

## **Science Time**

### **Program Content for November 30, 2016**

Read the article “State is failing us on climate change, youngsters tell court” on page B1 of the Wednesday, November 23, 2016 edition of The Seattle Times.

#### **Objective**

- I can explain how children are taking climate change legal action against the state and federal government.

#### **Next Generation Science Standards (NGSS) connection**

- Current models predict that, although future regional climate changes will be complex and varied, average global temperatures will continue to rise. The outcomes predicted by global climate models strongly depend on the amounts of human-generated greenhouse gases added to the atmosphere each year and by the ways in which these gases are absorbed by the ocean and biosphere.
- Science knowledge indicates what can happen in natural systems—not what should happen. The latter involves ethics, values, and human decisions about the use of knowledge.
- Many decisions are not made using science alone, but rely on social and cultural contexts to resolve issues.

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

1. contempt
2. emission
3. activist
4. natural resource
5. plaintiff

#### **Comprehension Questions**

1. Why did eight children ask a Seattle judge to find Washington state in contempt?
2. How old were the children who asked the judge to step in on their behalf?
3. What do the children want the judge to require the Department of Ecology in Washington state to do?
4. What was the state’s argument in reaction to the children’s request of the judge?
5. What did the judge rule after hearing arguments from both sides?
6. What is the purpose of the Oregon-based nonprofit ‘Our Children’s Trust’?
7. What was the result of a recent Oregon climate-change case against the Obama administration?
8. What is the argument of the activists in the Oregon case?
9. What is Aji Piper’s biggest concern?
10. When did Aji Piper and the seven other children activists originally bring their petition to court?
11. Why did the plaintiffs like Aji Piper of the current climate change case ask a judge to step in after initially having their appeal denied?
12. Why are the Seattle children unhappy with the most recent clean-air rule?
13. By what percentage does the current clean-air rule require large polluters to reduce their emissions by each year?

#### **Prompts and Extensions**

Science Time is posted to the Web on Wednesdays. Please share this NIE Science Time program with other teachers. To sign-up for the electronic edition for your class, please register

1. Visit the [website](#) of Our Children's Trust to learn more about how this organization is supporting children and young adults to take legal climate change action against states and the federal government. Here's a [direct link](#) to documentaries on the organization's actions.
2. Sign the [petition](#) to support the children taking action against climate change.
3. Learn more about the [21 child plaintiffs](#) taking action through the legal system to address climate change. Which quote do you most agree with the most? Explain.
4. Want to learn more about how you can take action on climate change? Visit the Alliance for Climate Education's [website](#) for strategies on how you can get involved and even [book a visit](#) by the organization to your school.
5. Learn more about another climate organization [350.org](#) and its push to build a global climate movement.

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