

THE ENVIRONMENT

COMMON TERMS

- ⌚ Weather/ Climate/ Atmospheric conditions
- ⌚ Pollution/ Contamination
- ⌚ Biodegradable – Substance/object that can be decomposed by bacteria or other living organisms, thereby avoiding pollution
- ⌚ Drought* – a prolonged period of abnormally low rainfall, leading to water shortage
- ⌚ Floods – overflow of large amounts of water, beyond its normal limit
- ⌚ Heatwave – a prolonged period of abnormally hot weather
- ⌚ Deforestation – clear (an area) of/ remove forests, trees
- ⌚ Eco-friendly – not harmful to the environment
- ⌚ Haze – blurring of the atmosphere, typically caused by suspended particles like smoke or vapour BR (vapor AM)
- ⌚ Mist >>> Fog – water droplets obscuring visibility
- ⌚ Storm – strong winds and usually rain, thunder, lightning, or snow
- ⌚ Blizzard – a severe snowstorm with strong winds
- ⌚ Fertilizers – chemicals added to soil/ land to increase its fertility
- ⌚ Pesticides – substance to destroy insects or organisms harmful to plants or animals
- ⌚ Breeze – light wind
- ⌚ Hurricane – a storm with a violent wind

QUIZ

How green are you?

1. When you go to the supermarket, how do you bring home your groceries? (Plastic bags from supermarket OR your own bags/ baskets)

2. When you brush your teeth, do you leave the tap on? (Yes/ No)
3. Which is most energy saving? (Switching on and off lights, again and again OR leaving them on)
4. You are thirsty, and in a café you choose (a bottle of mineral water / a cup of coffee)?
5. When washing your clothes, do you (Machine wash in cold water OR Hand wash with hot water)?
6. Which form of transportation is better for the environment? (Driving by car OR flying by plane)
7. Which is greener? (A 5-10 minutes zap in the microwave OR 1 hour in the electric oven)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION

What is your favorite type of weather?

How do you keep cool in a summer like this?

What are your opinions on organic food? Is it really healthy?

What is recycling? Do you recycle? What are the advantages/ disadvantages to recycling?

What is global warming? What is the evidence of global warming? How has it affected you? How will it affect the future?

How global warming affects the wildlife?

What is the greenhouse effect?

What is acid rain? Why does it occur?

What are CFCs? Where do they come from? How do they affect the environment?

What alternative forms of energy do you know? Is it necessary to have alternative forms of energy? What are its advantages/ disadvantages?

What is the Ozone layer? What does it do? What is happening to it?

Why are forests beneficial to the environment? What is happening to them?

What is a Hybrid car? What are its advantages/ disadvantages?

How important is water and saving it? Give ways to save water.

How does the weather influence our moods?

What is the connection between weather and disease?

How do you forecast the weather? Do you have any interesting methods?

How will the weather change in the future?

Do you think it is possible to save the environment and reverse the damage that has been done?

Based on the recent oil spill by BP, which is worse: Oil spilled into the ocean or oil burned up into the atmosphere?

Is Russia overpopulated? Should people be allowed to have as many kids as they wish in an overpopulated country?

How do you overcome this problem?

Do you think car-pooling can reduce pollution? What about promoting public transportation?

IDIOMS

1. That's the way the wind blows
2. Feel under the weather
3. Add fuel to the fire/ Add insult to injury/ Add salt to the wound
4. A little bird told me – When someone says “a little bird told me”, it means they don't want you to know who told them.
5. Big fish in a little sea – A person who is well-known but only in an unimportant place.
6. Black sheep – The worst/ least accepted person in a group/family.
7. Make a beeline for – Head directly to.
8. Pass the buck – Blame someone else.
9. Promise someone the moon – Promise someone lots of extravagant things (unrealistically).
10. Rain or shine – No matter what the weather is like.
11. Right off the bat – Right away. Immediately.
12. Rock the boat – To disturb an otherwise stable condition.
13. Wet blanket – A person who discourages others from having fun.

QUOTES

- ⌚ Thank god men cannot fly, and lay waste the sky as well the earth. *Henry David Thoreau*
- ⌚ Modern technology. Owes Ecology. An apology. *Alan M. Eddison*
- ⌚ Don't blow it – good planets are hard to find. *Quoted in TIME*
- ⌚ We never know the worth of water till the well is dry. *Thomas Fuller*
- ⌚ We do not inherit the earth from our ancestors, we borrow it from our children. *Native American Proverb*
- ⌚ Newspapers: Dead trees with information smeared on them. *Unknown Author*
- ⌚ Take care of the Earth, and She will take care of you. *Unknown Author.*
- ⌚ We say we love flowers, yet we pluck them. We say we love trees, yet we cut them down. And people still wonder why some are afraid when told they are loved. *Unknown Author*
- ⌚ Everyday is Earth Day. *Unknown Author*
- ⌚ Trying to save ecosystems has more to do with changing egosystems. *Don Rittner*