

Earth Day Activities

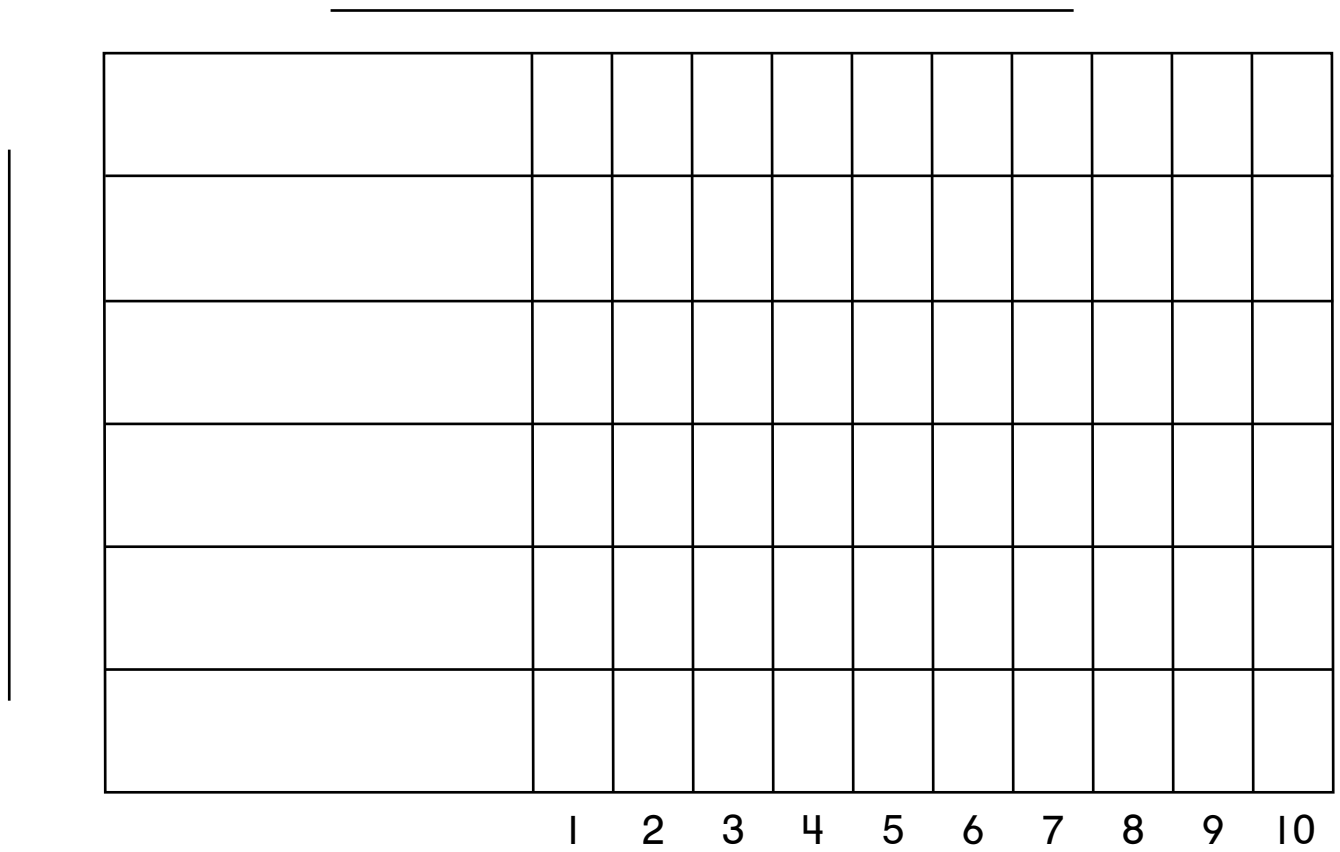
Earth Day STEM Choice Board for Elementary Grades



<p style="text-align: center;">Trash Graph</p> <p>Dig through the trash! Or empty a recycling bin! Create a bar graph showing the different types of trash or recycling in your bin. The y axis should show the type of trash, and the x axis should show how much there is of each type (the numbers). Make sure to add each different type of trash (i.e. plastic wrapper, cardboard box, banana peel, etc.).</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Earth Day Popplet</p> <p>There are so many different elements of Earth Day to learn about and celebrate. Create a brainstorm page using Popplet and add as many connections to Earth Day as you can think of such as recycling, caring for plants, and enjoying clear air. Share your Popplet with a partner and see if they can add anything.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Code an Earth Day Animation</p> <p>Tell the world about Earth Day! Using Scratch, learn about coding while you create a cool animation. Make your sprites have a conversation about ways we can help look after the Earth. Use the directions and 'how to' cards on Scratch if you get stuck.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Plant Some Beans</p> <p>The Earth runs on plant life. Watch how quickly sprouts can come up out of the ground by planting either lima beans, wheat grass, or another fast-growing plant. Observe the change in your plant every day and record what you see.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Make a Volcano</p> <p>Make a volcano in your home or classroom by building a sturdy cone structure out of cardboard and plaster. Use baking soda and vinegar to create an eruption and notice how the 'lava' flows out of your volcano. Then, extend your learning about how volcanoes work with the word search handout.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recycled Art</p> <p>Dig out that recycling bin again! See what you can create using recycled materials like bottle caps, cardboard, string and anything else you can find. Be creative. Use glue and paint to keep everything together, but don't buy anything new. This art is all recycled!</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">Light the Bulbs</p> <p>Test how much you know about recycling and pollution with this worksheet. Color the lightbulb yellow if you think the statement is true and color it in brown if you think it's false. Choose a false statement and explain why it's false.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Make a Rain Gauge</p> <p>Rain is so important for our planet's ecosystems. How much rain falls in your area? Make a rain gauge to find out! You will need a water bottle, some rocks, a sharpie and a ruler. Follow this video for instructions on how to make your rain gauge.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Go on a Bug Hunt</p> <p>Insects are an important part of Earth's ecosystem. They provide food for birds and mammals and some pollinate our flowers. Go outside and see what bugs you can find. Use a jar to collect insects and look at them. Remember to release insects after you have spent time observing them. Use this resource to extend your bug expertise.</p>

Name _____

Horizontal Bar Graph



Ecology

ECOLOGY

NAME _____

Light the Bulbs

Directions:

Your brain is the only power I need to light the bulbs below. Color the bulb yellow if you think the statement is true. Color it brown if you think it is false.



1. Rainforests are homes for many kinds of animals.



2. There are lots of ways to recycle.



3. We can cut down all the trees we want.



4. When we go on picnics we can REDUCE by using plastic forks instead of real forks.



5. When we buy soda, we can RECYCLE our cans.



6. One way to REUSE is to buy batteries that can be recharged.



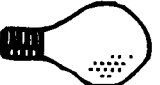
7. More waste comes from cities than from small towns.



8. Only certain people can help the environment by reducing waste.



9. Only adults can help the environment by recycling.



10. Only the land and the water can be polluted.

Choose one false statement above and explain why it is false.

Studying insects

Insects are all around us and affect our lives in many ways, so studying them is an important area of science. It can also be lots of fun. All you need to study insects are alert eyes and plenty of patience. A notebook, digital camera, and magnifying glass will come in useful, too.

Did you know?

A magnifying glass has a curved lens made of glass or plastic that produces a magnified (larger) image. It will allow you to see insects in amazing detail.



Keep an insect diary

One of the best ways to study insects is to watch them and note what they do. You can record your findings on this chart.

1 Use the first two columns to record the date and location of each insect sighting you make.

2 Write down any interesting behavior in the next column—for example, if the insect was eating something.

3 Try to identify the insects you have seen using an insect guide or a website, and write their names in the last column.

Date	Location	Behavior	Name of insect

Bug hunting

Many bugs and other insects are good at hiding, but with the help of a tray you can get a much closer look at them. The best time to hunt for insects is a warm summer's day, when most species are active.

1 Cut a piece of white paper or cardboard to line the bottom of your tray.



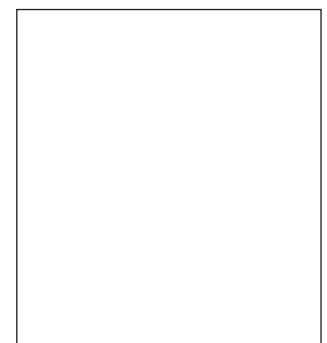
2 Put the tray under a bush, flower, or leafy branch. Then gently tap the plant or branch with a stick.



Don't touch or pick up any insects you collect since they may bite or sting. After you've looked at them, allow them to crawl or fly away.



3 Carefully remove the tray to see what has tumbled out. Use a magnifying glass to get a close-up view of your insects. Try putting the tray in different places to see if you find any different insects, and note down what you collect.



4 Use this space to draw the most interesting insect you found.