

# Greta Thunberg

In August 2018, a 15-year old in Sweden started a school strike to raise awareness of climate change. Sitting down alone outside the Swedish parliament building in Stockholm, Greta Thunberg had no idea just how influential she was about to become.

Her parents tried to discourage her, her classmates would not join her. Still, Greta sat with a hand-painted banner reading 'School Strike for Climate' and eventually, people began to take notice. Her message was simple: She wanted world leaders to do more to help the environment.

She chose to miss classes every Friday and asked other young people around the world to do the same. With the help of social media, her simple protest became a massive campaign called 'Fridays for Future'. Millions of students in countries across the planet began to join her.

Since her message began to spread, Greta has had a meteoric rise to fame:

- In March 2019, she was nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize
- She joined with the Extinction Rebellion campaign in London, encouraging protesters to continue their fight to stop climate change.
- In May 2019, she was named as one of the world's most influential people by Time magazine.
- In August 2019, she sailed to the US on a two-week boat journey to take part in climate summits.

Greta has Asperger syndrome, a form of autism, which she describes as her super-power. Now, presidents and executives cherish her advice. This brave teenager from Scandinavia is taking on the world – and the world is beginning to listen.



## Questions

1) Why did Greta Thunberg start a school strike?

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2) What was written on her hand-painted banner?

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3) When does she choose to miss classes?

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4) How do you think social media has helped her campaign?

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5) Why do you think she didn't travel to the US by plane?

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6) What learning barrier does Greta describe as her super-power?

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# Climate Change



## What is Climate Change?

Climate Change is the term used to describe the rising average temperatures on Earth. It is also called Global Warming. Even small changes in the planet's temperature can have a devastating effect on the environment. Over the last century, the global temperature has risen to levels that make scientists concerned about the future of the planet. That temperature continues to rise.

## What causes climate change?

The causes of climate change are varied, but it is generally accepted that humans are making the problem worse. Over the last hundred years, humans have released more and more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. Every car journey, plane trip, and use of electricity in our homes creates carbon dioxide. These gases become trapped above the earth, creating a giant layer of insulation. This means the warmth from the sun is kept in. Consequently, the world gets warmer and warmer.

## What can be done?

If all humans reduced the amount of carbon they produced, it would help to slow down global warming. This can be done by finding alternatives to using air travel; eating less meat; using electricity that doesn't involve burning coal, such as wind or solar power; and using cars less. It is also important that we protect large areas of forest, because trees absorb carbon, which stops it all escaping into the atmosphere.

## Questions

1) What is another term for climate change?

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2) Name three things that create carbon dioxide?

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3) How can global warming be slowed down?

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4) What types of electricity do not involve burning coal?

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5) Why must large areas of forest be protected?

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## Setting a bad example...

Maria jumped in her car and drove two hundred yards to the store. Leaving the engine running, she entered the store, bought some steak and drove home. The lights were on in all of the windows even though she lived alone. She opened the door, took off her sweatshirt and decided she was cold, so she put the heating on. Soon, the apartment was so hot that she had to open all of the windows. For dinner, she prepared the huge beef steak, but only ate a quarter of it because she was so full. She put it in the trash.

## What could Maria have done differently?

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# Greta Thunberg

## Answers

- 1) Why did Greta Thunberg start a school strike?  
*To raise awareness of climate change*
- 2) What was written on her hand-painted banner?  
*'School Strike for Climate'*
- 3) When does she choose to miss classes?  
*Every Friday*
- 4) How do you think social media has helped her campaign?  
*Provide marks for answers that refer to the message being able to be shared quickly and across the whole world; and any other relevant answers.*
- 5) Why do you think she didn't travel to the US by plane?  
*Provide marks for answers that acknowledge that planes are harmful to the environment.*
- 6) What learning barrier does Greta describe as her super-power?  
*Asperger Syndrome*

# Climate Change

## Answers

- 1) What is another term for climate change?  
*Global Warming*
  - 2) Name three things that create carbon dioxide?  
*Car journeys, Plane trips, use of electricity.*
  - 3) How can global warming be slowed down?  
*If all humans reduce the amount of carbon they produce.*
  - 4) What types of electricity do not involve burning coal?  
*Wind and solar power.*
  - 5) Why must large areas of forest be protected?  
*Trees absorb carbon, which stops it escaping into the atmosphere.*
- What could Maria have done differently?*  
*Maria could have walked to the store; bought a non-meat meal; turned the engine off when in the store; turned the lights off at home; put her sweater back on instead of the heating; put the rest of the meat in the fridge for another day.*

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