

World Environment Day



1. What's a carbon footprint? Read and find out.

World Environment Day takes place on 5th June. Each year, it's celebrated in a different country and it's got a different theme. The aim is to raise awareness of ways to protect the environment. Our carbon footprint is one of the issues people want to raise awareness of.



World Environment Day
5 June

We use energy every day and a lot of it is made from burning coal. When we burn coal, we produce a gas which is made of tiny pieces of carbon, just like the material in your pencil. This gas is called CO₂. It's bad for the environment because it traps the heat from the Sun, which makes the Earth hotter. The good news is that the world's plants and trees can absorb CO₂ and produce clean oxygen for us to breathe. However, we mustn't produce more carbon than the trees can absorb. The amount of carbon we produce is called our carbon footprint. If we use less energy, our footprint is smaller and if we use more energy, our footprint is bigger. Do you know that a flight from London to Tokyo produces 1,056kg of carbon per passenger?



2. Read the text again and answer.

- **What happens when we burn coal?**
- **Why is CO₂ bad for the planet?**
- **Why are trees good for the planet?**
- **Is a small or a big carbon footprint better? Why?**



3. Listen and calculate Anna's carbon footprint?

How big is your carbon footprint?

1 How do you travel to school?

- a on foot or by bike
- b by public transport
- c by motorbike
- d by car

5 How much TV do you watch every day?

- a none
- b one hour
- c two hours
- d three hours or more

2 How many cars have you got at home?

- a none
- b one
- c two
- d three or more

6 How often do you leave the TV on standby?

- a never
- b sometimes
- c usually
- d always

3 How often do you eat in a fast food restaurant?

- a never
- b once or twice a year
- c once or twice a month
- d once or twice a week

7 How many baths do you have a week?

- a none
- b one
- c two or three
- d more than three

4 How often do you drink bottled water?

- a never
- b once or twice a month
- c once or twice a week
- d every day

8 How many holidays do you have every year?

- a none
- b one
- c two or three
- d more than three

Now calculate Anna's score and your score:

a= 1 point

b= 2 points

c= 3 points

d= 4 points

Anna's carbon footprint: points

Your carbon footprint (you have to calculate it): points

8-12 points: your carbon footprint is tiny. Excellent!

13-19: Your carbon footprint is small. Keep up the good work!

20-26: your carbon footprint is quite big. Try to do something to reduce it.

27-32: oh dear! Your carbon footprint is very big. You need to work harder to reduce the energy you use.

What can you and your family do to reduce your carbon footprint?

1 Predict how much CO₂ these activities create. Listen and find out.



Track 31

2.5 kg 88 g 738 g 160 g 57 g 10 g

1 The production of a bottle of water creates 160 g of CO₂.

2 Watching TV for one hour creates _____ of CO₂.



3 Speaking on a mobile phone for one minute creates _____ of CO₂.

4 The production of one plastic bag creates _____ of CO₂.

5 The production of one burger creates _____ of CO₂.

6 Driving 3 km in a car creates _____ of CO₂.

