

# I'm With Nature

A Guide for  
Schools to  
Celebrate

World  
Environment  
Day

5 June 2017



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## Introduction

This year, there is just one word for what we want to make World Environment Day: epic. The aim is for celebrations to be bigger and better than ever and to call on people to show their love and affection for our shared natural world. To make this happen we need the support of teachers and school children everywhere – and this short guide has been designed to help the education community come together to help make 2017 the biggest World Environment Day ever!

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## About World Environment Day

World Environment Day is the United Nations' flagship day for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years, it has grown to be one of the largest global platforms for public outreach, celebrated by over a million people in well over 100 countries.

It is the 'People's Day' for doing something positive for the environment. Its aim is to harness individual actions and transform them into a collective power that has a legacy of real and lasting impact on the planet. From Bahrain to Bangkok, the day is celebrated in countless ways with everything from beach clean-ups and tree planting to petitions and photo competitions, with thousands of children getting involved through their schools. The beauty of the day is in this diversity. It's when citizens across the world collectively act, care and show their love for the planet and this year we want to place young people at the heart of it.

**Every year.  
Everywhere.  
Everyone.**

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**Share what you're doing  
using the hashtags**

**#WorldEnvironmentDay  
#WithNature**

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# Why celebrate World Environment Day at school?

## Learn:

The lesson plans that have been designed for World Environment Day are a great resource for teachers: please do use them and let us know if you've other good ideas for how to teach in this area.

## Inspire:

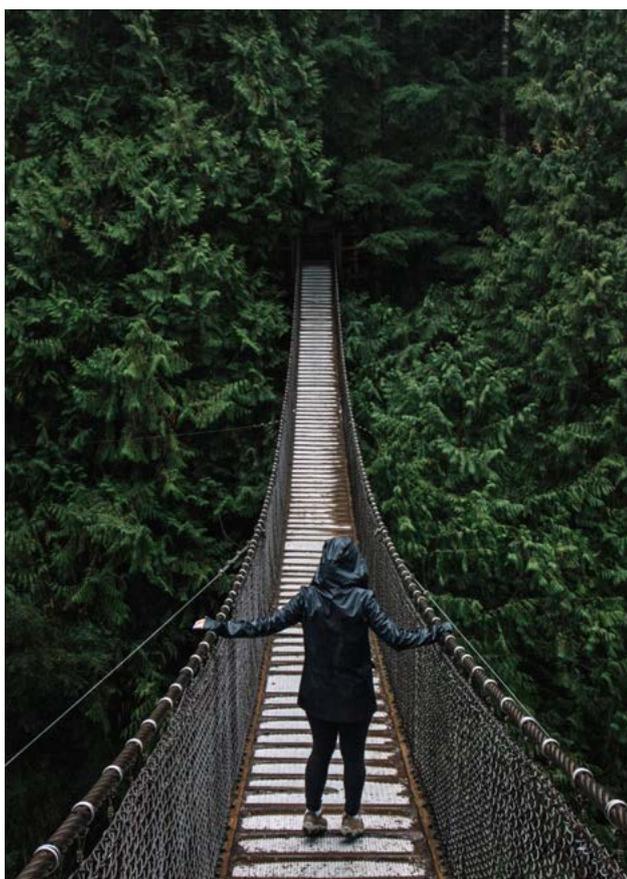
It's a way to inspire pupils (and parents) about how even the youngest citizens are learning and acting in support of the environment.

## Be the change:

Why not use World Environment Day for the school to look at how it could be greener? There are no end of ways you could improve what you currently do.

## Show and tell:

Use the day to let the local media know what your school is doing, share it on social media and also register your event on the website so that we can share your activities with the whole global World Environment Day community.



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# 2017 host country and theme

Hosted by Canada, this year's World Environment Day has the theme Connecting People to Nature, and the slogan, "I'm With Nature." The idea that underpins this is that in our modern world few of us take enough time away from our daily lives to appreciate and engage with our magnificent natural world.

By celebrating World Environment Day surrounded by this beauty, we can rediscover the importance of caring for the environment so that it can care for us. With this in mind, Canada will ask its citizens to celebrate the day in a number of amazing ways:

## Find your nature:

Canada is issuing passes giving anyone free entry to all its National Parks for the whole of 2017.

## Get adventurous:

Canada is inviting families and school children to get together in parks to record as many different forms of wildlife as possible as part of a "Nature Blitz".

## Learn to love the natural world:

Schools across the country will prioritize the environment in their lessons to deepen their students' understanding of why nature is so important to human well-being.

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# Global celebrations

This year we want to see if we can beat the highest number of activities celebrating the day with over 4,000 events taking place, over 20 million people hearing about the day online and over 1.5 million people getting involved. We want to place schools at the heart of the day so registering your activity will help us show-case how schools from Canada to Cameroon are getting involved in supporting World Environment Day. Let's create a movement for action and encourage everyone in the education community to find creative ways to be #WithNature. We want to see and hear how you are celebrating so make sure to let us know about your activity!

Email us at  
[worldenvironmentday@unep.org](mailto:worldenvironmentday@unep.org)

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# Principles that can help you plan your event

## Dream up an idea:

Bring together colleagues and children at school to brainstorm ideas and activities that can make a difference. What could the collective impact of the school be to solve a problem? Is there an issue that the children would really benefit from learning about?

## Have fun:

Make your event for World Environment Day fun, inspiring and interesting – you should be excited by the idea you have – go for goosebumps!

## Surprise yourself:

Often we think about what we can't do, rather than what we can. Think about what you can do and come with hope – it's the most infectious thing we humans have!

## Inspire others:

A great idea will naturally attract others who can take a small idea and make it extraordinary. So, with your powers of persuasion, bring on board the people you think can make this awesome and share it with other teachers and schools that you have a relationship with!



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# Five ideas for the educational community

There is an endless range of ways that you can celebrate World Environment Day. To help you on your way, we've outlined five ways that the educational community can get involved!

## 1. Get your school to focus on the environment

Connect the dots for your students on how reliant we are on nature and our need to nurture and protect it. A lesson pack will be available to download at the website, [www.worldenvironmentday.global](http://www.worldenvironmentday.global).

## 2. Fix a problem

Why not set your school a challenge to organize a clean-up activity at your local park, beach or an urban area that you could then return to over the course of the year.

## 3. A permanent space for inspiration

Set up an environmental education corner in schools or clubs that can inspire people to get involved. This could be focused on increasing recycling or making your school a greener and cleaner place.

## 4. Get out into nature

For World Environment Day, why not take the class out and take the time to notice the beauty of life around you. There are countless examples of famous writers, poets, scientists and innovators who credit nature for their inspiration. You might be surprised by what you can find even in your school grounds.

## 5. Get busy

Organize one of the following activities in your school:

- A painting or photo competition to see how creative people can be about expressing their love of nature. This could become a poster competition calling on people to take action for 5 June.
- Bring in experts to teach students about a specific environmental issue relevant to their community.
- Help students find out what their community is doing to preserve the environment and help them engage in the process.

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## What to do next

To help spread the word about World Environment Day, we encourage you to put our website to full use. Here you will be able to:

### Register your activity

on the site: If you register, we can then highlight your work on all our digital platforms!

### Download the curriculum materials:

We will be adding school packs to the site, so download them and let us know how useful you find them.

### Materials:

Download a brand toolkit with all the logos for you to use for the day.

### Other ideas:

Read what others are doing and get inspired by their ideas.

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## Contacts

Our team is happy to support where it can, so do email us on

**[worldenvironmentday@unep.org](mailto:worldenvironmentday@unep.org)**

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**Register your events at**  
**[www.worldenvironmentday.global](http://www.worldenvironmentday.global)**  
**(Registry opens in May)**

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