



Earth Day Lesson Plan

This week marks the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. Celebrate the Earth with these activities and challenge yourself to do something to help the Earth this week!

Objectives: Campers will be able to:

- Identify how pollution can impact the earth
- Differentiate between recyclable and non-recyclable items
- Take an action to help the Earth

Supplies:

- Suncatcher (two variations)
 - #1: [Pony beads](#), glass dishes, cookie sheet, oven
 - #2: Or crayons, wax paper, iron, scissors, newspaper or towel
- Milk Experiment
 - Shallow dish, milk, food coloring (green, blue and one other color), dish soap
- Recycling Game
 - Item print out or magazines and cardstock, 3 containers/bowls, scissors

Activity 1: Earth Suncatchers (two variations, choose your favorite or try both)

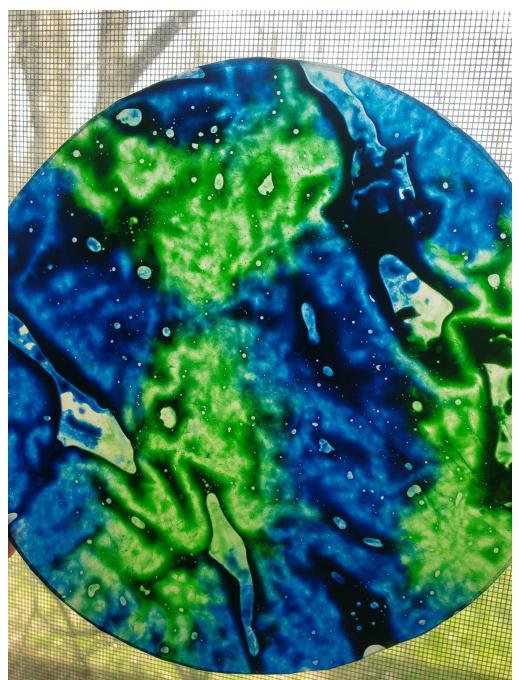
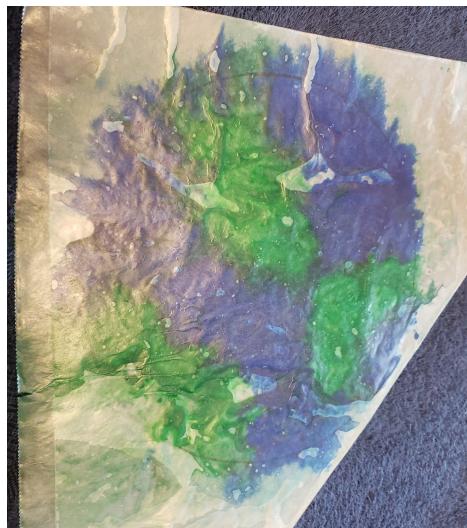
Suncatcher 1:

Arrange pony beads in a single layer in the bottom of an oven-safe glass dish. Place glass dish on a cookie sheet and bake the oven at 400° for 20 minutes or until melted (make sure to get adult help before using the oven). Remove from oven and leave to cool. Once the pieces are cool, they will slip right out of the glass dish. (*Note: clear white or glow-in-the-dark pony beads contain different material, and stick to the glass dish. Avoid using those beads.) Finish your suncatcher by drilling a small hole and hanging from a string or fishing line in a window.



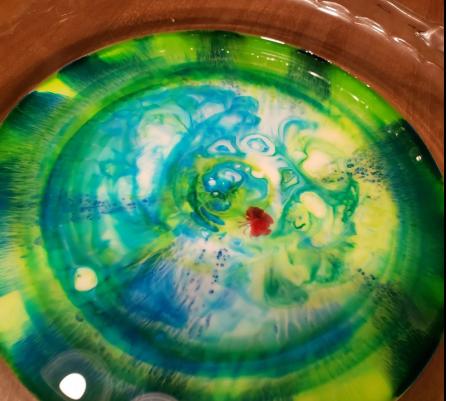
Suncatcher 2:

Cut a piece of wax paper and fold it in half. Make crayon shavings: peel off the paper and use either a pencil/crayon sharpener or have an adult use a hand grater. Next arrange the crayon shavings in any pattern you like onto one half of the wax paper. We traced a circle on our wax paper and arranged blue and green crayon shavings in the circle like the Earth. Fold the wax paper, sandwiching the crayon shavings, and use an old piece of newspaper or an old towel to iron the wax paper on a low iron setting (make sure you have adult help for ironing). Your crayon shavings will melt in between the wax paper and make a beautiful pattern! Once your design is cool and dry, you can cut it into any shape you'd like, punch a hole in the top, hang it in a window, and enjoy your handiwork!



Activity 2: Earth Day Milk Experiment

Pour milk into a shallow dish about 2 cm deep. Scatter drops of blue and green food coloring. Use a pipette or a q-tip to add a drop of dish soap to the center of the dish. Make observations. Next add a single drop of another color - representing pollution. Pollution can spread, affecting the entire Earth. It is difficult to clean up pollution once it's started.

		
Gather Ingredients	Pour milk into dish	Add food coloring
		
Add drop of dish soap	Watch the reaction	Add drop of "pollution"
		
See the pollution spread	Experiment, add soap	Play and mix colors

Activity 3: Recycling Game

Use our printout and cut out the various items or find an old magazine and cut out various items that are recyclable and non-recyclable (they do not have to be the same items in the printout but it's a good place to look for examples). Tape the magazine pictures to paper or cardstock to make them easier to grab. Label one of your bins garbage, and the other recycle with the recycle logo. Place all of your items in one container then allow your child to sort into either garbage or recycling. Have a brief discussion about items you use in your house that are recyclable or not and how your family can make choices to recycle more items or better yet use reusable items.

Activity 4: Challenge time! Go out and do something for the Earth. Here are some examples.

- Take a walk around your neighborhood and pick up trash (bring an adult with you, and always wear gloves to be safe)
- Plant a tree or native flowers in your yard
- Start a compost pile
- Talk to your family about recycling
- Eat less meat

Zoo Connection

Here at the Henry Vilas Zoo we care a lot about the Earth and take actions to reduce our impact and be more sustainable.

Did you know... Our arctic passage exhibit has many sustainable features including solar panels, rainwater harvesting and an underground storage unit that saves over 2 million gallons of water each year to be used for the animals' pools! Watch this video of Nuniq enjoying a dive in one of our pools!

<https://www.facebook.com/HenryVilasZoo/videos/448477339207674/>

