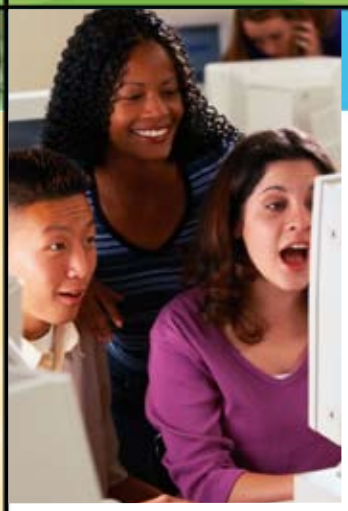
EARTH DAY 2007



Online resources for teachers and students at the high school and college level

Your Health and the Environment

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

Earth Day, *April 22*

National Environmental Education Week, *April 15–22*

Classroom Enrichment from the National Library of Medicine

Do you have a healthy environment INSIDE 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 on air pollution and on chemicals you might find in 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 find out 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" through a lot before it comes out the tap. **Tox Town's** Port neighborhood shows urban runoff, wastewater treatment facilities, cesspools, sewers, septic systems, and industrial activities that can affect water quality.

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Highlighted Resources

For Teachers

Teacher page
http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov/teacher.html

Especially for . . .
http://sis.nlm.nih.gov/enviro/especiallystudents.html

High School and up

Tox Town
http://toxtown.nlm.nih.gov

TOXMAP
http://toxmap.nlm.nih.gov

Household Products
http://housholdproductsdatabase.nlm.nih.gov

MedlinePlus
http://medlineplus.gov

Hazardous Substances Data Bank
http://toxnet.nlm.nih.gov/cgi-bin/sis/htmlgen?HSDB

Elementary School

ToxMystery
http://toxmystery.nlm.nih.gov

About Earth Day

Earth Day
http://www.earthday.net/

National Environmental Education Week
http://www.eeweek.org/

Where does ozone come from?

Go to one of the five **Tox Town** neighborhoods and click on "ozone" to see where ozone 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 dangerous 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.

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