



Mesker Park Zoo & Botanic Garden  
**Earth Day at Home**

2020 is the 50<sup>th</sup> year of our nation's observance of Earth Day! Celebrate your Earth home with this active, thoughtful scavenger hunt. As you work through each action think about your part in making our world a better place for people, plants and animals! Make sure to use all resources to learn and discover more about your home this Earth Day!

1. Find a reusable cup and use it for the entire day. How does this help our land and water?
2. Turn off & unplug electronics & then spend at least an hour outside. Why is it important to turn electronics off? Why is it good for you to be outside?
3. Find a flower around your house. How is it beneficial to us and to animals?
4. Find 10 pieces of litter outside. Sort it into a recycle or trash bin. If every person did this every day, how would it help our neighborhoods?
5. Can you find a bee, butterfly, or moth? Why are these insects valuable to us? Why are they important to other animals?
6. Find something unnatural that is out of place in nature. How might it have ended up there & why?
7. Sit somewhere in the grass, under a tree and take 10 deep breaths. Thank the tree for the oxygen it has provided! Enjoy its shade.
8. Plant at one or more seeds that will grow into something that you like to eat, or that you could feed to wildlife. How does growing our own food help the planet?
9. Identify 3 trees. Are they native to (belong in) your area? Why is it important to plant native plants?
10. Search for a plastic item with this stamp/mark on it. What type of plastic is this, and can it be recycled?
11. Choose an exotic animal to investigate. Get online and find out where it lives, what it eats, if it is endangered and why, and how we can help it.
12. Find an item that you would throw away or recycle. How can you reuse it or make it into something else useful? Give it a try.



**GREAT JOB... in taking part to celebrate our Earth home this Earth Day!**

### **SPOILER ALERT! ANSWER KEY**

Don't look here until you've done the activity. Fold your paper in half so you can't peek until it is time to check your answers.

1. This helps cut down on single use plastics like water and soda bottles, and conserves water we would use to wash several cups used in a day.
2. It lessens the amount of electricity we need, and saves us money and pollution into our environment. We should be outside to get sunshine, fresh air, and exercise.
3. Plants can be beneficial to us by beautifying our spaces, supplying herbs and spices for teas and cooking, and can help soothe, heal, and treat injuries and illnesses. Lots of plants feed other animals. Plants feed herbivores (plant-eating animals), and those feed carnivores (meat-eating animals).
4. If every person picked up litter each day it could significantly reduce the amount that we see on our sidewalks, roadsides, yards, and waters.
5. Bees, butterflies, and moths are examples of pollinators. They are responsible for moving pollen from flower to flower to fertilize plants so that fruits or seeds can be produced. All of your favorite fruits and vegetables – like apples, tomatoes, and watermelon - come from plants that need to be pollinated!
6. Most often it is there because of humans. It could have been intentionally placed there, or it could have ended up there by accident. How do you think it got there and why?
7. Breathing exercises in nature are good for blood pressure, focus, and overall well-being. When we are grateful for what nature provides, we are more connected to it.
8. When we plant things that people or wildlife can eat, we provide a source of food that is local and readily available. This reduces the amount of chemicals needed to grow it in big fields, fuel needed to drive it to our stores, and feeds more people and animals where they live. Besides, it is fun to grow things!
9. Wildlife depend on trees for food, nesting sites, and shelter. It is important to plant native species (naturally found in our area) so our native wildlife has the resources it needs.
10. The plastic of soft drinks, water, and ketchup bottles. Also, mouthwash bottles, peanut butter containers, salad dressing and vegetable oil containers.
11. Animals have to be able to find the food and shelter they need to survive. Many animals are endangered because their habitat is disappearing, they are hunted or collected, or they are victim to pollution. We can help by protecting habitat they need, refusing to hunt or keep them as pets, and keep our planet free of toxic pollution.
12. A lot of things that we do not want can be crafted into something else more useful instead of throwing them in the landfill forever. For example, a soup can be made into a pencil holder with some decorations. This reduces our trash and the new stuff we have to buy - like a new pencil holder.