

**Speaker:** Lingokids.

**Speaker:** Hey, Lingokids listeners. Today is a very important day.

**Speaker:** It is?

**Speaker:** Is it your birthday?

**Speaker:** No, it's not my birthday, Elliott, but we are celebrating life, the life of our planet Earth.

**Speaker:** Right. Today is April 22nd, Earth Day.

**Speaker:** I knew that.

**Speaker:** Welcome to *Stories for Kids* by Lingokids, where we discover fascinating facts about the world around us and the fun of play learning. Today, we will talk about Earth Day, and we'll meet a kid hero, Ryan Hickman, who has collected and recycled millions of bottles and cans to keep the planet clean and save wildlife. The theme for 2023 is invest in our planet.

**Speaker:** We have to wear a vest?

**Speaker:** Oh, [laughs] not a vest, Cowie. Invest. It means to put time and energy into doing good things for the planet so we all benefit.

**Speaker:** When I do good things, it makes me smile and feel warm inside.

**Speaker:** When we do good things for the Earth, we get clean air and water, healthy food, and lots of beautiful places to enjoy in return. Today, we're cleaning the beach.

Yes, I see trash on the beach too, Billy. It's not a very nice site. We're joining our Earth Day friend, Ryan Hickman, to clean up this beach. He's a pro and has collected and recycled trash since he was three years old. I'm glad to see he has a big group of volunteers. Volunteers are people who do some work for free to help.

**Speaker:** We're volunteers too?

**Speaker:** Where should we start?

**Speaker:** I bet Ryan has a plan. Let's ask him.

**Speaker:** Okay.

**Speaker:** Hi, Ryan. The Lingokids team is ready to help.

**Speaker:** Great. You'll need gloves to keep your hands safe and clean, and a trash grabber. It's like a mechanical arm. It's like a gripper where you hold it, and then it closes

Commented [1]: @pablo.redondo@lingokids.com see if you can remove these two lines.  
\_Assigned to Pablo Redondo Rodríguez\_

the prongs at the bottom, and that will help pick up trash while keeping your hands clean at the same time.

**Speaker:** Awesome.

**Speaker:** Some trash can be recycled, like paper, glass, metal, and some plastic. Lots of things can be recycled. It's really easy to recycle them. Also, some things cannot be recycled, too. Let's say you have a piece of trash that you think can be recycled, but it's not and you throw it in the recycle bin, or you aren't sure, that could contaminate the whole load and then the whole truck lot throws the landfill. What I say is when in doubt, throw it out.

**Speaker:** That's why different colored bins are set up all over the beach.

**Speaker:** Very observant, Elliott. Each has a special color and a drawing to show what goes where.

**Speaker:** Easy-peasy.

**Speaker:** Stuff that can't be recycled goes in a trash bag. If you need help or have any questions, just shout.

**Speaker:** Thanks, Ryan. Ready, everyone?

**Speaker:** Ready.

**Speaker:** Yes.

**Speaker:** We ready.

**Speaker:** Oh, wow. These plastic bottles are tangled up in seaweed.

**Speaker:** I'll help you pull them out.

**Speaker:** Thanks, Cally. Into the plastic bin.

**Speaker:** Wow, Elliott, you already gathered an arm full of aluminum cans.

**Speaker:** I like to crush them with my foot. Watch. It saves room in the recycling bin.

**Speaker:** Good thinking. Aluminum cans are 100% recyclable and can be made into new cans over and over. One recycled aluminum can can save enough energy to run a television for three hours.

**Speaker:** Cool.

**Speaker:** Good eye, Billy. Broken glass in the sand is dangerous.

**Speaker:** I'll use my grabber and drop the pieces in a bin.

**Speaker:** Hey, Ryan, what's this? It's not paper, is it?

**Speaker:** That's styrofoam. It can't be recycled. It breaks down into super small pieces which cannot be recycled. I do think it affects sea life. Animals can eat it, **[unintelligible 00:04:20]** gets food, they could get sick and die because of how small it breaks up. We live five minutes away from the beach. We just did a beach **[unintelligible 00:04:26]** last night because it rained two nights ago. There was so much styrofoam on the beach. The easiest and the most efficient way to dispose of it is trash. I know there are a few collection places that will accept it back, but in your curbside recycling bin, they do not accept that.

**Speaker:** That goes in the trash.

**Speaker:** The beach is quickly cleaning up. It's fun when friends help. Ryan, what do you do with the recycled items you collect?

**Speaker:** After I collect all my recycling, I take it to the recycle center. Here in California, you get a little money per bottle. All that money goes in my college account. I do sell hats and jackets and T-shirts and stuff. All that money either goes back to my non-profit project, 3R, or to the Pacific Marine Mammal Center in Laguna Beach, California. They're a rescue, sick and injured seals and sea Lions, and they help them get better.

**Speaker:** We're helping dolphins and sea turtles.

**Speaker:** Look how nice the beach looks now.

**Speaker:** Yes, it's as nature intended. The only things left on the beach are seashells, seaweed, and footprints.

**Speaker:** It was easy to do.

**Speaker:** Thanks for letting me help you guys with your Earth Day project.

**Speaker:** It was our pleasure, Ryan. Thanks for all that you do to keep our planet healthy and happy.

**Speaker:** Yes.

**Speaker:** It's important to set aside a special day to help the planet. When you really think about it, every day is Earth Day. Lingokids listeners, let's invest in our planet each and every day.

**Speaker:** So we can enjoy being outside and help the plants and animals.

**Speaker:** Can we celebrate with a group hug?

**Speaker:** Sure, Elliott. Come closer, everyone. You too, Ryan. Happy Earth Day, everyone.

Lingokids listeners, we had a great time today helping Ryan clean up the beach for Earth Day. We learned that paper, glass, metal, and some plastic can be recycled. Lingokids listeners, does litter make you feel sad? If so, you can organize your own clean-up day. Clean up a park or the playground. Get some grown-ups to help take photos and share them with us by emailing [podcast@lingokids.com](mailto:podcast@lingokids.com) or tag us on social media @lingokids.

If you are ready for interactive play learning time, explore our Lingokids app. It offers fun and educational songs and games to help kids ages two and older learn and develop important skills such as communication, collaboration, critical thinking, and creativity. That's the power of play learning. See you in our next episode.

[music]

**[00:07:27] [END OF AUDIO]**