Earth Day Essay Challenge 2024
Leland and Gray ██████
████████ ████

A Brief History of Earth day

By Zen ██████

It's April 22, 1970 the first Earth day! Finally, Americans have woken up and dedicated a day to raising awareness about Earth's environment. Wait, but how did we get here?

The decades before April 22, 1970 many Americans consumed gas through the air mostly from automobiles. "It was the smell of prosperity," many Americans called it. America was oblivious to the environmental crisis.

Then a light in the darkness appeared, a beacon of hope. That hope was Rachel Carson's book, "Silent Spring." It managed to wake up 24 countries about environmental issues with its important message. People were ready to make a difference, and they were ready to make it now. After all, "The balance of nature is not a status quo," and it can be changed for the better if we put in enough effort. Out of this spotlight sprung a Senator that would also help in the movement. Senator Nelson, former governor of Wisconsin, had been concerned about the environmental crisis for a while. In January 1969 after the spill at Santa Barbara he wanted to make a change. Senator Nelson was inspired by the student anti-war movement and wanted to, "Infuse the energy of student anti war protests with an emerging public consciousness about air and water pollution." Therefore, he decided to announce the idea to multiple college campuses and to national media.

Senator Nelson decided to add someone else to the movement too. Denis Hayes was recruited to manage many campus teach-ins and to spread more awareness. The young activist, among others, decided that April 22nd, a day between final tests and exams and spring break, to bring in more student participation to the movement. Many saw the help and potential that this movement could bring to better the environment. Denis recruited a national staff of 85 so that they could encourage events to happen and include many groups and organizations to join in the movement. They decided to call it Earth Day instead of the National Teach-In on the Environment, like they called it originally. This new name gave it much attention in the national media, which inspired 20 million Americans to start a protest for the environment and take action against pollution.

In short, Americans across the U.S.A worked together to protest action for the environment and have created a holiday called Earth Day to spread awareness of our climate

crisis. Since then the movement has spread the word all across the globe inspiring many to take action in the movement. Will you take action this Earth Day?

Resources for reference:
https://www.earthday.org/history/
https://www.google.com/search?q=silent+spring&source=lmns&bih=599&biw=1366&prmd=ivsnbmtz&rlz=1CAHTBP_enUS1073&hl=en&sa=X&ved=2ahUKEwiT-OH6npeFAxVePVkFHdeIAf8Q0pQJKAB6BAgBEAI&safe=active&ssui=on