

# EARTH DAY



Online resources for teachers and students

Earth Day,  
*April 22*

National  
Environmental  
Education Week,  
*3rd week in April*

*Classroom  
Enrichment  
from the  
National  
Library of  
Medicine*



## Your Health and the Environment

Making plans for Earth Day? National Library of Medicine resources can help with student-friendly information about human health and the environment, plus pollution and toxic chemicals. See the online **Teacher Pages** for details on the activities suggested below.

### How healthy is the environment at your school?

Students and teachers need clean indoor air to be alert and healthy. Go to the Town neighborhood in **Tox Town** and click on the school building and school bus for information about air pollution and chemicals you might find in and around a school.

### What toxic chemicals might be in your community?

Sources of pollution can be very different from one community to another. For local information, students can type in a ZIP code at **TOXMAP** to discover what chemicals are used in industries within 10 miles. They can also find out about nearby toxic waste (Superfund) sites scheduled for clean-up.

### How does the environment affect the quality of your drinking water?

Water “flows” many miles before it comes out the tap. **Tox Town’s** Port neighborhood shows how urban runoff, wastewater treatment facilities, cesspools, sewers, septic systems, and industrial activities can affect water quality.



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## Highlighted Resources

### For Teachers

Teacher Page

[toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/text\\_version/teachers.php](http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/text_version/teachers.php)

Especially for Students and Educators  
[sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/especiallstudents.html](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/especiallstudents.html)

Earth Day Lesson Plans & Activities

[sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/EarthDayPage.html](http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/outreach/EarthDayPage.html)

### Middle School and Up

Environmental Health Student Portal  
[kidsenvirohealth.nlm.nih.gov](http://kidsenvirohealth.nlm.nih.gov)

Tox Town<sup>®</sup>

[toxtown.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov)

[toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/espanol](http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/espanol)

TOXMAP<sup>®</sup>

[toxmap.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov)

Household Products Database

[householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov](http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov)

MedlinePlus<sup>®</sup>

[medlineplus.gov](http://medlineplus.gov)

Hazardous Substances Data Bank (HSDB<sup>®</sup>)

[toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?HSDB](http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?HSDB)

### Elementary School

ToxMystery<sup>™</sup>

[toxmystery.nlm.nih.gov](http://toxmystery.nlm.nih.gov)

### About Earth Day

Earth Day

[www.earthday.org](http://www.earthday.org)

National Environmental

Education Week

[www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)

For more information, visit the NLM

K-12 Science & Health Education page

[k12.nlm.nih.gov](http://k12.nlm.nih.gov)

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### Where does ozone come from and what is it?

Go to one of the six **Tox Town** neighborhoods and click on “ozone” to learn about ozone and see where it might be found. To learn how ozone might affect one’s health, go to the **MedlinePlus** page on ozone. The page includes ozone maps as well as materials for children and teens.

### What chemicals are in the cleaners or bug sprays in your home? Are they dangerous?

Many household products have harmful ingredients. Students can learn to look for warning labels, identify nontoxic products, and follow safety instructions. Ask students to make a list of household products they find at home or at school and look them up in the **Household Products Database** for safety information. Elementary students can play the **ToxMystery** game to track down hazards in a home.

### What if it happened in your town?

Nearly every day news stories report on a toxic chemical spill, an illegal dump, a dangerous chemical fire, and other potential environmental disasters. Based on one of these real-life stories, students can look up detailed chemical information in the **Hazardous Substances Data Bank**. Playing various roles, the student-mayor will then have the information to decide whether to evacuate the town, the fire chief can determine the protective gear needed by the firefighters, and the student-citizens can hold a town meeting to plan the clean-up.



National Library of Medicine  
8600 Rockville Pike  
Bethesda, Maryland 20894  
1-888-346-3656  
[custserv@nlm.nih.gov](mailto:custserv@nlm.nih.gov)