

VILLAGE OF HAWTHORN WOODS
PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT

Activity Book

Volume 2

STAY ACTIVE, STAY BUSY, AND
STAY WELL WHILE STAYING HOME



A Brief History of Earth Day

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement that began in 1970. As we prepare to mark 50 years of Earth Day in 2020, let's take a look at how it began.

Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson came up with the idea for a national day to focus on the environment after witnessing the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California in 1969. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Thousands of colleges and universities organized protests against the deterioration of the environment. Earth Day 1970 gave a voice to an emerging public consciousness about the state of our planet. Until this point, mainstream America remained largely oblivious to environmental concerns and how a polluted environment threatens human health.

Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, business and labor leaders. By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air Act. Two years later Congress passed the Clean Water Act. A year after that, Congress passed the Endangered Species Act.

(Source: <https://www.earthday.org>)



Color!

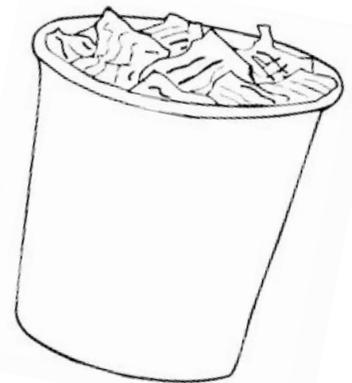
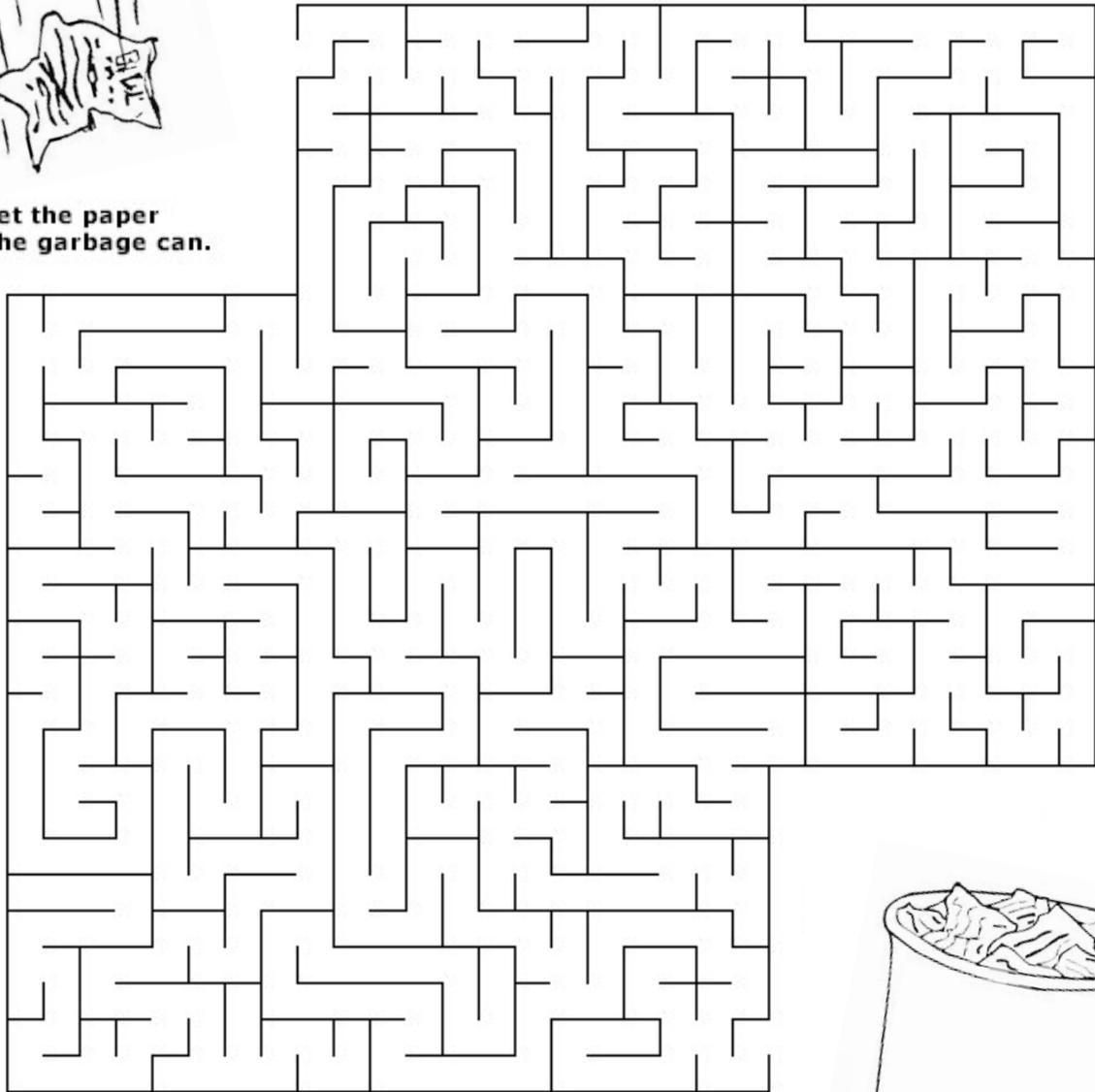
Earth Day!



Earth Day Maze



Get the paper
into the garbage can.



Earth Day Word Search

Find all of the Earth Day related words from the list below. The words can be up, down, forward, backward, or diagonal.



AIR
APRIL
CLEAN
CLIMATE
COMPOST
CONSERVATION
ENERGY

ENVIRONMENT
EXTINCTION
FOREST
GLOBAL
LAND
LITTER
NATURE

OCEAN
OZONE
PEOPLE
PLANET
POLLUTION
RECYCLE
REDUCE

RESOURCES
REUSE
SMOG
TRASH
TREES
WASTE
WATER
WILDLIFE



Mad Lib

One player acts as the “reader” and asks the other players, who haven’t seen the story, to fill in the blanks with adjectives, nouns, exclamations, places and more. These words are inserted into the blanks and then the story is read aloud to hilarious results. There are no winners or losers, only laughter!

An Earth Day Celebration



This year, my family and I are _____
(verb -ing)
_____ Day at the _____. We will
(planet) (place)
_____ a picnic lunch with foods like
(verb)
_____, _____, and _____
(food) (food) (food)
and _____ to drink. We'll also _____
(beverage) (verb)
games like _____ and
(adjective) (noun)
_____ the _____. Many other
(verb) (noun)
families will be there to _____ up the
(verb)
park, picking up _____ and planting
(plural noun)
_____. Spending time at the _____
(plural noun) (place)
is a _____ way to _____ nature and
(adjective) (verb)
the planet we call home.



Nature's Tic-Tac-Toe Board

No need for pen and paper - go outside and gather sticks and rocks to make your own tic-tac-toe board.

You will need:

- Sticks
- Rocks
- Paint (optional)

How to make:

- Find sticks and break them to make your board.
- Find two sets of 5 rocks for your "X's" and "O's".
- Suggestion: Paint the rocks two different colors or with X's and O's



Egg Carton Flower

This cute spring craft can also be made from mostly recycled materials.

What You will need:

- Paint
- Egg Carton (not foam)
- Paper Straw
- Pom Pom or Button
- Scissors
- Glue
- Paint Brush

How to make:

- Cut out four containers of the egg carton. Trim around the edges so that it gives it a rounder shape for the petals of the flower.
- Squirt some acrylic paint colors onto a paper plate and paint the flowers.
- After the paint's dried, attach the stem of the flower by gluing the paper straw to the back.
- Next, attach the center of the flower. You can use a pom pom, a button, even a penny. Glue it to the center of the painted egg carton.



Earth Day Jello Slime

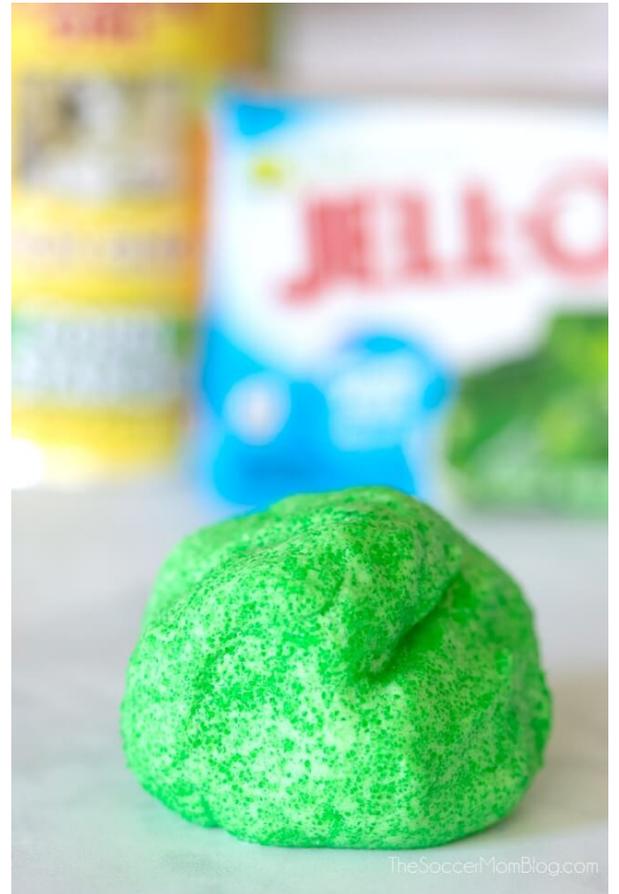
This simple craft allows you to enjoy nature while feeding our friendly neighborhood birds.

What You will need:

- Corn Starch
- Blue sugar-free gelatin
- Green sugar-free gelatin
- Water

How to make:

- Add cornstarch and the blue sugar-free Jello to a medium mixing bowl. Wisk together with a fork or spoon.
- Add cornstarch and the green sugar-free Jello to another medium mixing bowl. Wisk together with a fork or spoon.
- Add 2 tablespoons water to each bowl and stir until a paste begins to form.
- Continue to add water to each bowl, little by little, until the silly putty clumps together instead of sticking to the bowl.
- Mix, shape and play with the two colors!



Birdfeeder Craft

This simple craft allows you to enjoy nature while feeding our friendly neighborhood birds.

What You will need:

- Peanut Butter
- Bird seed
- Toilet paper rolls
- Twine

How to make:

- Spread peanut butter to cover the outside of toilet paper roll.
- Roll the peanut butter covered toilet paper roll in the bird seed until covered.
- Thread a piece of twine through the toilet paper roll and knot.
- Hang where birds can enjoy.



Insect Traps

From Luna moths to small beetles, the diversity of insects in our area is staggering. Insects make up more than half of all living things on earth and live in every habitat except the ocean. Even in our own backyards and neighborhoods we can find an amazing number of different insects, if we look. You can make your own insect traps to find out what's in your backyard!

What You will need:

- One 10" piece of string
- One 2-liter plastic soda bottle
- Scissors
- Duct tape
- An overripe banana

How to Play:

- Cut the plastic soda bottle in half as shown in the picture to the right.
- Insert the bottle top, upside down, into the bottom of the bottle.
- Duct tape around the edges.
- Tape a string to the sides of the trap to make a handle.
- Put an overripe banana inside the trap and hang it outside.
- Be sure to release our pollinator and insect friends.



Biodiversity Scavenger Hunt

Different types of plants and animals can be found here in Hawthorn Woods year-round. Here is a scavenger hunt you can play while safely social distancing in your neighborhood. Greet the coming of spring! Head outside and enjoy fresh air while trying to find the following:

- Three kinds of flowers in bloom
- Geese flying overhead
- A bird singing
- Sap flowing from a tree
- A honeybee
- A place where fish can live
- The sounds of frogs singing
- Flowers on a tree blooming
- A puddle
- Your shadow
- A bird sitting in a nest



Frog Call Hunt

In this activity, your family will listen carefully to frogs in spring. We start hearing frogs in spring because the snow has melted and it rains a lot. Water appears in fields, ditches, and wetlands. Some wet areas dry up in summer, but frogs will use any wet area in spring. Head outside in your backyard or to a wet area, look and listen for frogs. There are a number of different frogs around our area, each with a distinct call.

- What did you hear?
- What did you find?
- How many different frogs can you find from your backyard?

Compare what you hear to the reference guide below.

Wood Frog, 2 - 2 1/4 "	<p>SOUND: a harsh racket, racket, racket; evenings only WHERE FOUND: (spring) temporary forested wetlands, shorelines of forested lakes, and backwaters of streams. Wood frogs are rare here</p>	Northern Leopard Frog, 2 - 3 1/2 "	<p>SOUND: a loud, deep snore lasting several seconds and ending with a chuckling; day and night WHERE FOUND: marshes, wetlands and fishless ponds</p>
Western Chorus Frog, 3/4 - 1 1/4 "	<p>SOUND: a short, ascending trill-like b-r-e-e-e, resembling a thumb drawn along the teeth of a comb; day and night WHERE FOUND: (spring) temporary shallow ponds, flooded fields, river backwaters, lake edges and roadside ditches</p>	Cricket Frog, 5/8 - 1 1/2 "	<p>SOUND: a fast, repeated clicking, like two pebbles being struck together; day and night WHERE FOUND: wetlands and streams with adjacent mud flats and abundant emergent vegetation</p>
Spring Peeper, 3/4 - 1 1/4 "	<p>SOUND: a short, loud high-pitched peep; a chorus can sound like sleigh bells; at dusk WHERE FOUND: temporary wetlands associated with forested habitats</p>	Green Frog, 2 1/8 - 3 1/2 "	<p>SOUND: a throaty gunk or boink, like the pluck of a loose banjo string; day and night WHERE FOUND: permanent bodies of water.</p>
Eastern Gray Treefrog, 1 1/4 - 2 "	<p>SOUND: a bird like trill; at dusk WHERE FOUND: shallow wetlands within or near forested habitat</p>	Bullfrog, 3 1/2 - 8 "	<p>SOUND: a resonant series of deep bass notes sounding like rrr-uum; day and night. WHERE FOUND: around permanent bodies of water.</p>
		American Toad, 2 - 3 1/2 "	<p>SOUND: a long, drawn-out, high-pitched, musical trill lasting up to 30 seconds; day and night. WHERE FOUND: temporary wetlands, swamps, shallow bays of rivers and backwaters of rivers, streams and ditches.</p>

