

## 1 Earth Day

**Gerald:** Hello everyone. My name is Gerald. I'm going to tell you today about Earth Day.

On April 22nd, 1970, millions of people demonstrated on the streets because they wanted to do something to save the environment. The idea came from Gaylord Nelson, a US Senator who was very worried about what people did to the environment. He had seen what happened when oil spills into the sea and what the oil does to the sea birds, the fish and the beaches. He started to organize big demonstrations all over America. On April 22nd, 1970, about 20 million Americans demonstrated for a cleaner environment. They all felt something was going wrong. The air in the cities all around the world was really bad because of the smoke from cars and factories. The rivers were full of rubbish and so were the lakes and even the oceans and many animals were dying too.

Millions of people thought this was a dangerous situation. They wanted to do something about it. They wanted more people to know about the problem and that's why they took to the streets. As a result, new environmental organizations developed, for example Greenpeace, and more and more people all over the world became aware of how important the environment is and that we must do more to protect it.

Back in the 70s no one recycled or separated their trash. Many people would just throw it into the forests or into the sea. In the last 50 years, things have gotten better in some ways. We recycle things more than before and we separate our rubbish. Some things are still very bad, like people cutting down lots of trees in rainforests or all the plastics we find in the sea and even in our drinking water.

Earth Day has become a really big event all over the world. The organizers believe that more than 950 million people in 192 different countries might take part next year. That would be the biggest political action in the world.

Now, what happens on Earth Day?

In 2018, the motto was 'End Plastic Pollution'. The organizers wanted to stop people throwing plastic into the sea, where it is eaten by fish and then eaten by us when we eat the fish. Ideas were developed to recycle plastic products better which means to recycle them one-hundred percent.

So, what do people do on Earth Day?

First, they demonstrate in cities. People also plant trees and clean up their cities or clean up beaches, forests and lakes. Everywhere where there is trash.

To sum up, Earth Day is about making people see how important the environment is for all of us. For example, plastic in the sea gets into our water and food, the things we drink and eat. Therefore, protecting the environment is also protecting us.

Thank you very much for your attention. Does anyone have any questions?