



Social Studies Virtual Learning

**Contemporary Issues**

**Pollution Activism**

**April 15, 2020**



Contemporary Issues  
Lesson #18: April 15, 2020

**Objective/Learning Target: I can provide examples of international pollution activism**

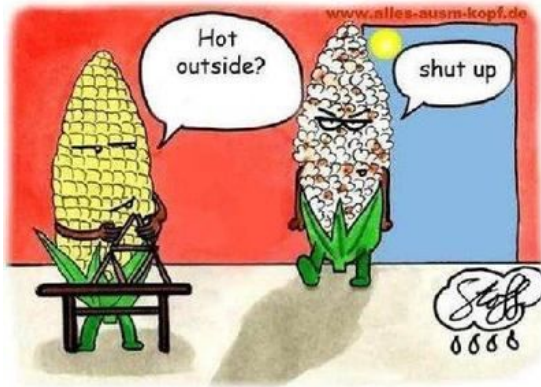
**SAVE THE PLANET**

**OR YOU'LL RE-GRETA-IT**

makeameme.org



**Can't have dirty garbage**



***"I am FOR climate change. I don't want the same weather every day." -Judah Friedlander***

# WARM UP

Review the painting and quote from 14-year-old pollution activist Dafne Murillo from Lima, Peru. Walk around your yard/common space WHILE FOLLOWING SOCIAL DISTANCING RULES and pick up any trash. WASH HANDS AFTER!!! Document what you picked up on a separate sheet of paper.

*“I’ve been involved in two annual beach cleanup projects, and I’ve been stunned by the countless bottles and plastic bags that are spread across the shoreline. This inspired my piece. My art is my version of the iceberg metaphor: people can only see the portion above the surface but are oblivious of the portion undersea. I feel this is the case in Peru (as in many other countries). People can appreciate our whales, yet fail to realize that by continuing to litter the sea with their plastic waste, they are responsible for the harm of marine wildlife through ingestion or entanglement.”*

<https://www.greenpeace.org/usa/stories/meet-terrific-teens-pollution-solutions/>



# LESSON ACTIVITY

Pollution and climate change activism has rose dramatically in the last few years, and one international example is Greta Thunberg. Greta Thunberg is an teenage environmental activist from Sweden. By using social media and “walkouts/strikes” from school, she has become a leading voice for climate change and environmental activism. The video attached is her speech to world leaders on climate change.



# PRACTICE

Greta Thunberg was named *TIME's Person of the Year* in 2019. Read the headline article about her involvement in activism and the impact she has had on the European Union. Answer the following questions on the paper from the warm up activity

1. How has Greta Thunberg gotten the attention of world leaders to listen to climate change?
2. How have European countries shifted their views on climate change? What are some laws passed?
3. Explain Greta's reach internationally and hypothesize how this will impact leaders from countries outside of Europe.
4. In your opinion, is this no-nonsense/aggressive approach the best way to deal with climate change? Explain.

<https://time.com/person-of-the-year-2019-greta-thunberg/>



# PRACTICE ANSWERS

1. How has Greta Thunberg gotten the attention of world leaders to listen to climate change?
  - a. Protested going to school in front of Sweden Parliament, wrote essay on climate change that was shared across Sweden, spoken at summits (“How dare you” speech), met with world leaders, UN, pope
2. How have European countries shifted their views on climate change? What are some laws passed?
  - a. Promises/laws to eliminate carbon footprints, EU tax for pollution,
3. Explain Greta’s reach internationally and hypothesize how this will impact leaders from countries outside of Europe.
  - a. “Greta” followers around world striking with her for climate change, leaders must listen or have the change to be voted out
4. In your opinion, is this no-nonsense/aggressive approach the best way to deal with climate change? Explain.

# REFLECTION

Choose one of the following activist stories and think about the following questions.

1. How did these young pollution activists get the attention of their governments?
2. How has their efforts been emulated by others, leading to significant climate change?

## 1. INDONESIA

- a. <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/01/how-does-indonesia-deal-with-plastic-pollution/>

## 2. VIETNAM

- a. <https://www.pacificenvironment.org/how-one-activist-is-fighting-plastic-pollution/>