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EDUCATION



Earth Hour Inquiry Challenge

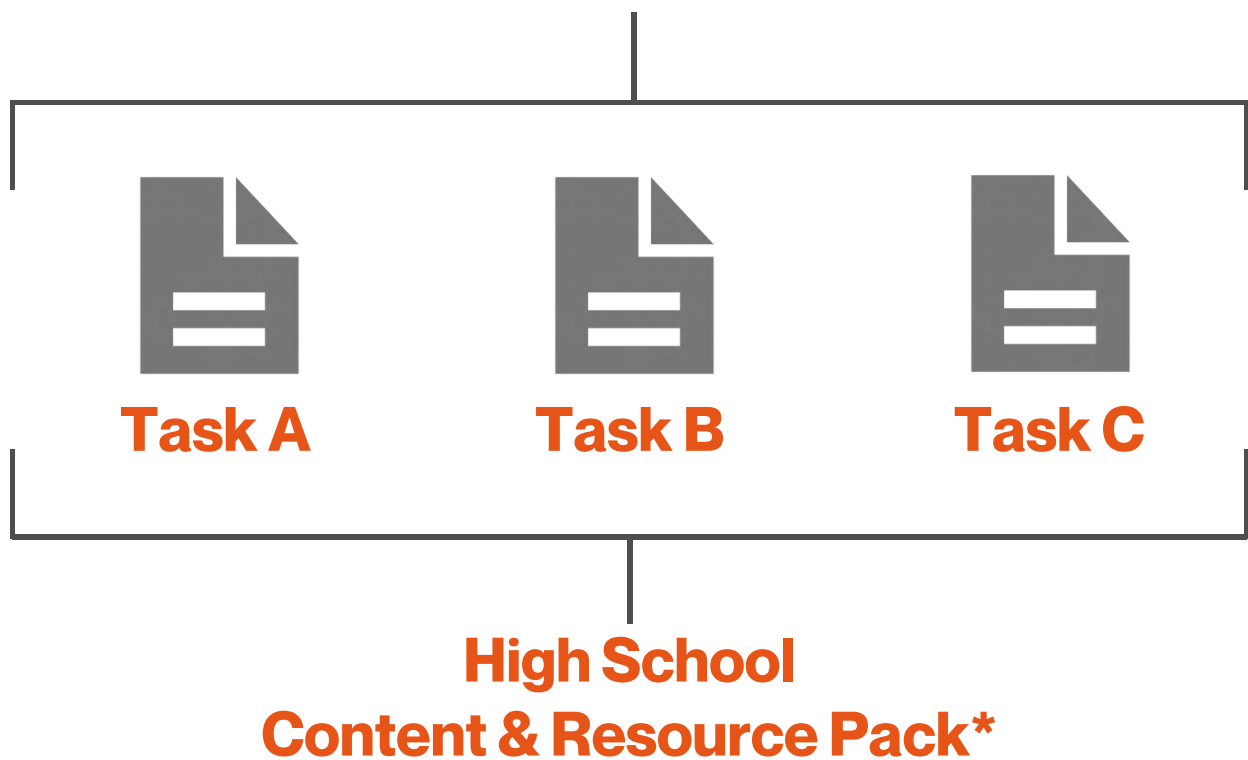
Inspiring the Next Generation of Eco-Leaders

Learning Resources and Activities aligned to the
Australian **High School** Curriculum

Introduction

Britannica's Curriculum Team has put together this Britannica School activity bundle to support your lessons around Earth Hour Schools Day 2025. Within the bundle, you will find Britannica School articles and resource packs containing age-appropriate content related to the occasion, as well as supporting activities and worksheets.

Here is what you will find in this thematic activity bundle:



***To use the article content and resource pack**, you will need access to Britannica School. Check to see if your school already has a subscription or start a free trial at elearn.eb.com/britannica-school/#free-trial



Image Credit: Martin_Winkler_Fotografie/pixabay

Background Information

Earth Hour Schools Day 2025 is scheduled for Friday, March 21st.

Earth Hour is an annual, global movement that encourages individuals worldwide to "Give an Hour for Earth" by dedicating **60 minutes to activities that benefit the planet**. This approach emphasises that collective small actions can lead to significant positive impacts on the environment.

Organised by WWF, the overarching focus for Earth Hour is on addressing critical environmental issues such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and sustainable living. Participants are invited to engage in activities they are passionate about - be it nature walks, community clean-ups, educational sessions, or energy-saving measures - to contribute positively to the planet.

For educators and youth leaders, Earth Hour provides an opportunity to **inspire young people to become environmental stewards**. The resources in this bundle aim to make environmentalism accessible, enjoyable, and personally meaningful for the younger generation.

Earth Hour Inquiry Challenge

Activity Overview

Lights off, minds on! These Earth Hour inquiry tasks invite students to **question, explore, and take action** on the future of our planet. By connecting their daily energy use to real-world sustainability challenges, students will **think critically, solve problems, and become ambassadors for change** in their homes, schools, and communities.

Middle School (Ages 13-15) - Challenging the Status Quo

Can one hour of darkness change the world? Students will investigate energy policies, debate real change, and craft compelling narratives to explore Earth Hour's significance. By examining carbon footprints and interviewing local leaders, they will critically assess global and local environmental efforts.

Outcome: Strengthen inquiry, debate, and journalism skills to challenge perspectives and inspire action.

High School (Ages 16-18) - Designing the Future of Energy

What's next for our planet? High school students will analyse, innovate, and lead change by conducting energy audits, proposing school-wide solutions, and envisioning a 100% renewable future. Through data-driven projects and real-world policy recommendations, they will take meaningful steps toward sustainability.

Outcome: Cultivate leadership, research, and problem-solving skills to shape real-world policies and innovations.



Middle School (Ages 13-15)

Task 1

Why Do We Have Earth Hour?

Question: How does Earth Hour help the planet?

Activity: Plan a persuasive letter to a local business, encouraging them to participate.

Lesson Plan

Plan a Persuasive Letter to a Local Business

Objective: 4-8

Subject: English, Environmental Studies

Duration: 60 minutes

Lesson Objectives:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Understand the purpose of Earth Hour and how businesses can contribute.
2. Identify key persuasive writing techniques.
3. Plan and write a persuasive letter encouraging a local business to participate in Earth Hour.

What is Earth Hour and Why is it Important?

Earth Hour is a global event where people, businesses, and landmarks turn off their lights for one hour to raise awareness about climate change and energy conservation. It happens every year on the last Saturday of March at 8:30 PM local time in over 190 countries.

The idea behind Earth Hour is simple: by turning off non-essential lights, we show how small actions can lead to big changes for our planet. It also reminds us that we rely on electricity a lot and that we should think about ways to reduce energy waste in our daily lives.

Earth Hour is important because:

- It raises awareness about the need to protect our environment.
- It encourages people to save energy and find ways to use less electricity.



Task:

What If Everyone Turned Off Their Lights?

Big Idea: Imagine if everyone in the world switched off their lights for just one hour - how much energy could we save? This task challenges students to use maths and science skills to calculate energy savings and visualise global energy use differences.

Step 1: Understanding Energy Savings

Before diving into calculations, students should understand:

- What is Earth Hour and why does it matter?
- How much energy do lights use in homes and schools?
- How energy savings help reduce carbon footprints and lower costs?

Discussion Questions:

- What devices/lights in your home use the most energy?
- How does turning off lights help the environment?
- How much energy does a light bulb use in an hour?

Step 2: Calculate Energy Savings (Maths Application)

Students will calculate the potential energy savings if lights are turned off for Earth Hour.

Formula:

$$\text{Energy Saved (kWh)} = \frac{\text{Power (Watts)} \times \text{Time (Hours)}}{1000}$$



Task 2

What If Everyone Turned Off Their Lights?

Question: What would happen if the whole world participated in Earth Hour?

Activity: Use maths and science skills to calculate how much energy a school or home can save.

Activity: Create a bar graph comparing energy use in different countries.

Support these middle school activities with information in a **Britannica School resource pack.**

Includes articles on solar energy, conservation, climate change, and more...



Open "Earth Hour Middle School" resource pack →

The screenshot shows the Britannica School Middle resource pack interface. It features a search bar at the top with the text "SEARCH Q" and a user profile icon labeled "My Britannica". Below the search bar, there are three article cards:

- conservation** (ARTICLE - LEVEL 2): Conservation is the responsible stewardship of the environment to preserve natural ecosystems while insuring that balanced consideration is also given to human needs for...
- solar energy** (ARTICLE - LEVEL 2): All life on Earth depends on energy from the Sun. Solar energy is the source of energy for photosynthesis. It provides the warmth necessary for plants and animals to survive...
- fuel** (ARTICLE - LEVEL 2): Many people depend on fuel every day. Fuels provide people with most of their electric power and make modern transportation possible. Without fuels there would be no...

Each article card has a thumbnail image and buttons for "Add Note" and "Add to Resource Pack".

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High School (Ages 16-18)

Task 1

How Does Earth Hour Help Climate Change?

Question: How does turning off lights for one hour affect global energy consumption?

Activity: Write a news article explaining the impact of Earth Hour in their community.

Student Activity Sheet

Write a News Article on Earth Hour's Impact in Your Community

Big Idea: Earth Hour is a global event, but how does it affect **your community**? As a **young journalist**, your job is to investigate and write a **news article** that explains how Earth Hour has influenced your town, school, or neighborhood.

Your article should be clear, engaging, and informative - just like a real journalist's work!

Step 1: Research the Story

Before you start writing, gather facts and opinions about Earth Hour's impact in your community.

Things to investigate:

- Did local businesses, schools, or the city government participate in Earth Hour?
- How many people turned off their lights?
- Did the event inspire any permanent energy-saving habits?
- Did any local landmarks switch off their lights (e.g., town hall, bridges, or parks)?
- What do people think? (Interview teachers, family, or local business owners.)

Tips for Gathering Information:

- Look for local news articles or social media posts about Earth Hour in your area.
- Ask people questions! (e.g., "Did you participate in Earth Hour? Why or why not?")
- Compare energy data. (Was there a drop in electricity use during Earth Hour?)

Step 2: Plan Your News Article



Student Activity Sheet

Design a Social Media Campaign to Promote Earth Hour Year-Round

Big Idea: Earth Hour isn't just about turning off lights for one hour—it's about making long-term changes to protect our planet. In this task, students will create a social media campaign to encourage their community to adopt Earth Hour principles every day.

The Challenge: How can you inspire others to save energy, reduce waste, and care for the environment all year round—using the power of social media?

Framework for Creating a Social Media Campaign

Step 1: Define Your Message (What's Your Goal?)

Before creating content, decide:

- What is your campaign trying to achieve? (Raise awareness? Inspire action? Challenge bad habits?)
- Who is your target audience? (Teens? Parents? Teachers? Local businesses?)
- What is the main message? (Example: "Small actions = Big impact! Join us in saving energy every day!")

Example Campaign Themes:

- "Turn It Off Challenge" – Get people to turn off lights/devices when not in use.
- "Energy Heroes" – Share stories of students making eco-friendly choices.
- "Earth Hour Every Hour" – Show easy ways to make sustainable choices daily.

Step 2: Create Engaging Content



Task 2

Is Earth Hour Just a Symbolic Event?

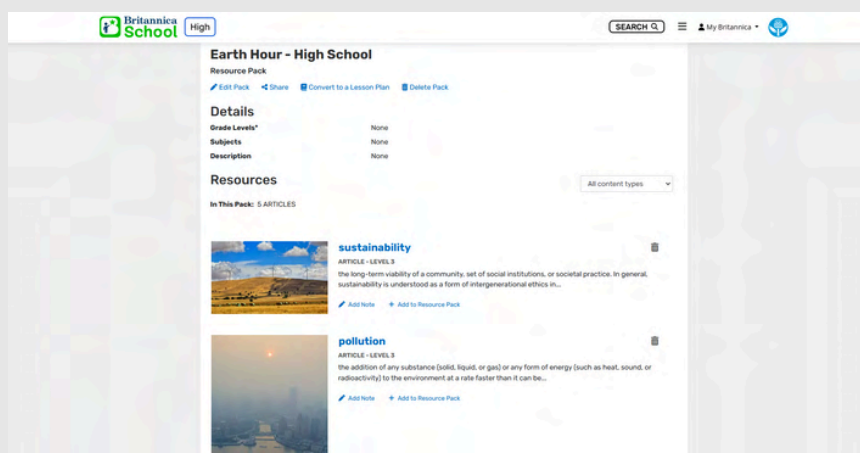
Question: Does Earth Hour create real change, or is it just a one-time event?

Activity: Design a social media campaign encouraging others to adopt Earth Hour principles year-round.

Support these high school activities with information in a **Britannica School resource pack.**



Open "**Earth Hour High School**" resource pack →



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A painting of a person in a dark suit and hat, holding a rifle, standing in a desert landscape. The person is seen from behind, looking out over a vast, arid landscape with sparse vegetation and a bright, cloudy sky.



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