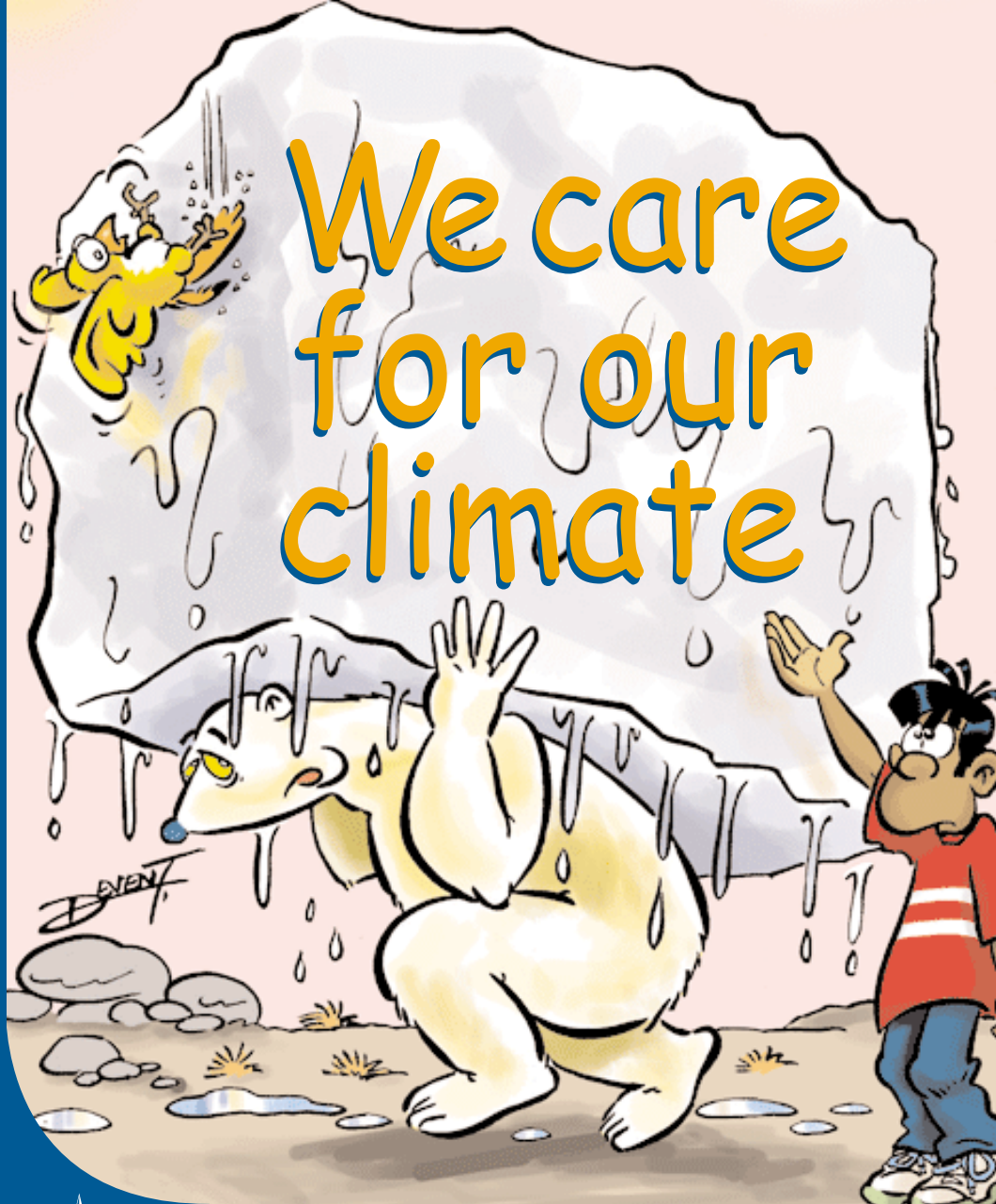


We care for our climate



World
Meteorological
Organization

● Weather ● Climate ● Water

WMO-No. 975

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NOTE

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the World Meteorological Organization concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitations of its frontiers or boundaries.

Introduction

Greenhouse-gas emissions, global warming and climate change are some of the terms that are used frequently in the press, on television and radio, and children ask about their meaning and implications. This booklet aims to answer those questions in a language and style that are readily understandable and attractive to young people.

The arguments presented are interpretations of, or inferences from, some of the findings of the Third Assessment Report of the WMO/UNEP Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, or are based on reports prepared by nations around the world.

Thanks go to the author, Mr Y. Boodhoo, president of the WMO Commission for Climatology, and the artist, Mr S. Teeroovengadum, who undertook this original work.

The story so far

On the small island of Esidarap, located faraway in the middle of the ocean, the climate always used to be fine and the population had a peaceful, plentiful and healthy life in the old days.

But, some years ago, the stars started to disappear under the almost permanent pinkish sky. Scenic sunsets gave way to crimson sky. Fish in the lagoon became rarer. The corals started to change colour. Entire species of birds became extinct. The population could not understand the series of events until WMO started to explain. The Government of Esidarap became aware of several reports explaining the problem underlying climate change and global warming. Then a campaign began to make the people understand and undo the damage as much as possible.

But before we continue our story, let us meet some of our friends: Anivday, a lady from a Non-Governmental Organization, fighting for environmental issues; Tisa, an active young man sent by the Government of Esidarap to convey the message about climate change; and Oreh, an elderly gentleman from the village where the story unfolds.



Tisa



Anivday



Oreh

IN AN ASSEMBLY HALL ...

THE
SITUATION
IS SERIOUS!!

TIME IS RUNNING OUT!
WE NEED TO ACT TO
SAVE OUR
CLIMATE!

BUT WHY?
WHAT HAS HAPPENED
TO OUR CLIMATE?
HOW CAN WE SAVE IT ...
AND FROM WHOM?

TISA EXPLAINS ... THE ANIMAL FEDERATION (ANIFED) HAS PASSED A RESOLUTION THAT WE MUST STOP BURNING WOOD ...



... AND DESTROYING OUR FORESTS, AND WE MUST CHANGE OUR LIFE STYLE—YOU HAVE ALL NOTICED HOW OUR SKY IS ALWAYS PINKISH AND HAZY ...



... BUT LET ME TELL YOU HOW IT ALL STARTED. AS YOU KNOW, ANIFED GROUPS ORGANIZATIONS OF ALL LIVING CREATURES, LIKE THE LEAGUE OF BEARS...



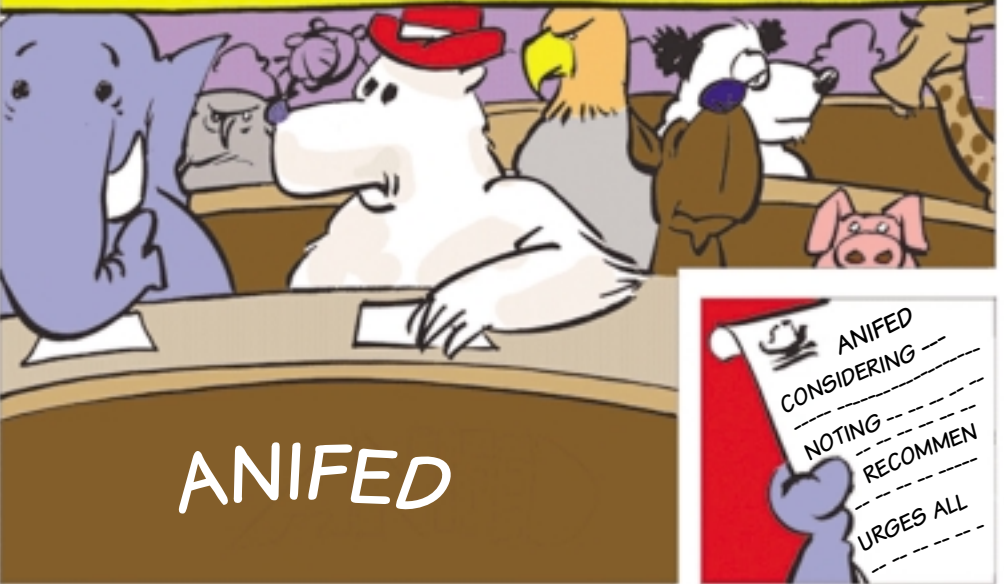
THE LEAGUE OF FISH...

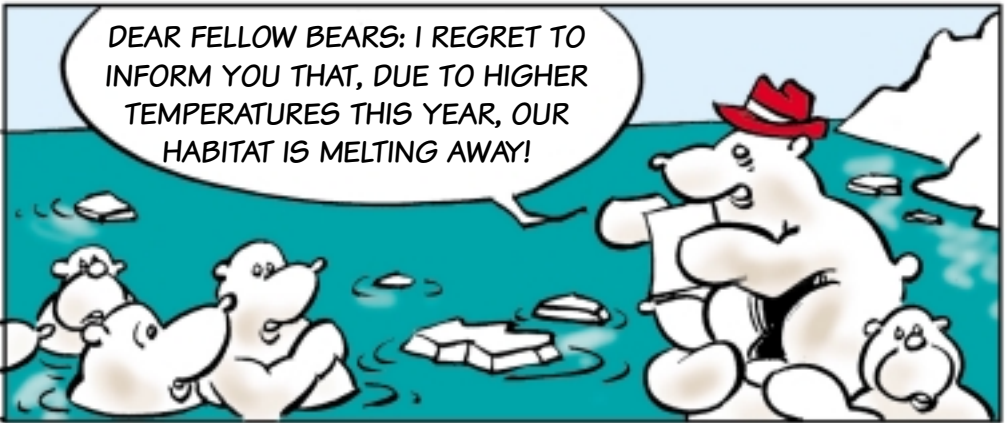
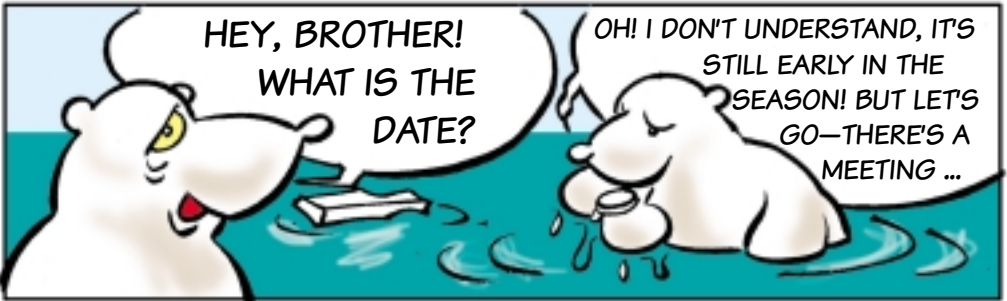


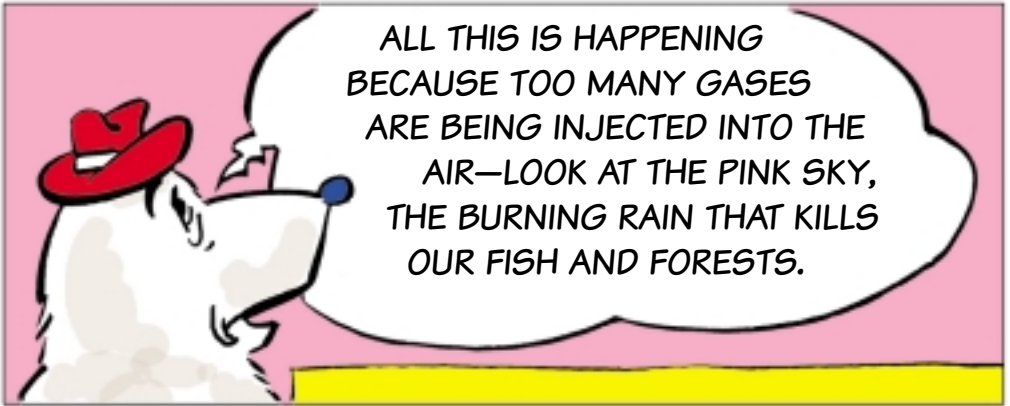
... THE LEAGUE OF BIRDS ...

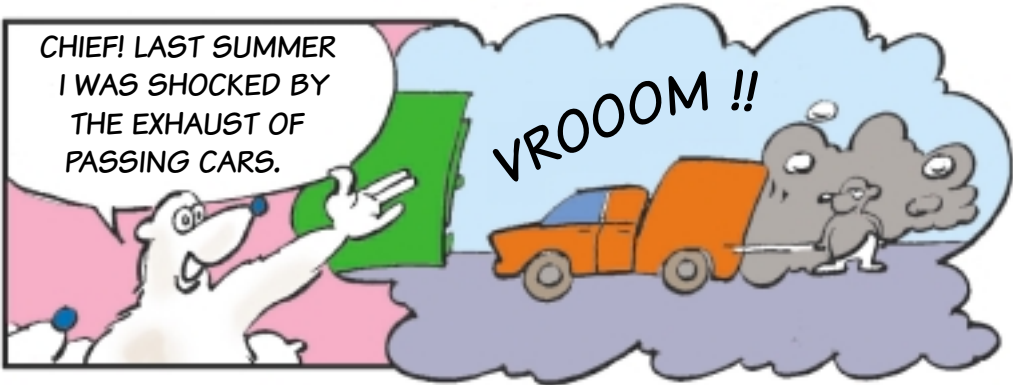


... AND OTHERS. ALL THE CREATURES HAVE COMPLAINED TO ANIFED ABOUT THEIR WORSENING ENVIRONMENTS AND A RESOLUTION HAS BEEN PASSED, CALLING FOR ACTION!!









CHIEF! LAST SUMMER I WAS SHOCKED BY THE EXHAUST OF PASSING CARS.

VROOOM !!



CHIEF!
WE'VE HAD ENOUGH!



YES! LET ME HAVE YOUR APPROVAL FOR THAT!

ALL BEARS STRONGLY CALL FOR ACTION TO RESTORE THEIR HABITAT.

IN THE KINGDOM OF THE LIONS...



ANOTHER ONE HAS LEFT US ...

THE POST LION ARRIVES



MAJESTY, GREETINGS FROM MY CHIEF, HE REGRETS TO INFORM YOU OF SOME NEW DISEASES THAT ARE RUINING OUR HEALTH.



SEE FOR YOURSELF MESSENGER ... THE SAME FATE HAS BEFALLEN US ...



WHAT'S THAT?

DRING!
DRING!



SOUNDS LIKE A CELLPHONE RINGING??

OH, YES!!!! IT'S MINE ...

HELLO?

YES...YES...OH, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT!!





MEANWHILE

IT'S BECOMING
WARMER AROUND
HERE!

YES, IT'S
HARD TO
SURVIVE!!

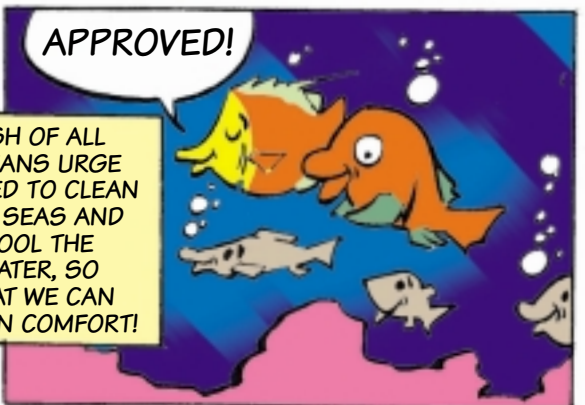
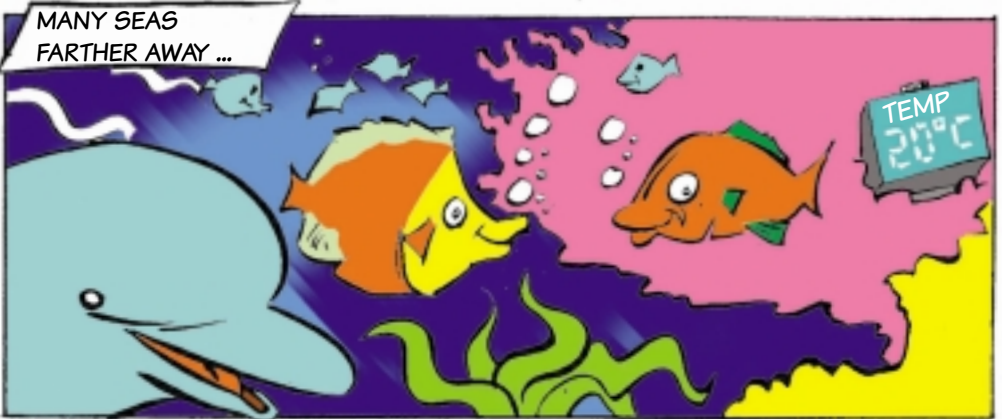
TEMP
30

SEE!!! THE CORALS
ARE LOSING THEIR
COLOURS!!!

YES—AND
I'VE LOST
WEIGHT!!!!

I'M SUFFOCATING!
THERE'S LESS
AND LESS
OXYGEN!

DEAR FRIENDS, BAD NEWS ... THE SEAS ARE
WARMER THIS SEASON, CORALS HAVE BLEACHED,
PLANKTON IS RARE, THE OCEANS SEEM TO
HAVE MORE CARBON DIOXIDE GAS
THAN BEFORE ...





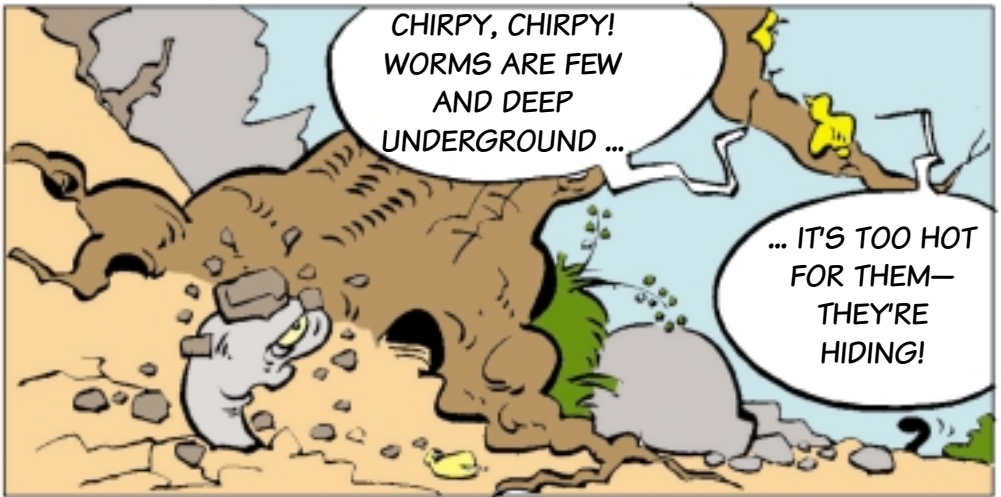
IN THE BIRD KINGDOM ...



CHIIRPY, CHIIRPY!!
IT'S TOO WARM
THIS YEAR!

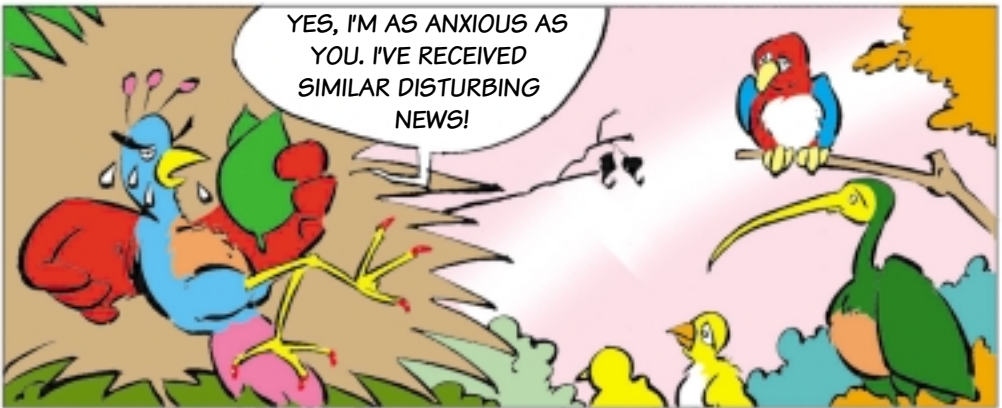


CHIP, CHIP! OH! LOOK AT
THE DYING TREES.
MY NEST IS IN THE
OPEN. I MUST BUILD
ANOTHER ONE ...

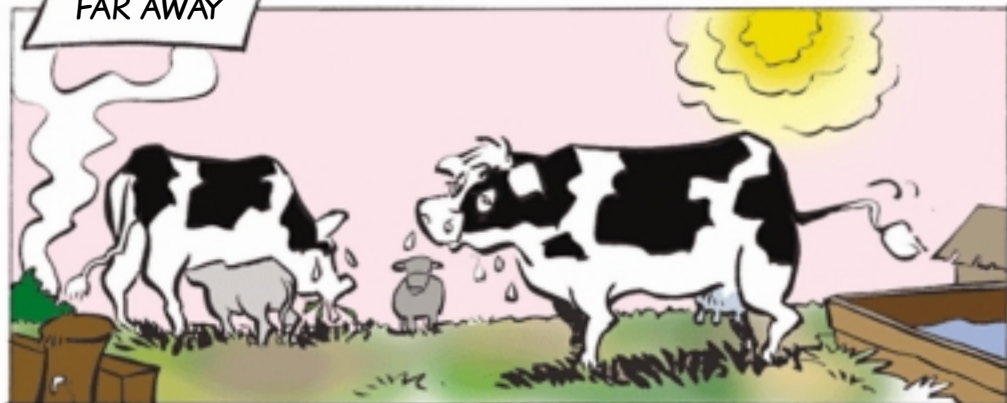


CHIIRPY, CHIIRPY!
WORMS ARE FEW
AND DEEP
UNDERGROUND ...

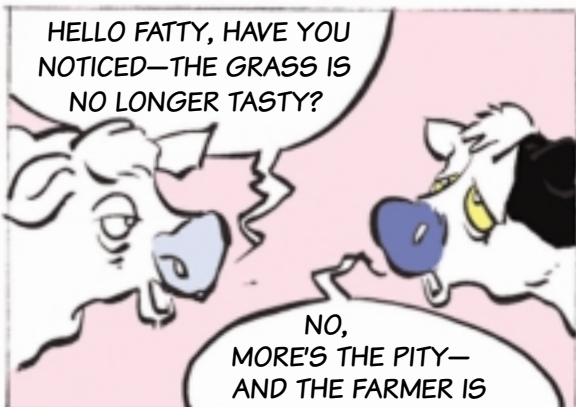
... IT'S TOO HOT
FOR THEM—
THEY'RE
HIDING!



FAR AWAY



HELLO FATTY, HAVE YOU NOTICED—THE GRASS IS NO LONGER TASTY?



NO, MORE'S THE PITY— AND THE FARMER IS HOLDING THE WATER BACK!!

THE AIR IS HEAVY, SOME PART OF THE FOREST IS ALWAYS ON FIRE!

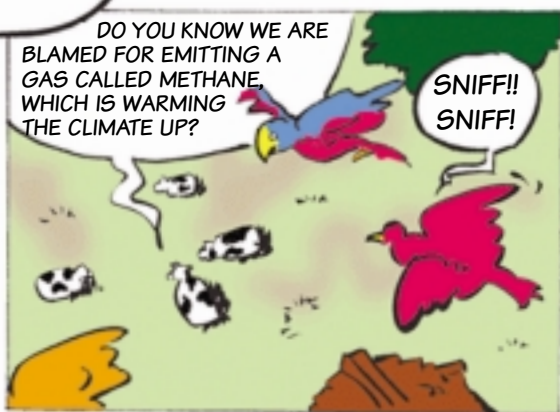


I CAN'T PRODUCE MILK BECAUSE OF THE STRESS.

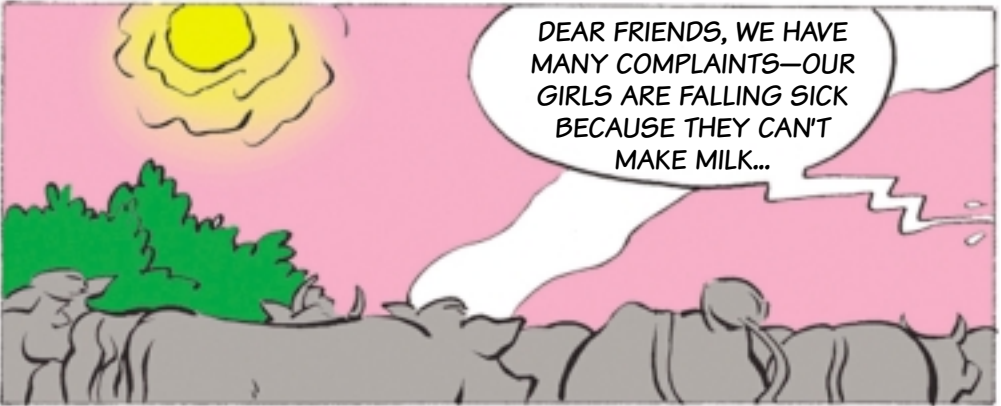
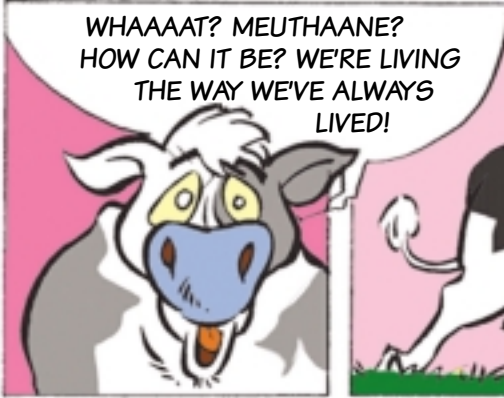


MEUUUUUHH I'M SWEATING!!!

DO YOU KNOW WE ARE BLAMED FOR EMITTING A GAS CALLED METHANE, WHICH IS WARMING THE CLIMATE UP?



SNIFF!!
SNIFF!!

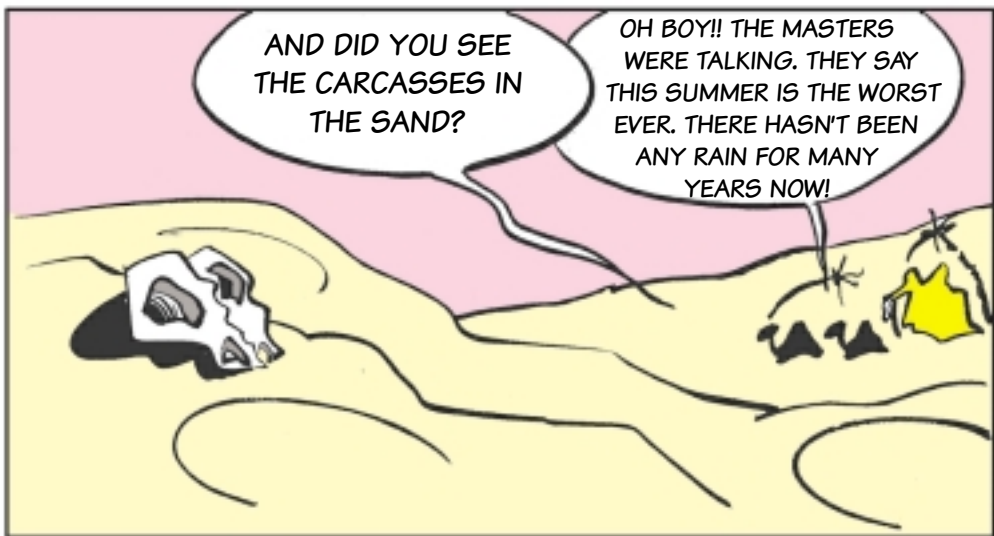




IN THE DESERT

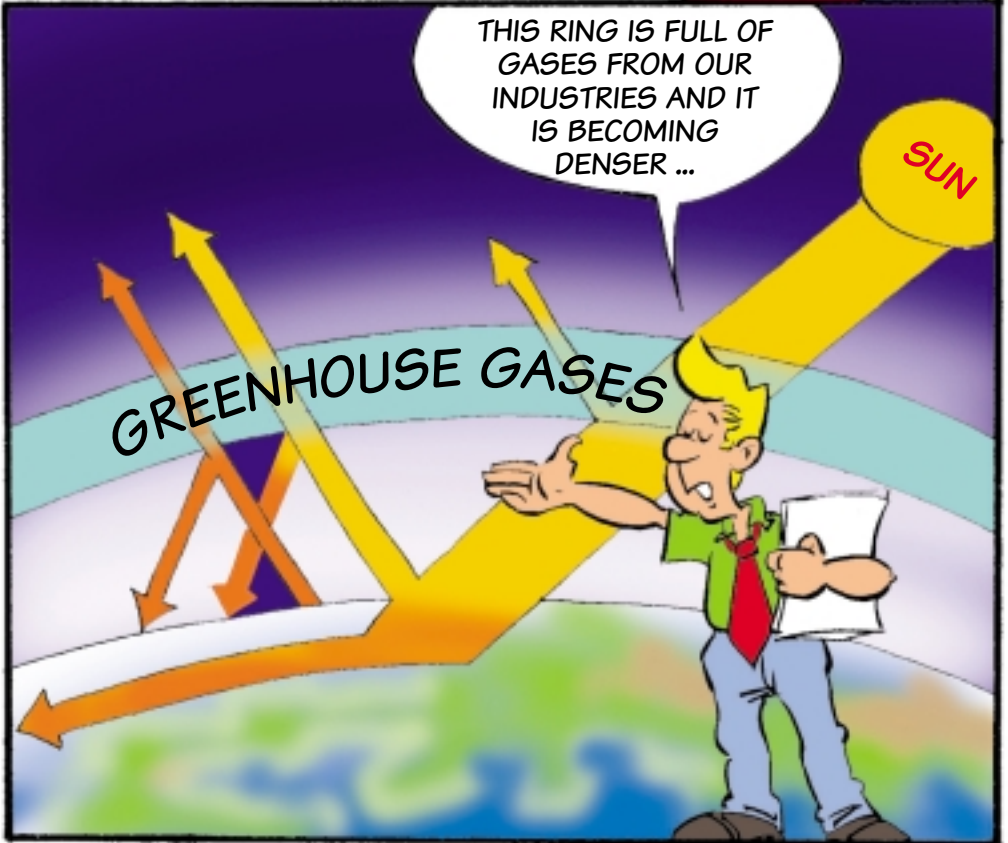
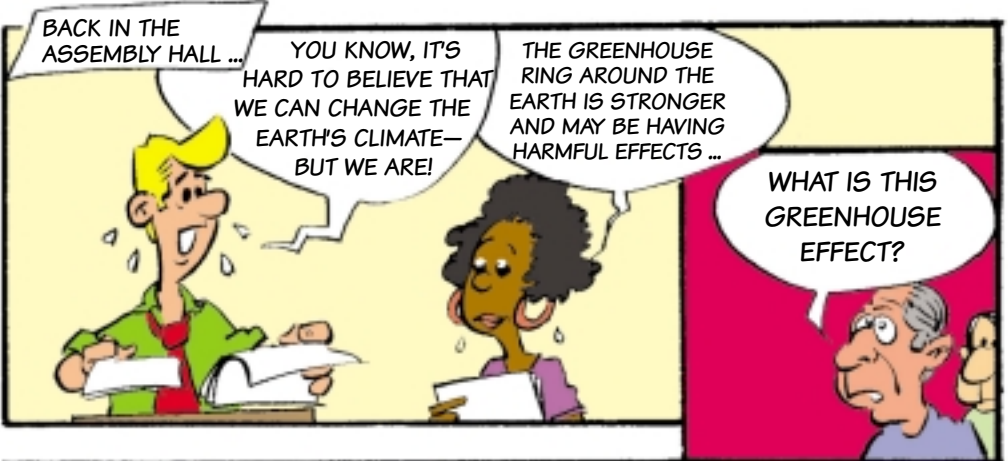
WE HAVEN'T HAD
A DROP OF WATER TO
DRINK FOR A LONG
TIME!

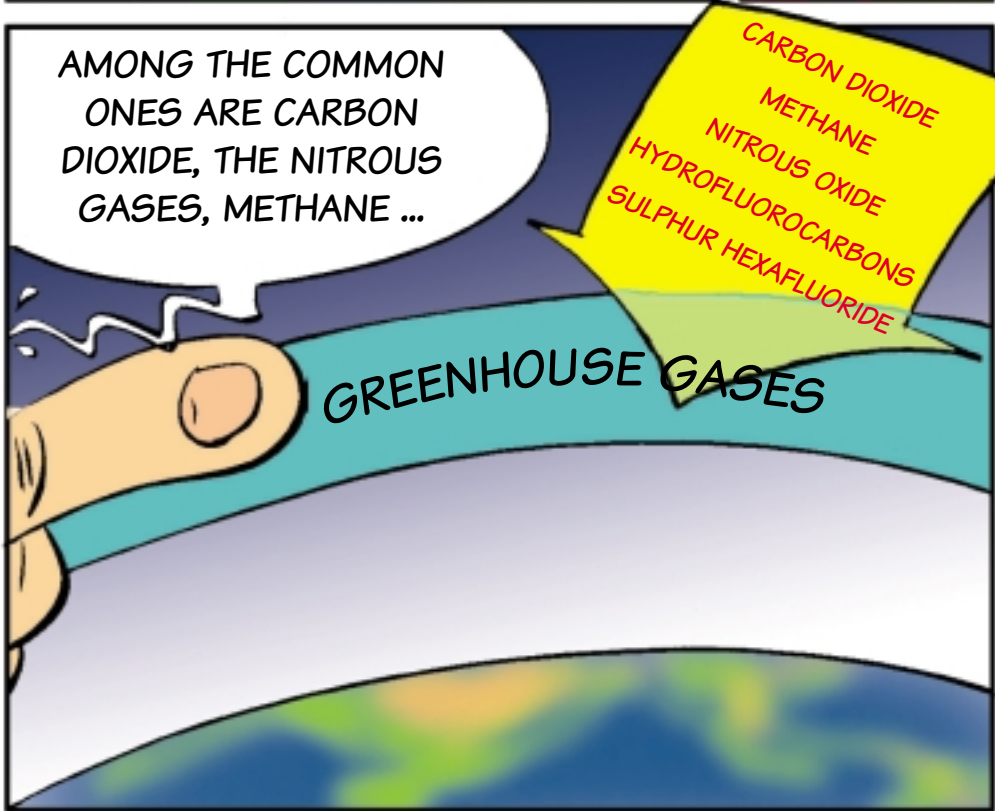
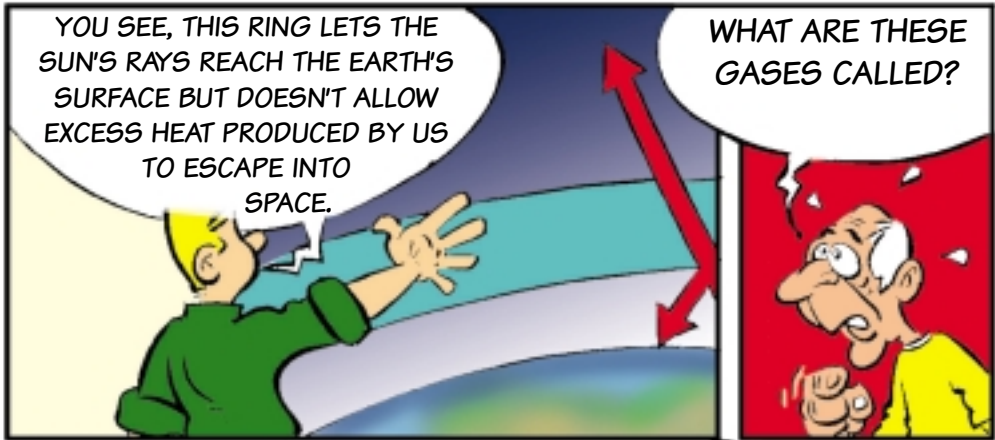
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND! ALL THE
WELLS ON THE WAY
HERE WERE
DRY!!



AND DID YOU SEE
THE CARCASSES IN
THE SAND?

OH BOY!! THE MASTERS
WERE TALKING. THEY SAY
THIS SUMMER IS THE WORST
EVER. THERE HASN'T BEEN
ANY RAIN FOR MANY
YEARS NOW!

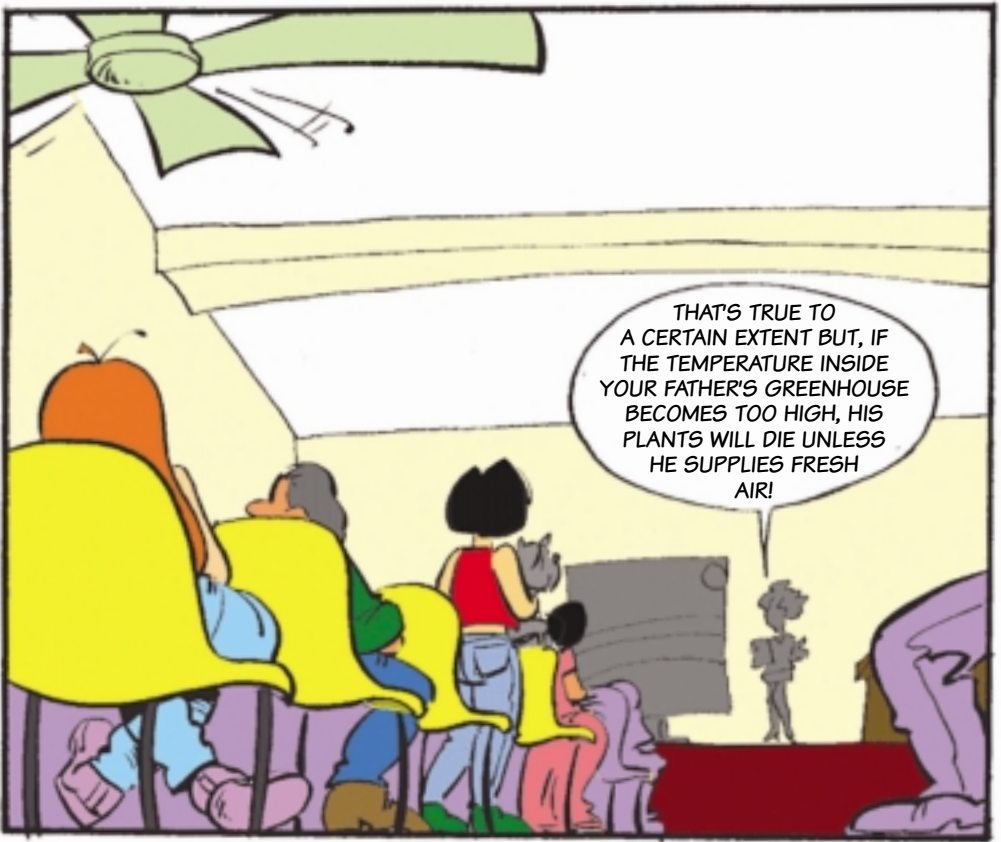


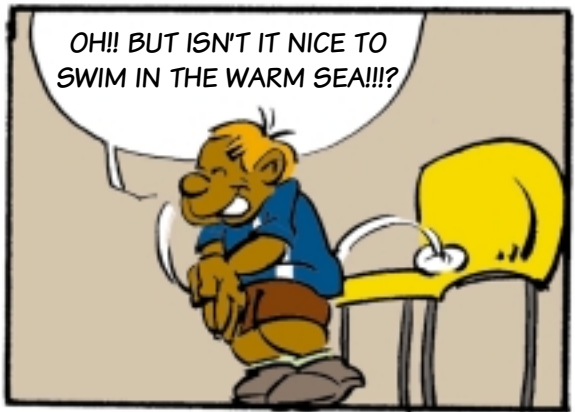
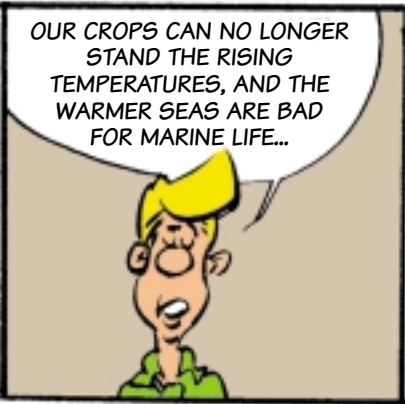
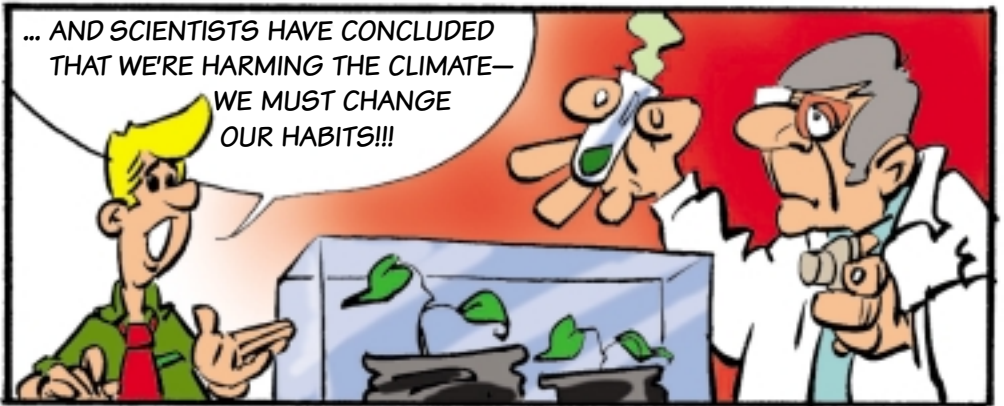
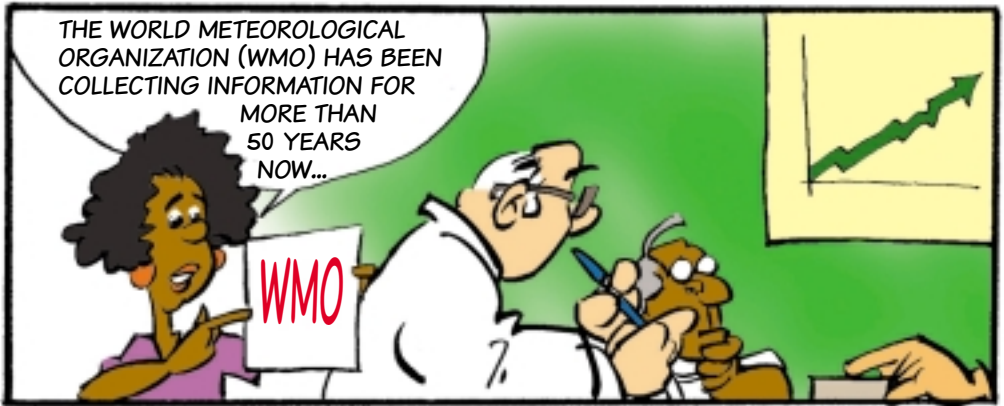


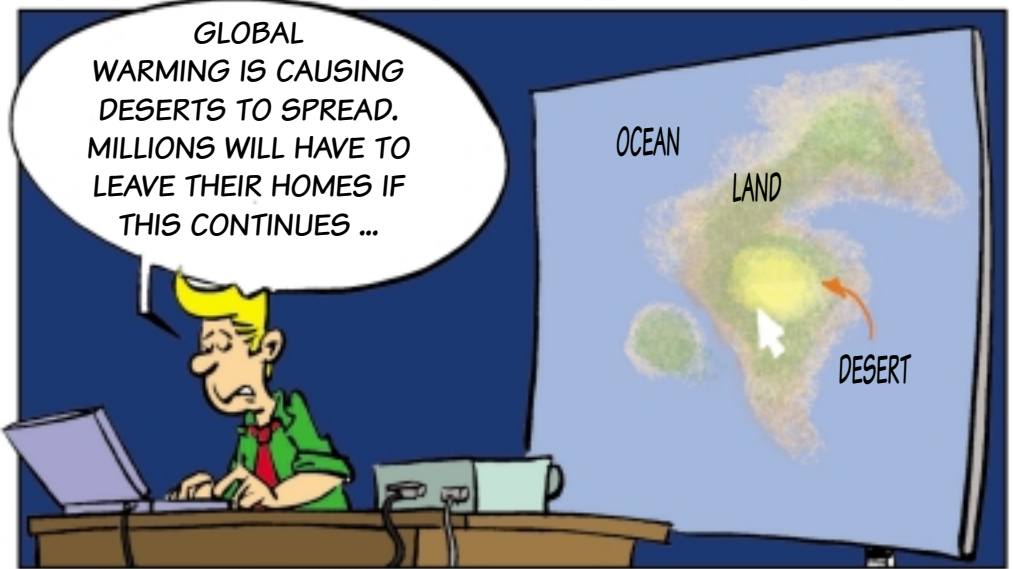
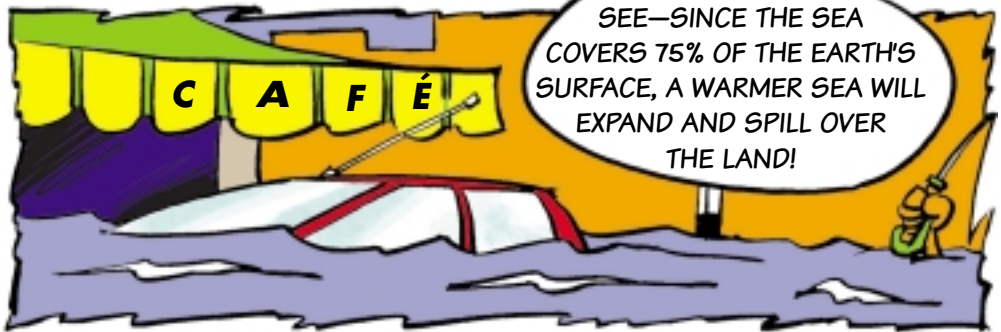
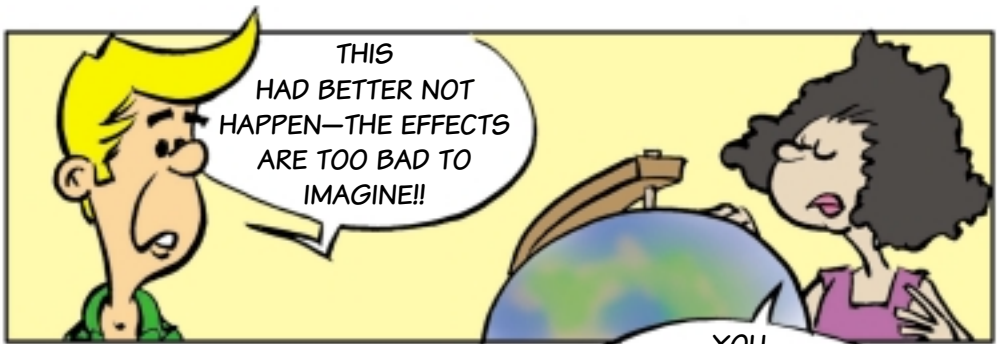
MY FATHER PLANTS HIS TOMATOES IN A GREENHOUSE. HE SAYS IT'S GOOD FOR THE CROP YIELD.



THAT'S TRUE TO A CERTAIN EXTENT BUT, IF THE TEMPERATURE INSIDE YOUR FATHER'S GREENHOUSE BECOMES TOO HIGH, HIS PLANTS WILL DIE UNLESS HE SUPPLIES FRESH AIR!





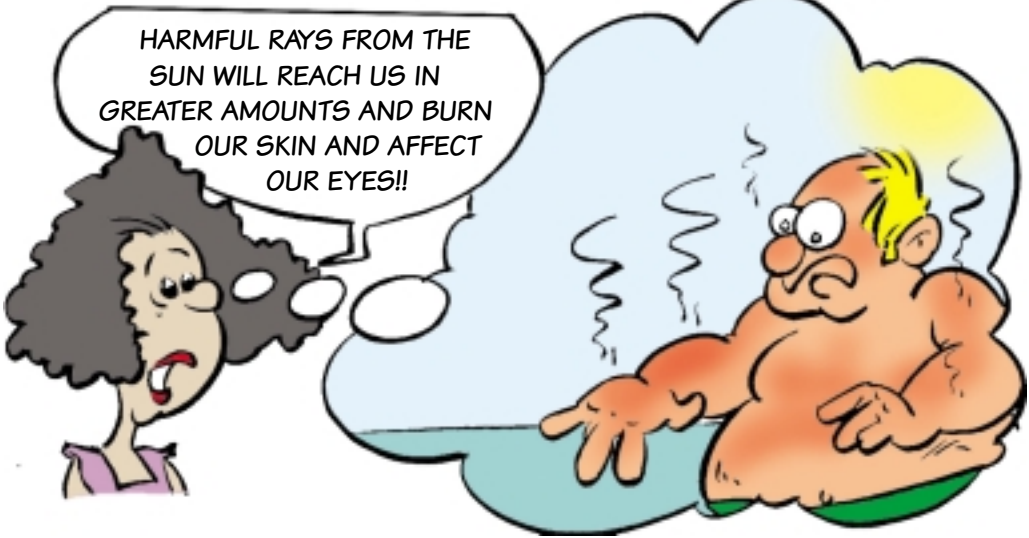


... AND THIS WILL INCREASE HARDSHIP FURTHER !!!

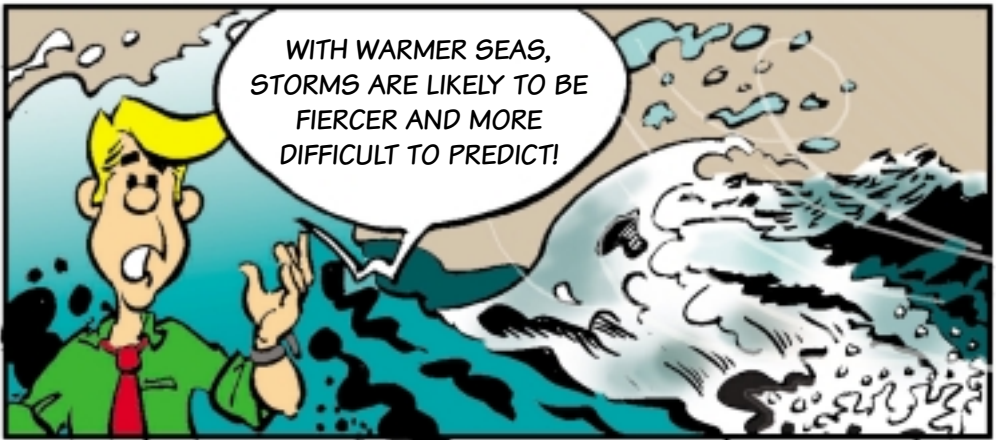


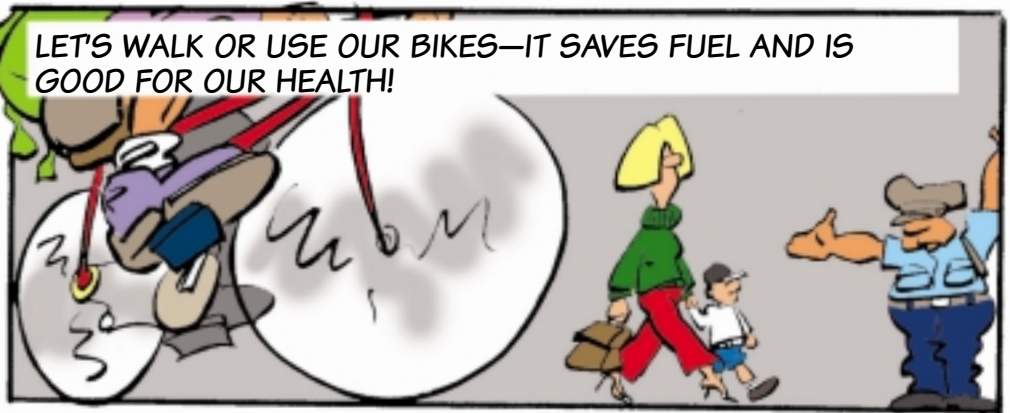


YOU
CAN SEE FOR YOURSELVES
THAT THINGS HAVE CHANGED. IF WE
DON'T ACT, THE SITUATION WILL GET
WORSE! WE MAY BE PLAGUED BY
DISEASES!!!



HARMFUL RAYS FROM THE
SUN WILL REACH US IN
GREATER AMOUNTS AND BURN
OUR SKIN AND AFFECT
OUR EYES!!

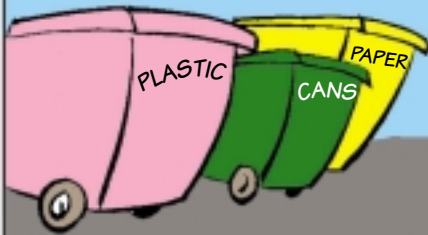




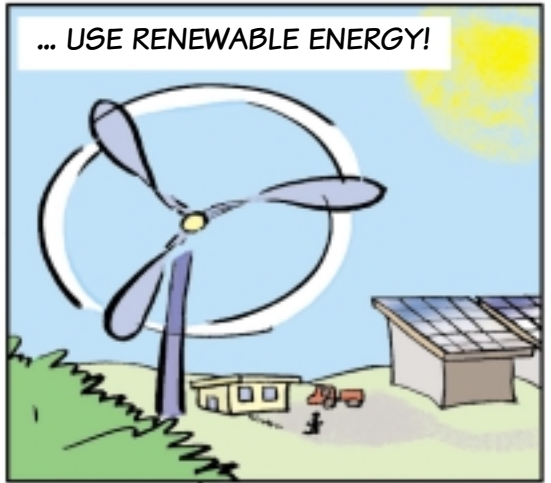
USE MANUAL GRASSMOWERS!



LET'S SORT OUT OUR TRASH FOR RECYCLING ...



... USE RENEWABLE ENERGY!



TALK TO YOUR FAMILIES AND FRIENDS ABOUT THE ENVIRONMENT AND GLOBAL WARMING...



OREH, ANIVDAY AND IMEON:
WILL YOU COME WITH ME AND
SPREAD THE MESSAGE?!!



LET'S TAKE
CARE OF OUR TREES
AND RIVERS ...



IN MEETINGS

LET'S KEEP OUR AIR,
WATER AND
ENVIRONMENT CLEAN ...



IN SCHOOLS

THE WORLD IS YOURS—
TAKE CARE OF IT NOW!!!



WMO BUILDING IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND

WE HAVE RESPONDED
POSITIVELY AND ARE TAKING
STEPS TO SAVE THE CLIMATE AND
ENSURE A BETTER FUTURE FOR
OUR CHILDREN.



How you can help reduce the amount of carbon dioxide (CO₂) we produce

Action for saving energy	CO ₂ reduction per household (kilogram per year)
Use a push mower instead of a power mower	40
Buy products packaged in reusable or recyclable containers	110
Install low-flow shower heads in order to use less hot water	150
Replace standard light bulbs with energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs	250
Wash laundry in warm or cold water, not hot water	250
Install a solar heater system to provide hot water	360
Recycle all of your home's waste newsprint, cardboard, glass and metal	400
Leave the car at home two days a week (walk, cycle, take public transport)	750
Insulate walls and ceilings (both against heat and cold, depending on the climate)	2000
Plant trees around your home and paint the roof in a light colour in a hot climate and dark in a cold climate	2500

Other ideas!

With the help of your teachers and parents, add to the list on page 33 any other actions which, in your opinion, will contribute to improve the health of the environment and the climate.

Action for saving energy	CO ₂ reduction per household (kilogram per year)

The Island of Esidarap lies in a world warmer than ours. The children there come to realize that there are fewer fish left to fish, the corals are losing their colour and that there are fewer stars visible in the night sky. They hear that, in other places around the world, the cows are giving less milk and some animals are threatened by disease and lack of food and water. The children learn how certain changes in their day-to-day lives can help reduce carbon-dioxide emissions and global warming and are encouraged to find more.

For information about WMO, please contact:
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