

# YOU and the U.S.



March 2014

*Did you know...?*

The first ever Earth Day was in April 1970. In December of that year, the first federal agency dedicated to environmental issues, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency was created.

Quick Trivia

- Which panels can be used on the roof of your house to attract the sun and create energy for your home?
- When is Earth Day 2014?
- Which famous woman in history was the longest serving First Lady of the United States?

*More information for teachers can be found on our [blog - Education Matters!](#)*



## Earth Day 2014

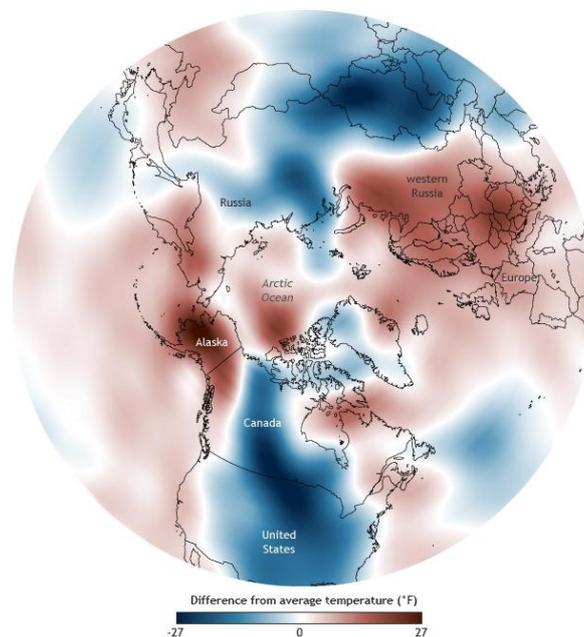
Earth Day is to be celebrated this year on Tuesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Earth Day Network encourages us to Take Action Today and has a project titled A Billion Acts of Green. Even the smallest of actions can help - trying to cut down on buying disposable plastic, asking to walk to school instead of taking the car, using recycling bins at school for waste paper and used lunch items. Everything counts and helps to protect our environment!

NASA is a key resource for global climate change information and suggests better ways that we can help the planet. More details on Earth Day and Earth Month can be found by clicking [here](#).

## The Polar Vortex - changing weather

The Polar Vortex is a high altitude low-pressure system that is found over the Arctic during the winter months. In January of this year, the polar vortex became weaker and cold air escaped, making its way down to the U.S. It produced record breaking cold temperatures and on one day, every single state reported temperatures below freezing - even Niagara Falls started to freeze!

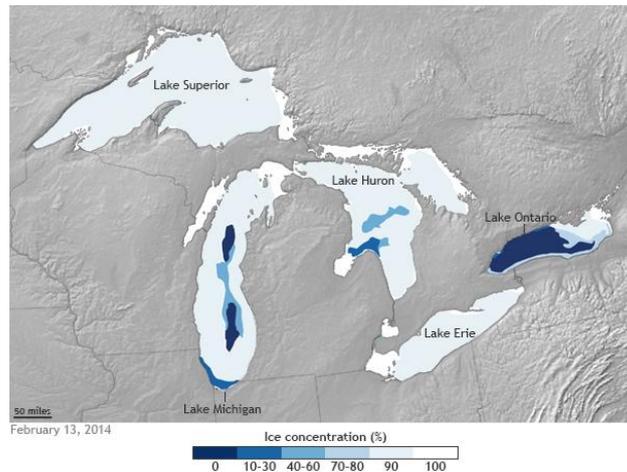
Read more [here!](#)



*This map shows differences from average air temperature across the Northern Hemisphere for January 5-7, 2014. See how much of the U.S is blue?!*

The extensive cold weather has led to almost complete ice coverage of the Great Lakes - the most since the 1990's. In mid-February, the Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL) reported that 88 per cent of the Great Lakes were covered in ice! It is

possible they could reach the record ice coverage of 1979, when 94.7 per cent of the Great Lakes were iced over.



## Women's History Month: Sojourner Truth

Sojourner Truth was an anti-slavery activist and a campaigner for women's rights. She was a slave in New York until the state abolished slavery on July 4<sup>th</sup> 1827. She then fled to New York City, and began speaking out for women's rights. Her most famous speech was given at the Ohio Women's Rights Convention in 1851. Titled 'Ain't I a Woman', the speech became a classic text in the field of women's rights.

After the civil war, Sojourner worked for the rights of African Americans and tried to secure jobs for refugees from the war. Her efforts were recognized by President Abraham Lincoln, and she was invited to the White House in 1864. On the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her birth, NASA named their Mars Pathfinder rover, Sojourner, in tribute to this historical female figure.



Abraham Lincoln and Sojourner Truth (MPI/Getty Images)

Quick Trivia answers: a) Solar; b) Tuesday April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2014; c) Anna Eleanor Roosevelt

## Women's History Month

Can you find some of America's most famous historical women within this word search?

*Eleanor Roosevelt*

*Oprah Winfrey*

*Amelia Earhart*

*Madonna*

*Pocahontas*

*Marilyn Monroe*

*Abigail Adams*

*Susan B Anthony*

*Maya Angelou*

*Rosa Parks*

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