

# 14 - Man and nature

## Man and nature

- **Describe the way how people destroy our planet and say what we can do to protect the environment...** **The environment** is surrounding in which people, animals and plants live and develop

**Ecology**- the branch of biology investigating the relations between living beings and their environment

- In the past nature was everywhere around us. But nowadays we destroy it every day. It is one of the most important things because trees give us oxygen, in soil we grow food, without water we couldn't live. But in spite of this we still pollute it.
- In everyday life we use many things from which waste is made. It is the biggest problem in the world because waste is everywhere and we can't destroy it. There can be solid, liquid and biological waste. Solid waste is for example paper, plastic, glass, metal or wood.
- In everyday life many of papers and plastics are thrown away. Paper can be recycled so we should collect it.
- The biggest problem is plastic because it can't be recycled.
- Glass bottles can be reused so we should buy bottles which can be reused (deposit bottles - zálohované fľaše).
- Biological waste is from food, gardens and fields. But we can compost it. **The** most important thing for our life is **air**, and it is getting more and more polluted. It is caused by gasses from factories, cars (exhaust fumes), planes, burning of fossils fuel (oil, gas, coal)-usually in power stations to produce electricity, burning of forests.

**Another** very important thing for our life, but also for life of all animals and plants is **water**. There are many factors which can cause water pollution. First and the most important is that factories use clean water but the impure one (znečistená) is leaked into the rivers. Also pesticides from soil get into underground water, then to the rivers and from them to the sea. Another factor is accidents when chemicals leak into water from an oil-tanker.

The last but not the least problem is pollution from acid rains which are connected with air pollution and smog. Acid rains are caused when chemicals in the air (air pollutants - exhaláty) react with water vapours in air (vodné pary). It pollutes land and water, kill plants and animals and destroy buildings, historical monuments. We can not solve this problem but we can reduce it when factories will use filters and

sewage (odpadové vody) works and when in agriculture (poľnohospodárstvo) there will be used less fertilizers (umelé hnojivá) and more manure (hnoj). **Another** big problem in these days is **greenhouse effect**. Because of pollution there are more and more gases in the atmosphere and temperatures get higher. It causes that it will get hotter and then ice on the Poles will begin to melt, level of the sea will rise and there will be floods in flat coastal areas (pobrežné...).

**When** the climate changes, there will be less food because soil will be too dry or too wet. The soil will not be rich enough and people will not be able to produce enough food.

## Solutions:

We can use water from tidal waves (prílivové vlny) to make energy - this is an alternative source of energy - it is renewable. Then we can use sun to make energy but we have to build solar power stations. And also we can use wind but it is quite expensive to build wind power.

**Every** one should try to help to solve this problem. We should be friendlier to the environment. There are many organizations like Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth or Vlk. They explain people how dangerous pollution is, that they shouldn't destroy nature. They try to protect environment. But we also can help. For example we shouldn't drive car too much but rather use a bicycle, we should recycle waste, use special bulbs (žiarovky) at home, create national parks, and protect endangered animals and plants.

- **Give the reasons of protecting the nature...** The National Parks and natural reservations provide protection. There are also ecological organizations such as Greenpeace, which organize campaigns and many activities to explain people how dangerous pollution is, that they shouldn't destroy nature. **There** are people who are interested in future of the Earth. For example in summer there were big concerts in big cities in the world during the day of Earth. Many singers sang here and helped to inform public about global changes and to save money for it.

- **Describe various national disasters of our planet...**

Catastrophes are for example earthquake, hurricanes, or floods. **Earthquake**: vibrations produced inside the earth. This moving of earth plates can destroy all building and kill many people, not only in epicentre. **Hurricanes**: The Greatest Storms on Earth. It's a hot air which moves with unbelievable speed and destroys everything what is in its way. **Flood**: is a wild water which appears (vzniká) when there are in country a lot of rains. The level of water rises and rises, then rivers get

out of their way and this water can destroy houses, gardens and everything what is near the river

**- Speak about the importance of plants in our life...**

The main importance of plants in our lives are that they take in Carbon Dioxide (Co2) that we breath out and in place *they* let out oxygen which we breath in. Without plants we would run out of oxygen and die very quickly. This applies not just to us humans but to all animals as well. They are also the source of food for animals.

**- Name some animals which are in danger, give reasons and your opinion...**

**An endangered species** is a population of organisms which is at risk of becoming extinct because it is either few in numbers, or threatened by changing environmental or predation parameters.

Many people hunt them. But many modern hunters don't just kill for food - they kill for profit. That's why so many rare and protected animals are still dying.

The most endangered species are rhinos, tigers, pandas, whales, turtles, chimpanzees, gorillas, polar bears...

**- Explain the system of climate, weather and seasons...Climate-** is the condition of the atmosphere, which is characteristic for a certain place on Earth.

**Weather-** is a contemporary (momentálly) state of the atmosphere, it often changes. We can identify the following main types of climate:

tropical, dry, warm temperate, cold temperate, cold. During a year exchanges four seasons. Spring, summer, autumn and winter.

**Spring** is a beautiful season. Nature, the trees and forest animals awakes from its long winter sleep. All the landscape turns green and birds start flying around and small animals are born. Soon in gardens the first flowers.

**Summer** is the warmest season of the year. The temperature is mostly high. The days are longer and nights shorter than in winter.

**Autumn** is a season full of colours. The leaves get yellow, red and brown and fall down. The days are shorter and nights longer than in summer. The weather gets colder and it is usually cloudy and foggy.

**Winter** is the coldest season when the temperature is below zero. There is a lot of snow in the mountains. The trees are bare and the whole landscape is covered with snow.

**- Which kinds of weather do u like and dislike and what u usually do...**

I like **spring** because everything looks really nice and is starting to bloom. The weather is really nice. Warm days, leaves and grass are so green, I can see flowers

with lots of colours everywhere. I can ride my bike. I wear shorts, skirts. **Summer** isn't so bad either! I don't like Autumn because it's rain often, & winter because it's too cold!

- **Which of these activities have been used by your family?**

I usually use the public transport. We save energy at home and buy environmentally friendly products.

**9. What are the positives/negatives of zoos, game reserves and safari parks.**

There are also positives and negatives. Positive is that these animals are protected from hunters. They can live longer. There are some people who take care of them. On the other hand these animals have only few of place for living.