

Earth Day, April 22nd, 2020, is your opportunity to help raise awareness and take action to help keep the earth a nice place to live for us and the plants and animals we share our planet with!

Wildlife around the world are at risk of extinction due to the actions of humans, but there are many things you can do to help, even when you're stuck at home!

#### Ways you Can Help Wildlife Include:

- Sharing the stories of some of your favorite endangered species with people you know.
- Turning off water and lights when you are not using them.
- Reducing, Reusing, and Recycling.
- Being a Citizen Scientist and documenting the world around you!



# The Plastic Problem



### Did You Know?

1.5 million pounds of plastics are dumped into our waterways and our oceans every <u>hour</u>.

Plastic in our environments is a problem. Some animals become tangled in it, causing them to drown. Others animals mistake plastic for food, filling their stomachs making them very sick. Even humans are not immune! Research has found that the average American takes in <u>74,000</u> particles of microplastics every year.

#### You can help with the 3 R's! Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle!

• **Reduce** the amount of plastic and other materials that you use once and then throw away.



- Choose Reusable! Items like bags, utensils, straws, cups, and more are made in metal, wood, and silicon that can be safely washed and used again and again!
- Recycling the items you use that cannot be safely washed and reused again reduces the need to make new items and prevents your used items from getting into the environment!

You can also help by cleaning up the environment around you! Next time you go on a nature walk around your house, take some gloves and a bag with you and pick up litter! Always ask an adult for help first and always wear gloves!

## **Become a Citizen Scientist**



Researchers are trying to understand the global extent of plastic pollution.

Using the Earth Challenge 2020 App, you can help to collect data that will identify sources of plastic pollution and the areas most effected by it.

To Start Collecting Data, All You Have to Do is:

- 1. Download the Earth Challenge 2020 App.
- 2. Go on a Nature Walk in your neighborhood, take gloves and be sure to social distance.
- 3. Whenever you find plastic pollution, use the app to document that litter.



Congratulations! You're now a Citizen Scientist!

The Earth Challenge 2020 App include more modules so that you can contribute to more research, just by using your phone!











Plastics

Air Quality Insects

Climate

Water Quality

Download the App in the iOS App Store and the Google Play Store!

Learn More Here: https://earthchallenge2020.earthday.org/

### Recycling in Central Arkansas!

Not all items can be recycled in all areas, in Little Rock only the following items can be recycled.







ONLY recycle empty #1 & #2 plastic bottles and jugs

ONLY recycle empty aluminum, steel, and tin cans

ONLY recycle paper, cardboard, newspapers, junk mail, and paperboard (like cereal boxes)

Go on a recycling scavenger hunt around your house! Find:

- \_\_\_ 2 Bottles made of #2 Plastic
- \_ 3 cardboard boxes
- \_ 2 Aluminum or Steel Cans
- \_\_\_ 1 Plastic Container that is not a #1 or #2 Plastic
- \_\_ 2 Plastic Bags
- \_\_\_ 1 Plastic Container that is a #1 Plastic but is NOT a bottle or jug
- \_ 1 Snack or Chip Bag

Can all of these items be recycled?



Regional Recycling and Waste Reduction serves all of Pulaski County and can help connect you to resources for hazardous waste, electronics, tires, motor oil, and other specialty items.

Learn more Here: <u>https://regionalrecycling.org/</u>