

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS

“The greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”

-Robert Swan

Should We Be Worried About Overpopulation?

By GANA ELHANAFY and SARAH SHAFIQ

In the last few decades, the world’s population has exploded, from 3.7 billion people in 1970, to 7.5 billion in 2019. The population has doubled in less than 50 years. As the world’s inhabitants continue to increase, it will become harder to sustain a population this large. So, how did this happen? What caused the population to erupt like this? One cause is a lower child mortality rate. Less children are dying between the ages of 0 and 5 than ever, mainly due to a revolution in medicine. Another cause is improvements in food production. Better hygiene and food meant people lived longer and more children survived.

While all this sounds good, what would happen if the population went too high? Earth’s carrying capacity is only 10 billion, and we are predicted to reach 12 billion before 2100. This can lead to many consequences, one of which is a worldwide food crisis. Food shortages are already occurring in many countries because of climate change. If these trends continue to hold up, we will enter a global food crisis. Millions of people would die from starvation, from wars and conflict over shrinking resources.

Coronavirus: Where Did it Come From?

By FATEMA IBTESAM

We’ve all heard of it, there’s a new epidemic. What is it? It’s the coronavirus. Although it is an epidemic, should we fear it? Not all of us. Like the flu, the coronavirus is also an infectious respiratory illness. An average healthy person that survived the flu, would also survive the coronavirus. However, the population at risk are those who are immunocompromised, pregnant, or have any chronic illnesses, and they will most likely suffer from the coronavirus just as they would from the flu, or from anything else. So, where did it come from? And how do diseases originate?

“Although it is an epidemic, should we fear it?”

Viruses can cause familiar infectious diseases, and the coronavirus falls under that category. In this case, the disease is caused by an invasion of a micro-organism. Failure of the immune system eliminating all invaders in time will likely cause for the spread of the invader, harm the cells, or even cause uncontrolled cell growth. (Proper hygiene can be used as a prevention method.) Eventually, the invader will take the body as hostage and “feed” from it.



NYC Plastic Bag Ban—What to Know

By SUMAYA JAHAN

Starting on March 1, 2020, all single-use plastic bags will be banned in New York State, which will make it the eighth state in the US to take measures on regulating plastic waste. Though it may seem like the end of the world of not getting your cream cheese bagel in a bag anymore, there are actually a few types of plastic bags that are exempt from this law which can be found on the website dec.ny.gov

Though stores are not offering single-use plastic bags anymore, that does not mean that they don't offer anything if you have a shopping spree. Many stores are currently transitioning to reusable plastics bags as well as paper bags, but both come with fees to encourage people to start bringing their own bags when coming to shop. New York communities are starting a new campaign called the BYOBAG-Ny (Bring your own Bag-New York) in which they give free reusable bags to the public in hopes for a new future with a clean and green environment.

Water Conservation

By MOHAMMAD HASSAN

It can be reasonably inferred that we (humans) waste way too much water. Sometimes we forget our duties as Muslims to try our best to conserve water. We also forget that there are people all around the world that, unfortunately, don't have any access to fresh water. Allah (SWT) says in the

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Quran [28:18] “And We have sent down rain from the sky in a measured amount and settled it on the earth. And indeed, We are Able to take it away.” This should be a reminder for us, as Muslims, to be conservative of water; for Allah the Almighty has power over all things. Allah also says in the Quran [7:31] “O children of Adam, take your adornment at every Masjid, and eat and drink, but be not excessive. Indeed, He likes not those who commit excess.” This ayah is a word from Allah that tells us that we, as Muslims, must not be wasteful but instead be conservative, especially of something so crucial to human life such as water.

There are many daily habits we can change in order to be more conservative. Research shows that United States households lose over 1 trillion gallons in total each year. Key word, LOSE. It may seem like an exaggeration, but we as Muslims should reflect on the amount of water that is wasted. We should take steps to not only decrease the amount of water wasted, but also to increase the amount of water used for beneficial purposes like planting trees, providing water to animals who actually need it, helping people around the globe that don't have access to fresh water, and much more.

Organic Food vs Inorganic Food

By ABDUL WAHID

When it comes to food, there are many options that may appease people; one of those options being the term “organic”. Having “Organic” on a food package might be appealing, but what does it mean? The USDA National Organic Program (NOP) defines organic simply as produce that is grown without the aid of pesticides, synthetic fertilizers, sewage sludge, genetically modified organisms (GMOs), or ionizing radiation. Animals that produce meat, poultry, eggs, or dairy products must

be grown without antibiotics or growth hormones. It is believed that due to the lack of harmful chemicals in organic food, it's safer to consume than inorganic food.

“What does it mean?”

Not only does organic food have a better nutritional value, they are also safer for the environment than inorganic foods. Farms that produce inorganic food have caused greenhouse gas emissions, soil erosion, water pollution, and threatens human health. On the other hand, Organic farms produce less greenhouse gas emissions, conserves and builds soil health and help ecosystems acquire clean water and air. In the times of environmental safety and awareness, many people are switching to organic farms and food in a way to help preserve the environment.

Acid Rain

By ANWAR AHMED

Acid Rain is no doubt a concerning environmental issue which is often overshadowed by environmental topics like climate change and global warming. However, by tackling smaller issues like Acid Rain it will also indirectly remedy bigger issues like air and water pollution. Acid Rain is when industrial acidic gases (SO², NO², CO²) are released into the atmosphere (air pollution) which are later carried upwards by the wind, then gases combine with water droplets to form “acid rain” which by definition is water that has a pH lower than 5.6.

We can stop or reduce acid rain pollution (short-term) by doing simple things like turning off electrical equipment when not being used, recycling, and not littering. As for long term solutions it would require international unity on the matter with goals like government spending on researching different ways to produce energy and more government spending on pollution control. Nonetheless, what governments have still yet to do; the least we can do is be more conscious of what we do on this God-given earth.

Upcoming Events

March 4 - CoCo Key Trip

March 4-7 - Model United Nations Conference

March 8 - Daylight Savings

March 9-13 - Spring Recess

March 14 - SAT Test date

March 18 - Sisters in Style (SIS) Day

March 19 - Spring Begins

March 20 - End of 1st Marking Period

March 21 - Islamic Schools Spelling Bee

March 28 - Ramadan Quran Competition

Br. Bahaa's Heart	
Critical thinking question	
Lahma	
Color coordinating outfits	

mEmE oF tHe mOnTh by Hanifa Souley

Q & A

By ELMA HOSSAIN

Question: The effects of Global Warming have begun to increase drastically; greenhouse gases and carbon emissions have never been higher. With China and the United States being responsible for 45% of the world's carbon footprint, it is only a matter of time humans begin to face the consequences. Knowing this, how do you think we as individuals should address this global issue?

Answer: “We as individuals should address climate change by diving right into it just like the thing penguins in the Arctic are no longer able to do. You know why? Because human ignorance has now reached a point where we care more about our own greed than what the earth deserves. And also pick up your trash! It ain't that hard!” (Hanifa Souley, Grade 11)

(Answer has not been edited for clarification because we had trouble understanding it ourselves)