HOW EARTH DAY BEGAN WITH MUSIC

Est. Time: 45 minutes
Subjects: Art, General Music, Social Studies
Age Range: Elementary & Middle School
See the full lesson here!
In this lesson you will:

• Find out about Rachel Carson and her important work

• Understand why Carson was so concerned about DDT and other pesticides

• Learn how Singer Songwriters of the 1960’s helped to launch the first Earth Day
Watch this video to learn about Rachel Carson.
Consider or ask a friend:

- Carson testified before Congress in 1963, but DDT was not banned until 1973, why do you think it took so long for the government to ban DDT?

- How do you think Rachel Carson felt when Congress refused to act on her recommendations?
As Rachel Carson was warning people about DDT, chemical companies were publishing the types of advertisements seen in this image.
Consider or ask a friend:

- What are some things you notice about this advertisement?
- Why do you think Chemical Companies were paying to put this ad in magazines and newspapers?
Consider or ask a friend:

• What do you think Mitchell means when she says that we have to get ourselves “back to the garden”?

• How do you feel when you are in a natural space such as a garden, a park, or on a hiking trail?

• Would you consider this an environmental song? Why or why not?
Read **these song lyrics** and use a highlighter on your device to highlight all of the lyrics that talk about nature, the environment, pollution.

Hey, farmer farmer
Put away that DDT now
Give me spots on my apples
But leave me the birds and the bees

Don’t it always seem to go
That you don’t know what you’ve got
Till it’s gone
They paved paradise
And put up a parking lot
After reading the lyrics, you can listen to the songs here:

- Joni Mitchell: *Big Yellow Taxi* (1970)
- James Taylor: *Carolina On My Mind* (1968)
Consider or ask a friend:

- Did any of the songs you listened to stand out? Why?

- In your opinion, which song carried the strongest message. Why?
SUMMARY

- Scientist Rachel Carson testified to Congress about DDT in 1963
- Singer-Songwriters promoted awareness of Environmental Issues with their songs on the late 1960s and early 1970s
- The 1st Earth Day was held on April 22, 1970
- DDT was finally banned in 1973
BE CREATIVE

• Illustrate lyrics from the songs you heard on your own paper or using these pages.

• Write a poem about Earth Day

• Create an illustrated timeline that shows your understanding of Rachel Carson’s work and how Singer Songwriters supported the Environmental Movement.
BE CURIOUS

Using the internet, do more research on one of the songs that stood out to you in this lesson. See if you can find information on when, where, why, and even how the song was written.
Share it with us! Either you or an adult in your life can share your song lyrics, poem, or illustrated timeline with TeachRock on Instagram or Facebook, email to info@teachrock.org, or Tweet it to @TeachRock
Visit us at teachrock.org for hundreds of other free arts-rich resources for every age range and classroom.

Please check back to teachrock.org/distancelearning frequently as we will update the material daily!