

Greta Thunberg and George Monbiot on the climate crisis

In this video, climate activists Greta Thunberg and George Monbiot tell us how we should use nature to tackle the climate crisis.

Tasks

Do the preparation task first. Then watch the video and do the exercises. You can also read the transcript.

Preparation task

Match the definitions (a–h) with the vocabulary (1–8).

Vocabulary

1. carbon
2. a subsidy
3. a drill
4. a fossil fuel
5. an ecosystem
6. extinct
7. to restore
8. to fund

Definition

- a. practice for what you should do in an emergency
- b. a fuel such as coal, oil, or natural gas (formed from the remains of dead plants and animals)
- c. a chemical element found in coal, oil and living things
- d. money paid by a government to keep the price of certain products low
- e. a type of animal or plant not existing any more
- f. to return something or someone to its original state
- g. to pay for
- h. the plants, animals, climate, etc. in an area and how they are linked

Task 1

Write a number (1–8) to put the ideas in the order that they are mentioned in the video.

_____ Natural climate solutions can help to fix the climate crisis.

_____ We need to fund things that help nature, not things that destroy it.

_____ Trees take carbon out of the air and lock it away.

_____ We need to stop burning fossil fuels.

_____ We need to restore our planet by helping ecosystems to regenerate.

_____ More money is spent on fossil fuels than on natural climate solutions.

_____ We need to protect nature.

_____ We are destroying nature faster than ever.

Task 2

Put the words in order to make sentences.

1. down. climate breaking Our is
2. are giving up Children like me to protest. their education
3. climate A tree is a natural an example of solution.
4. than on one thousand times more on global fossil fuel subsidies We spend natural-based solutions.
5. are going 200 species day. extinct every single Up to
6. ice the Arctic Much of gone. is
7. down. forests cut are being Tropical
8. fighting for there are nature. amazing movements All around the world

Discussion

Do you agree with Greta and George that natural climate solutions are needed? What can you do to make a difference?

Transcript

This is not a drill.

My name is Greta Thunberg. We are living in the beginning of a mass extinction. Our climate is breaking down. Children like me are giving up their education to protest. But we can still fix this. You can still fix this. To survive, we need to stop burning fossil fuels, but this alone will not be enough. Lots of solutions are talked about, but what about a solution that is right in front of us? I'll let my friend George explain.

There is a magic machine that sucks carbon out of the air, costs very little and builds itself. It's called ... a tree. A tree is an example of a natural climate solution. Mangroves, peat bogs, jungles, marshes, sea beds, kelp forests, swamps, coral reefs, they take carbon out of the air and lock it away. Nature is a tool we can use to repair our broken climate. These natural climate solutions could make a massive difference.

Pretty cool, right?

But only if we also leave fossil fuels in the ground.

Here's the crazy part ... right now we are ignoring them. We spend one thousand times more on global fossil fuel subsidies than on natural-based solutions.

Natural climate solutions get just two per cent of all the money used on tackling climate breakdown.

This is your money, it is your taxes and your savings.

Even more crazy, right now where we need nature the most, we're destroying it faster than ever.

Up to 200 species are going extinct every single day.

Much of the Arctic ice is gone. Most of our wild animals have gone. Much of our soil has gone. So what should we do?

What should you do?

It's simple ... we need to protect, restore and fund.

Protect. Tropical forests are being cut down at the rate of 30 football pitches a minute.

Where nature is doing something vital, we must protect it.

Restore. Much of our planet has been damaged.

But nature can regenerate and we can help ecosystems bounce back.

Fund.

We need to stop funding things that destroy nature and pay for things that help it.

It is that simple. Protect, restore, fund.

This can happen everywhere. Many people have already begun using natural climate solutions. We need to do it on a massive scale.

You can be part of this.

Vote for people who defend nature.

Share this video. Talk about this.

All around the world there are amazing movements fighting for nature. Join them!

Everything counts. What you do counts.

Answers

Preparation task

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

Task 1

1. We need to stop burning fossil fuels.
2. Trees take carbon out of the air and lock it away.
3. Natural climate solutions can help to fix the climate crisis.
4. More money is spent on fossil fuels than on natural climate solutions.
5. We are destroying nature faster than ever.
6. We need to protect nature.
7. We need to restore our planet by helping ecosystems to regenerate.
8. We need to fund things that help nature, not things that destroy it.

Task 2

1. Our climate is breaking down.
2. Children like me are giving up their education to protest.
3. A tree is an example of a natural climate solution.
4. We spend one thousand times more on global fossil fuel subsidies than on natural-based solutions.
5. Up to 200 species are going extinct every single day.
6. Much of the Arctic ice is gone.
7. Tropical forests are being cut down.
8. All around the world there are amazing movements fighting for nature.