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# CULTURE

English-speaking World

● Citizenship

● Global Goals

● Exams

SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT  
GOALS



Inquadra il QR Code e scopri il mondo Sanoma

s a n o m a

LANG  
LINGUE E FUTURO



# Fridays for Future

13 CLIMATE ACTION



## WARM UP

What is the text about? Look and guess. Choose **a**, **b** or **c**.

- a ☐ Old people protesting against climate change.
- b ☐ Young people protesting against climate change.
- c ☐ Mums and dads protesting against climate change.

## What is Fridays for Future?

Fridays for Future is a young people's global movement. Followers of this movement organise school **strikes**<sup>1</sup> and protests against climate change. They encourage other students to protest in public places on Fridays instead of going to school. They want international governments and citizens everywhere to take action. They are tired of governments talking about environmental problems and not finding solutions. They want governments to follow the Paris Agreement and to listen to scientists.

## KEY WORDS

**Climate change:** changes in the Earth's temperature and weather patterns, primarily due to human behaviour.

**Paris Agreement:** an international treaty on climate change. 195 countries plus the European Union signed the treaty in 2015.



## GLOSSARY

- 1 **strikes** scioperi
- 2 **placard** cartello
- 3 **environmental activist** ambientalista
- 4 **demands** richieste, sollecitazioni

**YouTube** Watch the video.  
'Sign for the Climate'





## How did it start?

In 2018 Greta Thunberg, a 15-year-old Swedish schoolgirl, sat outside her country's parliament every day for three weeks. She wanted the Swedish government to take real action against climate change so she went on strike and didn't go to school. Journalists from all over the world took photos of her and her school strike **placard**<sup>2</sup>. She was alone at first but soon other students joined her. They created the hashtag #FridaysForFuture and asked students in other countries to protest too. Greta, who is an **environmental activist**<sup>3</sup>, and the Fridays for Future movement became very famous. World leaders invited Greta to speak at international events like the United Nations COP24 and started to listen to her movement's **demands**<sup>4</sup>. The Fridays for Future movement continues to work hard and put pressure on governments to meet their commitment to the Paris Agreement.

### GOOD TO KNOW



All countries that signed the Paris Agreement are committed to limiting global warming to below 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrial levels. The ideal figure that scientists say we must aim for is 1.5 degrees Celsius. The USA left the Paris Agreement in 2020 but joined again in 2021 with president Biden. Global efforts to reach the ideal 1.5 are continuing.



## ACTIVITIES

**1 TOWARDS INVALSI** Read all of the information and tick T (True), F (False) or NG (Not Given).

- |   |   |  |
|---|---|--|
| 0 | Fridays for Future is a global climate strike movement. | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> NG |
| 1 | The movement demands that governments take action.      | <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> NG            |
| 2 | The Paris Agreement is a national treaty.               | <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> NG            |
| 3 | Greta Thunberg started the movement in 2015.            | <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> NG            |
| 4 | Thunberg's parents agree with her ideas.                | <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> NG            |
| 5 | Limiting global warming to below 2 degrees is ideal.    | <input type="checkbox"/> T <input type="checkbox"/> F <input type="checkbox"/> NG            |

**2 DEBATE** **Life skills** Do you think Fridays for Future are a good idea? Why? Why not? Give reasons.

**Group 1:** Argue in favour of Fridays for Future.

**Group 2:** Argue against Fridays for Future.





THAT'S  
AMAZING!



STEM

KIDS CAN!



### The Children's Climate Prize

The Children's Climate Prize is an international award for young people aged 12-17 who want to actively contribute to building a better future for our planet.



### Teens and tech can save the planet

Recent statistics report that forest fires globally are increasing. April 2020 saw a 13% increase in forest fire alerts compared to 2019, and the consequences are catastrophic both for the planet and for people. Animals lose their natural habitat and sometimes their lives in forest fires and this threatens the whole ecosystem. Burning forests emit dangerous levels of carbon monoxide which cause the premature death

of over 300,000 people every year. So, what can we do? Well, the long-term solution involves **tackling**<sup>1</sup> climate change but in the short-term we need practical solutions to try and stop the fires starting and **spreading**<sup>2</sup>. One of these solutions could be the AI model that Reshma Kosaraju invented. The 15-year-old American schoolgirl's model can predict forest fires. Her invention won the Children's Climate Prize 2021.

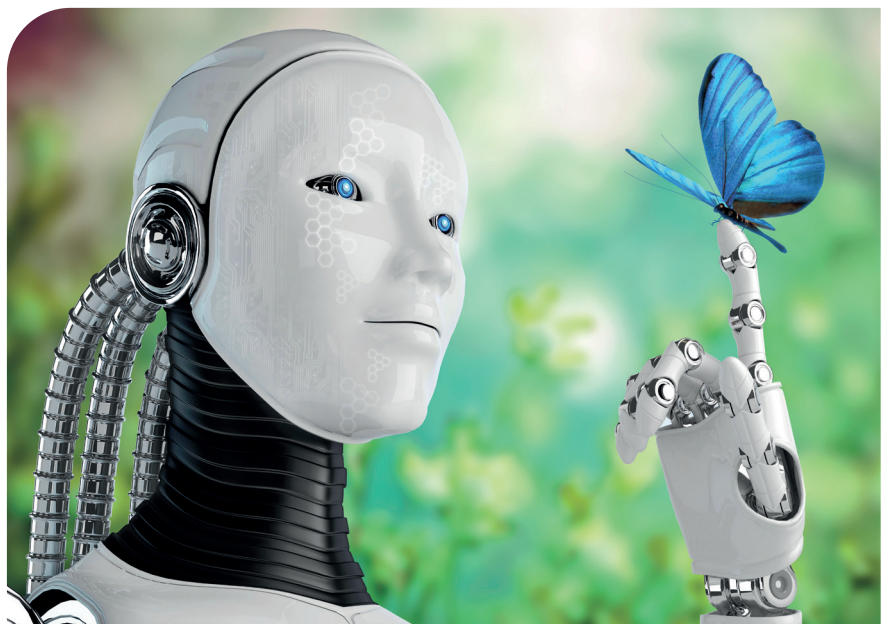
### How it works

Kosaraju's AI model can predict forest fires with an accuracy rate of almost 90%. The computer prototype uses open data such as temperature and wind speed to calculate when and where there is the greatest risk of a forest fire starting. It also takes into account variables like human behaviour because making campfires or smoking for example can sometimes start forest fires.

### GOOD TO KNOW



AI stands for Artificial Intelligence. Artificial Intelligence is a computer system that can perform tasks that usually require human intelligence.







## Moving forward

Kosaraju would like her computer prototype to become an app that people everywhere can use. She would love people who live in areas that are most at risk from forest fires to be able to receive an alert on their devices. This app would also be very useful to fire departments.

### GLOSSARY

- 1 **tackling** affrontare  
2 **spreading** diffondersi

## ACTIVITIES

### 1 Read the text and underline the correct word.

- There are **less** / **more** forest fires around the world now than in the past.
- Carbon monoxide from forest fires is responsible for people dying **earlier** / **later**.
- Reshma Kosaraju created **an app** / **a computer program** to predict forest fires.
- Kosaraju's AI model uses **private** / **open** data.
- The model can predict forest fires **quite** / **not very** accurately.
- Kosaraju would like a **few** / **lot** of people to use her model as an app in the future.

### 2 Complete the text with the verbs below.

was • increased • invented • lost • won  
Reshma Kosaraju <sup>(1)</sup> ..... the Children's Climate Prize in 2021 when she <sup>(2)</sup> ..... 15 years old. She won the prize with her AI project against forest fires. Forest fire alerts <sup>(3)</sup> ..... globally from April 2019 to 2020 and animals <sup>(4)</sup> ..... their habitat and sometimes their lives. Kosaraju <sup>(5)</sup> ..... a computer prototype that uses open data to predict forest fires.

### 3 REAL-LIFE TASK Life skills Work in groups.

- ◆ Come up with an idea for an app that will help in the fight against climate change.
- ◆ Prepare a brief. Include a list of data that the program will need access to.
- ◆ Present your brief to your classmates.

