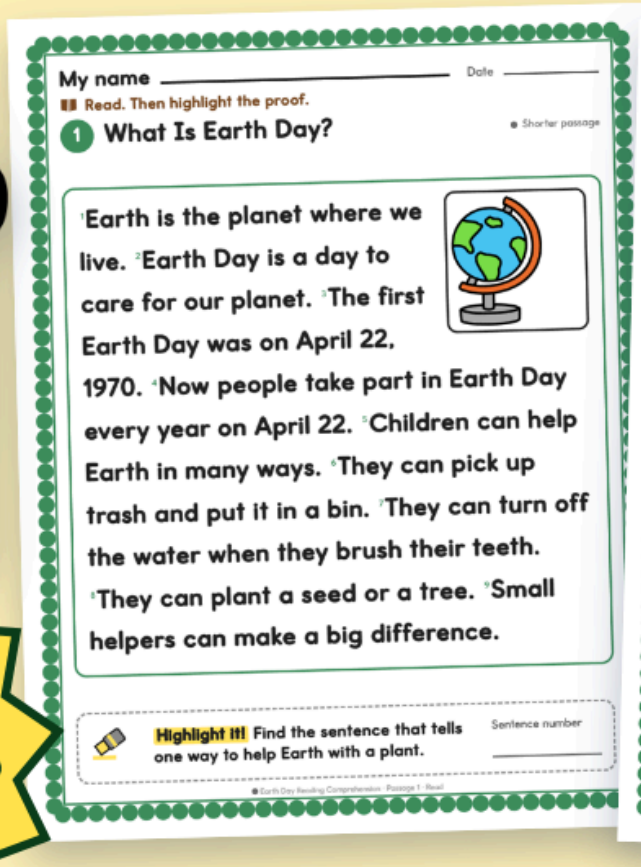
EARTH DAY READING PASSAGE

GRADES 2-3

2 Reading Levels + Answer Key



FREE



My name _____ Date _____

Read. Then highlight the proof.

1 What Is Earth Day?

Shorter passage

[1]Earth is the planet where we live. [2]Earth Day is a day to care for our planet. [3]The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. [4]Now people take part in Earth Day every year on April 22. [5]Children can help Earth in many ways. [6]They can pick up trash and put it in a bin. [7]They can turn off the water when they brush their teeth. [8]They can plant a seed or a tree. [9]Small helpers can make a big difference.

Highlight it! Find the sentence that tells one way to help Earth with a plant. Sentence number _____



My name _____ Date _____

Answer the questions. Look back in the passage.

1 What Is Earth Day?

1. What is Earth Day a day to do?
   - a. care for our planet
   - b. go to the zoo
   - c. play a game
2. When was the first Earth Day?
   - a. April 2, 1970
   - b. April 22, 1970
   - c. April 22, 1990
3. What can children do with trash? Write the answer.

   _____

   _____
4. What can you turn off when you brush your teeth?
   - a. the light
   - b. the radio
   - c. the water
5. How often do people take part in Earth Day now? Write the answer.

   _____

   _____

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- Open it in a PDF reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader, Preview, or your browser), click into a line, type, and Save As.
- The name and date on every student page, the answer lines and the tracker are type-in fields. You can also print any page and write by hand.
- Highlighting is done on paper: print the passage page and highlight or underline, or type the sentence number on the line.
- It works offline: no account, no subscription, no internet needed.

Print at 100 percent

Turn off fit to page and shrink to fit so the passages stay big enough to read. Pages print in color or in black and white.

Student work

A filled-in tracker carries a student's name. Keep it in the data folder, and use a first name only on any page that leaves your hands.

Need help?

If a field will not behave or a page will not print the way you expect, use Ask a Question on the product page first. Every question is read, and a fix ships as a free update.

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PREVIEW

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My name _____ Date _____

Match each word to its meaning. Write the letter.



Earth Words

1	planet		A to use something again
2	bin		B a big round world that moves around the sun
3	celebrate		C to do something special on a day that matters
4	reduce		D to turn old things into new things
5	reuse		E a big container to put trash in
6	recycle		F to use less

+ Pick one word. Use it in a sentence.

PREVIEW

Preview · Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Read. Then highlight the proof.

1 What Is Earth Day?

● Shorter passage



[1]Earth is the planet where we live. [2]Earth Day is a day to care for our planet. [3]The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. [4]Now people take part in Earth Day every year on April 22. [5]Children can help Earth in many ways. [6]They can pick up trash and put it in a bin. [7]They can turn off the water when they brush their teeth. [8]They can plant a seed or a tree. [9]Small helpers can make a big difference.

PREVIEW

Highlight it! Find the sentence that tells one way to help Earth with a plant.

Sentence number _____

Preview - Bright Path Sped

My name _____ Date _____

Read. Then highlight the proof.

2 Earth Day: Helping Our Planet

■ Longer passage

[1]Earth Day is a day when people think about how to take care of our planet. [2]The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970. [3]On that day, people in many towns and schools came together to speak up for clean air and clean water. [4]Today, people in many countries still celebrate Earth Day on April 22. [5]Some people clean up parks, streets, and beaches. [6]Others plant trees and gardens. [7]Many families also reduce, reuse, and recycle. [8]To reduce means to use less, like turning off a light when you leave a room. [9]To reuse means to use something again, like using a jar to hold crayons. [10]To recycle means to turn old things, such as paper and cans, into new things. [11]Earth Day reminds us that helping our planet is a job for everyone. [12]Even one small action can help.



PREVIEW

Highlight it! Find the sentence that tells when the first Earth Day was.

Sentence number _____

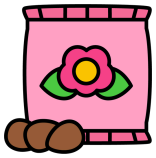
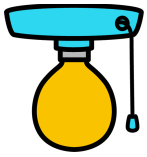
Preview - Bright Path Shed

My name _____ Date _____

Check the box for each way you can help.



I Can Help Earth

- [ ] I pick up trash and put it in a bin. 
- [ ] I turn off the water when I brush my teeth. 
- [ ] I plant a seed. 
- [ ] I help flowers grow in a garden. 
- [ ] I turn off a light when I leave a room. 
- [ ] I use a jar or a box again. 

One more way I can help: _____

PREVIEW

Answer Key: Both Passages

Accept any answer that says the same thing, spoken or written. "Proof sentence" is the number of the sentence on the passage page that holds the answer.

Passage 1: What Is Earth Day? (pages 5-6)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	a. care for our planet	2
2	Multiple choice	b. April 22, 1970	3
3	Short answer	Pick it up and put it in a bin	6
4	Multiple choice	c. the water	7
5	Short answer	Every year on April 22	4
+	Highlight	They can plant a seed or a tree.	8

Passage 2: Earth Day: Helping Our Planet (pages 7-8)

Q	Kind	Answer	Proof sentence
1	Multiple choice	a. clean air and clean water	3
2	Multiple choice	b. to use less	8
3	Short answer	To turn old things, like paper and cans, into new things	10
4	Multiple choice	c. using a jar to hold crayons	9
5	Short answer	A park, a street, or a beach	5
+	Highlight	The first Earth Day was on April 22, 1970.	2

Scoring

- Count 1 point for each right answer: 5 points for a passage.
- Write the points on the tracker (page 13). A blank means not tried yet.
- If a child gets a question wrong, point to the proof sentence and ask them to read it again.

PREVIEW

Reading Tracker

Write the date, then 1 for each question answered right (0 if not yet), then the total of 5. Write 1 under "Proof found" if the child highlighted the right sentence. A blank row means not tried yet, never wrong.

Student _____ Teacher _____ School year _____

Passage	Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Of 5	Proof found	Notes
1 Shorter passage									
2 Longer passage									

An example, with an invented student

Passage	Date	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q5	Of 5	Proof found	Notes
1 Shorter passage	4/6	1	1	1	0	1	4	1	–
2 Longer passage	4/8	1	1	0	1	0	3	1	Read it aloud first

How to read the example

Ellie R. is an invented student; nothing here describes a real child. Ellie has done 2 of 2 passages and answered 7 of 10 questions right. She found the proof sentence on 2 of 2 passages. Every number is a sum of the rows above.

What I notice

_____

_____

_____

Next step

_____

_____

_____

PREVIEW