

EARTH CHARTER

Adaptation for younger children

INVITATION

The Earth is our home

- We are living at a very important time and we must save the Earth.
- All the peoples of the Earth form one big family.
- Our great task is to RESPECT NATURE and to LIVE IN PEACE.

We are part of an immense universe

- In this universe, our world is full of life, with lots of plants, animals and people.
- We depend on the water, the earth and the air and feel joy to live in this world.
- There are people who misuse the water, the earth and the air and who do harm to animals, --- plants and --- other people.
- Unfortunately there are wars, people who go hungry, people who have no home nor school, or that are ill, with no doctor or medicine.

What must we do?

- We must help so that everybody in the world has what they need to live.
- We, the children, WILL MAKE A SMALL EFFORT EVERY DAY to change the bad things into good things, we will treat everybody well and share --- better what we have.
- If we help and love others, WE WILL LIVE IN JOY AND HAPPINESS.
- We ask an effort from grown-ups: parents, teachers, neighbours ...

RESPECT AND CARE FOR LIVING THINGS

1. Know about and respect people, animals and plants

- Because they are living things.
- Because they are necessary.
- Because they produce useful and beautiful things.

2. Treat people, animals and plants well

- Because they form part of nature.
- Because they need protection.
- Because they give you what you need to live.

3. Help your companions and give them your friendship

- Because they need it.
- Because you can do a lot for them.
- Because you want to share.

4. You can help see to it that more people enjoy good and beautiful things

- Because you respect everything that lives.
- Because you want there to be happiness.
- Because you are preparing a place for the children yet to be born.

IN LIFE EVERYTHING IS CONNECTED

5. Admire how plants, animals and people live

- Watch out that nobody does them harm.
- Ask for them to be protected.
- Call out for air, water, sun and earth for everyone.

6. Keep the place where you live clean

- Keep the Earth clean and save water.
- Collect litter.
- Try to keep your things tidy.

7. Always respect these three things:

- The life of any living thing.
- People's rights.
- The well-being of everybody.

8. Learn about the place where you live, appreciate it and share what you know

- About the living things around you.
- About the people from other places and countries.
- About what you need to live healthily.

EVERYBODY MUST HAVE WHAT THEY NEED

9. You will help to see that there are no poor

- Everybody must have what they need to live properly.
- All children must have schools.
- People in need should get the most help.

10. Help others so that they can live better

- Those who have the most must be the ones who help the most.
- You must only desire to have what you need.
- You must learn to share what you have.

11. Boys and girls are equally important

- All children should learn and grow up together.
- If a child is ill he or she must be taken care of.
- Women have the same rights as men.
- Every family will be protected.

12. Always defend the idea that any child:

- boy or girl,
 - from a rich family or a poor one,
 - black, white or of another colour,
 - from this country or another one,
 - who talks our language or a different one,
 - who is Christian, Muslim, of another religion or who has no religion,
- should have food to eat, a house, a family, rest, a school, friends, play and happiness, and if they are ill, a doctor and medicine.**

NO TO WAR, YES TO PEACE

13. Make an effort to see that there is no fighting where you live

- Find out about the way of life of the people in your neighbourhood or village.
- You must be able to say what you think and to meet with who you like.
- Everybody must look after their surroundings.

14. Study, paying special attention to things which help you to get along with other people

- You must study with interest everything that can help you to be a better person.
- The media will help you to understand the difficulties and problems of people around the world today.
- The better educated you are, the better you will know how to live.

14. Look after and respect other people, animals and plants

- At home.
- At school.
- In your neighbourhood or village.

16. You will help to see that people live in peace

- Everybody must understand and help each other.
- Man must never make war again, nor make more arms.
- There must be peace around the world.

TO SUM UP

- We humans must look after and improve the place where we live; to do this we must live in a new way, using the good things that we already have today.
- We must speak with all people so that we profit from existing cultures and inventions.
- The people of other countries, languages, customs and religions will help us; in this way we will learn about new ways of living and treating other people.
- We will put care and effort into dealing with difficult situations.
- If we work together, we can improve the world a lot, because everybody is useful and can help.
- Let's hope it is said of us: "They want to live in a new way", "they are trying hard to live in peace" and " they know how to look after the Earth".

- *The Earth Charter* says what we must do to save the world: respect nature, respect human rights, organise that everyone has what they need and always lives in peace.

- *The Earth Charter* will help to conserve and improve the world in which we live.

- *The Earth Charter* must be law for all countries and all peoples.

- *The Earth Charter* was first written in 1992 . Later it has been added to and improved. We ask for it to be approved, accepted and put into practice by every country of the world.