

The Boston Marathon – The Great Race

By Mark Khreptik
Grade 6

Boston Marathon 2017

The 121st Boston Marathon was run on Monday, April 17, 2017 in Massachusetts. Over 30,000 runners (both men and women) participated in the 26.2 mile course that began in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, and finished in Copley Square in downtown Boston. The winning male contestant finished the race in 2 hours, 9 minutes, and 37 seconds. The winning female finished the race in 2 hours, 21 minutes, and 52 seconds. In addition, the winner of the wheelchair race won in 1 hour, 18 minutes, and 4 seconds. The runners face many challenges such as weather, hilly terrain and populated areas.

Boston Marathon History

The Boston Marathon was established in 1897 and was based on the modern day Olympics held in Athens, Greece in 1896. Businessmen Herbert H. Holt and John Graham were inspired by the 1896 Olympics and wanted to bring the marathon to Boston. The marathon was originally determined to be run on Patriots' Day, April 19, which honored the beginning of the Revolutionary War, which began in 1775 on that date. Since then and within the last few decades, the race is now run on the third Monday in April, which is the regionally celebrated Patriots' Day.

The Marathon continues to be held every year, despite the bombing that took place four years ago at the finish line, where many runners and bystanders were killed, lost limbs, or were otherwise wounded. It's a tradition that will continue to inspire runners all over the world.

Why the Earth Gets A Special Day

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The planet is changing rapidly, as waste is dumped into rivers, rainforests are deforested and CO2 is constantly emitted into the atmosphere. Many people worldwide are tired of allowing industries to continually damage our planet. That is a big reason why every year, since 1970, an observance known as Earth Day has been celebrated on April 22.

The day began in the United States as a teach-in about environmental issues and was proposed by United States Sen. Gaylord Nelson of Wisconsin. Nelson was inspired by a U.N. declaration proposed by peace activist John McConnell who got the United Nations to support a world-wide day to honor the planet and to promote peace. That worldwide Earth Day was celebrated on March 21 of that year. However, in the United States, the April 22 day stuck and, over time, Earth Day has been celebrated internationally on that day as well.

On that date, millions of Americans come together to fight for the continued life of our planet. Earth Day encourages people to fight for clean air, clean water and the preservation of endangered species.

So how does the environmental movement that is showcased on Earth Day affect us in Cherry Hill? The increased awareness can lead to changes in actions that are good for the planet. More people may start doing simple things such as turning off lights regularly when leaving a room. That saves energy and saving energy can extend the life of our planet. The U.S is a very privileged country, where the majority of people have running water, ample power, and ready heat. However, despite our great fortune, we must not take our resources for granted. That is especially true because so many in our own country suffer from a lack of basic resources including food and housing.

Earth Day is all about awareness and realizing that everyone has the responsibility to take care of this one global home we all share.

