Earth Day Trivia

Use this key to check answers and read the explanations.

1. What date is Earth Day observed each year?

A. April 22
B. March 22
C. May 22
D. June 22

Correct answer: A. April 22
April 22 marks the anniversary of the first nationwide U.S. Earth Day observance.

2. What year did people across the United States take part in the first nationwide Earth Day?

A. 1980
B. 1960
C. 1970
D. 1990

Correct answer: C. 1970
In 1970, people gathered at schools, universities, and community sites to draw attention to environmental issues.

3. An Earth Day booth needs a box for carrying signs. Which choice is an example of reuse?

A. Send the old box to be made into new paper.
B. Carry the signs in a box saved from an earlier delivery.
C. Buy a new box and discard the old one.
D. Cut the signs smaller so they need less cardboard.

Correct answer: B. Carry the signs in a box saved from an earlier delivery.
Using the delivery box again gives it another job. Processing the cardboard into new paper would be recycling.

4. What word describes a place where an animal finds the food, water, shelter, and space it needs?

A. Migration route
B. Food chain
C. Life cycle
D. Habitat

Correct answer: D. Habitat
A habitat is the place where the resources an animal needs are available in a suitable arrangement.

5. Which U.S. senator from Wisconsin called for the environmental event that became the first nationwide Earth Day?

A. Edmund Muskie
B. Gaylord Nelson
C. Walter Mondale
D. William Proxmire

Correct answer: B. Gaylord Nelson
Gaylord Nelson proposed an environmental teach-in to bring public concern into the national conversation.

6. An original Earth Day organizer asks a college to host an environmental teach-in. Which event fits that request?

A. A public session where students and residents learn about and discuss local environmental issues
B. A closed meeting to choose next year's class schedule
C. A ceremony where officials read a list of new campus rules
D. A fair where visitors trade used books without a discussion topic

Correct answer: A. A public session where students and residents learn about and discuss local environmental issues
The teach-in format used public education and discussion to involve people in environmental issues.

7. Two nearby towns use the same recycling symbol on their bins. Before assuming both towns accept the same materials, what should a volunteer check?

A. Whether the trucks serve the same number of streets
B. Which town has the larger population
C. Whether both towns use the same bin color
D. Each town's own accepted-materials list

Correct answer: D. Each town's own accepted-materials list
Local recycling programs can accept different materials. The local list tells volunteers what belongs in each bin.

8. Who did Gaylord Nelson recruit to coordinate campus teach-ins and bring the first Earth Day to a wider public?

A. Russell Train
B. John McConnell
C. Denis Hayes
D. William Ruckelshaus

Correct answer: C. Denis Hayes
Denis Hayes coordinated the first nationwide effort and helped extend it from campuses to communities.

9. Earth Day's organizers report that an anniversary campaign brought together participants in 141 countries. What year marked that expansion of Earth Day?

A. 1990
B. 1980
C. 2000
D. 2010

Correct answer: A. 1990
Twenty years after 1970 is 1990. The year marked a major expansion of Earth Day organizing across national borders.

10. What name did the United Nations General Assembly designate for its April 22 observance in 2009?

A. International Day of Forests
B. World Environment Day
C. World Wildlife Day
D. International Mother Earth Day

Correct answer: D. International Mother Earth Day
General Assembly resolution 63/278 designated April 22 as International Mother Earth Day.

11. In a fictional Nature's Notebook record, a volunteer checks a shrub for open flowers on April 20 and records No. On April 21 the volunteer visits the site but does not look at that shrub. What belongs in the April 21 entry for open flowers?

A. Record Yes because the site was visited.
B. Record No because there were no open flowers on April 20.
C. Leave the open-flower observation blank.
D. Record Uncertain because the visit was brief.

Correct answer: C. Leave the open-flower observation blank.
A blank means the feature was never checked that day. No means someone checked and observed no open flowers.

12. Fictional Earth Day volunteers want to compare two ponds' bird counts. Which pair of visits matches the observation time, counting duration, and method?

A. At 8 a.m., watch Pond A for 20 minutes and Pond B for 40 minutes.
B. At 8 a.m., watch each pond from a fixed spot for 20 minutes.
C. Watch both ponds for 20 minutes, one at 8 a.m. and the other at noon.
D. At 8 a.m., count for 20 minutes from a fixed spot at Pond A and while walking around Pond B.

Correct answer: B. At 8 a.m., watch each pond from a fixed spot for 20 minutes.
Watching both ponds from fixed spots at 8 a.m. for 20 minutes holds all three details constant. Time of day, duration, and whether an observer stays still can all affect which birds are detected.

13. Two fictional shoreline surveys use the same rules for counting litter. Cove A has 18 items in 60 square meters. Cove B has 24 items in 120 square meters. How do the counts per 100 square meters compare?

A. Both coves have 24.
B. Cove A has 18 and Cove B has 24.
C. Cove A has 20 and Cove B has 30.
D. Cove A has 30 and Cove B has 20.

Correct answer: D. Cove A has 30 and Cove B has 20.
Divide each count by its surveyed area and multiply by 100. Cove A gives 18 ÷ 60 × 100 = 30, while Cove B gives 24 ÷ 120 × 100 = 20.

14. Fictional cleanup records list every item by material. Route A records 36 plastic items and 12 metal items. Route B records 20 plastic items and 12 paper items. What percentage of items across both routes were plastic?

A. 70%
B. 60%
C. 75%
D. 80%

Correct answer: A. 70%
The routes total 56 plastic items and 80 items of all materials. Dividing 56 by 80 gives 0.70, or 70%.

15. In a fictional journal, shrub A has no open flowers on April 14 and has open flowers on April 22. Shrub B has none on April 19 and has open flowers on April 22. Assume each shrub began flowering once in this period and stayed in bloom through April 22. What do these records establish?

A. Shrub B must have started first because it was checked more recently.
B. Shrub A must have started first because its first check was earlier.
C. Shrub B has a shorter possible start window, and either shrub could have started first.
D. Both shrubs must have started on April 22.

Correct answer: C. Shrub B has a shorter possible start window, and either shrub could have started first.
A could have started any time after its April 14 check through its April 22 check. B has a shorter window, after its April 19 check through its April 22 check. The windows overlap, so the start order is unresolved.