

# Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish student. She tries to raise awareness about climate change around the world.

## Greta's Family

Greta was born to Malena Ernman and Svante Thunberg in 2003. When Greta was born, her mother was an opera singer who travelled around the world to perform. Greta's father worked as an actor – just as his father had before him. Greta also has a younger sister named Beata.

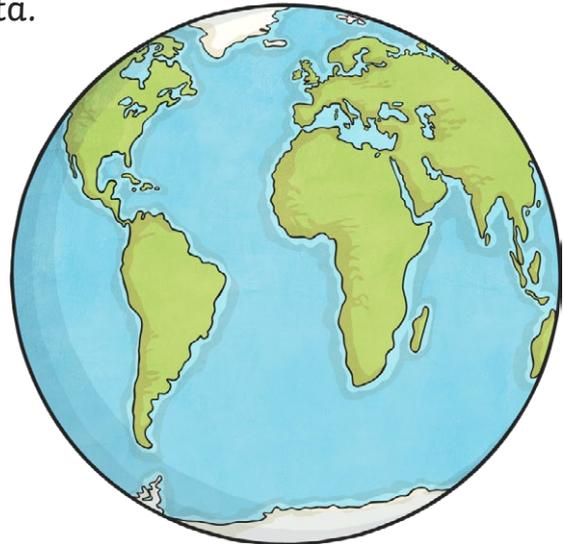
## Learning about Climate Change

As a child, Greta was taught to save electricity, not to waste water and not to throw away good food. When she asked why, Greta first heard the words 'climate change'. At first, Greta did not understand why nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.

Greta began to research climate change during her teenage years. She began to make small changes in her own life to help the planet. She cut out all animal products from her diet and stopped buying things unless she really needed them. In 2015, Greta also decided to stop flying in aeroplanes because of the impact it has on the environment.

Greta shared what she had found out with her family and they agreed to do the same.

Greta's mother gave up all air travel and stopped travelling around the world to work. When Greta saw that her family had all made small changes too, this gave her hope that she could spread the word further and have a greater impact on the planet.



## Did You Know...?

Climate change is the term used for the change in the temperature of the planet (global warming) and its effects, such as melting ice caps and heavier rainfall. It is caused by high levels of carbon dioxide.

### Protests

In 2018, Sweden experienced heatwaves and wildfires. At just 15 years old, Greta knew that she needed to act. When the new school year started, Greta decided to strike. She said that she would not go to school for three weeks. Instead, she began to protest by sitting outside the Swedish government building. She gave out leaflets about what she called 'the climate crisis'. Greta was furious that governments around the world were not doing everything that they could to stop climate change. News of Greta's protest quickly spread. Children around the world agreed with Greta and joined in with her protest.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Greta said that she would strike every Friday until her government began to act. She started a movement known as Fridays For Future.

There have now been over 5,200 strikes by young people around the world. They all share Greta's worries about the future of their planet.

### Greta's Viewpoint

Greta has been invited to speak at important events around the world. Her speeches say that:

- global warming is so serious that it will lead to the end of the world as we know it;
- adults are stealing the future of young people by not acting;
- we must act now if we want to change the future;
- decision makers must listen to scientists if the world is to undo its mistakes before it is too late.

Greta continues to travel the world using eco-friendly transport in order to spread the word about climate change.



# Questions

1. What is the name of Greta's father? Tick one.

- Malena
- Ernman
- Svante
- Beata

2. Which of these was Greta taught as a child? Tick one.

- to use electricity
- to conserve water
- to throw away food
- to sing

3. Look at the section called **Protests**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'angry'.

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4. List one small change that Greta made to help the planet.

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5. In addition to Greta, who else gave up air travel to help with climate change?

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6. Explain why Greta was confused when she first heard about climate change.

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7. **Greta continues to travel the world using eco-friendly transport...**

Explain why the term 'eco-friendly' is important in this sentence.

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8. Do you think that Greta Thunberg has achieved her goal? Explain your answer.

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# Answers

1. What is the name of Greta's father? Tick one.

- Malena
- Ernman
- Svante**
- Beata

2. Which of these was Greta taught as a child? Tick one.

- to use electricity
- to conserve water**
- to throw away food
- to sing

3. Look at the section called **Protests**.

Find and copy one word which means the same as 'angry'.

**furious**

4. List one small change that Greta made to help the planet.

**Accept any one of the following: she cut out all animal products from her diet; she stopped buying things unless she really needed them; she stopped flying in aeroplanes.**

5. In addition to Greta, who else gave up air travel to help with climate change?

**When she shared what she had found with her family, Greta's mother gave up all air travel and stopped travelling around the world to work.**

6. Explain why Greta was confused when she first heard about climate change.

**When Greta first found out about climate change, she was confused because she did not understand why nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.**

7. **Greta continues to travel the world using eco-friendly transport...**

Explain why the term 'eco-friendly' is important in this sentence.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: The term 'eco-friendly' is important in this sentence because Greta would not travel anywhere if it had a harmful impact on the environment. Therefore, she only uses transport that is friendly to the environment.**

8. Do you think that Greta Thunberg has achieved her goal? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I do not think that Greta Thunberg has achieved her goal yet because climate change is still happening. I think she will keep being an activist until all governments begin to act.**

# Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish student and climate **activist**. She tries to raise awareness about **climate change** around the world.

## Family Life

Greta Thunberg was born to parents Malena Ernman and Svante Thunberg in 2003. When Greta was born, her mother was an opera singer and she travelled globally from their home in Sweden to perform in musicals and theatre shows. Greta's father worked as an actor – just as his father had before him. Greta also has a younger sister named Beata.

## Beginning of Awareness

As a child, Greta was taught to save electricity, not to waste water and not to throw away good food. When she asked why, Greta first heard the words 'climate change'. At first, Greta did not believe what she had heard; surely, if humans know that they can change the climate, they should simply stop doing harmful things. Yet, nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.

Greta began to research climate change during her teenage years. She began to make small changes in her own life to reduce her **carbon footprint**. She became vegan – cutting out all animal products from her diet – and stopped buying things unless they were truly necessary. In 2015, Greta also decided to stop flying in aeroplanes because of the impact it has on the environment.

Greta shared what she had found out with her family and they agreed to do the same. Greta's mother gave up all air travel and ended her international career. When Greta saw that her family had all made small changes too, this gave her hope that she could spread the word further and have a greater impact on the planet.



## Fridays For Future

In 2018, when Greta was 15 years old, Sweden experienced heatwaves and wildfires; Greta knew that she needed to act.

At the start of the new school year, Greta decided to strike. She said that she would not attend school for three weeks. Instead, she began to protest by sitting outside the Swedish government building and handing out leaflets about what she called 'the climate crisis'. Greta was furious that governments around the world – including her own – were not doing everything that they could to stop climate change. News of her protest quickly spread and attracted attention both online and on TV. Children around the world agreed with Greta and joined in with her protest.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Greta said that she would strike every Friday until her government began to act. She started a movement known as 'Fridays For Future'.

There have now been over 5,200 strikes by young people around the world who share Greta's concern for the future of their planet.

### Support for Greta

In February 2019, 224 scientists and **academics** gave Greta's protests their full support. As Greta's popularity and influence grew, she was invited to speak at important events around the world to share her concerns about climate change. Greta's speeches cover four main themes:

- global warming is so serious that it will lead to the end of the world as we know it;
- adults are stealing the future of young people by not acting;
- we must act now if we want to change the future;
- decision makers must listen to scientists if the world is to undo its mistakes before it is too late.

Greta continues to travel the world using eco-friendly transport in order to spread the word about climate change.

### Glossary

**academics** – A teacher or scholar.

**activist** – A person who campaigns to bring about a change.

**carbon footprint** – The amount of carbon dioxide released into the atmosphere as a result of the activities of a person, organisation or community.

**climate change** – The change in the temperature and climate of an area or planet which is caused by carbon dioxide. It is also known as global warming.



# Questions

1. Which of these was Greta **not** taught as a child? Tick **two**.

- to save electricity
- to conserve water
- to throw food away good
- to sing

2. **She became vegan...**

What does the word **vegan** mean, as defined in the text? Tick one.

- to give up air travel
- to cut out all animal products
- to stop buying things
- to decide to strike

3. Look at the section called **Beginning of Awareness**.

Find and copy one word which means 'to make smaller'.

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4. What is the name of Greta's sister?

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5. In which year did Sweden experience heatwaves and wildfires?

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6. Summarise why Greta was confused when she first heard about climate change.

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7. Which of the main themes of Greta's speeches do you most agree with? Explain your answer.

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8. Discuss how Greta has influenced young people worldwide.

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9. What do you think that Greta hopes will be the result of her activism? Give a reason for your answer.

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# Answers

1. Which of these was Greta **not** taught as a child? Tick **two**.

- to save electricity
- to conserve water
- to throw food away good**
- to sing**

2. **She became vegan...**

What does the word **vegan** mean, as defined in the text? Tick one.

- to give up air travel
- to cut out all animal products**
- to stop buying things
- to decide to strike

3. Look at the section called **Beginning of Awareness**.

Find and copy one word which means 'to make smaller'.

**reduce**

4. What is the name of Greta's sister?

**Greta's sister is called Beata.**

5. In which year did Sweden experience heatwaves and wildfires?

**Sweden experienced heatwaves and wildfires in 2018.**

6. Summarise why Greta was confused when she first heard about climate change.

**When Greta first heard the words 'climate change', she was confused because humans could simply stop doing harmful things yet Greta thought that nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.**

7. Which of the main themes of Greta's speeches do you most agree with? Explain your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I agree that we must act now if we want to change the future. I agree with this because every day that passes means that we are adding more carbon dioxide to the planet and making climate change worse. If we act now, we will help the planet more quickly.**

8. Discuss how Greta has influenced young people worldwide.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Greta has influenced young people worldwide by showing them that it is okay to stand up for what you believe in. Many young people strike to share their concern about the planet and that is because of Greta.**

9. What do you think that Greta hopes will be the result of her activism? Give a reason for your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Greta hopes her activism will lead lots of people to make better choices and will lead governments around the world to listen to young people (and their concerns about climate change) before it is too late.**

# Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish student and climate activist. She campaigns to raise global awareness about climate change and its impact on the planet.

## Family Life

Greta Thunberg was born to parents Sara Magdalena Ernman (known as Malena) and Svante Thunberg in 2003. At the time of Greta's birth, her mother worked as a world-renowned opera singer – travelling globally from their home in Sweden to perform in musicals and theatre shows. Greta's father also worked within the entertainment industry – just as his father had before him – as an actor. When Greta was young, the family welcomed a new addition: Greta's sister Beata.

## Beginning of Awareness

As a child, Greta recalls being taught to turn off lights to save electricity, not to waste water when brushing her teeth and not to throw away good food. When she questioned why, Greta first heard the words that would shape her later activism: climate change. At first, Greta did not believe what she had heard; surely, if humans know that they can change the climate, they should simply stop doing harmful things. Why would they continue to do things like burn fossil fuels, knowing that it pumps harmful emissions into the environment? Yet, nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.

Greta began to research further into climate change – a passion she has, so far, pursued during her teenage years. She began to make small changes in her own life to reduce her carbon footprint – her impact on the planet and the amount of emissions she is responsible for. She became vegan – omitting all animal products from her diet – and stopped purchasing things unless they were truly necessary. In 2015, Greta also made the decision to stop flying in aeroplanes because of the impact it has on the environment. All the while, Greta shared her findings with her family and they agreed to follow suit; Greta's mother, Malena, also decided to cease all air international career. When Greta saw that her family had all made small changes too, this gave her hope and belief that she could spread the word further and have a greater impact on the planet.



# Greta Thunberg

## Fridays For Future

In 2018, when Greta was 15 years old, Sweden experienced the hottest summer since records began 262 years before. Greta's home country was struck by heatwaves and wildfires to a magnitude that she had never known. She knew then that she needed to act.

At the start of the new school year, Greta decided to strike and she vowed not to attend school for three weeks. Instead, Greta began to protest by sitting outside the Swedish government building, handing out leaflets about what Greta termed 'the climate crisis'. She was furious that governments around the world – including her own – were not doing everything that they could to stop climate change. News of her protest quickly spread and attracted attention both online and on TV. Children around the world agreed with Greta and joined in with her protest.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Greta decided to continue to strike every Friday until her government began to act. She started a movement known as Fridays For Future, which has now seen over 5,200 strikes by young people around the world who share Greta's concern for the future of their planet.

## Support for Greta

In February 2019, 224 scientists and academics from around the world agreed that Greta was noble in her actions and that her protests had their full support. As Greta's popularity and influence grew, she was invited to speak at prestigious events around the world to share her concerns about climate change. Greta's speeches cover four main themes:

- global warming is so serious that it will lead to the end of the world as we know it;
- the current generation of adults are stealing the future of young people by not acting;
- we must act now if we want to change the future;
- politicians and decision makers must listen to scientists if the world is to undo its mistakes before it is too late

Greta continues to travel the world via eco-friendly transport in order to spread the word about climate change.



# Questions

1. What event coincided with Greta's three-week strike? Tick one.

- the government closing down
- the beginning of the academic year
- the building of a supermarket
- the flight of an aeroplane

2. In which year was Greta's activism publicly supported by academics? Tick one.

- 2003
- 2009
- 2018
- 2019

3. **...a passion she has, so far, pursued during her teenage years.**

Rewrite this phrase in your own words.

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4. Look at the section **Family Life**.

Find and copy one phrase which proves that Beata is younger than Greta.

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5. List **two** things that Greta recalls being taught as a child.

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2. \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Greta's grandfather do as a job? Explain how you know.

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7. Explain why Greta did not immediately believe what she had heard about climate change.

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8. Summarise how Greta's mother's life has changed as a result of her daughter's activism.

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9. Discuss **two** aspects of Greta's personality, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

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10. Explain how Greta's family inspired her to take her activism to a global stage.

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# Answers

1. What event coincided with Greta's three-week strike? Tick one.

- the government closing down
- the beginning of the academic year**
- the building of a supermarket
- the flight of an aeroplane

2. In which year was Greta's activism publicly supported by academics? Tick one.

- 2003
- 2009
- 2018
- 2019**

3. ...a passion she has, so far, pursued during her teenage years.

Rewrite this phrase in your own words.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: 'a topic she has been interested in as a teenager'.**

4. Look at the section **Family Life**.

Find and copy one phrase which proves that Beata is younger than Greta.

**When Greta was young, the family welcomed a new addition.**

5. List **two** things that Greta recalls being taught as a child.

**Accept any two of the following: to turn off lights to save electricity; not to waste water when brushing her teeth; not to throw away good food..**

6. What did Greta's grandfather do as a job? Explain how you know.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Greta's grandfather was an actor. I know this because the text says that Greta's father is in the entertainment industry 'just as his father had been before him'.**

7. Explain why Greta did not immediately believe what she had heard about climate change.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: When Greta first heard about climate change, she did not immediately believe it because it seemed as though humans could simply stop doing harmful things yet Greta thought that nobody seemed to be doing anything at all.**

8. Summarise how Greta's mother's life has changed as a result of her daughter's activism.  
**Pupils' own responses, such as: Greta's mother's life has changed because, since Greta shared her findings with her, Malena has given up international flight and, as such, ended her international career as a singer.**

9. Discuss **two** aspects of Greta's personality, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I think that Greta is inquisitive because she asked why she was being taught things, such as saving electricity. I also think that Greta is stubborn because she refused to go to school until the government took action and listened to her.**

10. Explain how Greta's family inspired her to take her activism to a global stage.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Greta's family inspired her to take her activism further because when Greta saw that her family had all made small changes too. This gave her hope that she could spread the word further and have a greater impact on the planet. Without them, Greta might have felt too powerless to make a global change.**