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Future generations

You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you.

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ASK YOURSELF, ASK AROUND



Are you concerned about wasting water?
Which things you use every day take huge amounts of water to be produced?

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VOCABULARY

Global warming • synonyms • environmental problems • animal idioms

I can talk about environmental issues and use animal idioms.

SHOW WHAT YOU KNOW

1 SPEAKING Discuss the questions.

1 What animals do these words refer to?

(beef mutton poultry veal venison)

2 Which words describe substances that make the soil richer and which describe substances for killing unwanted animals or plants?

(fertilizer herbicide insecticide manure pesticide)

2 SPEAKING Discuss whether you think the statements below are true or false. Then read the text and check.

- 1 Farming is a bigger contributor to global warming than transport.
- 2 Poultry production is responsible for the highest level of farming-related greenhouse gas emissions.
- 3 We produce four times as much meat as we did fifty years ago.
- 4 You need nine times more water to produce a kilo of beef than of wheat.
- 5 Cutting global meat consumption by 15 percent would be equivalent to taking twenty-four million cars off the road.

3 SPEAKING Read the readers' comments. Discuss who you agree with and why.

The facts about meat consumption and its effect on the environment



IS IT TIME TO TAKE THE BULL BY THE HORNS?

- > The global livestock industry produces more greenhouse gas emissions than all cars, planes, trains and ships combined, but a worldwide survey finds that twice as many people think transport is the bigger contributor to global warming. The survey author Bob Bailey said, 'Preventing catastrophic warming is dependent on tackling meat and dairy consumption, but the world is doing very little. A lot is being done on deforestation and transport, but there is a substantial gap on the livestock sector.'
- > Emissions from livestock, largely from burping cows and sheep and their manure, currently constitute almost 15 percent of global emissions. Beef and dairy alone make up 65 percent of all livestock emissions.
- > Over the past fifty years, global meat production has almost quadrupled. On average, every person on Earth consumes 42.9 kilograms of meat per year. In the UK and US, the average person consumes from 60 to 90 kilograms of meat annually.