

Questions

1. Earth Day is celebrated in over how many countries? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 22
☐ 60
☐ 192
☐ 1970

2. Match the boxes to complete the statements.

Earth Day is held each year on

1970.

Earth Day began in the year

2080.

Almost half of all lizard species are predicted to become extinct by the year

22nd April.

3. Write down **two** ways in which you could help the environment, according to Earth Day advice.

4. Write down **one** of the '**insect-killing products**' that you think the article is referring to?

5. Read the section **What Is Earth Day? Find** and **copy one** word that has a similar meaning to 'decrease'.

6. '**Sadly, much of the world's plant and animal life is in danger of becoming extinct.**'

Why do you think the word 'sadly' is used in this sentence? Explain your answer.

7. What are organisers of Earth Day worried that humans will be remembered for?

8. Why do you think Earth Day is important? Give reasons for your answer.

Answers

1. Earth Day is celebrated in over how many countries? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 22
☐ 60
☒ **192**
☐ 1970

2. Match the boxes to complete the statements.

Earth Day is held each year on	1970.
Earth Day began in the year	2080.
Almost half of all lizard species are predicted to become extinct by the year	22 nd April.

Connections: Earth Day is held each year on 22nd April. Earth Day began in the year 1970. Almost half of all lizard species are predicted to become extinct by the year 2080.

3. Write down **two** ways in which you could help the environment, according to Earth Day advice.

Any two of:

- Ask your parents not to use insect-killing products in the house and garden;
- Reduce use of plastics;
- Tell people about Earth Day and the problems facing our animals and our plants;
- Plant more trees;
- Walk to school;
- Eat less meat.

4. Write down **one** of the 'insect-killing products' that you think the article is referring to?
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I think the article is referring to products like fly spray.'

5. Read the section **What Is Earth Day?** Find and **copy** one word that has a similar meaning to 'decrease'.
decline (also accept 'loss')

6. **'Sadly, much of the world's plant and animal life is in danger of becoming extinct.'**

Why do you think the word 'sadly' is used in this sentence? Explain your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I think 'sadly' is used in this sentence because animals and plants becoming extinct is an unfortunate and a depressing thing. It is sad and the writer is showing empathy.'

7. What are organisers of Earth Day worried that humans will be remembered for?

The organisers of Earth Day are worried that humans will be remembered for wiping out many of the planet's species.

8. Why do you think Earth Day is important? Give reasons for your answer.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I think Earth Day is important because it shows people how to look after planet Earth. This year, the organisers are looking at how many species of plants and animals are becoming extinct and looking at ways in which people can help to stop this happening. I think this is really important.'

Questions

1. What is the theme of Earth Day for 2019? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 'What Is Earth Day?'
- ☐ 'Protect the Planet's Environment'
- ☐ 'Protect Our Species'
- ☐ 'Reduce Species Extinction'

2. Who or what is to blame for Earth's current period of mass extinction? Tick **one**.

- ☐ animals
- ☐ humans
- ☐ evolution
- ☐ the Earth

3. **Find** and **copy** three activities that are directly linked to the current period of mass extinction.

- _____
- _____
- _____

4. **'The speed at which animals and plants are now becoming extinct is alarming.'**

How else could the writer have written this sentence?

5. **'The organisers of Earth Day say that humans might be best remembered for wiping out a large percentage of the planet's species.'** What does this say about how the organisers feel about human interference?

6. In your own words, explain why falling insect numbers are bad for the environment.

7. '**Many species of monkeys and apes are in decline...**'

What does this mean?

8. Judging by the previous 20 years, why might the **next** 20 years be bad news for marine mammals?

9. Imagine you are an Earth Day organiser. Write a brief social media message about Earth Day and your aims for the future. Include at least **two** things you want to achieve.

Answers

1. What is the theme of Earth Day for 2019? Tick **one**.

- ☐ 'What Is Earth Day?'
- ☐ 'Protect the Planet's Environment'
- ☒ **'Protect Our Species'**
- ☐ 'Reduce Species Extinction'

2. Who or what is to blame for Earth's current period of mass extinction? Tick **one**.

- ☐ animals
- ☒ **humans**
- ☐ evolution
- ☐ the Earth

3. **Find and copy three** activities that are directly linked to the current period of mass extinction.

Any three from:

- **climate change**
- **deforestation**
- **habitat loss**
- **sea level rises**
- **modern farming methods**
- **pollution**
- **hunting**
- **poaching**

4. **'The speed at which animals and plants are now becoming extinct is alarming.'**

How else could the writer have written this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'The current rate at which species are going extinct is really worrying.'

5. **'The organisers of Earth Day say that humans might be best remembered for wiping out a large percentage of the planet's species.'** What does this say about how the organisers feel about human interference?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I think this means the organisers are quite worried about how humans might be remembered. They think people will be remembered for being the cause of so many species going extinct. I think this saddens them.'

6. In your own words, explain why falling insect numbers are bad for the environment.
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'It is really bad for the environment if insect numbers fall as there will be fewer insects to pollinate plants and fewer insects for birds to eat.'
7. **'Many species of monkeys and apes are in decline...'**
What does this mean?
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'It means that the number of monkeys and apes in the world is dropping.'
8. Judging by the previous 20 years, why might the **next** 20 years be bad news for marine mammals?
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'If the last 20 years are anything to go by, then the next 20 years will be bad for marine mammals if nothing changes. In the previous 20 years, between 65% and 75% of all whale species have been caught or hurt by fishing gear.'
9. Imagine you are an Earth Day organiser. Write a brief social media message about Earth Day and your aims for the future. Include at least **two** things you want to achieve.
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'We hope everyone will join us in celebrating Earth Day this year as we aim to 'Protect Our Species'. We are hoping to educate people about how many of Earth's species are facing extinction and we are aiming to raise awareness around the world. Also, please help us to plant more trees!'

Questions

1. What do scientists argue over? Tick **one**.
 - ☐ why the dinosaurs disappeared
 - ☐ what is causing the present period of mass extinction
 - ☐ what is causing the rapid decline in plant and animal populations
 - ☐ the theme for Earth Day 2019
2. Which of these human activities have a direct causal link to the current period of mass species extinction? Tick **three**.
 - ☐ the clearing of vast areas of woodland
 - ☐ smuggling animals
 - ☐ the use of pesticides
 - ☐ studies showing animal populations have declined
3. **'The organisers of Earth Day say that mankind's 'most enduring legacy' might be how humans wiped out a large percentage of the planet's species.'**
What do you think '**legacy**' means?

4. In your own words, summarise why losing insects is harmful to the environment.

5. **'If this trend is similar to what is happening in the rest of the world then the implications are ominous.'** How else could the writer have written this sentence?

6. **Find and copy two** examples of the groups into which blue whales can be classified.

7. Imagine you are an Earth Day organiser. Write a brief social media message about Earth Day and your aims for the future. Include at least **two** things you want to achieve.
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-
-
8. Look at '**Earth Day Facts: 1. Species Extinction**'. Explain how this makes you feel?
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-
-
9. Read the '**Ways You Can Help**' section. Choose one of the suggestions and explain how this might help the planet.
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-
-
10. Overall, do you think the article presents a positive, a bleak or a balanced future for Earth? Give evidence for your answer.
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-
-

Answers

1. What do scientists argue over? Tick **one**.

- ☒ **why the dinosaurs disappeared**
- ☐ what is causing the present period of mass extinction
- ☐ what is causing the rapid decline in plant and animal populations
- ☐ the theme for Earth Day 2019

2. Which of these human activities have a direct causal link to the current period of mass species extinction? Tick three.

- ☒ **the clearing of vast areas of woodland**
- ☒ **smuggling animals**
- ☒ **the use of pesticides**
- ☐ studies showing animal populations have declined

3. **'The organisers of Earth Day say that mankind's 'most enduring legacy' might be how humans wiped out a large percentage of the planet's species.'**

What do you think **'legacy'** means?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Legacy means something left behind after someone has died.'

4. In your own words, summarise why losing insects is harmful to the environment.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'It is really harmful to the environment if insects disappear because they are needed to pollinate plants and they are also needed as food for birds.'

5. **'If this trend is similar to what is happening in the rest of the world then the implications are ominous.'** How else could the writer have written this sentence?

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'If this pattern is happening all over the planet, then the consequences could be really worrying.'

6. **Find and copy two** examples of the groups into which blue whales can be classified.

Accept any two from:

- **marine mammals (also accept 'mammals')**
- **cetaceans (or the Cetacea family)**
- **baleen whales (also accept 'whales')**

7. Imagine you are an Earth Day organiser. Write a brief social media message about Earth Day and your aims for the future. Include at least **two** things you want to achieve.
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'We hope everyone will join us in celebrating Earth Day this year as we aim to 'Protect Our Species'. We are hoping to educate people about how many of Earth's species are facing extinction and we are aiming to raise awareness around the world. Also, please help us to plant more trees!'

8. Look at 'Earth Day Facts: 1. Species Extinction'. Explain how this makes you feel?
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'I cannot believe that we are now losing species at up to 10,000 times the normal rate. The fact that so many species are becoming extinct every day makes me incredibly sad. I hope people will do something to stop animals and plants disappearing from our planet.'

9. Read the 'Ways You Can Help' section. Choose **one** of the suggestions and explain how this might help the planet.
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Deforestation is one of the human activities linked to the current period of the mass extinction of some species. If we start planting more trees, we can start to tackle this issue and improve the situation by providing the world with more habitats in which animals can live.'

10. Overall, do you think the article presents a positive, a bleak or a balanced future for Earth? Give evidence for your answer.
Pupils' own responses, such as: 'Although the organisers of Earth Day still think there is something that we can do about the future of our planet's species, I think the article presents a largely bleak future for Earth. There are so many animals on the brink of extinction (such as tigers, leopards and cheetahs who might die out within ten years) that this makes the future seem really depressing.'