

# Greta Thunberg

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

## What Is Greta's Family Like?

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.

## Did You Know...?

Climate change is the term used for the change in the temperature and climate of an area or planet. It is caused by high levels of carbon dioxide and can also be known as global warming.

## When Did Greta Learn 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 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. This gave Greta hope that she could spread the word further.

## What Did Greta Do?

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 parliament. 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 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 5,200 strikes by young people around the world. They all share Greta's worries about the future of their planet.

### What Does Greta Speak About?

Global warming can also be called climate change. It is the planet Earth getting hotter. This means 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;
- we must listen to scientists if the world is to undo its mistakes.



# Questions

1. What nationality is Greta? Tick one.

- Scottish
- Swedish
- Swiss
- Serbian

2. Which of Greta's family members was an opera singer? Tick one.

- Beata
- Svante
- Malena
- Greta

3. Number the events from 1-5 to show the order in which they occurred.

- News of Greta's protest spread.
- Greta did not go to school for three weeks.
- Greta first heard the words 'climate change'.
- Greta shared what she had learnt with her family.
- Greta started to make small changes.

4. What is the name of the movement Greta created? Tick one.

- Fridays For Fun
- Future Fridays
- Fridays For Future
- Future For Freedom

5. **She tries to raise awareness about climate change...**

Rewrite this phrase in your own words.

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6. **Look at the section called What Did Greta Do?**

Find and copy one word which describes how Greta felt about the governments' lack of action.

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**7. Explain what is meant by the term climate change.**

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**8. Choose two words to describe Greta Thunberg and explain why you have chosen them.**

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- 5** News of Greta's protest spread.
- 4** Greta did not go to school for three weeks.
- 1** Greta first heard the words 'climate change'.
- 3** Greta shared what she had learnt with her family.
- 2** Greta started to make small changes.

4. What is the name of the movement Greta created? Tick one.

- Fridays For Fun
- Future Fridays
- Fridays For Future**
- Future For Freedom

5. **She tries to raise awareness about climate change...**

Rewrite this phrase in your own words.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Greta tries to let everybody know about climate change.**

6. **Look at the section called What Did Greta Do?**

Find and copy one word which describes how Greta felt about the governments' lack of action.

furious

7. Explain what is meant by the term climate change.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: Climate change is when the temperature of a planet changes because of high levels of carbon dioxide.**

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8. Choose two words to describe Greta Thunberg and explain why you have chosen them.

**Pupils' own responses, such as: I would describe Greta as determined because she tries hard to make a difference to the planet. I would also describe Greta as dedicated because she has made lots of changes and stuck to them.**

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