

How Earth Day was founded

Every year on April 22, *Earth Day* marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970

■ **Jan 28, 1969:** *Union Oil* rig, off coast of California, spews more than **three million** gallons of oil into Pacific Ocean – over **10,000** animals die

■ Inspired by oil disaster, Senator **Gaylord Nelson** announces idea for environment teach-ins on college campuses. Concept morphs into “**Earth Day**”

■ **First Earth Day, April 22, 1970** (*falls between college Spring Break and Final Exams*): **10%** of U.S. population (*then 20 million people*) take to streets to demonstrate against harmful effects of 150 years of industrial development

■ **1990:** Earth Day goes global, mobilising **200 million** people in **141** countries and lifting environmental issues onto world stage

*President **Richard Nixon** and First Lady, **Pat Nixon**, plant tree at White House to recognise first Earth Day*

Sources: Earth Day, Wikipedia

Dec 24, 1968:
Famous **Apollo 8**
“**Earthrise**” photo
was inspirational to
environmentalists



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