

## International Mother Earth Day April 22

### Overview and Purpose

This lesson is designed to teach children about International Mother Earth Day and the specific right of children highlighted by this UN Day; their right to an education that helps them to develop their talents and abilities, that helps them to live peacefully and to protect the environment and respect other people. (CRC Article 29)

### Global Themes

- Interdependence
- Social Justice
- Sustainable Action

### Background Information for Teachers

International Mother Earth Day  
[un.org/en/events/motherearthday/](http://un.org/en/events/motherearthday/)  
Earth Day Canada  
[earthday.ca/pub/](http://earthday.ca/pub/)

### Grades

K – 3

### Materials

Book entitled *Curious George Plants a Tree* by Monica Perez

### Activity

- Begin by introducing April 22<sup>nd</sup> as International Mother Earth Day; a UN Day celebrated around the world. Discuss Article 29 in the Convention on the Rights of the Child specifically addressing the right for children to have a safe and clean environment to live in.
- Read aloud from the book *Curious George Plants a Tree*.
- Read the section at the front of the book called “Living Green” and ask the students if they can think of more ways to live green.
- In pairs, have students record their ideas. As a challenge, the “living green” ideas will be recorded on items other than paper. Students could use a white board, chalk on the pavement outside, act it out, create it in blocks, and/or develop a PowerPoint presentation. Be creative.
- Come together as a whole group and share the students’ ideas for “living green.”

### **Discussion**

In the book, Curious George collects all kinds of paper products to be recycled. What are some ways we can reduce paper use before we decide to buy a product? Some examples are: to use library books and magazines before we buy a book, use a cup from home for drinking water at school, and ask yourself “is this a need or a want?” If it is a need, is it the best choice of product for protecting the environment (less packaging, made from recycled paper, etc.)?

### **Extensions**

Watch [youtube.com/watch?v=xdVyJ5gS1XQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xdVyJ5gS1XQ) for an inspiring global success story about children planting trees. Think of an action project you can do to spread the word about protecting our environment. Make your own video (it saves paper and trees)!

### **Additional Resources**

Book entitled *It's Earth Day* by Mercer Mayer

Book entitled *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss

Visit Seussville's site for activities: [seussville.com/lorax/](http://seussville.com/lorax/).

Book entitled *Mama Miti* by Donna Jo Napoli

Wangari planted trees one by one to refresh her spirit. When the women came to her for help with their families, she told them to do the same. Soon the countryside was filled with trees. Kenya was strong once more. Wangari had changed her country, tree by tree.