

# EARTH DAY LESSON GUIDE

In honor of Earth Day and this year's theme, "Invest in Our Planet," we invite you to engage students in authentic and meaningful activities around real issues affecting our climate and environment today.

Explore this lesson guide and links to some of our latest current events articles related to climate change, human impact, oceans and the environment.

## ARTICLES

Prior to the lesson, select an article you would like students to read or allow students to explore the different articles and select one to read. Login to your Juice account and assign the article(s) or copy and paste the links to your LMS. Find articles from the past month grouped by category.

### Climate

[March 1: Report: Coming Decades to Bring Stronger, More Damaging Storms](#)

[March 21: UN Climate Report: World is on 'Thin Ice'](#)

[March 22: Report: 43,000 May Have Died From Drought in Somalia in 2022](#)

[April 4: UN Resolution Should Help Nations Battered by Climate Change Disaster](#)

[April 6: From the Mountains, to the Prairies, to the Oceans \(White With Foam\): for Weather Disasters, US is Home](#)

### Oceans

[March 7: UN Reaches Historic Accord to Protect Ocean Life](#)

[March 13: Red Tide Rolls in Early, Alarming Gulf Coast](#)

[March 16: Massive Wave of Seaweed Headed Toward Florida Coast](#)

[March 17: Study Finds 21,000 Pieces of Ocean Plastic for Every Human on Earth](#)

[March 28: In Battle Against Microplastics, Teen's Invention Makes Waves](#)

[March 29: Tortoise Love: The Pickles Family Adds 3 Kids to Houston Household](#)

### Health

[March 20: Strawberries, Spinach Top 2023's "Dirty Dozen" Pesticides-in-Produce List](#)

[March 21: As World Warms, Scientists Warn of 'Zombie Viruses'](#)

[March 23: 2 Billion People Lack Access to Safe Drinking Water, UN Says](#)

[March 31: America's Worst Cities for Seasonal Allergies](#)

# PRE-READING

## Knowledge Mapping

Activate and assess students' prior knowledge about environmental issues and concerns before reading one of the texts.

### Teacher Directions:

- Download the [Knowledge Mapping Graphic Organizer](#)
- Have students work with partners or independently to brainstorm some of the common environmental issues affecting our world and add to the surrounding circles
- Ask students to share some of their words or phrases with the class

# DURING READING

## Cause and Effect

While students read the article, engage them in informational text practice by targeting Anchor Standard R1.3 Key Ideas and Details: Analyze how and why individuals, events and ideas develop and interact over the course of the text.

### Teacher Directions:

- Download the [Cause and Effect Graphic Organizer](#)
- Model for the students how to fill it out with an example from the text
- Have students work individually or in partners to determine the different cause/ effects of the climate or environmental issue present in the article

# POST-READING EXTENSION ACTIVITIES

## Writing or Discussion

Provide students with opportunities to think more deeply about the text after reading with discussion or writing. Check out these Earth Day writing prompts from our partner, Subject to Climate and find additional Earth Day activities [here](#).

- [Grades 6-8 Writing Prompts](#)
- [Grades 9-12 Writing Prompts](#)

# SUPPORTS

- Support ELL students by pre-teaching vocabulary or providing nonlinguistic symbols in a glossary with the vocabulary words in the article
- Adjust the reading level or have students utilize the audio component in The Juice article
- Consider providing a more scaffolded or partially filled in organizer for certain students
- Provide sentence starters or question frames to any student who may benefit from them in order to complete writing prompts or participate in discussions

