



April 2011

Earth Day 2011

April 22, 2011 is the 21st Annual International Earth Day.

History

The original Earth day was organized by a concerned US senator, Gaylord Nelson, in 1970. He started the National Environmental "Teach-In" day at the grassroots level in hopes that Americans would bring their concern for the environment to Washington.

The yearly event eventually grew to such popularity that 20 years after the original Earth Day, the day was celebrated in 141 coun-

tries with over 200 million people participating. April 22, 1990 was the first international Earth Day.



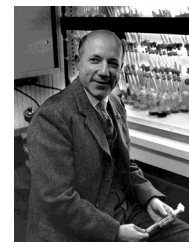
Since 1990, the Earth Day Canada organization has been bringing environmental awareness to Canadians. They provide many programs including EcoKids, EcoMentor, and EcoAction

Teams. For more information, check out their website at www.earthday.ca.

Celebrate This Year

Earth Day Canada is celebrating 21 years of environmental stewardship by encouraging Canadians to pick up the torch and organize local events.

If you do not have the time to organize a large scale event, you can still participate in Earth Day. Try riding your bike to school, calculating your families ecological footprint and ways to reduce it, or pledge to take shorter showers. Get-



Scientist of the Month:

Melvin Calvin

- B, April 8, 1911
- Born to Russian Immigrant parents
- Graduated from high school in Detroit
- Received his PhD in chemistry in 1935 from the University of Michigan.
- Completed his post-doctoral work at the University of Manchester.
- Returned to the US and worked at UC-Berkeley
- Discovered the Calvin cycle while at UC-Berkeley. Used radioactive carbon to determine what happens to carbon in a plant during photosynthesis.
- Was awarded a Nobel Prize in Chemistry in 1961 for the Calvin cycle
- This discovery and his later work on photochemical energy started the growth of early solar energy research
- The Melvin Calvin Laboratory at UC Berkeley was named in his honour

Looking for hands-on science activities? Praxis has what you're looking for

Is there a unit that you are having difficulties getting across to your students? Do you sometimes struggle to find hands-on activities? If so, call Praxis. We have kits, materials and other activities for you to utilize absolutely free. Look through our kit

descriptions online and choose one, or book a scientist or engineer for your classroom. And if you notice materials missing from our list you wish we had, let us know. We're always looking for new materials and kits to produce for your use.

36th Annual Kiwanis Regional Science Fair

The 36th Annual Kiwanis Regional Science Fair was a huge success. We had 112 projects and over 170 students participate. It was great to see the students showing off their months of hard work at the Medicine Hat College.

The projects headed to the Canada-Wide Science Fair in Toronto are as follows:

Connor Deptuck (CAPE)
Computer Science - Detecting Narrative Authors

Kate Berger & Jasveen Brar (MHHS)
Environmental Science - Leaky Landfills: Liners vs Leachate

Rachel Brown & Katie van der Sloot (McCoy)
Life Science - Triclosan: Double Danger

Congratulations to all of the participants and a huge thank you to all of our fantastic volunteers!

Make your own paper

One way to recycle old newspapers is to use it to make new paper! It's really easy to do, just follow these steps.

Materials:

- Old newspapers
- Hot water
- Blender
- Old wire coat hanger
- Old pair of nylons
- Mixing bowl
- Wooden cutting board
- Two pieces of paper towel
- Electric iron

Directions:

1. Rip up the newspapers into small pieces and put them in the blender.
2. Cover the newspaper with some hot water. Let this sit for a couple minutes and then blend into a paste.
3. Make the coat hanger into a round shape and stretch the nylons across the hanger to make a screen.
4. Balance your screen on the mixing bowl and pour the newspaper and

water mixture onto the screen.

5. Let this sit for a couple minutes until most of the excess water has drained.
6. Place a paper towel on the cutting board and put the screen on top of that.
7. Put the second paper towel on top of the screen. Iron the paper towel and screen sandwich.
8. Once you have ironed it for a short amount of time, peel the paper towel off of the screen. You now have paper you can use to write letters to all your friends.

What goes up doesn't always come down

Upcoming Events:

April 13: Operation Thoth

April 22: Earth Day Canada

April 22-25: Easter Celebration at Police Point Park. Egg decorating and live chicks.

April 22-May 2: Easter Break

May 14-21: Canada-Wide Science Fair in Toronto, ON

May 30: "Vanishing of the Bees" - Cinema Politica at MHPL

A fun coloured experiment that can be used to explain capillary action in plants.

Materials:

- White carnations
- Food colouring
- Water
- Container/vase

Directions:

1. Mix drops of food colouring with the water. Make sure to use quite a few drops to create a saturated colour.
2. Cut an inch off the bottom of the carnation. Cutting flowers on the diagonal increases the surface area they "pull" the water up with, therefore increasing their survival rate.
3. Put the carnation in the coloured water and leave it for a couple days. Depending

on the flower and the concentration of colour, you should start to see colour in the carnation petals anywhere from 12-48 hours after putting it in the water.

Explanation:

Water travels up the stem of the flower. This happens due to the evaporation of water out of the flower and it's leaves. This in combination with the turgour pressure inside the flower combine to cause the water to go up the flower. This is called capillary action. You can see it happen because the colour molecules are small enough to be carried into the flower with the water.

Extension:

Try cutting the flower in half lengthwise and tape the spot where the stem splits in two. Put each stem end into different colours of water. See what happens to the flower.

**For all your Science needs
contact Praxis**

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