



EARTH DAY



Scan to review worksheet

Expemo code:
1D4P-S25B-Q8LP



1

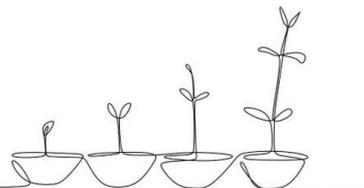
Warm up

Which of the following things have you done to help the environment?

- use a recycled shopping bag
- recycle your mobile phone
- reduce your consumption of meat (or go without)
- not let the water run when you brush your teeth
- turn off your computer and other devices at night
- shorten your shower
- turn your waste food into compost
- avoid using single-use plastic

Answer these questions:

1. If there are any you have not done, why is that?
2. What other everyday actions could you take which benefit the environment?
3. How easy is it to live in an environmentally-friendly way in your country?





2

Focus on definition

Look at the following sentences and choose the option (a-c) which best explains the word in bold.

1. The president plans to host a **summit** in the summer.
 - a. celebration
 - b. important meeting
 - c. special ceremony

2. Greatly reducing emissions is **vital** in the fight for the climate.
 - a. quite useful
 - b. almost impossible
 - c. extremely important

3. The environmental lawyers explained why she **withdrew from** the agreement.
 - a. pulled out of
 - b. entered into
 - c. participated in

4. The government said it would introduce a carbon tax but then **reversed** their decision the next day.
 - a. altered
 - b. went back on
 - c. applied

5. The new laws were created to help the country **tackle** climate change.
 - a. fight
 - b. beat
 - c. reduce

6. Their company provides services for **sustainable** farming.
 - a. organic
 - b. balanced
 - c. natural

Now answer these questions.

1. Have you ever attended a **summit**?
2. What is **vital** to your life?
3. Has there been a situation where you **withdrew from** an agreement? What was it?
4. Have you ever **reversed** a decision? What was it?
5. What does your country do to **tackle** climate change?
6. Is your lifestyle **sustainable**? Why/Why not?

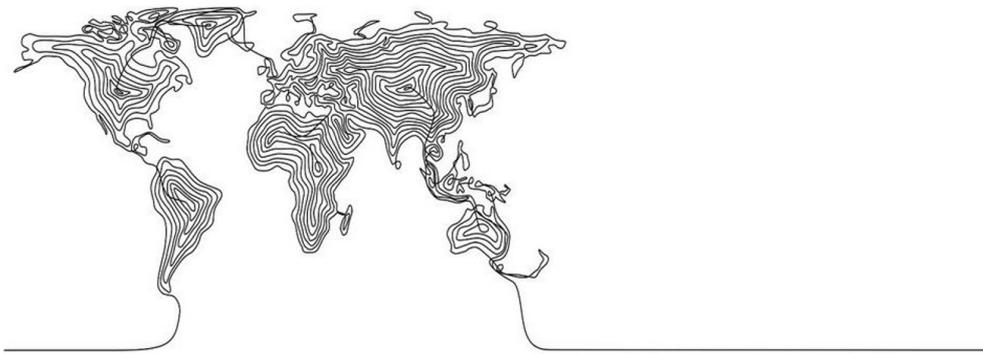


3 Listening for details

Listen to the recording and decide what the following numbers are connected to.



1. 193
2. 191
3. 2
4. 20th



4 Comprehension

Now listen again and decide if the following statements are True or False.

1. The Earth Day summit will take place in the United States.
2. The only countries invited to the summit are the 8 largest nations.
3. The Paris agreement was signed on 22nd April 2016.
4. President Trump's administration decided against the agreement and left it in 2019.
5. President Biden made the decision to join the Paris Agreement again in January 2021.
6. Before President Biden, the international community had stopped seeing the United States as a country that was leading the fight against climate change, according to the report.
7. Greta Thunberg will speak at the Earth Day summit hosted by the Biden Administration.
8. One of the topics discussed at the Global Youth summit will be the creation of environmentally-friendly jobs.



5

Focus on vocabulary**Part A: Match the words to the correct definitions.**

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 1. pesticide (n) | a. a chemical substance which kills insects that eat certain plants |
| 2. boom (v) | b. a law or a group of laws |
| 3. contaminate (v) | c. a strong criticism of something |
| 4. phase out (phr. v) | d. in a way that expresses a large amount |
| 5. seep (v) | e. to make something dirty or less pure by adding something to it |
| 6. condemnation (n) | f. to quickly increase in size, usually used with businesses |
| 7. legislation (n) | g. to slowly stop using something over a period of time |
| 8. substantially (adv.) | h. to spread very slowly through something, usually used with liquids |

Part B: Now use one of the words from Part A in the correct gap in the following sentences.

1. The plan is to _____ single-use plastics entirely by 2030.
2. The new _____ being discussed in Parliament today is designed to protect rivers and streams from industrial pollution.
3. The company received strong _____ from protesters objecting to their treatment of wildlife and animals in the area.
4. There's a great amount of concern that polluted water from the nearby industrial area will _____ into local rivers, killing fish and birds.
5. The food from that farm is organic and _____ -free. It's also delicious, and I don't mind paying a little more for it.
6. People didn't use to be interested in supporting sustainable farming, but now business is _____.
7. The organisers have _____ increased attendance at Earth Day events over the last few years.
8. The oil-drilling operation some 8 miles off shore is thought to _____ the local shoreline. Environmental inspectors are currently investigating.



Now answer the following questions.

1. At what point in history was business **booming** in your country?
2. Which famous people that you know of have received **condemnation** for their actions? Why? What did they do?
3. What new **legislation** has been introduced in your country in the last 20 years?
4. In what ways has life in your country **substantially** changed compared to 20 years ago?
5. What industries in your country **contaminate** the environment?
6. What bad habits do you have that you would like to **phase out** in the future?

6 Rephrasing

Find words or phrases in the text which can be replaced with the following.

1. damaging (Paragraph 1) _____
2. with a connection to (Paragraph 1) _____
3. astonishing (Paragraph 1) _____
4. polluting (Paragraph 1) _____
5. expressed (Paragraph 2) _____
6. encouraged (Paragraph 2) _____
7. terrible (Paragraph 3) _____
8. positive aspect (Paragraph 4) _____

7 Reading for general understanding

Quickly read the text on the next page and decide which paragraphs match the following titles. One is not used.

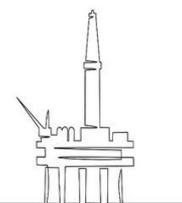
- | | |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Positivity from pollution | a. not used |
| 2. The birth of the environmental movement | b. paragraph 1 |
| 3. The life of Senator Nelson | c. paragraph 2 |
| 4. Raising the alarm | d. paragraph 3 |
| 5. Environmental disaster | e. paragraph 4 |



How Earth Day started

From silent to active

- In September 1962, *Silent Spring* was published, an Environmental Science book written by Rachel Carson, a marine biologist and conservationist. In the book, Carson argued that humans were having a detrimental effect on the environment, particularly in relation to the use of **pesticides** to control insect populations, which she linked to cancer. Today, these claims do not sound unusual, but at the time, the United States was still **booming**; its industry, and therefore its pollution, was growing at an astounding rate. There were no consequences for companies **contaminating** the air and the water, with few people aware that the gases and liquids infecting their surroundings were of any concern.
- Silent Spring* gave voice to these concerns for the first time. Carson herself died of cancer-related illness just two years after her book's publication, but she had already started the modern environmental movement. In 1967, the *Environmental Defense Fund (EDF)* was created to "establish a citizen's right to a clean environment". The EDF successfully took the government to court which, amongst other things, **phased out** the use of certain pesticides. Their research and arguments were inspired by Carson's work.
- Disaster struck in January of 1969 as an oil-drilling platform off the coast of California's Santa Barbara caused an oil spill, the biggest in the United States at the time. The oil **seeped** across the beaches and shoreline along the California coast, all the way down to the Mexican border. Well over 3,500 birds as well as thousands of other species, including sea lions and elephant seals, were killed, with the incident attracting widespread media attention and public **condemnation**. As atrocious as the disaster was, it did very clearly demonstrate the problems caused by industry, just as Carson had illustrated all those years before.
- The silver lining to these events was increased amounts of **legislation** being passed to protect the environment. President Richard Nixon's administration created the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in 1970 and took steps which resulted in the National Environmental Policy Act and the Clean Water Act being brought into law. The then-Senator of Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, was affected by the events and went on to organise the first Earth Day, which also took place in 1970. Over 20 million people were involved that year in helping to educate and inform the public about the environment and what they can do to help. Since then, over the last half-century, it has gained **substantially** in popularity. Yet there is still more to do. Over time, people are beginning to understand that, by saving the planet, we are really saving ourselves.





8 Comprehension

Read the text carefully and fill the gaps in the sentences with no more than three words from the text.

1. Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* was an early work on the topic of _____ .
2. One of her arguments against the use of chemicals on crops was that they were _____ .
3. At the time of *Silent Spring*'s publication, companies suffered _____ for polluting the environment.
4. Rachel Carson's work encouraged the _____ used by the EDF.
5. The pollution caused by the oil spill in 1969 extended from Santa Monica to _____ .
6. The Santa Barbara disaster received _____ and did a lot to increase public awareness of the threat to the environment from the industry.
7. One of the results of this popular focus on the environment was the creation of the _____ by the Nixon administration in 1970.
8. Since the first Earth Day, it has become clear to many that _____ is really about self-preservation.

9 Extended exercise/homework

Write a 250-word essay discussing the following statement.

Corporations and the government have, over the years, placed the responsibility for the environment squarely on the shoulders of the individual, while quietly avoiding their own responsibilities. This imbalance must be corrected.

To what extent do you agree or disagree?

	Plan
introduction	What is the main idea of your essay?
first paragraph	What is the main idea of your first paragraph?
second paragraph	What is the main idea of your second paragraph?
third paragraph	What is the main idea of your third paragraph?
conclusion	What main points do you want the reader to remember?
check	Grammar, punctuation, spelling



Transcripts

3. Listening for details

Newsreader: ... and finally, Earth Day, celebrated in 193 countries around the world on April 22nd every year, will see President Biden's administration host a summit of world leaders aimed at focusing international attention on the climate crisis. Due to the pandemic, the entire meeting will take place online.

Newsreader: The US has invited leaders from China, Russia and European countries - as well as leaders from smaller nations, such as the Marshall Islands and Bhutan. The effects of climate change are already being felt in many of the island nations around the globe, and so having their views and experience is seen as vital to push for change.

Newsreader: The Paris Agreement, signed on Earth Day in 2016, joined 191 members in an effort to keep the global rise in temperature to well below 2 degrees centigrade. In 2020, under the former President Trump's administration, the United States withdrew from the agreement.

Newsreader: President Biden reversed the move within hours of being sworn in as President in January, with the United States officially rejoining on 19th February 2021. The Earth Day summit is widely seen as the Biden Administration's push to return to its position as a leader in international efforts to tackle climate change.

Newsreader: In addition, April 20th will see the beginning of three days of climate action. This will include a global youth summit, where scientists - and activists, such as Greta Thunberg, will speak. Issues, including creating green jobs, environmental justice and sustainable farming, will be addressed, resulting in a list of demands being sent to the Biden Administration's climate summit at the end.



Key

1. Warm up

5 mins.

Ask the students to complete the checklist and then discuss their answers as well as the questions below. Ask them to consider the reasons for their choices in a way that isn't accusatory, but reflective. Point out that the majority of people could do more for the environment than they do, but ask them to consider why they do what they do, or why they don't.

Ensure they know that "compost" is decaying matter which is used to help plants grow. Or ask them to look it up if they don't know.

2. Focus on definition

10 mins.

Ask the students to see if they can complete the questions without help in the first instance, but allow them to check their work with a dictionary or the Internet if required. Ensure students can pronounce the target vocabulary correctly. When they have completed the questions and have the answers, ask them to discuss the questions. Circulate and help as required.

1. b 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. a 6. b

3. Listening for details

5 mins.

Play the recording and ask the students to listen for these numbers. You may want to allow them to confer with each other before confirming the answers. Higher level groups may be able to do this at the same time as the comprehension exercise.

1. The number of countries where Earth Day is celebrated
2. The number of members in the Paris Agreement
3. The limit of the global temperature increase in degrees centigrade aimed for by the Paris agreement
4. The day in April when three days of climate activism will begin

4. Comprehension

10 mins.

Ask students to read through the questions ahead of listening to check they understand them. Help as needed. Ask students to take notes as they listen. Lower-level students may require repeated listenings.

You may want to check that students know who Greta Thunberg is. You may want to extend this section slightly by asking them to find out who she is.

1. False. "... the entire meeting will take place online."
2. False. "... as well as leaders from smaller nations, such as the Marshall Islands and Bhutan."
3. True. "The Paris Agreement, signed on Earth Day in 2016."
4. False. "In 2020, under the former President Trump's administration, the United States withdrew from the agreement."
5. True. "President Biden reversed the move within hours of being sworn in as President in January ..."



6. True. "The Earth Day summit is widely seen as the Biden Administration's push to return to its position as a leader in international efforts to tackle climate change."
7. False. "This will include a Global Youth Summit, where scientists and activists, such as Greta Thunberg, will speak."
8. True. "Issues, including creating green jobs ... will be addressed"

5. Focus on vocabulary

Part A:

5 mins.

Ask students to write the vocabulary next to the correct definitions. Ensure they know how to pronounce all of the target vocabulary. Ask students to use dictionaries or the Internet if they require them.

1. a 2. f 3. e 4. g 5. h 6. c 7. b 8. d

Part B:

10 mins.

Ask students to complete the gaps. You may want to ask them to identify what part of speech could fill the gaps ahead of completing the exercise. When they have finished, ask them to discuss the questions. Circulate and help as needed.

- | | | | |
|--------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| 1. phase out | 2. legislation | 3. condemnation | 4. seep |
| 5. pesticide | 6. booming | 7. substantially | 8. contaminate |

6. Rephrasing

5 mins.

Ask students to scan the text for the target words. You may want to pair weaker students with stronger students.

Please note the following - Qu. 2 'linked to' has the same meaning as 'with a connection to' but does not fit here.

Qu. 4 infecting and contamination are synonyms and therefore both could be used.

- | | | | |
|------------------|-------------------|---------------|----------------------------|
| 1. detrimental | 2. in relation to | 3. astounding | 4. infecting/contaminating |
| 5. gave voice to | 6. inspired | 7. atrocious | 8. silver lining |

7. Reading for general understanding

5 mins.

Set a time limit for this to encourage skimming rather than deep reading.

1. e 2. c 3. a 4. b 5. d

8. Comprehension

10 mins.

Ask the students to complete the gaps with one, two or three words from the text.

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---|
| 1. Environmental Science | 2. linked to cancer |
| 3. no consequences | 4. research and arguments |
| 5. the Mexican Border | 6. (widespread) media attention/public condemnation |
| 7. Environmental Protection Agency | 8. saving the planet |



9. Extended exercise/homework

15 mins +.

Ask students to plan and write their response to the question. Ask them to ensure they check their grammar and spelling ahead of submitting their work. You could ask students to complete this in small groups or pairs in class, ensuring that each member has specific responsibilities. Ensure you provide constructive feedback to the students on their work.