

The First Earth Day

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Junior Division

Individual Website

My topic for the National History Day Project was The First Earth Day. When I heard that we had to choose an event which was a right and a responsibility, I wanted to do an environmental event from the 70's, since I had watched the movie "Big Miracles" over the summer. I did not really know anything about the first Earth Day, but since Earth Day was such a big environmental movement, I chose it as my topic. As I worked on my topic it narrowed down to a wide picture of the causes and impacts of the first Earth Day.

The first step I took in researching was I found the Earth Day Network's site. This was one of the major contributors to my project because it gave me a lot of information about the topic. Next I found two newspaper articles about the First Earth Day; one of them was from a few months before the first Earth Day the other one was from a few days after the first Earth Day. Then, I found the book *The Genius of Earth Day* which was a great source. I did find numerous other sources while researching, and almost all of them talked about Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*. So I did a little more research and got the book from the library, since it was one of the first books that raised awareness about the damage to the environment caused by mankind. Later I found two audio clips, one of a recent radio interview with Earth Day organizer Denis Hayes and the other one of a speech given by Margaret Mead on the First Earth Day. I also interviewed three of my teachers who were present at that time.

Part of the reason I chose to do a website was because I thought very few people would be doing a website, so it might not have that much competition, and I wanted to do something with technology. Also, I had never designed a website before and really wanted to learn how. The first step was to find resources and do research. Then I created a rough draft or outline. I did not use the outline completely, but it did help me organize my thoughts. Finally, I created my website followed by the bibliography.

The First Earth Day stands for the right to a clean environment for the people and the responsibility of the people to preserve a clean and habitable environment for the future generations. Millions of Americans took to the streets to demand their right to a healthy, sustainable environment. This day united groups that had been fighting against oil spills, polluting factories, toxic dumps, pesticides, the loss of wilderness, etc. The First Earth Day educated people of their responsibility to preserve the environment for themselves and future generations. It emphasized every American's birth right to clean water, clean air, and open spaces. It led to many laws to protect the environment including the creation of the EPA.

Word Count: 500