

The Literacy Lowdown: How to Save Our Planet



A level geography students, remember, you should:

- undertake wider reading
- use factual texts, discursive / creative material

Summary

This powerful and punchy book does exactly what it says in the title: gives us the facts to help fight climate change.

Professor Mark Maslin structures these facts into 9 chapters, covering the history of the earth, the evolution of humans and our energy use, the current state of the world, two possible futures, and a whole lot of ideas for actions that individuals, companies and governments can do to save our planet.

A must read for everyone.

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Specification links

AQA 3.1.1.4 Water, carbon, climate, and life on Earth. Human interventions in the carbon cycle.

Edexcel 6.7 Biological carbon cycles and the water cycle are threatened by human activity.

OCR Topic 3.1 – Climate Change and WJEC 4.5.7 People, climate, and the future.

Key quotes

[We are] “the new geological superpower on our planet – changing the climate and the environment quicker than the moving of the continents or the waxing and waning of the great ice ages.” (p6)

“Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels rose from 310 ppm during the Second World War to over 412 ppm in 2020. A rise of 1.3 ppm per year, 4 times faster than in the previous 100 years and 400 times faster than in the last 5,00 years.” (p45)

“Factories and farms fix more nitrogen in the atmosphere than all naturally occurring processes combined.” (p51)

“The 19 warmest years on record have all occurred within the past 20 years.” (p59)

“By 2050 climate change could cost the world over 20% of world GDP.” (p71)

“The first and most important thing you can do is talk about climate change to everyone.” (p98)

“The challenge of the C21st is that we must learn to think and act as a global species.” (p179)