


ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 1

 Listen and fill in the blanks.

Scientists are making cows and sheep scapegoats _____ global warming. There are new reports that methane gas produced from the animals burping and flatulence _____ to the environment than four-wheel-drive cars. Experts claim cows are responsible for about three per cent of Britain's greenhouse gases. Michael Abberton of the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research said the average cow or _____ 100 to 200 litres of methane each day, a lot more damaging than the carbon _____. Methane emissions from cattle account for a quarter of the gas in our air. In Britain, cows and sheep _____ of methane - a gas that is 23 times more harmful than carbon dioxide _____ global warming.

The _____ burping and farting in cows and sheep. If scientists can achieve this, it could help Britain _____ under the Kyoto agreement. Researchers are trying to find a new way to feed cattle and sheep which _____ produced. The key seems to be in developing new types of food that are easier for farm animals to digest. Scientists in Wales believe



putting garlic in their food _____ on global warming by cutting the amount of gas produced by up to 50 per cent. Project leader Professor Jamie Newbold said: "Garlic directly attacks the organisms _____ methane." He is conducting tests to see if the garlic gives _____ or, more specifically, if it lead to garlic flavoured milk and meat.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. flatulence
2. hazardous
3. commitments
4. impact
5. gut

Discussions

1. Do you think the world's animals pose a threat to our environment?
2. Do you think scientists will win the race to reduce the methane?
3. If Britain reduces levels of cow and sheep emissions, do you think it can relax on cutting down on industrial pollution?
4. What action do you think governments should take to reduce the levels of burping and flatulence in cows and sheep?
5. What other ways do animals harm the environment?
6. Do you think bodily gases from people also need reducing?
7. Do you think we could use the methane from cows and sheep to solve some energy problems?
8. Should there be ads to make people aware of this problem?
9. Would you drink garlic flavored milk if it helped protect the environment?
10. Would you change your diet if it helped protect the environment?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 2

 Listen and fill in the blanks.

A new report from the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) _____ how fish populations are in serious danger from global warming. The report “Are we putting our fish in hot water?” describes how _____ change is increasing the water temperature in rivers, lakes and seas. This means there is less food and oxygen available for fish. It also means the fish may not grow _____ and may have _____ offspring. Some fish cannot reproduce if winter temperatures are not cold enough. Warmer water means fish could _____ migrate to cooler areas. Some species will become extinct if temperatures _____ even by one or two degrees.



WWF director Andrew Lee said climate change increases the _____ on fish populations that are already being cut by over-fishing. He said: We must act _____ to reduce both carbon dioxide emissions and fishing...to _____ fish populations.” He added fish “are one of the world’s most valuable biological, nutritional and economic _____.” Forty percent of people in the world rely on fish for their _____ source

of protein. Dr. Richard Dixon of WWF Scotland said: “If we fail to _____ deeper reductions in greenhouse gas emissions we will increase the pressures on fish and the billions of people that _____ on them.”

Vocabulary


Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. offspring
2. migrate
3. extinct
4. depend
5. assets

Discussions

1. What do you think about what you read?
2. What do you think about fish being in danger of extinction?
3. Is it just fish that are in hot water because of climate change?
4. Are you interested in new reports on climate change?
5. Do you think we still have time to save the fish populations?
6. How bad would it be if all salmon disappeared from the world?
7. What would it mean for the economy of your country if some fish species became extinct?
8. Do you think governments are more worried about losing votes from the fishing industry than losing the fish populations?
9. Which do you think is more important, the car industry or the survival of catfish and salmon?
10. What would happen if a few fish species became extinct?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 3

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

London may soon _____ shoppers in the city and helping the environment by banning the use of the ubiquitous plastic shopping bag. _____ Londoners and tourists use 1.6 billion plastic bags each year, many of which are thrown _____. Shoppers may soon have to buy reusable bags in an attempt to reduce the strain on landfill sites, where the bags take 400 _____. Local authorities have asked the British government to ban retailers from giving away free plastic bags. A spokesman said _____ bags and pass the money raised on to environmental projects. “As a society, we need to do far more to _____ waste we are sending to landfill and London as a city is determined to take an ambitious lead on this issue,” he said.

Retailers _____ idea and have promised to fight the government to stop the ban from going ahead. The British Retail Consortium said there was _____ would simply cause inconvenience to shoppers. A spokesman told reporters: “We think it’s excessive and misguided [because] _____ committed to reducing the environmental impact of bags by 25 per cent by the end



of next year.” He _____ affect sales, saying: “If somebody is going to go into a supermarket or convenience store, _____ practical terms, unless they have brought a bag with them, how they will be able to buy more than a few items.” _____ 92 percent of Londoners supported a total ban on plastic bags or a tax on them.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. habits
2. estimates
3. strain
4. excessive
5. impact

Discussions

1. What are your feelings after reading the article?
2. Are there too many plastic bags in your country?
3. Does your country have any campaigns to recycle plastic?
4. Do you think shops need to give plastic (or any) bags to customers?
5. Do you think our throwaway society has gone too far?
6. Do you think retailers are right to be up in arms over this issue?
7. Would people really buy less if there were no free plastic bags?
8. Do you think no free plastic bags would inconvenience shoppers?
9. What do you think of the idea of selling reusable bags and giving the money to environmental projects?
10. Could you easily live without bags?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 4

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

Scientists have found that taking a shower _____ for you. New research from the University of Colorado has found there can be _____ harmful bacteria in showerheads. Researchers said the very first jets of water from the shower are the most dangerous. The shower acts like an aerosol, spraying the _____. This means having a daily shower may _____ we think. Scientists tested 50 different showers across nine US cities. They discovered that a third of these had _____ bacteria that can cause lung damage. Researcher Laura Baumgartner advised: “For most people, the answer is simple. Don’t stand in front of the shower _____ comes out.”

The research _____ project that is looking at our daily environment. In particular, the research team is looking _____ of water and air in schools, homes and public buildings. Research into the bathroom environment _____. Ms. Baumgartner said showers were more dangerous than baths because _____ sprays. Showerheads are



much harder to clean than baths because they are enclosed. Furthermore, it _____ inhale the bacteria into our lungs because of the steam in the shower. Baumgartner did say we should _____ about her discovery: “I take showers every day, and I’m not at all worried,” she said.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. found
2. hygienic
3. inhale
4. results
5. wider

Discussions

1. Do you prefer showers or baths?
2. What do you think of the findings in this article?
3. Will this article make you shower differently?
4. What other dangers do you think there might be in showering?
5. Taking a shower too often washes away the skin's necessary oils? Do you think this is bad for us?
6. Do you prefer to take a shower in the morning or evening? Why?
7. What do you think the microbiology of your kitchen and bathroom is like?
8. Will you now go home and clean the inside of your shower-head? Why?
9. What would life be like without baths and showers?
10. Do you think there are too many studies that tell us what is bad for us?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 5

 Listen and fill in the blanks.

Road pollution _____ to children's health. That's the worrying conclusion of the longest and largest study* ever undertaken into the effects of traffic fumes on _____. Researchers from the University of Southern California spent 13 years studying children who lived within 500 meters of busy highways. They found _____ 3,600 children in the study had significantly weakened lungs. Researchers said this meant the children could have breathing problems for the _____. The main author of the study W. James Gauderman said: "Someone suffering a pollution-related deficit in lung function as a child will probably have less than healthy lungs all of _____." He added: "If you live in a high-pollution area and live near a busy road, you get _____ damage."

Gauderman and his team _____ on youngsters who lived near busy roads. Once a year, the team measured the children's lung power. It checked how much air the children could release in _____ how quickly it could be released. The team found that by their 18th birthday, children who _____ of a highway exhaled three per cent less air compared with children who lived one-and-a-half kilometers away. Further, the highway children's



lung power was seven per cent _____ rate at which they could exhale. Gauderman said that: "Even if you are in a relatively low regional pollution area, living near a road produces lung problems." About a _____ moved away from busy roads during the study but stayed near the same community. Their _____ healthily.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. fumes
2. deficit
3. exhale
4. further
5. pollution

Discussions

1. What do you think of road pollution?
2. When do you think roads will become less polluted?
3. Do you live or have you lived near a busy road?
4. Is there a lot of road pollution near where you live?
5. Have you ever suffered any form of lung complaint?
6. What is the worst pollution you have encountered?
7. Do you think children with lung damage should sue their government for damages?
8. Are drivers criminals if they use busy roads and know they are polluting children's lungs?
9. What is your government doing to tackle road pollution?
10. Should vehicles with high emissions be banned from the roads?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 6

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

A United Nations committee on climate change _____ control global warming. The panel, made up of representatives from over 120 countries, believes _____ harm greenhouse gases do to the atmosphere. Its report concluded the picture of Armageddon painted by many scientists _____ use technology and have the right strategies to protect the ozone layer. Rajendra Pachauri, chairman of the panel, told reporters in Bangkok _____ a “remarkable step forward”. The panel indicated that we can keep our Earth safe by changing _____ energy around the world. Most important is to introduce more fuel-efficient vehicles and household goods. For this to happen, individuals _____ lifestyles and spending patterns.

Report co-author Pete Smith said: “We _____ to addressing this problem at relatively low costs _____ options.” He calculated that it would cost less than three percent of world economic output by 2030. He added: “We’ve got a big _____ [but] this report provides governments with a way out.” The “big problem” is the damage rising temperatures _____



Earth. Increased floods, droughts, _____, more violent and destructive storms and extinctions of species are just a few things threatening _____ planet. The report stressed the urgent need for introducing _____ clean technologies. Harlan Watson, head of the U.S. team, warned: “If we continue to do what we are doing, _____ deep trouble.”

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. strategies
2. indicated
3. threatening
4. range
5. limit

Discussions

1. When did you first hear about climate change?
2. Do you think cost is important in saving our planet?
3. Do you agree with people who say global warming is not man made?
4. What do you think global warming will do to the Earth?
5. Has global warming changed the weather in your country?
6. What are the most dangerous weather phenomena that happen in your country?
7. What can we do to protect species from becoming extinct?
8. What is your government doing to slow down the rate of climate change?
9. Do you think scientists and governments can control climate change?
10. What are you doing to help save our environment?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 7

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

A solar-powered cooker made from a cardboard _____ international environment award. The Kyoto Box, the brainchild of designer John Bohmer, beat 300 other inventions. Mr. Bohmer _____ \$75,000 in the Financial Times Climate Change Challenge. The simple Kyoto Box costs just \$5 to make. People _____, bake bread and boil water. It is _____ design. It is made from two boxes, one inside the other. The boxes are covered with black paint and silver foil, which trap the sun's heat. The Kyoto Box beat another _____ the environment - a food additive that stops cows passing wind. Scientists _____ from animals makes up 20% of all greenhouse gasses.



Mr. Bohmer was delighted with his prize. He told reporters: "This is the _____ find." He added that his "straightforward solution" was actually "discovered 240 years ago." Bohmer hopes _____ help three billion of the world's poorest people. He said: "We're saving lives and saving trees. _____ is any other technology that can make so much impact for so little money."

His invention really should _____ in poor countries. Millions of children die every year from drinking dirty water. The Kyoto Box will mean they can now drink boiled water and so _____. It should also halve the amount of firewood people need for cooking. This will save two tones of carbon _____.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. brainchild
2. extremely
3. delighted
4. straightforward
5. halve

Discussions

1. What do you think of the solar cooker idea?
2. Do you think the simplest ideas are always the best?
3. Why do you think this idea took so long to be turned into something practical?
4. Do you think \$75,000 is a good prize for this invention?
5. Do you think this idea will really help three billion people?
6. What was the last brainchild you had?
7. Do you think this idea will really help three billion people?
8. Why do you think this invention is called the Kyoto Box?
9. Do you have any cool ideas to help save the environment?
10. What are the biggest environmental problems we face?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 8

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

Millions of buildings around the globe _____ hour on Saturday, March 28 as the third Earth Hour takes place. The event is organized by the World Wildlife Fund. It started in 2007 _____ attention to the dangers of climate change. The Earth Hour website says: “For _____ history, people of all ages, nationalities, race and background have the opportunity _____ switch as their vote - Switching off your lights is a vote for Earth, or leaving them on is a vote for global warming.” Organizers hope their message _____ people. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said Earth Hour promises to be “the largest demonstration _____ about climate change ever attempted”.

Not everyone agrees that Earth Hour will help. Many _____ too little, too late and _____ changewhenthelightsareswitched back on. Climate campaigner Clive Hamilton says: “We are well _____ feel-good exercises aimed at raising awareness... It’s like the band playing on as the Titanic sinks.” He says _____ because the next morning people will think the



climate has recovered a little. “Symbolism is powerful _____, but dangerous if it substitutes for it,” he says. Environmentalist Mark Alexander-Warne agrees. He stresses _____ our daily energy consumption, rather than simply “sitting around in the dark” for an hour.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. takes place
2. drawing attention to
3. switched
4. leads to
5. opportunity

Discussions

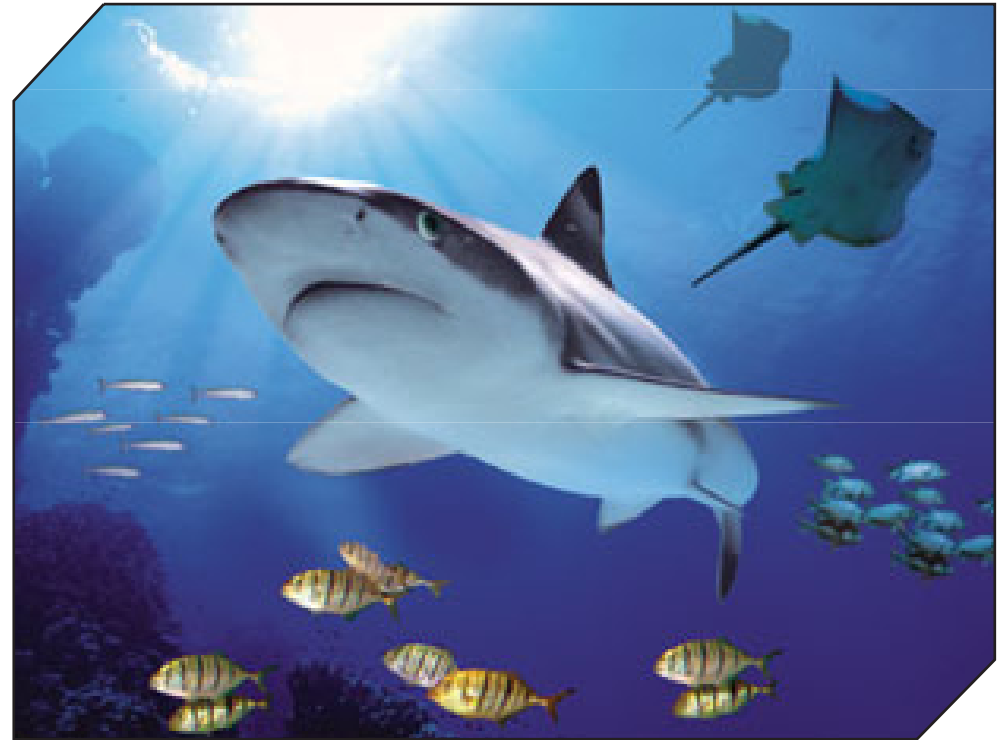
1. What difference do you think Earth Hour will make to the world?
2. Do you think Earth Hour is a good idea?
3. Will / Did you turn off the lights for Earth Hour?
4. What do you think of the idea of turning off your lights for an hour being a vote for Earth?
5. What did Clive Hamilton mean when he mentioned the Titanic?
6. Do you think it's possible for everyone to reduce their daily energy consumption?
7. Do you think the even should be Earth 12 Hours and people should turn off their lights for a lot longer?
8. Do you think people around the world are actually concerned about climate change?
9. Has your life been affected by climate change?
10. What do you do every day to help save energy or save the planet?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 9

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

Human-made noise pollution in the Earth's oceans and _____ a serious threat to marine wildlife. Scientists report that there is hardly an underwater place left where marine mammals can _____ quiet. Dozens of species of whale, dolphin, turtle and other creatures _____ communicate, find mates and hunt for food. Their increasingly noisy environment _____ more difficult to lead a normal life. This is according to a report from the International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW), called "Ocean Noise: Turn it Down". The environmental group _____, military sonar, oil and gas surveys, offshore construction and marine sports has reached dangerous _____.

The IFAW says the _____ blue whales can communicate is down by 90 per cent. It also reports that in the past decade, many whales have become beached after being _____ of loud noise. The group also warns that noise pollution is only going to get worse. It highlighted the use of seismic surveys _____ the extent of the problem. These generate incredibly loud sounds every



ten seconds that can travel 3,000 km. There are 90 survey ships _____ today. In addition, the number of ships sailing the seas will double by 2025. Mark Simmonds, a conservation spokesman, said, "man-made noise is already triggering a kind _____," and called for a "_____ pollution in the underwater world".

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. threat
2. marine
3. disorientated
4. response
5. rely

Discussions

1. What springs to mind when you hear the term ‘noise pollution’?
2. What do you think of the concept of noise pollution in the oceans?
3. What do you think will happen to whales if they cannot communicate?
4. How do you think we can reverse noise pollution in the oceans?
5. What would governments do if all whales and dolphins were in danger of becoming extinct because of noise pollution?
6. What will happen to marine mammals if noise pollution gets worse?
7. Do you think human activity will eventually kill the oceans?
8. What would life be like without human-made noises?
9. What do you think “acoustic fog” is?
10. What other kinds of pollution are you worried about?

ENVIRONMENT: NEWS ARTICLE 10

 *Listen and fill in the blanks.*

A report released by the World Wildlife Fund (WWF) warns that the current rate of climate change is putting many of world's great _____ drying up. The report, "WWF's Top 10 Rivers at Risk", was _____ World Water Day (March 22nd). It is _____. Among the endangered rivers are the Rio Grande, _____ U.S.-Mexico border; the Yangtze, Mekong and Ganges rivers in Asia; the Danube in Europe; and Africa's mighty River Nile. The WWF says these waterways, which provide fresh water to millions of people, are "facing _____". Carter Roberts, president of the WWF, issued a dire warning: "The world's freshwater ecosystems _____, and the rivers in this report are the front lines," he says.

The Rio Grande makes the list, says the report, "because _____ threatened by water diversions," coming from a "widespread alteration of the floodplain". Dams and pollution _____ putting the river in danger. A combination of drought and people taking too much water out of the river is _____. This is endangering a unique desert river ecosystem, which might damage the



economic growth of communities along the U.S.-Mexico border. The WWF is working _____ conserve fish stocks. It also hopes farmers can maintain a sustainable supply of water and live in harmony with the rivers. Another _____ establishment of more protected areas _____ rivers most important for wildlife.

Vocabulary

Give the synonyms of the following words:

1. coincide
2. endangering
3. sustainable
4. alteration
5. coincide

Discussions

1. Do you have a favorite world river?
2. Do you think these rivers can really dry up?
3. Do you think governments should stop diverting the flow of rivers and building dams?
4. Are there many dams in your country? Are they essential?
5. How polluted are the rivers in your country?
6. What should people around the world do on World Water Day?
7. Do you think governments can act together to save rivers that run through many different countries?
8. Do you think climate change is to blame for the rivers being at risk?
9. What would happen if water became as expensive as gasoline?
10. What will happen when the world's freshwater supplies are threatened?