

Keep Earth's Water Clean

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Keep Earth's Water Clean!

Water covers most of Earth. People, plants, and animals all need water to live. But Earth's water is in danger! Look inside to learn more about Earth's water problems and to see how you can help.

Earth Day is April 22. This year's theme is "Water for Life."

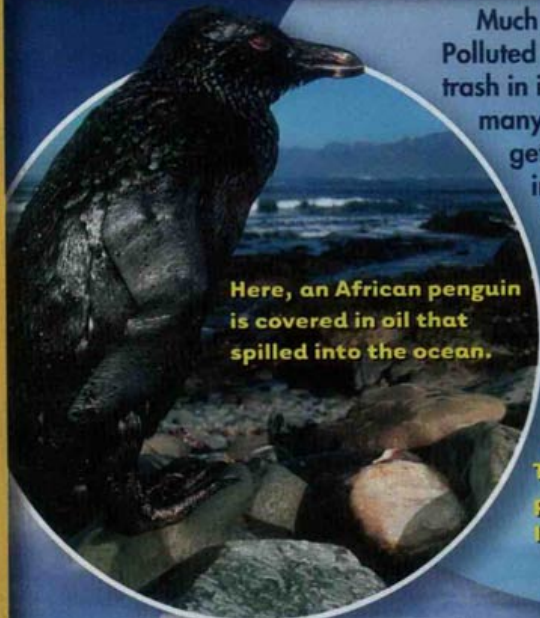
Water Is Always Moving

Earth has only a certain amount of water. Earth's water is used again and again in the **water cycle**. The water cycle has four parts.



- 1. Evaporation**—The sun warms water in rivers, lakes, and oceans. Soon the water turns into a **vapor**, or gas, and floats into clouds in the sky.
- 2. Condensation**—Water vapor in clouds cools and turns back into a liquid.
- 3. Precipitation**—The liquid falls from the clouds to the ground as rain or snow.
- 4. Collection**—The rain or snow ends up in rivers, lakes, and oceans again.

Why Is Earth's Water in Danger?



Here, an African penguin is covered in oil that spilled into the ocean.

Much of the world's water is polluted. Polluted water has trash in it. Those trash items get into water in many ways. For example, they get into water when they are washed into a river or lake. This is part of a cycle, just like the water cycle. When water goes into the ground, it can be used as groundwater. But if it's polluted, it's wrong. We can be careful. We can plan.

This is what penguins look like.

Word Wise

recycle (ree-SIGH-kuhl)—to use again



Make a Splash

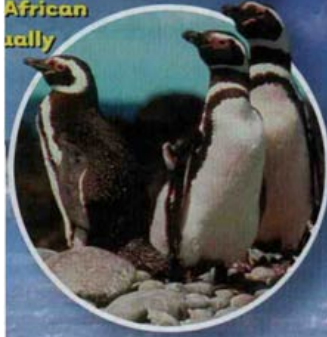
You can help keep Earth's water clean too! Everything you do affects Earth's water in some way. Take a look at these tips.

- Use as little water as you can.
- Put chemicals and trash in the proper place.
- Pick up trash you see on the ground and don't litter.

Danger?

Water on Earth is polluted. Harmful chemicals or trash can get into water in many ways. For example, chemicals can get into water if a factory dumps them. Because water travels in rivers, streams, and oceans, it can carry those chemicals far from where they were dumped. Trash can get into our water when people dump it in the wrong places. Trash in the water can be very harmful to animals.

African penguins



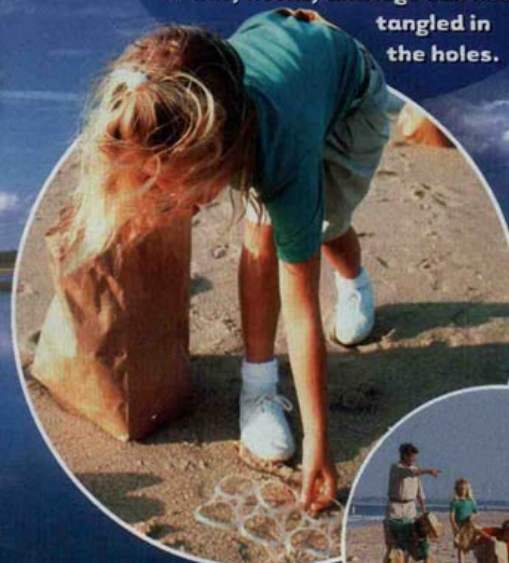
THINKING CUE

Besides water, what are some things you could care for on Earth Day?

Give Water a Hand

Earth Day is April 22. On Earth Day, many people help clean up parks, rivers, and beaches. Groups of volunteers from schools, churches, and neighborhoods join to help our Earth. Some people pick up trash, and others plant trees. Many people work to save water from pollution. What will you do this Earth Day?

The plastic rings from six-packs can be dangerous to animals because their heads, necks, and legs can become tangled in the holes.



Trash

As much as possible, trash only in the trash can, not in water. Please do not litter on the beach.



You and your family can help keep Earth's water clean too!