

Honor Earth Day! Create a Living Roof that just keeps on growing

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#4-Hgrowshere

Earth Day 2020 was the 50th anniversary of Earth Day. That's a big deal!!

Did you know:

The first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970, when a United States senator from Wisconsin organized a national demonstration to raise awareness about environmental issues. Rallies took place across the country and, by the end of the year, the U.S. government had created the Environmental Protection Agency. By 1990, Earth Day was an event celebrated by more than 140 countries round the globe.

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/explore/celebrations/earth-day/>

There are endless ways we can celebrate and honor our planet Earth. How about if we choose to do an Eco-friendly activity? We can create and build our own version of something that will keep on growing. It's a model of a living roof – yes! A roof that intentionally has things growing on it!

The Living Roof or Green Roof

There are lots of reasons [landscape architects](#) want to grow plants on the roof. Believe it or not, it can make cities cooler; it can build a habitat for some birds and bugs; it can help a city manage storm water; and like all other plants, it can help keep our air clean.

Here are some websites that tell you more about living or green roofs:

- American Society for Landscape Architects
<https://www.asla.org/greenroofeducation/coolcities.html>
- What is a Green Roof?
<https://science.howstuffworks.com/environmental/green-science/green-rooftop1.htm>
- Green Roof – Wikipedia
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Green_roof



A regular shoebox can become a model of a living roof. Tiny sprouts of parsley are growing on this shoebox living roof.

Get Creative!

Start with a box that has a detachable lid like a shoebox. No shoebox? NO problem – improvise!! You can use any box. Use anything that can form the building and any container that can become your living roof.

Helpful steps:

1. Tape the top and bottom of your building together before you start.
2. Line the lid with foil, then plastic wrap. Secure the edges with tape or glue.
3. Fill the lid with moistened potting soil.
4. Plant seeds in soil. Grass seed works great! Or, plant leaf lettuce and you can eventually harvest and eat it!
5. Place your living roof in a sunny location.
6. Water it when the soil becomes mostly dry.

Decorate it to look like a skyscraper, a cabin, or your dream home. Make a whole neighborhood of buildings with living roofs!

Extend the activity by creating walkways between buildings, adding windmills, or even checking if there's a living roof in your city that you can visit!



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