

Topic 1

Our planet

Global warming is causing major changes in our world. Animals and plants are trying to live with these changes. If we do not do anything to stop the speed our planet is heating up, many of these species will become endangered or even extinct. Birds that live in wetlands will lose their habitat as global warming dries up their homes. Deserts are expanding. This means birds that migrate long distances will be in danger as they won't be able to find food on their way. Polar bears will get thinner and may die of hunger. Because of the melting ice, they won't have a place to hunt or fish to eat.

Another problem is that people throw away millions of tons of rubbish every year. Now, we haven't got enough places to put it. If we don't do something soon, rubbish will be everywhere — on the ground, in the sea and maybe even in space! The problem with rubbish is that it is ugly and it smells bad. It can also harm people, animals, plants and trees. Some things we throw away in our rubbish bins can poison our soil, water and air.

What can we do to help? We can recycle many things like magazines, newspapers and mobile phones. Recycling paper saves hundreds of trees. We use about 15 million plastic bottles every day. Plastic can take up to 500 years to break down. We can use glass as many times as we want. One recycled glass bottle can save enough energy to power a computer for 25 minutes. We can organize clean-up days to collect rubbish around our school. We can also use some rubbish such as vegetable or fruit peelings to make compost. If we all help, the amount of rubbish will reduce.

(Source: Access 2 Module 5 pp.52-59)

Questions

1. Can you list some endangered species?
2. How can we protect them?
3. What do you personally do to protect the environment?