

Earth Hour

(Length: 3:11)

Language

talking about climate change
countries, cities and landmarks
big numbers

Level

Pre-Intermediate; A2

Programme details

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FclcMfzjwug>

Earth Hour started in Sydney, Australia, in 2007, when 2.2 million people turned off their lights for an hour to raise awareness of climate change. In March 2009, over 4,000 cities in 88 countries took part in the event. Earth Hour 2010 takes place on Saturday 27 March at 8.30pm local time. This is the official video promoting the event.

Comment

Depending on the level of your students, you can use this video to start a debate on whether or not global warming is taking place and how much human activity is to blame for the changes in the climate.

Before you watch

- 1 Give students copies of the worksheet and ask them to do exercise 1. In the exercise students have to match cities with their countries in the right column. They can do this in pairs or small groups.
- 2 Invite students to read out their answers and focus on the pronunciation of the cities and countries. Don't correct any wrong answers at this stage.
- 3 Ask one or more students to read out exercise 2. Find out if any of your students know about Earth Hour and, if they do, ask them to explain what happens during Earth Hour. If they don't know, ask them to imagine how the cities might participate in an event called Earth Hour.

While you watch

- 4 Explain that you're going to play a video promoting Earth Hour 2010. The students should watch the video and check their answers to exercise 2. They should also look at the on-screen captions to check their answers to exercise 1. .
- 5 In pairs, students complete exercise 4. All these quotes are spoken in the first half of the video so you can check answers by playing the video up to (1.20), pausing at intervals to make sure students hear the correct answer.
- 6 Ask students where Earth Hour started. This information comes at the beginning of the video. (Answer: It started in Sydney, Australia in 2007.) Now ask students to look at exercise 5. All the statements are from the on-screen titles that appear throughout the video. If students don't remember the facts, they should be able to logically work out which numbers apply to which statement.

Video eLesson

Week starting 8th March 2010

- 7 Before playing the video a final time, ask students to work in groups to answer exercise 6. If you want to extend the activity you can ask them to also list any things they remember people doing in the video. Make a final list on the board and then play the video to check the answers to exercise 5 and to see how many landmarks and famous places the students correctly identified.

After you watch

- 8 Divide the class into groups. Ask the students to answer the questions in exercise 7 in their groups. Invite some students to share their answers with the rest of the class to see how their answers compare.
- 9 Ask students to look at exercise 8 and encourage them to talk about an event they participated in. You can do this in open class or with students still working in their groups.
- 10 If you are doing this activity close to the Earth Hour date then you can follow up the activity at a class after Saturday 27th March to find out if the students took part. If they did, ask them to give an account of what happened.

Answer key:

1

1 m	7 j	12 k
2 h	8 c	13 p
3 b	9 d	14 o
4 e	10 g	15 i
5 l	11 f	16 n
6 a		

2

People in the cities switched off their lights at the same time for one hour. The lights were also switched off at public buildings and important landmarks.

4

- 1 landmarks
- 2 global
- 3 statement
- 4 highlight
- 5 together
- 6 voice
- 7 legislation
- 8 participation

5

- 1 2.2 million
- 2 50 million
- 3 2009
- 4 4,000
- 5 18
- 6 1 billion

6 (suggested answers)

- Colosseum in Rome
- Eiffel Tower in Rome
- Christ the Redeemer in Rio
- Pyramids in Egypt
- Acropolis in Athens
- Houses of Parliament and Big Ben in London
- Empire State Building in New York
- Sydney Harbour Bridge in Sydney
- 'Water Cube' in Beijing
- Edinburgh Castle in Edinburgh