. Wrap two paper rolls with scrap paper and affix with tape.
2. Use washi tape or another colorful type of tape to join the two paper rolls together.
3. Punch one hole at the top of each of the paper rolls and tie one end of the ribbon to it.
4. Now, use your new binoculars to look around the house to find more things you can reuse.



Plastic Jug Game of Catch

Cut the bottom off two empty milk jugs and decorate with washi tape or other colored tape. Make a ball with old newspaper and tape, then enjoy a game of catch!

Paper Bead Necklace

You'll need: Paper, scissors, ruler, glue, and a pencil

Directions:

1. Smooth out the paper and cut it into a square measuring 8" x 8" wide. Cut 8" long wedges 1 – 1.5" wide at the bottom to a point at the top.
2. Pour glue into a cup and add some water to thin it.
3. Carefully roll the wide end of the paper around a pencil.
4. Paint glue on the rest of the paper and roll it around the pencil.
5. Gently twist the pencil the opposite way you rolled the bead and pull off the bead. Continue this process to make as many beads as you'd like. Once they're dry, string them up and show off your new jewelry!



Find more ideas on our Trash to Treasure boards on Pinterest!

[Pinterest.com/GreenKidCrafts](https://www.pinterest.com/GreenKidCrafts)

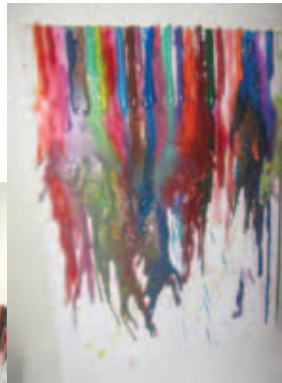
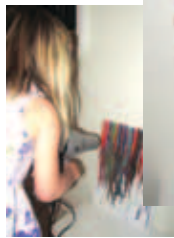
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Recycle

After you've Reduced and Reused, Recycling helps keep other things out of landfills by cleaning them up and turning them into something new! You can recycle right at home with the two projects shown at the left.

Recycled Crayon Art

Round up your old broken crayons and turn them into a work of art by gluing them to a canvas and using a hair dryer to melt them. Watch how the colors blend and change!



Start A Compost Pile

Sure, you knew that you could recycle plastic bottles, cans and paper but did you know that the Earth has a way of recycling plants, fruits and vegetables?

Ask your parents if you can use a plastic trash bin or a spot in the yard as a composting area. You'll also need a gardening fork, but a simple stick will work too.

Once you have your compost area set up, you can start adding things to it. Try to add a mix of half "wet and green" materials, like grass clippings and fruit/vegetable scraps, and half "dry and brown" materials, like shredded paper and cardboard. Never add any cooked foods since this will attract animals.

Give your pile a stir every so often and over about 9 months you'll see a remarkable change as all of those extra scraps become a wonderful compost to use in your garden!

Do you enjoy doing crafts and science activities?

Consider subscribing to Green Kid Crafts - every month you'll receive three to four fun, enriching and earth friendly project kits appropriate for kids ages 3-8!

Get your first month for just \$10 with offer code *EARTH*
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Offer valid on new monthly memberships only; expires 5/31/13.

Is It Or Isn't It?

Companies are finding lots of creative ways to reuse everyday items. Can you find 3 things that can be made with recycled materials below?



A: Surprise! All of these things can be made from recycled materials. 1. Recycled Cardboard, 2. & 3. Plastic Bottles (#1), 4. Glass bottles and jars, 5. (Auto parts) Metal cans, 6. Plastic bottles (#2).

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Make recycling even more fun! Print, laminate, and then adhere these labels to the appropriate bin!

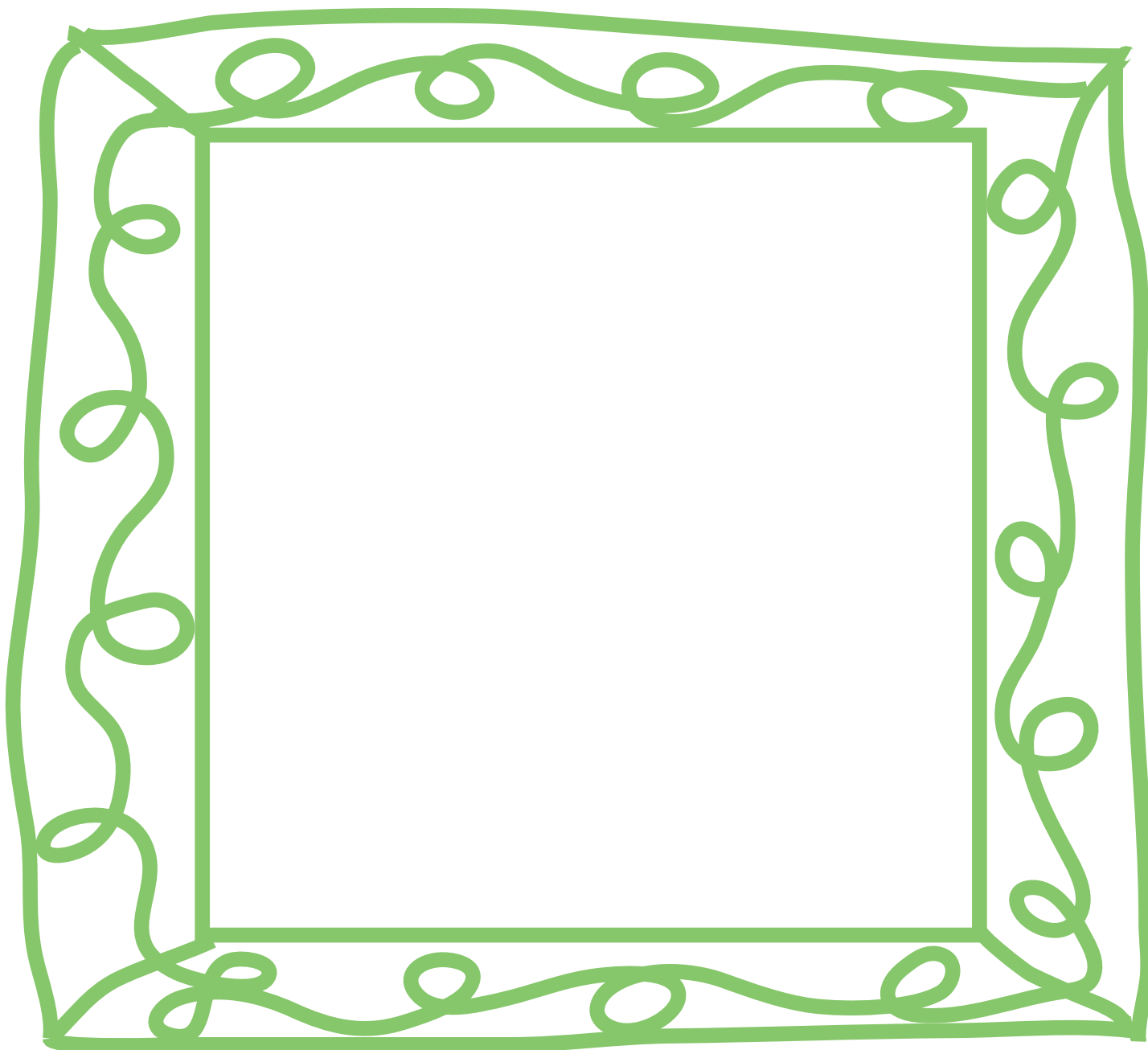




Make an Earth Day Pledge

Make an Earth Day Pledge to promise to love and care for the planet, everyone and everything on it! Design your pledge in the frame below. Then, take a picture of you holding it, and ask your parents to upload the photo at [Facebook.com/GreenKidCrafts](https://www.facebook.com/GreenKidCrafts) to receive your Green Kid Planet Protector Badge.

You'll be entered to win a Planet Protector Cape too!



You can make every month an Earth Month with fun, eco-friendly projects from Green Kid Crafts. Enjoy 3 or 4 fun and enriching projects delivered right to your doorstep, starting at \$19.95/month. Find out more at [GreenKidCrafts.com](https://www.GreenKidCrafts.com).

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