

Science Time

Program Content for December 16, 2015

Read the article “**195 nations reach historic accord on climate change**” on page A1 of the Sunday, December 13, 2015 edition of The Seattle Times.

Pre-reading and Vocabulary: Define each term and then use it in a sentence to demonstrate your understanding.

1. accord
2. greenhouse gas
3. emission
4. consensus
5. coalition

Comprehension Questions

1. What was unique about the climate accord recently completed in France?
2. What did delegates achieve at the climate change conference that had been unreachable for two decades?
3. Why were some supporters of the climate accord so relentless in trying to persuade skeptical nations?
4. How did the agreement reached in France differ from failed climate change pacts from the past?
5. How does the deal created in France compare to what actually needs to be done to solve global warming?
6. Why is it important that an atmospheric temperature increase of 3.6 degrees Fahrenheit be avoided?
7. When did the dramatic rise in carbon emissions that are happening today actually begin?
8. Why was the “high-ambition coalition” formed at the conference and what countries made up its membership?
9. Why were some not satisfied by the final language of the climate accord?
10. How often will countries return to the negotiating table and when is the next planned meeting?
11. What are “stocktaking” meetings?

Prompts and Extensions

1. Read the article about the challenges the world will face trying to accomplish the goals outlined at the Paris climate conference on page A1 of the Monday, December 14 Seattle Times.
2. Watch [President Obama’s address](#) to the nation after the climate accord was reached. The speech he gave earlier at the conference in France is also available on the site.
3. Want to take action and learn more about what you can do to address climate change? Check out [The Alliance for Climate Education](#) and [350.org](#); two websites dedicated to mobilizing climate change activists.

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