

NEWS BREAK

Wednesday's News Break selects an article from Monday, November 23 of The Seattle Times e-Edition for an in-depth reading of the news. Read the selected article and answer the attached study questions. **Please remember to always preview the content of the article before sharing with your students.**

King County judge denies kids' petition on climate change (NW Monday, **page B2**).

Pre-Reading and Vocabulary

1. Look at the title of this article. What is climate change? How does climate change affect our environment?
2. **Vocabulary: Match the words to the numbered definitions below.**

- A. activist
- B. affirmed
- C. appeal
- D. arguments
- E. carbon emissions
- F. climate change
- G. constitutional right
- H. dictate
- I. emissions
- J. engagement
- K. greenhouse gases
- L. mandatory
- M. obligation
- N. petitioned
- O. regulations

1. the act of producing or sending out something (such as energy or gas) from a source
2. carbon dioxide that planes, cars, factories, etc. produce and thought to be harmful to the environment
3. to ask (a person, group, or organization) for something in a formal way
4. a process in which a decision is studied and accepted or rejected by a higher court or by someone in authority
5. gases that cause the greenhouse effect (the warming of the Earth's atmosphere that is caused by air pollution)
6. to give orders to (someone)
7. required by a law or rule
8. a person who uses or supports strong actions (such as public protests) to help make changes in politics or society
9. rights given or reserved to the people by the U.S. Constitution, and in particular, the Bill of Rights (first ten amendments)
10. something that you must do because of a law, rule, promise, etc.
11. a statement or series of statements for or against something
12. the act or state of being involved with something

13. an official rule or law that says how something should be done
14. a long-term change in the earth's climate, especially a change due to an increase in the average atmospheric temperature
15. to say that something is true in a confident way

Comprehension

1. Judge Hollis Hill denied the _____ by eight young activists but affirmed some of the children's _____. **(Fill in the blanks)**
2. Judge Hill said the Department of Ecology is already working on meeting the obligation to protect natural resources for future generations by writing new rules for what?
3. Judge Hill also said that the court can't _____ how officials develop the rules. **(Fill in the blank)**
4. The judge also noted in her ruling that the Department of Ecology is taking science into account. Name one other consideration (3 were listed) that she also said the Department of Ecology was taking into account.
5. According to the article, who did the eight young activists petition to adopt stricter science-based regulations to protect them against climate change? **(Multiple Choice)**
 - a) King County
 - b) The City of Seattle
 - c) Washington state
 - d) None of the above
6. The case is part of a nationwide effort to force states and the federal government to take action on climate change – **true or false?**
7. The eight young activists range in age from _____ to _____. **(Multiple choice)**
 - a) 8 to 16
 - b) 10 to 15
 - c) 15 to 18
8. Andrea Rodgers, an attorney with the Western Environmental Law Center, noted that the judge said Washington has a mandatory duty under the state's Clean Air act and the state constitution to preserve and protect what, for current and future generations?
9. Department of Ecology Director Maia Bellon said she was impressed with the children's engagement. What did she say she welcomed from them?

Additional Activities

1. In the article, Michael Gerrard, a professor and director of the Sabin Center for Climate Change Law at Columbia University, called the judge's ruling "helpful but not revolutionary." "This court decision has some nice language, but the court did not require anybody to do anything." Do you agree with his statement – why or why not? Do you agree with the judge's ruling? What do you think the court should have done?
2. The Department of Ecology has been ordered by Gov. Jay Inslee to write new rules to limit carbon emissions based on the best available science. Learn more about the Department of Ecology's Air Quality Program and what requirements/rules are currently in place to protect the environment at <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/air.html>.
3. On August 3, 2015, President Obama and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced the Clean Power Plan, an important step in reducing carbon pollution from power plants and takes action on climate change. Learn more about the U.S.

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Clean Power Plan at
<http://www2.epa.gov/cleanpowerplan>.

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Answer Key to Vocabulary

- A. 8
- B. 15
- C. 4
- D. 11
- E. 2
- F. 14
- G. 9
- H. 6
- I. 1
- J. 12
- K. 5
- L. 7
- M. 10
- N. 3
- O. 13

Answer Key to Comprehension Questions

- 1. appeal; arguments
- 2. greenhouse gas emissions (or carbon emissions)
- 3. dictate
- 4. economic, social and political considerations (**Answers may vary – only one example necessary**)
- 5. c) Washington state
- 6. True
- 7. b) 10 to 15
- 8. The air quality.
- 9. She said she welcomed their input as the state writes those new rules.