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BURNET NEWS CLUB 2019-20 • ISSUE 5

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THE GLOBAL CONVERSATION

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# EXTREME WEATHER

Supported by



Resources for this Issue were created by The Economist Educational Foundation, supported by the *Connecting Classrooms through Global Learning* programme, from the British Council and UK aid. They advised on ways to ensure the resources are valuable for, and shared with, teachers and young people all over the world.

Extreme weather is one of the biggest threats facing our world. To minimise the impact, communities, economies and health-care systems need to respond and adapt. But how?

This topic is global - so young people around the world were invited to take part in this learning project and join the Global Conversation.

Students also investigated the current COVID-19 pandemic and explored the similarities between responding to an extreme health-care event and extreme weather. In this edition of Hub Highlights, we showcase a selection of the best contributions on this timely topic.

SEE EDITOR'S PICKS  
[bit.ly/EP-weather](https://bit.ly/EP-weather)

## THE EXPERT VIEW | Best of the questions



**secure\_meteor, Beit Hanoun Prep Girls School, Occupied Palestinian Territory**

to Isabel Gomes, Director, World Vision  
Why do developing countries always seem to suffer the most during extreme-weather events?



**fulfilled\_starfruit, New Horizons Children's Academy, UK**  
to Liz Bonnin, science and wildlife broadcaster

Has lockdown affected daily pollution levels and will this affect the weather?



**comfortable\_computer, Achimota Basic School, Ghana**  
to Helen Czerski, physicist and oceanographer

How do changes in the world's seas affect us?



**buzzing\_atom, Birchwood C of E Primary School, UK**

to Anita Ganeri, children's author

Why did you choose to write about extreme weather?



**magical\_message, Arnhem Wharf Primary School, UK**

to Fran Scott, engineering presenter

Do you think we could make better use of satellites and space technology to predict extreme weather?



**brilliant\_fossil, Upton Cross Primary School, UK**

to Gillian Burke, wildlife presenter and biologist

Is extreme weather the most dangerous challenge facing the natural world?

### proactive\_agency

## An extract from my speech to the UN75 Global Conversation

GLOBAL CONVERSATION SCHOOL  
Achimota Basic School, Ghana

**M**INIMISING EXTREME-WEATHER events will take time and determination. That's why we all need to be involved.

First, we must recognise the value of our ecosystems and enforce legislation that protects them from being exploited. In Ghana, we focus on reforestation and afforestation and this is a step all countries should consider. Forests help to regulate rainfall, maintain soil quality and absorb carbon dioxide. Their absence today makes way for an unsafe tomorrow.

Governments must focus on preventative measures such as moving people away from places susceptible to extreme weather. They must also invest money to combat extreme-weather events of the future. Reactive measures are also important. Governments should provide emergency healthcare to the injured and give food and money to those who cannot work.

It is our duty and responsibility to protect and keep the world safe. How many more people must die before we take serious action? We must protect the lives of others and clear the path for future generations. Let's change our attitude so that we can fight this once and for all. It is our attitude that got us to this stage so it must be our attitude that changes it. Together, we must come together as one people with a common goal and fight the threat facing our world.

READ FULL SPEECH  
[bit.ly/UN-speech1](https://bit.ly/UN-speech1)

**daring\_goji**

## A message to world leaders

GLOBAL CONVERSATION SCHOOL  
Maryknoll Convent School, Hong Kong**WATCH VIDEO**  
[bit.ly/UN-speech2](https://bit.ly/UN-speech2)

## What's the most important thing you have learnt from someone else during the Global Conversation?

### Comments

**determined\_world**

Sacred Heart School, Ghana

What trees can do to battle drought and its hazards. I learned this from a comment made by decisive\_song. I have come to appreciate the saying "If the last tree dies, the last human also dies", which suggests the survival of humans depends on trees. Learning this has encouraged me to explore how to make tree planting more common in my community.

**fantastic\_dusk**

Wonderkids Model School, Sierra Leone

When researching information we should check for the credibility and accuracy of our sources. Thanks to the comments of versatile\_molecule, I have learned to understand, reason with and respect other people's views. I think it is very important because it makes our contributions on the Hub more meaningful and we learn valuable lessons from each other.

**enigmatic\_weasel**

## Extreme-weather events in developing countries

GLOBAL CONVERSATION SCHOOL  
Riis Presbyterian Model School, Ghana

**D**EVELOPING COUNTRIES are among the most affected when it comes to extreme-weather events. Unemployment can rise because extreme weather destroys businesses and developing economies can find it hard to help them recover. Also, people become susceptible to certain infectious diseases. When an extreme-weather event leads to flooding, an outbreak of cholera or diarrhea can claim lives.

In addition, governments of developing countries have to use their limited resources to support the people affected by extreme weather. They have to give them shelter, food and must support their businesses. This money might have been invested in transport, healthcare and agriculture. This slows the growth of such countries and restricts the expansion of their economies. ■

### Comments

**productive\_harp**

Mawela Secondary School, Tanzania

Developed countries have to help developing countries fund strategies that respond to extreme weather. Developing countries should take precautions like constructing good drainage systems and restricting settlements along flood plain areas.

**diligent\_piccolo**

Maryknoll Convent School, Hong Kong

To a certain extent, developed countries have contributed more to extreme weather through industrialisation. Those countries should pick up the responsibility to help those countries in need. Developing countries' activities may not have caused extreme weather as much as others and they have less resources to deal with the consequences.



**excellent\_photograph**

## The relationship between extreme-weather events and extreme health-care events

GLOBAL CONVERSATION SCHOOL  
Rhemaville Christian Academy, Nigeria

**T**HE RESPONSES to an extreme health-care event and extreme weather are similar. Several things are needed: funding for research, public enlightenment and new laws.

However, I feel extreme-weather events are treated with less seriousness than extreme health-care events because not all people have seen or experienced the effects of extreme weather. Also, some are yet to understand that extreme-weather events have a relationship with extreme health-care events. Based on research carried out by the Texila American University, climate change has compromised water quality - contributing to a projected doubling in the number of people living in water stressed basins by 2050. Food security is also affected. In some African countries, yields from agriculture may halve in the near future. It is clear that extreme weather and extreme health-care events are interlinked. ■

### Comments

**Olivia @ the BNC**

What do you think can be learnt from the coronavirus that can help shape our response to extreme weather?

**excellent\_photograph**

Rhemaville Christian Academy, Nigeria

I think one mistake that was repeated several times by many countries was the failure to close their borders before the virus could be transmitted. The lesson to learn here is the importance of timing. If we fold our arms and wait until extreme weather becomes unbearable, it might be too late to make any serious impact.

**intrepid\_hurricane**

## How do droughts affect people and animals?

PRIMARY SCHOOL  
Lyons Hall Primary School, UK

**I**HAVE used BBC Newsround to research the impact of droughts. One consequence of droughts is a shortage of safe drinking water. Available water isn't always clean and this can lead to severe health problems. A lack of water can cause crops to fail so there won't be enough food to go around, and farmers might not get paid either.

Animals are also affected. Rivers can dry up and there won't be much for all of them to share. If animals rely on trees and plants, they could lose both their homes and their food sources. Droughts can also cause wildfires, destroying millions of homes and claiming lives of innocent animals and people. ■

### Comments

**emotional\_literature**

School College Pilote Sousse, Tunisia

New technologies can help keep some soils fertile. To achieve this, efforts from different countries are needed because most states that suffer from droughts cannot deal with it themselves. We should think globally and act locally because when it comes to saving others, every action counts

