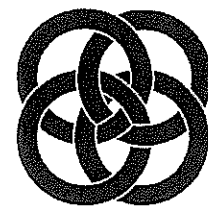




GLOBAL WARMING

Education program about non-profit sector



PRAGUE POST
ENDOWMENT FUND

Prepared by the Prague Post
Endowment Fund

What is Global Warming? Is it real? Has it been exaggerated? What do you know about global warming? What is your attitude to this?

No answers? You don't care? You can't be bothered? Maybe you will when you read the following.... :)

Global Warming is ...

... an increase in the Earth's temperature caused by human activities, such as burning coal, oil and natural gas. This releases carbon dioxide, methane, and other greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases form a blanket around the Earth, trapping heat and raising temperatures on the ground. This is steadily changing our climate.

More Facts:

+ Changes in the climate are partially due to natural forces and partially **due to human activities**. Scientists now believe that most of the planet's warming in the last few decades has been **due to our emissions of greenhouse gasses**.

+ The U.S. is responsible for the highest amount of the cumulative CO₂ emissions (about 30%) and continues to generate the highest amount of annual greenhouse gas emissions (about 20%). However, China is expected to overtake the U.S. in annual emissions by the end of this decade.

+ "Runaway greenhouse effect" is massive overheating of a planet caused by a high atmospheric concentration of greenhouse gases. Such an effect operates on Venus and is responsible for the surface temperature on this planet being several times higher than would otherwise be expected given its distance from the Sun..

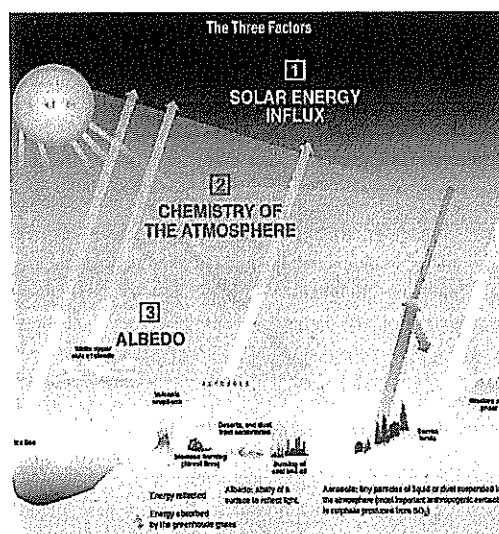
+ The World Health Organization (WHO) blames 150 000 global deaths per year on the

Some of the Present and Possible Future Effects of Global Warming:

- + Rising sea levels
- + **Glacier retreats**
- + **Precipitation increase**
- + Ecosystems will change
- + Stronger extreme weather events (hurricanes and other storms)
- + Floods and droughts more common
- + Expansion of tropical diseases (eg. malaria)
- + Destabilization of local climates
- + Economic impact

effects of global warming, including extreme weather, drought, heat waves, decreased food production, and the increased spread of vector-borne diseases like malaria.

+ It takes 100 years for carbon dioxide to disperse! This means even if carbon dioxide emissions ceased immediately, past actions would still affect the planet for decades to come.



+ Scientists believe global warming is putting polar bears at extreme risk of **extinction**. Early melting of Arctic ice means a shorter hunting season for the bears, which leads to lower fat reserves, lower birth rates, and decreased milk production by mothers.

+ Ice-covered surface reflect more solar energy than ice-free surface and therefore have a global cooling effect. As ice-covered surface are reduced, global warming will accelerate because more heat will be absorbed.

+ Rising temperature allow mosquitoes to survive at higher **altitudes**, potentially bringing them to regions that lack population immunity. In addition, the transmission period for vector-borne diseases is increased with expanded warm seasons.

+ Insurance companies can expect to pay out more in disaster claims. The fishing industry will suffer from depleted fish stocks. Some wine regions will no longer be able to sustain grape crops.

GLOBAL WARMING QUIZ

Check Your Global Warming Wisdom

Global warming is a complex issue that involves many different environmental factors.

Are you still ignorant of the facts about global warming or are you among the informed ones? Think now you know the ins and outs of global climate change? Take this quiz and find out.

1. Global warming is caused only by natural factors.

- True
 False

2. Which country currently emits the most greenhouse gases?

- India
 China
 The United Kingdom
 The United States

3. Which planet's poisonous atmosphere has been described as the product of a "runaway greenhouse effect"?

- Mars
 Jupiter
 Earth
 Venus

4. How many deaths per year does the World Health Organization **attribute** to climate change?

- 150 000
 1 500 000
 1500
 10 500

5. How long does it take for carbon dioxide in the atmosphere to disperse?

- 1 year
 10 years
 50 years
 100 years

6. Which animals do scientists currently consider to be at highest risk of **extinction** due to global warming?

- Toucans
 Tropical frogs
 Polar bears
 Rabbits

7. Global warming is accelerated by the reduction of global snow and ice cover.

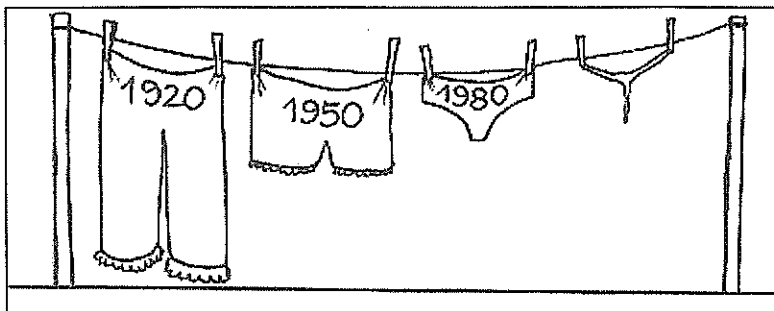
- True
 False

8. A rise in global temperature is expected to increase instances of malaria.

- True
 False

9. Which of the following industries could be negatively affected by global warming?

- Insurance
 Commercial fishing
 Wine making
 All the above



Results: 1b, 2d, 3d, 4a, 5d, 6c, 7a, 8a, 9d

From the News

The former US vice-president Al Gore won the 2007 Nobel Peace Prize (together with the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change - IPCC) for warning the world about the dangers of global warming, and leading the campaign to persuade governments and individuals to reduce their reliance on fossil fuels.

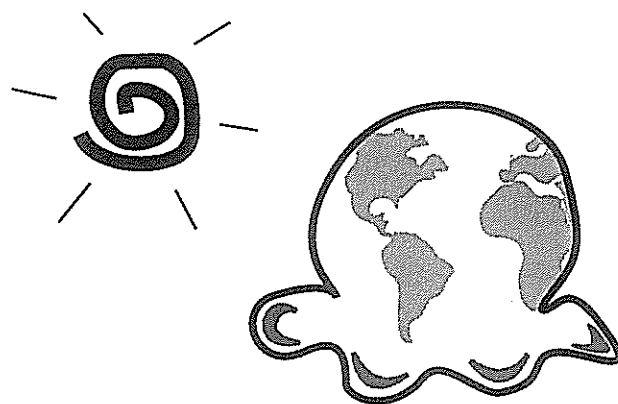
Mr. Gore is best known for presenting An Inconvenient Truth, the 2006 documentary laying out the risks of global warming.

In an interview with "Hospodářské noviny," a Czech economics daily, Vaclav Klaus made the following observations (emphasis mine throughout):

"Global warming is a false myth and every serious person and scientist says so. It is not fair to refer to the U.N. panel. IPCC is not a scientific institution: it's a political body, a sort of non-government organization of green flavour. It's neither a forum of neutral scientists nor a balanced group of scientists. These people are politicized scientists who arrive there with a one-sided opinion and a one-sided assignment."

Here is what Tony Blair says:

"Global warming is too serious for the world any longer to ignore its danger or split into opposing factions on it."



Discussion

+ Can you express your own opinion on this issue?

+ Form two groups in the class:

- Al Gore's group will support an opinion that global warming is a real problem, Vaclav Klaus' group will argue against it. Both groups must take some time to prepare the arguments.

- Choose a "main speaker" for each group. He/she will have the last word but everyone must have a chance to contribute to a discussion. You can take turns.

- Choose a coordinator of your discussion (the best would be your teacher). You can do the same in pairs.

HYMAN KAPLAN'S LANGUAGE CORNER

Even after they had learnt English, they continued to communicate with each other in their secret language, which was partly a mixture of distorted English and the Czech that was their native tongue, but which also contained some inexplicable vocabulary items.

*Neither we want our English to be described in this way nor to speak as Hyman Kaplan (You haven't met him yet? Get Leo Rosten's H*Y*M*A*N K*A*P*L*A*N. You'll love him!). Therefore we will here learn some vocabulary and practice some grammar.*

Vocabulary	Exaggerate	-	do something to an excessive degree
	Trap	-	catch
	Glacier	-	ice mass
	Retreat	-	move away
	Precipitation	-	the falling to earth of rain or snow or hail
	Due to	-	because of
	Runaway	-	out of control
	Cease	-	stop, come to an end
	Extinction	-	no longer in existence, death
	Altitude	-	height above sea level
	To be ignorant of st	-	lacking general education or knowledge
	Ins and outs	-	all details
Reliance	-	dependence	

Phrases

- + In my/our opinion...
- + I'd/we'd just like to point out that...
- + As I/we see it...
- + First of all...
- + I/we think that...

Agreement

- + Exactly.
- + That's a good point.
- + That's just what I was thinking.
- + I quite agree.

- + Sorry, I don't see what you mean.
- + That's not exactly what I mean.
- + Let me put it another way.
- + Let me try again...

Disagreement

- + Yes, that's quite true, but...
- + I'm not sure if I can agree...
- + Well, you have a point there, but...
- + Maybe, but don't you think that...?

Exercices: Phrasal verb "Cut down"

Read carefully:

- + Even if you've smoked all your life, it's never too late to **cut down** or stop.
- + I've spent far too much money this month - I really must **cut down**.
- + If you want to reduce your personal contribution to global warming, try **cutting down** on electricity use around your home.

Use two of the words bellow to complete this meaning of cut down:

more less change improve

To eat, drink or use _____ of something, usually to _____ your health or your situation.

Results: less, improve

Which of these are grammatically possible?

- I cut down.
- I cut down unhealthy food.
- I cut down on unhealthy food.

Results: a.c

Ressours:

- <http://www.pca.state.mn.us>
- <http://green.nationalgeographic.com>
- <http://www.timesonline.co.uk>
- <http://newsbusters.org>
- <http://www.abcprague.com>

Really learn 100 phrasal verbs (Oxford University Press)

written by: Manika Kopackova

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