

Lesson 5: Peace and Earth Day

Welcome back to our Via Transformativa Peace unit!! Last week, we shared [Introduction to Peace](#) our lesson plan.

Since Wednesday was Earth Day, this week's lesson will help cultivate a peaceful relationship with our planet. There are two books we love to read with the kids. Both can be downloaded on to your device, but they are also available via You Tube.

Stories/Readings

Old Turtle by Douglas Wood and Cheng-Khee Chee is a fantastic tale about ecology, peace, and the interconnectedness of all beings, told through the eyes of an old turtle. Click [here](#) to view a You Tube reading of it.

Wangari's Trees of Peace by Jeanette Winter is another great choice. It presents the real-life story of Wangari Maathai, an environmental activist in Kenya who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2004. Click [here](#) for that You Tube reading.

Years ago, we found an Earth Day Pledge that we still use. You can say it together as a family. Or, you can say a line and then have your kids repeat after you.

I pledge allegiance
to the earth
and the flora
the fauna
and the human life
that supports it
one planet
indivisible
with safe air, water, and soil
economic justice
equal rights
and peace and love
for all.
Oh yeah!

Crafts and Activities

In the past, we've done a variety of projects for Earth Day. We've decorated milkweed seed envelopes for the Jubilee! community, we've made pinecone bird seed feeders (remember those from YOUR Sunday School days?!), and we've painted bird houses.

Earth Week

April 16 to 22



Sometimes, we teach the kids how to draw this Earth Week symbol.

And some years, we've let the kids design their own Earth Week symbols!

So, there are lots of options.

Given our current stay-at-home orders, it might seem like our Earth Day celebrations are limited this year. But, nothing could be further from the truth! Many lists suggest gardening, in any form, as a great "lockdown" activity. And, you can still walk through your neighborhood and pick up trash. Just remember to wave to your neighbors along the way!

Also, earthday.org put out this great, [COVID-19-inspired list](#) of 22 Daily Earth Day Challenges. See which ones are a fit for your family!