



Can One Day Change a Country?

Read the passage and answer the questions. (CEFR B1–B2)

Class _____ No. _____ Name _____



- 1 The first Earth Day is often described as one of the most successful protests in American history. What made it unusual was its broad support: the organizers included a Democratic senator, Gaylord Nelson, and a Republican congressman, Pete McCloskey. The movement also had political teeth. Activists targeted twelve members of Congress with poor environmental records, nicknamed the Dirty Dozen, and seven of them were defeated in that year's elections.
- 2 Within a few years, the United States created the Environmental Protection Agency and passed landmark laws on clean air, clean water and endangered species. Few single days of protest have produced such concrete results.
- 3 Today, the picture is more complicated. Earth Day's organizers say that over a billion people take part, yet global problems such as climate change and plastic pollution are far harder to solve than a polluted local river. Some critics also worry that companies use the day mainly for advertising rather than for real change. The question for the next generation is whether a day of awareness can still turn into lasting action, as it did in 1970.

Comprehension

1. What is the main idea of the passage?

(A) Earth Day was popular in 1970 but has no supporters today. (C) Gaylord Nelson and Pete McCloskey disagreed about Earth Day.	(B) Companies created Earth Day to sell environmental products. (D) The first Earth Day led to real political results, but today's problems make it harder to turn awareness into action.
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2. According to paragraph 1, what made the first Earth Day unusual?

(A) It was held outside the United States. (C) It was supported by companies.	(B) It had support from both a Democrat and a Republican. (D) It was organized only by students.
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3. What happened to the politicians called the Dirty Dozen?

(A) Seven of the twelve lost their elections. (C) They created the Environmental Protection Agency.	(B) All twelve joined the Earth Day organizers. (D) They were the first to sign the clean air law.
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4. What can we infer about other members of Congress after the Dirty Dozen campaign?

(A) They stopped caring about elections. (C) They probably paid more attention to the environment so they would not lose votes.	(B) They decided to leave politics. (D) They asked Earth Day organizers to stop the campaign.
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5. In paragraph 1, 'The movement also had political teeth' means that the movement

(A) was very popular with dentists (C) attacked politicians physically	(B) made angry speeches (D) had real power to make politicians change
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6. Why does the writer mention critics who worry about advertising?

(A) To show that companies have solved plastic pollution. (C) To show that some Earth Day activities may not lead to real change.	(B) To explain why Earth Day started in 1970. (D) To encourage readers to buy green products.
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Vocabulary, Paraphrase & Summary

Match the words with the definitions. Then rewrite and summarize.

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| 1. broad | a. very important because it causes a big change |
| 2. target | b. in danger of disappearing from the world because there are very few left |
| 3. defeat | c. real and clear, not just an idea |
| 4. landmark | d. knowledge that something exists or is important |
| 5. endangered | e. continuing for a long time |
| 6. concrete | f. including many different kinds of people or things |
| 7. awareness | g. to choose a person or group and aim an action at them |
| 8. lasting | h. to win against someone in a game, fight, or election |

Paraphrase — say it in your own words

1. “What made it unusual was its broad support: the organizers included a Democratic senator, Gaylord Nelson, and a Republican congressman, Pete McCloskey.”

Hint: Start with 'It was unusual because ...' and use 'both political parties'.

2. “Few single days of protest have produced such concrete results.”

Hint: Use 'not many' and 'real changes'.

3. “Some critics also worry that companies use the day mainly for advertising rather than for real change.”

Hint: Use 'more interested in ... than in ...'.

Summary

Summarize the passage in about 50 words.



Debate & Opinion Essay

Prepare for a debate. Then write your opinion (100–150 words).

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Motion: A day of awareness like Earth Day can still change government policy today.

FOR 賛成

- In 1970, one day led to the EPA and landmark laws within a few years, so it has worked before.
- With over a billion people taking part, Earth Day can show politicians how many voters care.
- Like the Dirty Dozen campaign, voters can still use elections to push leaders to act.

Add your own reason:

AGAINST 反対

- Climate change and plastic pollution are global problems, much harder to solve than a polluted local river.
- Some companies use the day mainly for advertising, which can make people feel they have done enough.
- One day of awareness does not last; real policy needs action every day of the year.

Add your own reason:

Opinion	<i>I believe / I think that ...</i>
Reason 1	<i>First, ... For example, ...</i>
Reason 2	<i>Second, ... In fact, ...</i>
Counter	<i>Some people say ... However, ...</i>
Conclusion	<i>In conclusion, ...</i>