

In 1950, the world had 2.5 billion people; and in 2005, the world had 6.5 billion people. By 2050, this number could rise to more than 9 billion. The human population on Earth has grown as much in the last 50 years as in the past four million years.



Save Earth



Thanks to the tremendous amount of reckless waste disposal, we have a garbage island floating in our ocean, mostly comprising plastics - the size of India, Europe and Mexico combined! The garbage dumped in ocean every year is roughly around 14 billion pounds.

Where will you go after this?

Has it ever occurred to you that once the planet called Earth is destroyed, we have no other place to go to. Save Earth, after all it is the only home we have. Students of AIS Saket and AIS Noida took their first step towards saving their planet as they revelled in Earth Day celebrations through numerous activities

Our very own planet earth has given us numerous things-air to breathe, food to eat, and a place we can call home. And yet we do them more harm than good, by bombarding it with endless waste, some of which is easy to reuse and recycle. Students of AIS Saket tell you how.

Containers and buckets

Prisha, AIS Saket, VI

Impact: Take a look around in your kitchen. You will find that majority of items are stored in plastic containers. The reason - plastic containers are cheap, easy to use and require minimum maintenance. So while they are easy on us, they are not so easy on the environment. Case in point the toxic gases they release into the environment. Many variations and different combinations of resins and polymers are used to generate types of plastic which leaves toxic gaseous elements. Barely 10 percent of plastic is recycled and to be more precise 'down-cycled', for instance, from a soda bottle to winter coat insulation and finally reaches landfill.

Be a green warrior: We cannot eradicate plastic from Earth at once but minimise its use by adopting the following measures:

- Use stainless steel containers, break proof glass water bottles, glass or ceramic mugs et al.
- Re-use waste buckets in the garden as pots, as an organiser for small household items or for storage of toys, near the main door for holding slippers and shoes or as storage for dirty linen or clean rolled up towels.

Toothbrush

Sharanya Gupta, AIS Saket, VI

Impact: Toothbrushes are a good idea as far as dental health is concerned but it is bad news for the environment. They are made from a toxic combination of plastic, rubber and nylon. Currently none of these elements are bio-degradable and remain in the land pit for long. In fact, they release toxic chemicals when destroyed. If they end up in oceans they can be consumed by marine animals which is harmful. If they are burnt they emit toxic gases which further causes greenhouse effect.

Be a green warrior: We can minimize the wastage of toothbrushes when they are no longer useful for cleaning your teeth by using them for other purposes.



■ Cleaning crevices of computer keyboard, cheese grater, nails, jewelry, bathroom silt, hair brush, bicycle chains, baby bottles, shoes, and scum deposited in oven and tiles.

- Garden markers for seeds in pots.
- For grooming pet hair.
- Another solution is the use of bio-degradable product, bamboo instead of plastic handles.

Pen

Akshat, AIS Saket, VI

Impact: Did you know that more than 10 billion pens worldwide are disposed every year? And what's worse is - a majority of these pens are made from non biodegradable plastic. Also, different inks and metal points increase the toxicity of pens disposed in waste. The waste is either disposed of in the landfills which doesn't degrade into manure or thrown off in the oceans where the marine life is impacted due to the ink toxins or the beaches are washed off with the dirt.

Be a green warrior: For the damage they cause, it is important that we reuse and recycle them.

- Wrapping ribbons, threads of wire on an old pen to prevent them from tangling up and for easy storage!
- Also, a new alternative to disposable toxic pens is paper pens made of waste paper with metal bodied refills and where each pen carries a seed which grows into a tree.

used for other purpose.

Be a green warrior: For all of the above reasons we should discontinue purchasing plastic bottles and adopt some of the following measures in day to day life.

- Encourage the use of jute bags which are biodegradable in nature.
- Various innovative items made up of plastic bottles such as vertical garden, chandelier, jewellery stand etc. can help recycle plastic bottles causing adverse change in the environment.
- An eco-designer, Michelle Brand, designed an aesthetic curtain most people would perceive to be waste or rubbish. The fabric of the curtain is composed of the base of plastic bottles, which have been cut, sanded and then tagged together!

Plastic glasses

Shayna Singh, AIS Saket, VI

Impact: Just like other non biodegradable items, plastic causes damage to the environment, when dumped both on land and water. When dumped on land, they prevent absorption of water and minerals by the soil, thereby deteriorating the soil quality. In water, the consumption of these plastic glasses put both terrestrial and aquatic animals at risk through ingestion and suffocation. The recycling of plastics consumes enormous amounts of energy.

Be a green warrior: The most viable option is to reuse plastic glasses:

- Re-use plastic glasses as plant hangers, lanterns.
 - Use them as moulds to make candleholders.
 - Every time you drink coffee or tea, use mugs.
- So friends, let's all do our bit and make this planet plastic proof!

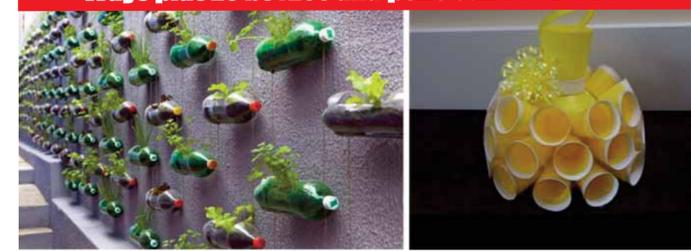
Plastic bottles

Aria Puri, AIS Saket, VI

Impact: There goes the coke in my tummy and the plastic bottle on the road. In US alone, over 50 billion plastic bottles are produced every year. Made up of toxic material, these plastic bottles damage our environment like no other. It takes almost 450 years for a plastic bottle to break down and decompose. And even when they do breakdown, they emit toxic gases, which are harmful for the entire ecosystem, humans included. The key ingredient to make plastic bottles is crude oil. Over 47 million gallons of crude oil per year is wasted to produce plastic bottles which can be



Ways plastic bottles and pens can be re-used



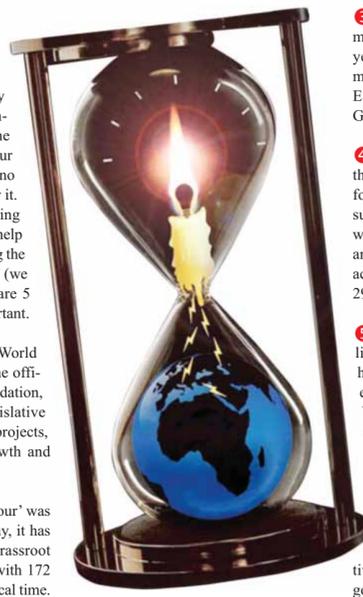
Earth hour; need of the hour

Soumya Singh
AIS Noida, XII I

Earth hour is a worldwide movement organised by WWF, which aims at encouraging everyone to turn off the lights for an hour. This planet is our one and only home. We have no other choice and we must care for it. The act can be as simple as turning off lights for an hour, which will help in conserving energy for increasing the longevity of the human existence (we do need fuel to survive!). Here are 5 reasons why 'Earth hour' is important.

1 It promotes action: The World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF), the official 'Earth Hour' organizing foundation, designed this act to push for legislative changes, and support their other projects, including renewable energy growth and sustainable agriculture.

2 It's global: In 2007, 'Earth Hour' was started in Sydney, Australia. Today, it has become the world's largest grassroots movement for the environment, with 172 countries going dark at 8:30 pm local time.



3 We can see it: Turning off the lights makes a powerful visual statement. Last year, over 10 thousand landmarks and monuments 'disappeared' including the Eiffel Tower, the London Eye and the Great Pyramids of Giza.

4 It creates awareness: The buzz around the 'Earth Hour' led to spreading of information about various environmental issues. Last year, around 82 million videos were viewed between January and March, and 7.8 million digital 'Earth Hour' interactions took place between March 27 and 29 alone.

5 It brings people together: No one likes to sit alone in the dark! And that's how over 70 thousand 'Earth Hour' events checked into digital maps last year. Whether you get together with friends and family, or join a community event, Earth Hour reminds you of the need to come together to solve climate change. It's never too late, they say. Maybe it's not true for our planet. But instead of putting hands up in the air, let's turn retroactive thoughts into proactive actions. This time 'Switch off!' for good.



Slogan & poster contest



Why we celebrate earth week

Arushi Gupta, AIS Noida, XI C

Our Earth is the only planet in the entire universe where 'LIFE' is possible till date. To celebrate the beautiful planet that earth is, April 22 is celebrated as Earth Day every year. Numerous activities, focussing on various environ-

mental issues are organised on the occasion and the following week. These activities aim at:

- To remember the 3A's - Awareness, Affection and Appreciation
- To sow sustainability in the minds of our future generations
- To nurture nature and plant more trees to reduce pollution level
- To encourage people to 'Go Green!'



Rangoli contest



My tribute to nature

Ravisha Nautiyal, AIS Noida, XII J

Nature, pan, gaia, bhoomi; various names yet doomed to the same fate. It's amazing how we human beings, who consider themselves mortals, who have attained immortality, written copies and sagas that seem inconceivable to be fiction and built a human of skyscrapers, still failed to realise that we are killing everything that has ensured our survival on this planet.

The truth is that evolution has made us arrogant. We have come a long way from lighting fires and wearing animal skins to building concrete jungles and

puffing up our chests with pollution and smoke. Yet, we feel very proud of our intelligence and fail to recognise the importance of conserving our environment. What's done is done, but it is now time to protect our very own life support system. Anymore tampering will shatter it and we will be doomed. Make an extra effort to help preserve a planet that is too precious. An environment friendly living does not require much to do. Open your eyes and bring changes like cycling to work, preferring baths to showers or using the 3 R's of conservation. It should be every citizen's duty to protect our earth and our future.



Essay contest

Earth with all its bounty

Garima Chandar
AIS Noida, XI J

Or squander it away?
The choice is yours

It's your earth
Will you neglect it?

But if you have decided
To take a stand

Or nurture it?
Will you tend it?

You'd better start today
And give Earth your love!

Blessings on mankind

Soumya Saisa Das, AIS Noida, XI J

As players in a band
Each with a lovely tune to play
All needed on the land

If you listen to the song of birds
As they greet the summer sun
And love the way the wind can make
The trees sing just for fun

And know that as a boy or girl
A woman or a man
You have a vital role to play
In mother earth's plan

If you like to hear the ocean
As it dreams upon the shore
And imagine all the whales out there
And hope they will sing some more

If you honour every living thing
As a part of earth's treasure
You are in tune with mother earth
So let's all sing her a song together!

If you think of all the animals

Akshara Iyer, AIS Noida, XII I

- A) Earatos, the goddess of colours
- B) Yearhythmus, the god of the future
- C) None of the above

1. Can you tell how old is the Earth?

- A) 2017 years
- B) 4, 20, 000 years
- C) 4.5 billion years

4. What is the outer crust of the Earth made of?

- A) Mobile Platters
- B) Tectonic Plates
- C) Earth Crumbs

2. Name the gas that trees absorb during the day?

- A) Carbon dioxide
- B) Nitrogen
- C) Oxygen

5. Which country is worse affected by Ozone layer depletion?

- A) India
- B) Antarctica
- C) China

3. Earth is named after which Greek deity?

- A) 1, C, 2, A, 3, C, 4, B, 5, B

Quiz

ANSWERS: 1, C, 2, A, 3, C, 4, B, 5, B