

A Scientific
Spotlight on...

Earth Day



John
McConnell

A Scientific
Spotlight on...

John McConnell

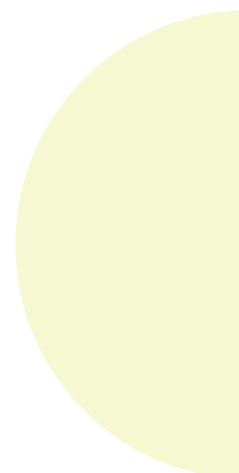


John was an American scientist and peace activist born in 1915. He was a Christian who believed that everyone has a responsibility to help each other and care for our planet. He took inspiration from Psalm 115:16 in the bible, which says: “The Earth has been given to the children of men”. He worked on many successful initiatives, such as ‘meals for millions’ which helped to feed many refugees from Hong Kong in 1962, San Francisco.

In 1939, McConnell was working in a research laboratory in Los Angeles, which was associated with a factory that manufactured plastic. John’s experience with the factory made him realise how much the manufacture of plastic was polluting the Earth, which worried him. At this time, it was rare for anyone to have concerns about the environment, but McConnell’s concerns only grew as time went on.

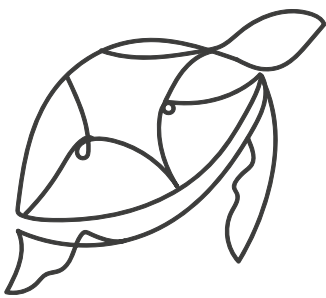
In 1969, at a United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) Conference, John proposed the idea of a global holiday to celebrate the Earth and to spread awareness about preserving the environment; he called this day Earth Day. The United Nations Secretary General, and many others, signed the Earth Day Proclamation promising to play their part in caring for the planet.

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970 and it’s now celebrated globally on 22nd April every year. The United Nations also celebrate at spring equinox by ringing the Peace Bell. Some communities celebrate Earth Day week where they dedicate the entire week to focus on the world’s environmental issues.



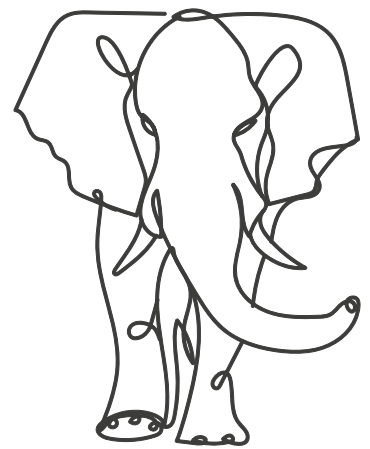
Trouble in Paradise!

Each animal's habitat is affected by global warming and climate change. See if you can match the animal to the troubles! (**Challenge:** See if you can come up with your own ideas to add to each list!)



Green Sea Turtle

- Rely on the snow for camouflage
- Earlier season changes leaving them vulnerable
- Prefer forest habitats with lots of cover
- _____



African Elephant

- Dependent on environmental cues for reproduction, migration and hibernation
- Vulnerable to weather extremes
- _____



Snowshoe Hare

- Requires lots of water to drink
- Rely on rain to know when to reproduce
- Environmental migration patterns
- _____



Giant Panda

- Main food source is bamboo
- Slow reproduction rate
- Already endangered
- _____



Monarch Butterfly

- Sensitive to temperature at all life stages
- Rising sea levels affecting nests
- Already endangered
- _____

Wordsearch

A word search with a difference! When you find the words circle all the renewable energy sources in one colour, and the non-renewable in another colour. For example, you could circle wind power in green and fossil fuels in red.

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| M | E | T | H | A | N | E | L | T | C | L | Y | L | T |
| E | R | U | Y | N | A | O | O | G | F | N | O | R | E |
| W | W | H | Y | D | R | O | E | N | E | R | G | Y | E |
| C | E | A | E | T | U | D | O | E | O | S | E | I | L |
| R | F | C | E | N | I | U | Y | E | O | L | C | N | C |
| A | E | P | E | O | A | O | B | I | O | F | U | E | L |
| Y | G | R | E | N | E | L | A | D | I | T | G | P | I |
| D | F | O | S | S | I | L | F | U | E | L | S | I | R |
| T | E | W | R | L | L | G | C | O | A | L | A | N | L |
| R | P | W | I | N | D | P | O | W | E | R | E | O | L |
| E | L | I | I | N | Y | C | L | E | S | E | I | D | E |
| S | R | E | W | O | P | R | A | E | L | C | U | N | E |
| G | E | O | T | H | E | R | M | A | L | O | E | D | C |
| E | O | L | S | O | L | A | R | P | O | W | E | R | A |

NUCLEAR POWER

PETROL

TIDAL ENERGY

FOSSIL FUELS

GEOHERMAL

METHANE

BIOFUEL

HYDRO ENERGY

DIESEL

WINDOW POWER

SOLAR POWER

COAL