

FEBRUARY

Important Dates & Journal Reflections

WORLD WETLANDS DAY FEBRUARY 2

Wetlands are valuable for flood protection, water quality improvement, shoreline erosion control, natural products, recreation, and aesthetics. Wetlands are among the most productive habitats on earth. They provide shelter and nursery areas for commercially and recreationally important animals like fish and shellfish, as well as wintering grounds for migrating birds. A 2011 federal study estimated the U.S. lost 62,300 acres of wetlands between 2004-2009, a loss rate 140 percent higher than from 1998 to 2004. https://www.usgs.gov/faqs/why-are-wetlands-important?qtnews_science_products=0#qt-news_science_products

Journal Topic: How do you think the reported loss of this habitat will affect the wildlife that depend on it? How will it affect us?

WORLD DAY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE FEBRUARY 20

Social justice is justice in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/social-justice-day>

Journal Topic - How does access to clean water and sanitation relate to the issue of social justice as described above? Why is it important to recognize the barriers that one may face if we hope to provide clean water as a human right?

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MARCH

Important Dates - Journal Suggestions

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION FOR RIVERS MARCH 14

Throughout history humans have built their civilizations around bodies of water. Rivers have been used for transportation and as a source of food and water. Rivers bring water from all over the globe to our lakes and oceans.

<https://www.internationalrivers.org/take-action/international-day-of-action-for-rivers/>

Journal Topic: Have you ever spent time on a river? What activities were you enjoying? Who were you with? How long or how often do you spend time at a river? If you have not, what would you like to do?

WORLD WATER DAY MARCH 22

World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2.2 billion people living without access to safe water. It focuses on the important link between water and climate change and how it will affect lives. <https://www.worldwaterday.org>

Journal Topic: What have you done today that used water? Did you flush a toilet? Did you turn on a tap? Did you brush your teeth or bathe? What chores will be done at home today that use water? What activities do you enjoy that use water (swimming, fishing, gardening)? Take a moment to reflect on the following questions before answering: Can you imagine living without clean water? What would that look like? How would life be different?

EARTH HOUR LAST SATURDAY IN MARCH

Started by World Wildlife Federation and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment. Held every year on the last Saturday of March, Earth Hour engages millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories, switching off their lights to show support for our planet. <https://www.earthhour.org>

Journal Topic: Remember turning off the lights is really about turning off the power. This means turning off devices that would need to be charged or use batteries. What could you and your family do during Earth Hour? How will you see in the dark? What kind of preparations do you need to make?

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APRIL

Important Dates- Journal Suggestions

WORLD AQUATIC ANIMAL DAY APRIL 3

Aquatic animals are often excluded from the legal and regulatory frameworks that provide some protection for other non-human animals. World Aquatic Animal Day was founded by the Animal Law Clinic at Lewis & Clark Law School in 2017.

https://law.lclark.edu/centers/animal_law_studies/animal_law_clinics/aali/worldaquaticanimalday/

Journal Topic: What does aquatic mean? What is your favorite aquatic animal? Does it live in fresh or salt water? How can your actions as a Wavemaker impact your favorite aquatic animal?

EARTH DAY APRIL 22

Earth Day was established in the spring of 1970 by a US senator as a way to bring the environmental issues of the day into the national spotlight. At that time there was no EPA, no Clean Air Act, and no Clean Water Act. Twenty million Americans across the country demonstrated peacefully, and it worked! By December 1970 the EPA was established which led to huge changes in regulations and laws.

<https://www.earthday.org>

Journal Topic: What action are you taking today to have a positive impact on the Earth? Is this a one-time action or something to change a habit? How can you get others involved to make a larger impact and create waves?

ARBOR DAY LAST FRIDAY IN APRIL

Arbor Day is a national holiday created to raise awareness and recognize the importance of trees. The most common way people celebrate is to get together in groups and plant trees. <https://www.arborday.org>

Journal Topic: How is planting trees contributing to positive movement in the fight against climate change? How do trees use and affect water?

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MAY

Important Dates - Journal Suggestions

ENDANGERED SPECIES DAY
MAY 17

Endangered Species Day is an opportunity for people of all ages to celebrate and learn about endangered species and how to protect them. <https://www.endangered.org/campaigns/endangered-species-day/>

Journal Topic: What animals do you know to be endangered? Are there any in your area? Why is it important to identify and protect animals who are in danger of becoming extinct?

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JUNE

Important Dates - Journal Suggestions

WORLD ENVIRONMENTAL DAY JUNE 5

Established in 1974, World Environmental Day was created to celebrate the idea that the foods we eat, the air we breathe, the water we drink and the climate that makes our planet habitable all come from nature.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/environment-day>

Journal Topic: 2020's World Environmental Day theme was biodiversity

Biodiversity is the foundation that supports all life on land and below water. It is an intricate web that affects an entire life system. What do you know about biodiversity? Why might it be important to understand biodiversity if we hope to create a healthier planet?

WORLD OCEANS DAY JUNE 8

Our planet is 71% water. Nearly all of it making up our oceans. Our oceans provide and regulate our weather, climate, rainwater, drinking water, much of our food, and even the oxygen in the air we breathe. You may not live near an ocean, but where you call home is definitely affected by one.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/oceans-day>

Journal Topic: What do you find most fascinating about the ocean? What would you like to learn more about? If you could spend tomorrow at the ocean what would your day look like?

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SEPTEMBER

Important Dates - Journal Suggestions

WORLD WATER MONITORING DAY SEPTEMBER 18

World Water Monitoring Day was established in 2006 as an international outreach program that builds public awareness and involvement in protecting water resources around the world. Monitoring our streams, lakes, estuaries and coastal waters is critical to understanding how healthy our water is and how climate change is affecting our water.

https://www.usgs.gov/centers/ny-water/science/world-water-monitoring-day?qt-science_center_objects=0#qt-science_center_objects

Journal Topic: Why do you think it is important to monitor our water and collect data? Why would it be helpful to share this data with others around the world?

WORLD RIVERS DAY LAST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER

World Rivers Day is a celebration of the world's waterways. It highlights the many values of rivers and strives to increase public awareness and encourages the improved stewardship of rivers around the world.

<https://worldriversday.com>

Journal Topic: The first event of World Rivers Day was established in 2005. In 2019, several million people in 100 countries celebrated in events to protect our waterways. What are some ways you can get active to protect the waterways where you live? What are those waterways?

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OCTOBER

Important Dates - Journal Suggestions

GLOBAL HANDWASHING DAY OCTOBER 15

Global Handwashing Day is a day of advocacy dedicated to handwashing with soap as an effective and affordable way to prevent diseases and save lives. Here are the facts:

Globally, 900 million students lack a place to wash their hands at school. One in six (6) health facilities does not have access to soap and water. Only 60% of the world's population has access to a basic handwashing facility. More than 800 children under the age of five die every day from disease due to poor hygiene, poor sanitation and unsafe drinking water. <https://globalhandwashing.org/global-handwashing-day/>

Journal Topic: Take a moment to think about how you wash your hands throughout the day and how often you do it. How do you get the water? Do you have access to soap and/or sanitizer? Are you able to wash your hands easily after using the restroom or before touching food? Imagine you did not have access to soap and water. Do you think you would become sick more often? Do you think disease would spread? How would it affect hospitals?

IMAGINE A DAY WITHOUT WATER OCTOBER 21

Imagine a Day Without Water is a national education campaign that highlights how water is essential, invaluable, and in need of investment.

<https://imagineadaywithoutwater.org>

Journal Topic: Take a few moments to think about how **you** have used water today? Did you turn on a tap to brush your teeth or take a drink? Did you flush a toilet? Did you bathe? How have **others** in your home used water? Did they clean dishes, do laundry or prepare food? What about members of your **community**? Did firefighters put out a fire? Did farmers water the food they are growing for us to eat? What about doctors and nurses in the hospital? Now, imagine just one day without access to water. How would your day change if you turned on the tap and nothing came out? What would everyone do if you could no longer use a toilet? How would people respond?

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NOVEMBER

Important Dates - Journal Suggestions

WORLD TOILET DAY NOVEMBER 19

World Toilet Day celebrates toilets and raises awareness of the 4.2 billion people living without access to safely-managed sanitation. This is more than half of the global population. It is about taking action to tackle the global sanitation crisis. Everyone must have sustainable sanitation, alongside clean water and handwashing facilities, to help protect and maintain our health security and stop the spread of deadly infectious diseases such as COVID-19, cholera, and typhoid.

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/toilet-day>

Journal Topic: When you hear the words hygiene and sanitation what do you think of? Do you often have to think about where a clean safe place to use the restroom is? What would people do if suddenly there wasn't a toilet that flushed our waste away? Where would people go? How would that affect our environment?

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DECEMBER

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HUMAN RIGHTS DAY DECEMBER 10

“Human Rights Day is observed every year on 10 December – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR): a milestone document proclaiming the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being regardless of race, color, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Available in more than 500 languages, it is the most translated document in the world.”

<https://www.un.org/en/observances/human-rights-day>

Journal Topic: When you hear the term Human Rights what do you think of? Are you often concerned about your human rights not being respected? How would your life be different if your basic human rights were being violated because of your religion, race, sex or where you were born?

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