

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Název školy	Gymnázium, Šternberk, Horní nám. 5
Číslo projektu	CZ.1.07/1.4.00/21.0390 0218
Šablona	III/2 Inovace a zkvalitnění výuky prostřednictvím ICT
Označení materiálu	VY_32_INOVACE_HoP11
Vypracoval(a), Dne	Mgr. Pavlína Horáčková, 4. 4. 2013
Ověřeno (datum)	16. 4. 2013
Předmět	Anglický jazyk
Třída	3.A
Téma hodiny	Problems of today - Environment
Druh materiálu	Pracovní list
Anotace	Žáci porozumí cizojazyčnému textu složitějšího obsahu na aktuální témata týkající se environmentálních problémů. Rozšíří si slovní zásobu a osvojí si užití větných spojovacích výrazů úrovně B2. Žáci vystihnou hlavní myšlenky textu a vysloví vlastní názor k problematice řešení ekologických problémů ve světě, respektive v České republice.

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

1. Read the text carefully and look up all the new vocabulary in your dictionary.

Problems of today - Environment

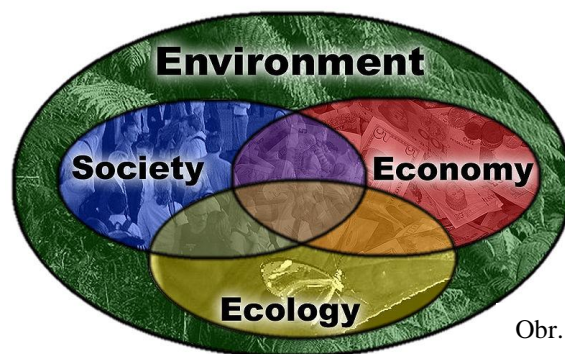
Nowadays, there are loads of global problems worth mentioning, but before we name them, we should explain what the term “global problem” means. “Global” means that it is a problem connected with the whole world. Everybody should be aware of world issues and do the best to solve them, or at least to improve them.

There have been quite a lot of issues that the countries in the world have to deal with. They can be sorted into two main groups: the environmental problems (ecological problems) and the social problems.

First of all, there are different kinds of environmental problems to be mentioned, such as global warming, climate change, greenhouse effect, melting of the icebergs, rise of the ocean and sea levels, ozone layer, ozone hole, ultraviolet rays, acid rains, rising amount of the exhaust fumes, carbon emissions. I can also mention various air, water and soil pollution, soil erosion, extinction (dying-out) of endangered species. Next, there are earthquake, drought, flood, tsunami, tidal wave, bush fire, avalanche, landslide, spread of the deserts, which are all connected with extreme weather. Besides these, I must not forget about extreme wind squalls and rain blasts, for instance: tornado, twister, hurricane, heavy rain, downpour, or blizzard. All of them are very dangerous as well as volcano eruption or others.

The most important ecological problems are connected with the change of the climate on the Earth. If the temperature on our planet rises, it causes the melting of the icebergs and snow over the Poles, as well as melting of the ice-caps of the tops of the world’s highest peaks. If the ice melts, the level of the oceans and seas rises immediately. That can then cause frequent floods that damage different parts of the world. Moreover, disappearing of the ice goes hand in hand with dying-out of animals such as polar bears and others.

The temperature gets higher because of the greenhouse effect. If people and their machines produce a lot of exhaust fumes, carbon dioxide in particular, it forms the greenhouse effect; that means that the heat from the Sun is trapped in our atmosphere. Therefore some parts of the world get a very unusual weather – snow in Africa, or very hot summers in Europe. In connection with the atmosphere of our planet, there is an ozone layer to be mentioned. It is a layer above the Earth’s surface that helps to protect the planet from harmful radiation from the Sun. Unfortunately, due to the ozone hole our planet is not as protected as it used to be in the past. In the past 60 years, humans have been deteriorating the ozone layer with fumes and smoke.



Obr. 1



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Consequently, humans are exposed to the ultra-violet (UV) rays from the Sun that can cause skin cancer or suppress the immune system. Also, it damages the terrestrial life – animals and plants too.

Concerning the power of nature itself, there are huge disasters that I need to talk about. First of all, there are a lot of volcanoes on our planet. If the volcano erupts, there is only a little chance for people to escape from its area. Magma, a hot liquid rock, spreads very quickly and destroys everything in its way. What is more, the volcano eruption can also cause an earthquake – a sudden shaking of the ground. There are areas where earthquakes happen quite often. These are located on the border of the plates. If the plates collide, an earthquake appears. The most frequent places, which get earthquakes, are for example the USA, Australia, New Zealand and also Japan. There is probably no one, who hasn't heard about the disaster in Japan recently. Everything started with a very strong earthquake, which was followed by a tidal wave and a huge tsunami that overflowed the eastern part of the country, killed many thousands of people and caused irreversible damage on the atomic power plant (atomic power station) in Fukushima.

It is not only water that has the power to destroy and kill. Tornados and hurricanes are examples of extreme wind power that is able to end life of plants, animals, but also humans. Everybody should be aware of them and if they are announced, people should leave the place as soon as possible. Surprisingly, there exist people, so called tornado-hunters, who willingly rush to such places to get pictures of the wind phenomenon.

All of the disasters previously mentioned are very dangerous. All of them damage or even destroy buildings, kill people and leave a shocking deadly trace behind them.

Another extreme to be described is the sun activity. If the weather is too hot for a long time, there is not enough water, such situations ends in drought or even bushfires. Drought is a real problem for some African and Asian states, or the Australian outback. Some areas do not get enough rain, therefore the soil gets hard dried and people cannot grow any plants, animals or people die because of the lack of water. Moreover, it is very difficult to cope with such situation, especially in some isolated places where people can hardly get any help.

On the other hand, there are places full of colours, fresh air and various exotic species – these are the rainforests, the lungs of the planet. The most important one is to be found in Amazonia, on the South American continent. Instead of being happy and proud of such incredibly wonderful place, people (blinded with their never ending greed for money) cut down the rainforests and destroy the special fauna and flora that lives there. Cutting the trees for exotic and therefore expensive wood is disrespectful. People also threaten the rainforest inhabitants – the South American indigenous people. The tribes as well as the endangered

INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

species have been keeping stepping back in the core of the rainforest but the question is how far can they get? What if the cutting of the trees does not stop? Where will they go? And where will we get the oxygen from?

Sometimes, some people seem to be very reluctant to help the environment. The pollution in some areas reaches appalling numbers. To be concrete, some people consider smog to be a part of their everyday life. The world is overloaded with cars, planes or other means of transport that cause carbon emissions. There is also a tendency to make everything from plastic. If you go to a shop and buy something, you get a plastic bag for free. Everything is packed in plastic bags and people waste too much. Loads of people do not care about recycling and waste disposal, which is very sad. On the contrary, people should be aware of the possibility to improve the environment. The least thing, people can do, is recycling. There have been recycling bins in every village, town or city. In comparison to the past, people have the opportunity to help the environment by sorting their trash (rubbish, garbage, waste) into coloured containers: yellow for plastic, blue for paper, green for coloured glass, white for white glass and red for cartons of juice, milk and so on.

Next, people should not toss (throw away, get rid of) things when they become out-of-date. They should not buy new electrical appliances every year or even more frequently. Having the most modern cell phone is not the most important thing in the world, is it? In addition to that, there are some (fast) food companies that use plastic plates, cups or plastic cutlery only. And what do people do when they finish eating? They toss it away. And what if there is no more space at the rubbish dumps? Will we throw the rubbish to the space soon? Is there any chance of improvement? What is your opinion and attitude?

2. Write down your answers to the questions in the text.

3. Go back to the problems mentioned in the text and put them into following groups. Problems connected with:



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

- a) extreme wind:
- b) extreme rain / water:
- c) extreme snow:
- d) extreme temperature:
- e) human acting:
- f) other:

4. Write about your attitude towards the environment. What do you to help? What else could you do to help?



INVESTICE DO ROZVOJE VZDĚLÁVÁNÍ

Použitý obrazový materiál:

[cit. 2013-04-04] Dostupné pod licencí Creative Commons – na www.wikipedia.org:

<http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Ecology_Society_Economy_diagram_Environment_backgroud.jpg> (Obr. 1)