

Student worksheet – Sustainable development

Protecting the planet

Read the text below and watch the interview hidden behind the QR code below. Then discuss the assignment with the nearest classmate who is working with the same theme as you. You will find the discussion questions on the next page.



Humans have a growing impact on the Earth as a habitat. Forests and other natural resources are devastated. Toxic and harmful substances spread into the natural surroundings. Our energy use is changing the Earth's climate.

Discoveries by Nobel Laureates have increased knowledge of how our way of life affects the environment. Nobel Laureates have also fought to save the environment and protect sustainable communities.

How can knowledge and research provide the basis for ways to control future development? How can we, through our decisions and our way of life, make sure that our planet will be a habitat for future generations as well?

PLANTING TREES

Extensive logging of forests can have far-reaching consequences. The soil can be washed away by rain or blow away with the wind. Deserts can spread. Eventually the result can be food shortages and famine. Forests absorb carbon dioxide from the air, making them important in curbing climate changes.

In 1977 **Wangari Maathai** founded the Green Belt Movement in Kenya, a grass-roots movement that primarily organizes women in efforts to plant trees. The Green Belt Movement has planted more than 50 million trees in Kenya so far and inspired similar campaigns in many other countries.

How can we preserve forests and make them grow?



Watch the interview with a researcher by scanning the QR code with your mobile phone. The interview can also be found at this internet link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mygZHjuMJrQ&feature=youtu.be>

Assignment

Use the text you read, the interview you watched and the picture below of the global goals.

You have spoken earlier about the global Sustainable Development Goals. Now you should think about whether the contributions of Nobel Laureate Wangari Maathai have helped the world move closer to achieving the global goals.

1. Which of the global goals have been affected the most by the work of the Laureate? (Find at least two goals.)

2. In what way has her work had a positive impact on efforts to achieve these goals?

3. Has the work of the Laureate had any negative impact on efforts to achieve one of the global goals?

