

Celebrate your planet!



How will you celebrate Earth Day this year? Each of us can do our part to take care of the Earth. Some people might invent engines that are cleaner, others might think of new ways of reducing our waste – it is amazing what solutions we can find if we put science to work!

Planet Earth gives us so much – clean air, fresh water and healthy food. This Earth Day why not give a gift back? Here are some things you and your family can do:

- Save energy by turning off lights when you leave a room.
- Use a lunch box, rather than a paper bag.
- Pick up litter in your neighbourhood.
- Ride your bike or walk when you can.
- Turn off the water while you are brushing your teeth.

You can also celebrate Earth Day by making a globe from reused newspaper – hang it in your room to remind of you of your beautiful planet every day.

What you'll need:

one round balloon

newspapers torn into strips

1 cup flour

5 cups of water

medium saucepan

4 paint: light blue, brown, green

How to make it:

Blow up the balloon. Tie a string to the balloon so you can hang your globe when you are done.

Mix together the flour and one cup of the water. Working with an adult, bring four cups of water to a boil in a saucepan. Add the flour and water mixture. Simmer for two to three minutes and then let it cool.

Dip the newspaper strips into the flour glue and squeeze off the excess. Place the strips across the balloon. Continue adding strips until entire balloon is covered. Allow it to dry completely.

Repeat to create a second layer.

Paint the entire balloon light blue and let dry. Use brown and green paint to make land masses.

Next time you are visiting the Canada Science and Technology Museum be sure to check out Innovation Canada, an exhibition that shares the stories of Canadian inventions and innovations and how we put science to work for the Earth.

This article originally appeared in the April 2010 issue of Capital Parent Newspaper.