



PART TWO

Recognize Why Everyone
in the World Needs to be
Concerned About the
Problem and Learn about
the Kyoto Protocol

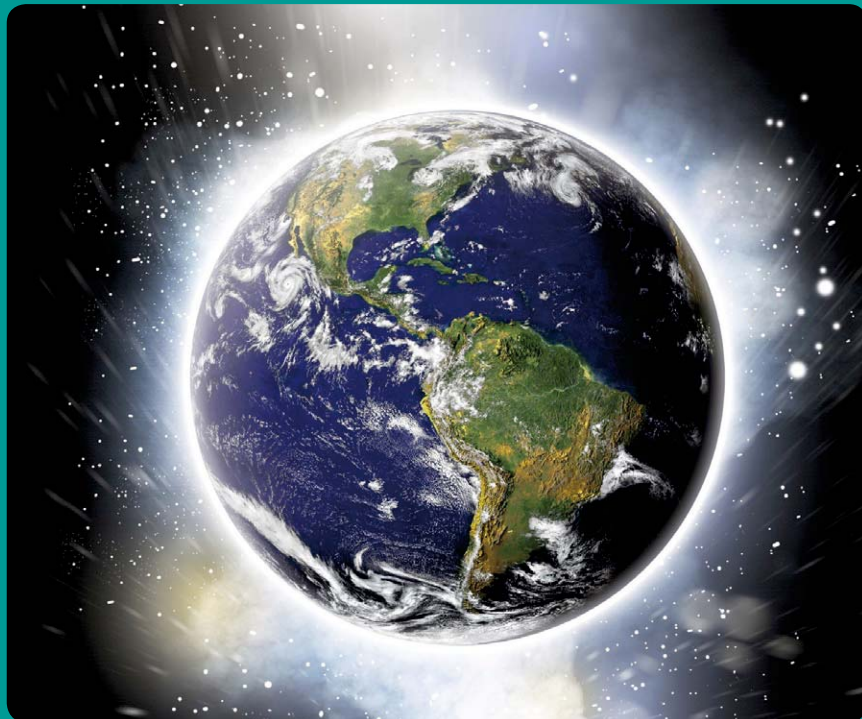


Online Chat



"Okay, just by looking around us and listening to other people, we know there is a problem. We even have some ideas about what may be causing it.

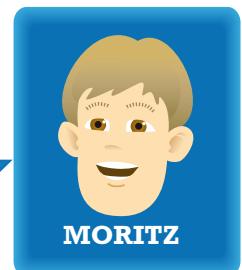
Who creates the pollution? Do these environmental issues affect you? The United States? Germany? The entire world? If the entire world is involved in creating pollution, who has the responsibility to solve the problem?"



"We are not alone on Earth. In fact, there are some 6.7 BILLION people living on earth as of 2008, of which about 306 million live in the United States. Everyone is impacted by what happens on this planet. Keeping our planet safe is a global responsibility."



"It's sort of like the neighborhood park, right? Everybody who uses the park is responsible for keeping it clean and for maintaining it."



Online Chat

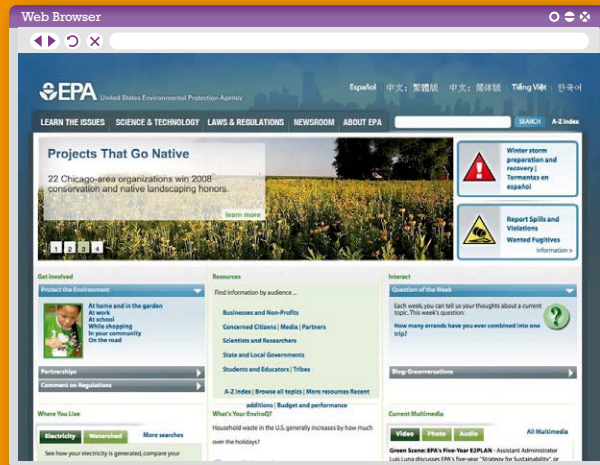


I remember not too long ago having fun along the stream near my local park. Normally the water flows briskly and is crisp and clear until one day I noticed something wrong. The water became stagnant. Over a short period of time, the water changed color and started to smell funny. I noticed an icky, oily substance on the surface of the water.

**MORITZ****BRAINSTORM #2**

- *How would you react if this happened to a stream in your neighborhood?*
- *Would you attempt to solve the problem on your own? If so, how?*
- *If you couldn't solve the problem on your own, would you ask your friends and parents for help?*
- *Would you contact the police or fire department? Can you think of any other organizations that could help?*

RESEARCH EXERCISE: Do you know what the letters EPA stand for? Do you know where your nearest EPA office is located? Find these answers by visiting the web site www.epa.gov.



Online Chat



"I tried my best to clean up the oily stuff with a bucket, but there was too much, and it never seemed to go away. Mama and papa saw the whole mess and they told me it could be dangerous, so we called the local environmental protection office in Munich."



"And then what happened?"



"The experts discovered that an oil tank from a nearby factory was leaking into the stream. The company immediately agreed to fix the tank and gave the community money to clean the stream and the park. It was really cool to see hundreds of us there, cleaning everything up! We all worked together."



Online Chat



“Fantastisch, Moritz! If it wasn’t for you, then perhaps the problem would have never been solved. And it takes a mature and brave person to do what you did, to realize the problem was bigger than you and you needed help.

This is very similar to what industrialized countries of the world are doing right now. They are seeing the effects of warming around the globe.”

**DR. BLUME****ALICIA**

“What is happening? Are the countries of the world starting to do something about saving our environment? Are we working together to come up with a common solution?”



“Yes they are! Have you ever heard of the **Kyoto Protocol**?

The Kyoto Protocol was adopted in Kyoto, Japan, on December 11, 1997 and went into effect on February 16, 2005. Some 183 nations have ratified the treaty as of 2008.”

**DR. BLUME****ALICIA**

“What does it do?
What are the goals of the Protocol?
Has the United States agreed to the Protocol?”

Online Chat



"Those are some great questions, Alicia!"

- The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement linked to the United Nations' policies on climate change.
- The major feature of the Kyoto Protocol is that it sets binding targets for industrialized countries for reducing greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions.
- The agreement recognizes that developed countries are principally responsible for the current high levels of GHG emissions in the atmosphere as a result of more than 150 years of industrial activity.
- The Protocol places a heavier burden on developed countries to do more to clean up the environment."



"To answer your last question, Alicia, the United States has not signed the Protocol as of 2008. But that does not at all mean that the United States is not concerned about the environment.

For example, look at what these states are doing:

- Texas has added more than 4,000 megawatts of wind power generating capacity in the last decade. Wind power now produces about 3 percent of Texas' electricity, enough to avoid about 8 million metric tons of global warming pollution per year.
- New Jersey doubled its solar power generating capacity within just two years through aggressive public policies that promote solar panels on rooftops in the Garden State.
- California uses 20 percent less energy per capita than it did in 1975, thanks to strong energy efficiency policies for buildings and appliances.
- Wisconsin avoids about 200,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide pollution per year through its innovative programs to promote energy efficiency in industry – programs that also help save businesses money and keep jobs within the state.
- Portland, Oregon, has doubled the number of bicyclists on city streets in just six years through investments in bicycle infrastructure and bike-friendly transportation policies. The percentage of people who bike to work in Portland is now eight times the national average."



ACTIVITY #2: The Kyoto Treaty

- Conduct additional research about the Kyoto Treaty.
- Can you list three positive and three negative consequences of the Kyoto Treaty? (See table below.)
- Would you encourage or discourage nations to ratify the Kyoto Treaty? Why or why not?

POSITIVE	NEGATIVE
1	1
2	2
3	3