Activities & Resources

Earth Day

VOOKS
Storybooks brought to life

Every year on April 22, Earth Day marks the anniversary of the birth of the modern environmental movement in 1970. Earth Day 1970 gave a voice to an emerging public consciousness about the state of our planet — Earth.

Before the first Earth Day, leaded gas was being consumed by massive and inefficient automobiles. Industry feared no consequences concerning the smoke and sludge created. Air pollution was commonly accepted as a result prosperity. Until 1970, America remained largely unconcerned to environmental concerns and how a polluted environment threatens human health.

Earth Day 1970 would come to provide a voice to this emerging environmental consciousness, and putting environmental concerns on the front page.

Today, Earth Day is widely recognized as the largest secular observance in the world, observed by more than a billion people every year as a day of action to change human behavior and create global, national and local policy changes.

The fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more and more apparent every day (*earthday.org*).

Happy Earth Day! Use the following pages to start learning about what we can do to take care of the Earth!



Vooks Titles

Some Vooks titles that would be great to celebrate Earth Day with—

- *Curious George Plants a Tree*
- *Wangari's Trees of Peace*
- *Slumberkins: Narwhal*
- *Earth Yay!*
- *The Boy Who Grew a Forest*

Activity Ideas

KWL Chart

Create a KWL chart about Earth Day showing what you know about Earth, what you want to learn about Earth, and what you've learned about Earth.

Earth Day Dice

Create a paper die with the following questions. Roll the dice and then discuss whatever it lands on.

- What can you recycle?
- What can you do around the house to conserve energy?
- What do plants do for us and the Earth?
- Why shouldn't we litter and what is littering?
- Why don't we dump trash in the ocean?
- What can we make from old or recyclable items?

Earth Craft

Color a paper plate in blues and greens like the earth. Put a heart in the middle. Write in the heart—I love Earth because _____.

Additional activities can be found in the following pages of this document.

Discussion

NAME _____

Earth Day

April 22, Earth Day, provides a great opportunity to talk about caring for the Earth. Conversations should include recycling, reducing, and reusing. Use the following questions to begin that conversation.

Have a discussion about caring for Earth!



What is Earth Day? Why do you think we celebrate it?

What are things that are harmful to the Earth?

What are things that you can do to help keep the Earth healthy?

What is your favorite thing about the Earth?

What can we do to help the rest of the planets stay healthy?

Earth Day Research

Research the Earth and create a poster about what you learned. Earth added one fact for you!

Goes with
Earth Yay!



71% of the Earth is covered in water.



Coloring Sheet

In *Earth Yay!*, Earth learns about what makes its planet friends special and what makes it special. Color the sheet below and then write in things that make Earth special to you.

Goes with *Earth Yay!*



Earth is special because:

Plant a Tree

Goes with *Wangari's Trees of Peace!*



Wangari Maathai is a young woman who saw deforestation turn the lushlands of Kenya into a barren desert. Wangari decides to do something—and starts by planting nine seedlings in her own backyard and convinces the women around her to do the same. And as they grow, so do her plans, by 2004, 30 million trees had been planted.

Draw a picture of yourself planting a tree and write a story about why planting trees makes the Earth (me) happy!



Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa, by Jeanette Winter.
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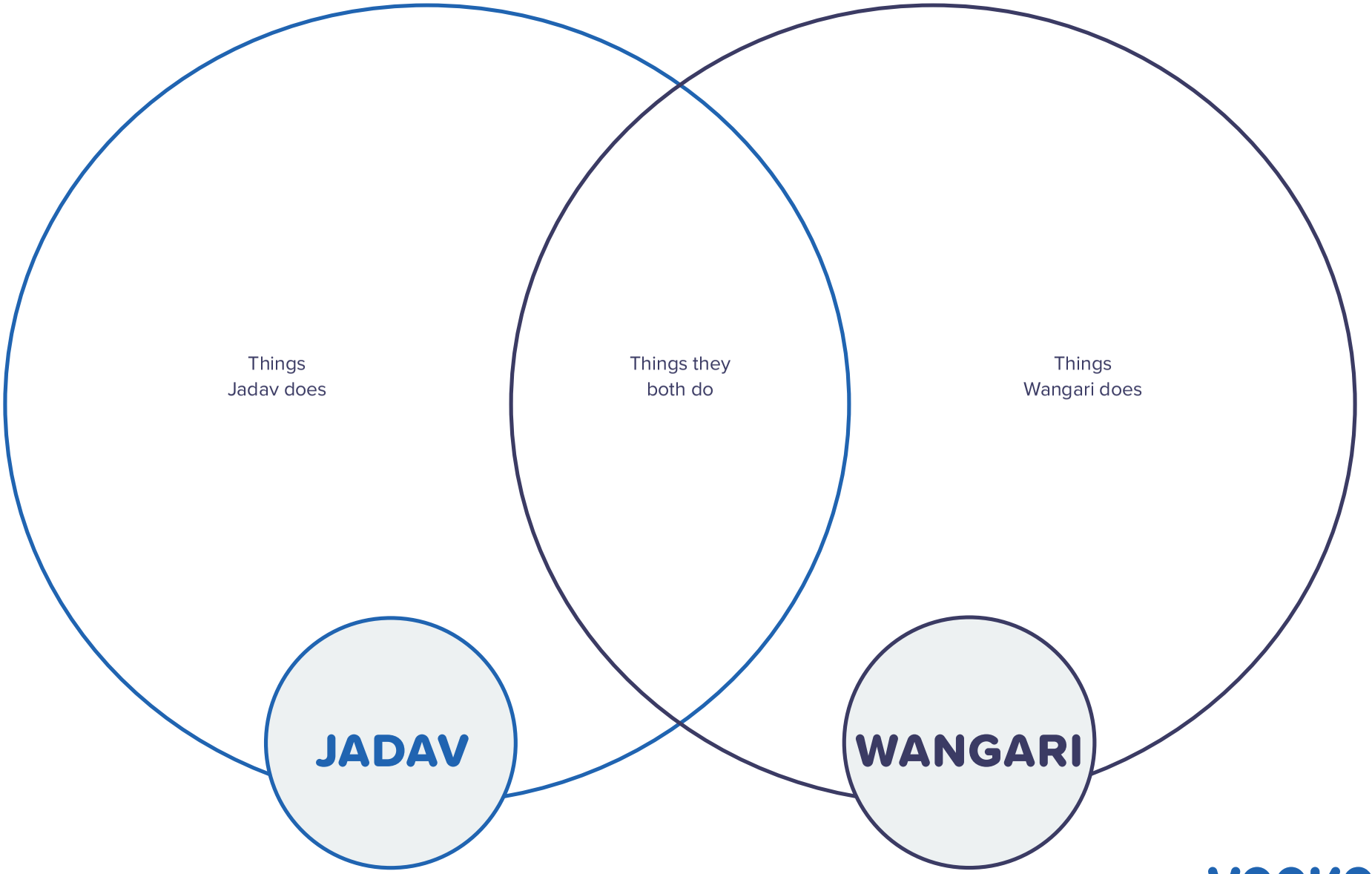
VOOKS

Venn Diagram

Both Wangari Maathai and Jadav Payeng planted trees to help their communities and environments become healthier. What are some things they have in common? What are some things that are different about them?

Goes with *The Boy Who Grew a Forest*





Wangari's Trees of Peace: A True Story from Africa, by Jeanette Winter. Copyright © 2008 by Jeanette Winter. Published by Houghton Mifflin Harcourt. All rights reserved.

VOOKS

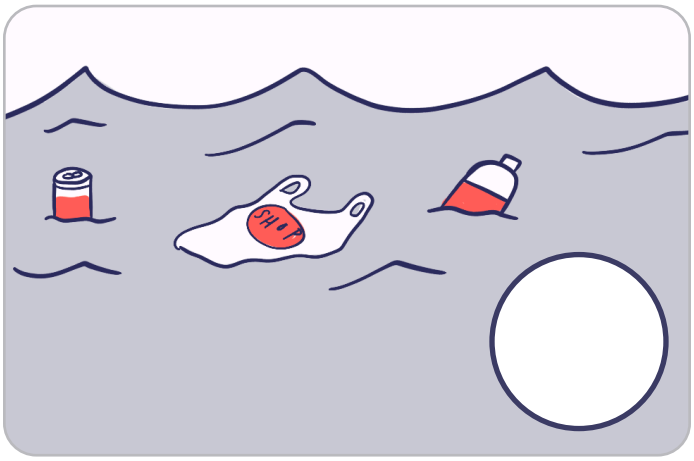
How Can We Help the Earth?

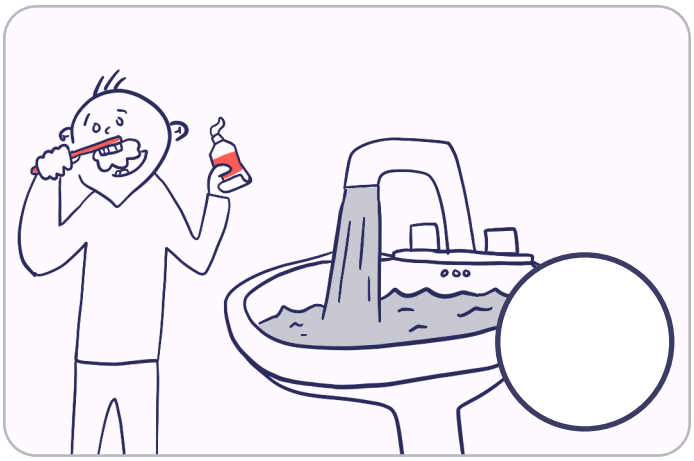
There are things that help the Earth and things that hurt it. In the spaces below, draw a happy face next to actions that help the Earth and a sad face next to actions that hurt it.

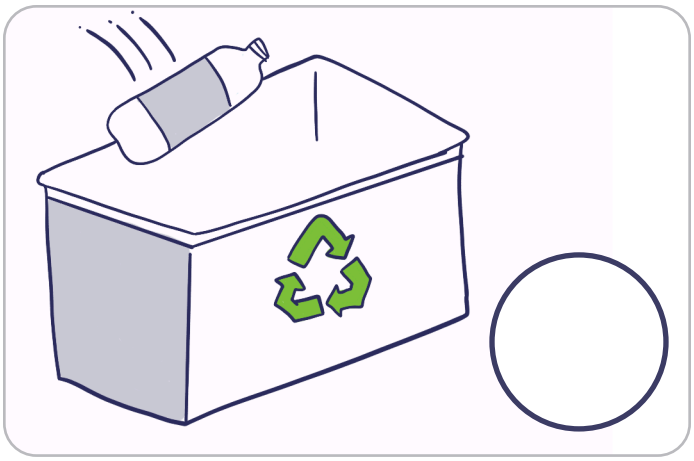
Goes with *Slumberkins: Narwhal*

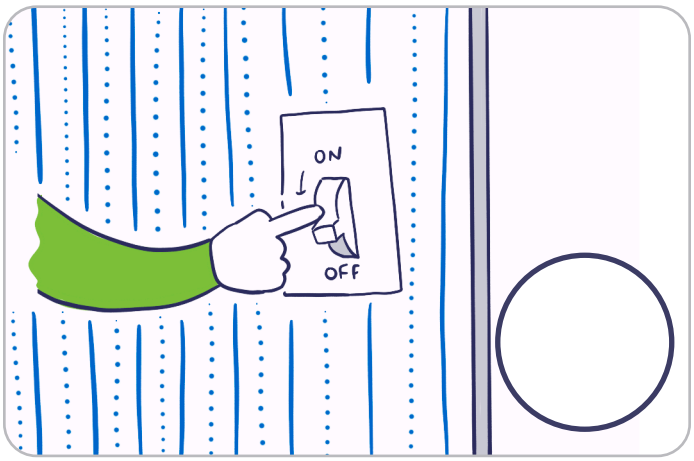


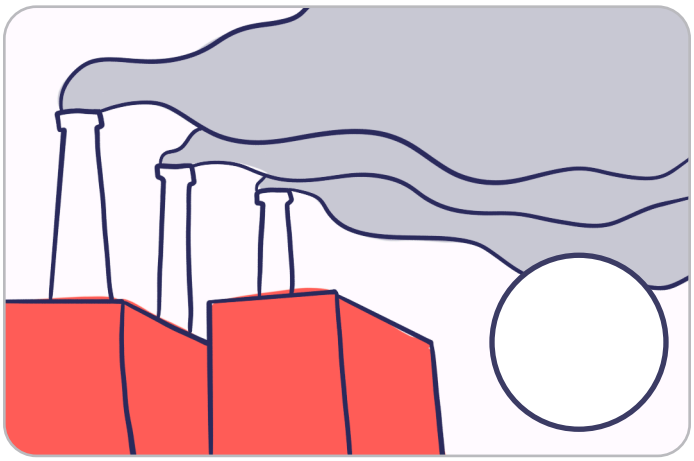












NAME

VOOKS

Vocabulary Cards

After watching *Curious George Plants a Tree*, have children come up with their own definitions for the words below and write them in the spaces provided.

Help refresh children's memory by rewatching *Curious George Plants a Tree*, or brainstorming together the definitions of the words.

Goes with *Curious George Plants a Tree*



planet

reuse

recycle

pollution

Words give me life!!



environment

donate

volunteer

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VOOKS