

Earth Month Activities for Everyone

Check out these simple ways to protect, nurture, learn about, and celebrate nature, individually or as a family.



Compost

Composting diverts food waste from landfills and is something the whole family can do. Put your food scraps in a bucket, making sure to add a balance of greens (food waste, grass clippings) and browns (dry yard waste, paper). With care, within a few months, you'll have compost you can add to your garden or potted plants!

[Learn more about composting with kids at KidsDoGardening.](#)

Read [Compost Stew: An A to Z Recipe for the Earth](#) by Mary McKenna Siddals and Ashley Wolff for knowledge and inspiration.



Volunteer

There are many ways to give back! Find an organization in your community seeking volunteers or look for areas in your neighborhood that need attention. From picking up trash to pulling invasive species at your local forest preserve, even young kids can get involved.

If you're unsure where to start, visit [Volunteer.gov](#) or search online for "friends" groups associated with your local park or forest.



Plant a Seed

Visit your local gardening center or look at an online seed catalog. Think about what will thrive in your space—herbs like basil and cilantro grow well on the windowsill! If you get a variety of seeds, explore their similarities and differences in shape, size, color, and texture. After planting, care for your seeds and watch them grow!

Another fun (and messy) activity from KidsGardening.org is [making seed balls with kids](#). Explore further with [One Little Seed](#), a lift-the-flap board book that explores how flowers grow, and [Little Dandelion Seeds the World](#) which follows the path of a dandelion seed around the world.



Observe Nature

Keep things simple and pick a spot to sit and observe nature in your backyard, through your window, or in a nearby park. What do you see?

Can't get outside? Search for nature webcams featuring your favorite animals. [Explore.org/livecams](#) has an amazing selection to choose from! The book, [How to Bird](#) by Rasha Hamid, encourages young birders to explore their neighborhoods in search of birds.



Reduce Plastic Use

Look around your home - is there anywhere single-use plastic can be replaced with a reusable alternative? Simple swaps, like using an aluminum water bottle or metal straws instead of plastic, can make a big difference over time! [Can I Recycle This?: A Kid's Guide to Better Recycling and How to Reduce Single-Use Plastics](#) is a resource geared toward 4-8-year-olds.

Learn about Isatou Ceesay and her efforts to combat plastic pollution in her community in the Gambia by reading [One Plastic Bag: Isatou Ceesay and the Recycling Women of the Gambia](#) (for Grades 1-4).



Learn about Local Plants

Native plants provide food and shelter for wildlife while bringing beauty to your neighborhood! Visit your state's Department of Natural Resources website to learn about plants adapted to your climate. State and local field guides and free apps like [iNaturalist](#) and [PlantNet Plant Identification](#) can help you identify plants and learn more about them.

The Smithsonian Institute's [Trees, Leaves, Flowers and Seeds: A Visual Encyclopedia of the Plant Kingdom](#) is a kid-friendly exploration of plants from the smallest seeds to the tallest trees. Step outside your neighborhood and check out [The Big Book of Blooms](#) for a wide-ranging exploration of flowering plants around the world.



Go for a Walk

Become more familiar with the nature in your neighborhood by simply walking around! Set out with intention - you can map out your route in advance and add points of interest when you get home. Try bringing a camera along and allowing children to capture things they notice. Enter your zip code at [DiscovertheForest.org](#) to find a forest or park near you!

[Wonder Walkers](#) by Micha Archer is the perfect pre-walk book! Get the Kids Outside has some creative ideas for adding intention to your next nature walk. [Read about them here.](#)



Read a Book

Books are a great way to get inspired, deepen your understanding of a topic, and have fun! Read a book as a jumping-off point for exploring animal tracks ([Whose Prints?](#)), gardening ([Jayden's Impossible Garden](#)), birds ([How To Bird](#)), the weather ([Zap! Clap! Boom! The Story of a Thunderstorm](#)), and everything in between!

Visit your local library to find a variety of great titles. We enjoy [Blueberry Award books](#), which honor books about nature connection and stewardship.