

Greta Thunberg

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



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 made small changes in her own life to help the planet, such as cutting all animal products from her diet and not buying things unless she really needed them. In 2015, Greta also stopped flying in aeroplanes because of the environmental impact.



Greta's Family

Greta was born to Malena Ernman and Svante Thunberg on 3rd January 2003. Her mother was an opera singer and her father worked as an actor. Greta also has a younger sister named Beata.

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**.

Did You Know...?

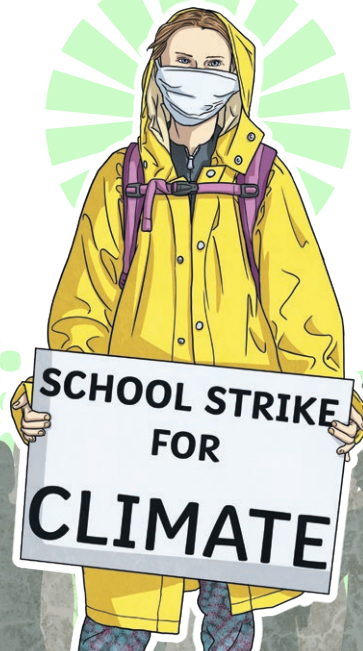
Greta is an Autistic person. She describes this as her superpower.

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.

● ● ● On 8th 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'.



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. This gave Greta hope that she could spread the word further and help the planet.



Greta Thunberg

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. In 2019, she travelled to speak in America in a solar-powered boat.

● ● ● A book of Greta's speeches called 'No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference' was published in 2019.

Glossary

climate change:

The term used for the change in the temperature and climate of an area or planet.

strike:

When a person refuses to go to work as a protest against something they do not agree with.

Questions

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Answers

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

Greta's mother also gave up air travel to help with climate change.

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. Greta is an Autistic person and has inspired many other Autistic people.

Family Life

Greta Thunberg was born to parents Malena Ernman and Svante Thunberg on 3rd January 2003. When Greta was born, her mother was an opera singer who travelled the world to perform. Greta's father worked as an actor. She also has a younger sister named Beata.

Beginning of Awareness

As a child, Greta was taught to save electricity, water and not to throw away good food. When she asked why, Greta first heard the words 'climate change'. 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 she didn't need. In 2015, Greta also decided to stop flying in aeroplanes.

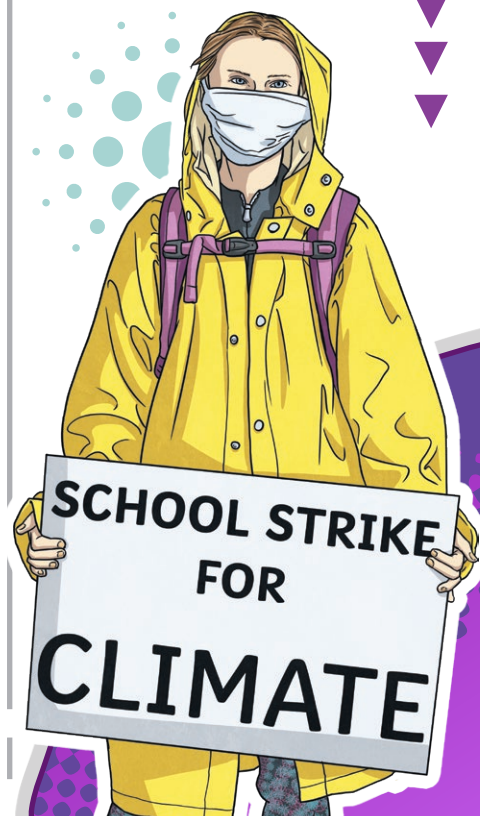
Greta shared what she had found out with her family and they agreed to do the same. Greta's mother gave up all air travel and ended her international career.



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.



When Greta saw that her family had all made small changes too, it gave her hope that she could spread the word further and help the planet.

Support for Greta

In February 2019, 224 scientists and **academics** gave Greta's protests their full support. As Greta's influence grew, she was invited to speak at important events around the world. 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.

A book of Greta's speeches called 'No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference' was published in 2019.

Greta continues to travel the world using eco-friendly transport in order to spread the word about climate change. In 2019, she travelled to speak in America at the United Nations Climate Change Summit, in a solar-powered boat.

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.



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. Children around the world agreed with Greta and joined in with her protest.

● ● ● On 8th 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 5200 strikes by young people around the world.

Questions

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

- to save electricity
- to conserve water
- to throw away good food
- 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'.

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

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

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

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

8. Discuss how Greta has influenced young people worldwide.

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

Answers

- Which of these was Greta **not** taught as a child? Tick **two**.
 - to save electricity
 - to conserve water
 - to throw away good food**
 - to sing**
- 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
- Look at the section called **Beginning of Awareness**.
Find and copy one word which means 'to make smaller'.
reduce
- What is the name of Greta's sister?
Greta's sister is called Beata.
- In which year did Sweden experience heatwaves and wildfires?
Sweden experienced heatwaves and wildfires in 2018.
- Summarise why Greta was confused when she first heard about climate change.
Pupils' own responses, such as: 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.
- 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.
- 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 is a Swedish climate activist. She campaigns to raise global awareness about climate change. Greta is also Autistic and has inspired many other Autistic people. Greta describes her Autism as her superpower.

Greta Thunberg

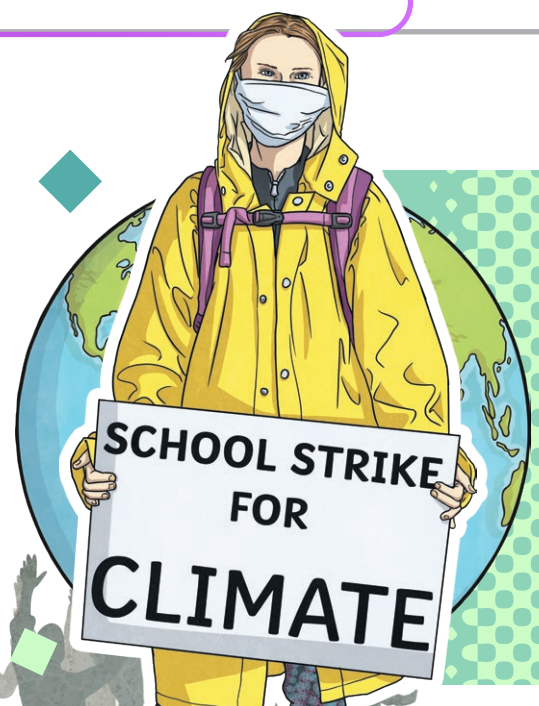
Family Life

Greta Thunberg was born to parents Sara Magalenda Ernman (known as Malena) and Svante Thunberg on 3rd January 2003. At the time of Greta's birth, her mother worked as a world-renowned opera singer – travelling globally to perform. Greta's father worked as an actor as his own father had done. When Greta was young, her sister Beata was born.

Beginning of Awareness

As a child, Greta recalls being taught to turn off lights to save electricity, not to waste water 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? Yet, nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.

Greta began to research further into climate change – a passion she 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. 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 travel – ending her international career.



When Greta saw that her family had all made small changes too, it gave her hope and belief 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 the hottest summer since records began. Greta's home country was struck by heatwaves and wildfires. 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 she 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 Greta's 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 8th 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 5200 strikes by young people around the world who share Greta's concern for the future of their planet.

Support for Greta

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 grows, she has been invited to speak at prestigious events around the world to share her concerns about climate change. The four main themes of Greta's speeches are:

- 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.

A book of Greta's speeches called 'No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference' was published in 2019. Greta continues to travel the world using eco-friendly transport in order to spread the word about climate change. In 2019, she travelled to speak in America at the United Nations Climate Change Summit, in a solar-powered boat. In 2020, Greta travelled to meet the famous human rights activist Malala Yousafzai in Oxford. She describes Malala as her role model.

Questions

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

- the government closing down
- the beginning of the school 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 pursued during her teenage years.

Rewrite this phrase in your own words.

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

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

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

1. _____

2. _____

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

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

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

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

10. What impressions do you get of Greta from this text?
Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence

Answers

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

- the government closing down
- the beginning of the school 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 pursued during her teenage years.

Rewrite this phrase in your own words.

Pupils' own responses, such as: 'a topic she was 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, her sister Beata was born.

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; 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 worked as an actor 'as his own father had done'

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 gave up international flight and, as such, ended her international career as a singer.

9. 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.
10. What impressions do you get of Greta from this text?
 Give **two** impressions, using evidence from the text to support your answer.

Impression	Evidence
She is very dedicated.	-Greta began to strike and founded the 'Fridays for Future' movement.
She practices what she tells others to do.	-In 2019, she travelled to speak in America in a solar-powered boat.
People listen to her.	-There have now been over 5200 strikes by young people around the world. -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.
She is very successful.	-A book of Greta's speeches called 'No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference' was published in 2019.