

1 Read and choose the correct words.

WORLD ENVIRONMENT

Day



WHAT IS WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY?

World Environment Day is an important event that takes place annually on 5th June. It was first **1) began/established** in 1972 by the United Nations as a day to raise awareness about environmental **2) issues/questions**. On this day, environmental experts have the **3) option/opportunity** to educate the general public about global environmental issues and inspire them to change their habits and lifestyles.

Every year, the event has a different theme, for example it may **4) focus/target** on biodiversity, plastic pollution, endangered animals or global warming and is hosted by a different city. In 1974, the first World Environment Day was held with the theme 'Only One Earth'. The host city was Spokane, USA. On this day, people of all ages **5) get involved/take part** with events such as environmental festivals, tree-planting events and even park and beach clean-up efforts. Teaching people about what **6) actions/activities** they can take to help the environment means we can all live happier and healthier lives.

WHY IS IT IMPORTANT TO TAKE CARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT?

Without nature, humans wouldn't be able to **7) resist/survive**. From the food that we eat to the air that we breathe, every **8) resource/source** that we need comes from the Earth. If we don't take action by reducing global warming and pollution, and by protecting our endangered species and recycling, it will soon be too late for our Earth.

Did you know...?

The Environmental Day anthem was launched in June 2013 by Kapil Sibal and Shashi Tharoor in India. It was written by poet Abhay K.

2 How much do you know about the environment? Take this quiz. Check your answers.

Our Earth in numbers

- How many years does a plastic bag take to break down?
A 5 **B** 50 **C** 500
- How many plant and animal species do scientists estimate become extinct each day?
A 1-2 **B** 15-20 **C** 150-200
- What amount of water on planet Earth is drinkable?
A 1.2% **B** 12% **C** 28.5%
- If all of the ice on Earth melted, how many metres would sea levels rise by?
A 27 **B** 70 **C** 81
- How many tonnes of waste does the UK produce each year?
A 3100 **B** 31,000 **C** 31,000,000
- When do experts predict we will run out of fossil fuels if we keep using them at the current rate?
A 2040 **B** 2060 **C** 2080

Key: 1C, 2C, 3A, 4B, 5C, 6B

3 **ICT** In groups, research more statistics/facts about the environment and prepare a quiz. Then swap quizzes with another group. The group with the most correct answers wins.

