

Last Chance

This is a science fiction story about a woman from the year 2500. She is talking to the leaders of the United Nations. Read the story and find out: Why did she come to speak to them?

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Thank you all for coming here and listening to my story. Let me begin by telling you how I came to be here: **I came in a time machine.** In the year 2500, we are able to travel through time to any year in the history of the earth.

I have returned to this year to tell you something important: **This year is your last chance to change your lifestyle to save the earth!**

I will explain. Beginning in the middle of the 20th century, a few people were worried about polluting the earth's water and air. They talked about the dangers of pollution, but most people did not listen and did not change their way of life. Instead, they continued to dump dangerous chemicals and other waste into lakes and oceans, to drive more and more cars and trucks and to cut down trees.

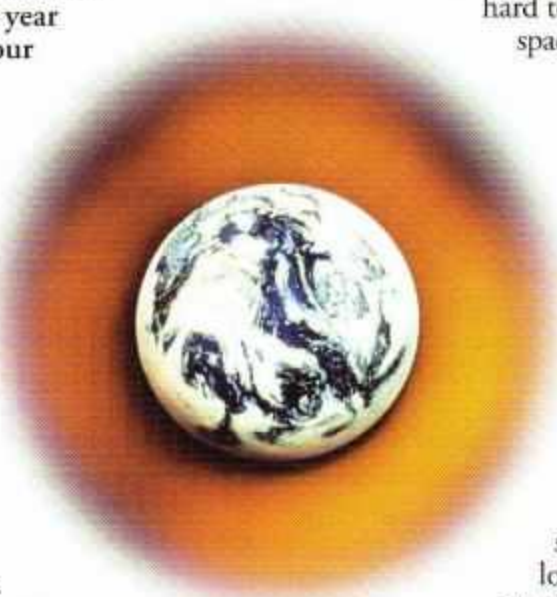
By the year 2200, the earth's water was completely polluted. People could no longer drink water, and they had to use other types of liquids. This forced a change, but it was not enough. Scientists warned about overpopulation and said that in the future there might be too many people on the earth. But not enough was done.

So, by the year 2300, there were so many people that food became scarce. There was no water to grow food and all of the fish in the lakes and oceans died because of pollution. Terrible wars broke out between the wealthy and the poor. People started to think about finding another place to live. Scientists were working very hard to find another planet in space where humans could live.

By the year 2400, the air was too polluted for humans to breathe. So we had to leave earth.

But only the very wealthy were able to leave. Where did we go? Nowhere. And everywhere. You see, scientists did not find another safe planet, so now we must travel around the universe in our space ships. We are still looking for a place to call our home.

So, it is up to you to change history. There is still hope. **You must change your lifestyle now, before it is too late.**



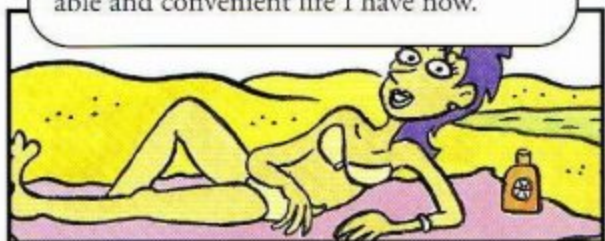
WHAT DO YOU THINK?

What do you think about our modern lifestyle?
Check the opinions you agree with.

We should definitely change our lifestyle. We should think about the environment more.



I understand that we need to change, but I don't want to give up the comfortable and convenient life I have now.



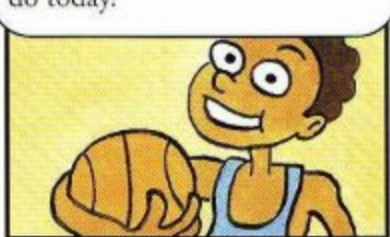
To tell the truth, I don't care. I won't be around in the future.



We don't have to worry. Scientists always find answers to our problems.



We have to start changing the way we live, little by little. Let's think about what we can do today.



Now exchange your ideas with a classmate.

TURN TO PAGE 81 FOR AN INTERACTION TIP.

LOOKING AT THE ISSUE

Here are suggestions for changing our lifestyle.
Do you think they are possible?

Suggestion

Use less gasoline.

Use solar or electric cars.

Use less electricity (for example, don't stay up late at night).

Eat less meat (this uses less forest land for cattle).

Stop using disposable products.

Recycle more.

Control the population.

your idea:

| | Yes, that's easy to do. | That's hard to do. | No, that's impossible to do. |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|
| Use less gasoline. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Use solar or electric cars. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Use less electricity (for example, don't stay up late at night). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Eat less meat (this uses less forest land for cattle). | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Stop using disposable products. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Recycle more. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Control the population. | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| your idea: | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |