

Students' prior knowledge, skills, competencies:

Students have already dealt with these issues:

- “Friday for futures”;
- “Greta Thumberg Speech”;
- “Climate change: a bad example”;
- “Pollution and the pandemic”;
- “The wild weather”

These activities are part of the ECC (civic education and citizenship), a new school year subject, and have been studied with the English and Science teachers.

ACTIVITY 1

- Fill in the gap, short answers, open questions, yes/no, multiple choice exercises about how Banksy has treated the environmental issue. Link \implies [Teacher Made](#)

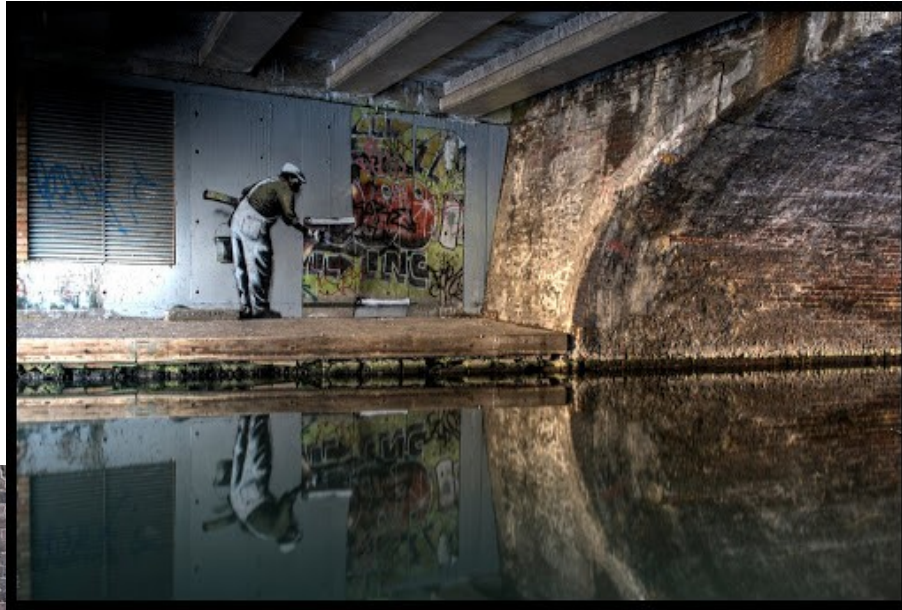
ACTIVITY 2

- Link \implies [“64 Powerful Street Art Pieces That Tell The Uncomfortable Truth”](#)
- Assignment: write a comment of one of the picture of the website. Questions to ask:

1. Why did you choose it?

2. What elements of the artwork make you think of climate change?

Check the answers of your classmate, suggest changes or express your point of view.



ACTIVITY 3



The Murals attributed to Banksy appeared on a wall in Marble Arch, London

What is the chance of the human race surviving the 21st century? There are many dangers – climate change for example, or nuclear war, or a pandemic, or planet Earth being hit by a giant asteroid or, unfortunately, the coronavirus.

I'll be asking reflecting on some of the many dangers facing humanity, from **climate change** (in particular) and global pandemics to asteroid impacts, nuclear war, virus with the aim of, hopefully, finding out whether human civilization can survive these risks.

In fact, lots of the **existential risks** - the worst possible things that could happen to humanity, such as nuclear war, global pandemics or rogue artificial intelligence, are human-made. These threats could have catastrophic consequences for human survival in the 21st century.

But existential risks don't only threaten the survival of the human species. Instead, they could destroy civilisation as we know it, leaving pockets of survivors to struggle on in a post-apocalyptic world (it won't be our case, don't worry!).

And it wouldn't be the first time that has happened.

The historical record suggests that about once every thousand years an event occurs that **wipes out** about a third of the human population – so in the Middle Ages, this was the Black Death – huge **plague** that covered Eurasia, while there was also dramatic global cooling at that time which many people think was related to volcanic eruptions and about a third of the global population died.

So, humanity has been facing these risks throughout history, according to **the historical record** – the collection of all written and recorded past events concerning the human race.

Wars and **plagues** – infectious, epidemic diseases which spread between countries can quickly **wipe out** - or completely destroy, millions of people.

And there's not much we can do to stop disasters like that! (If we don't pay attention to the rules we must respect!)

But what about individuals who actively work to bring about the end of the world - like apocalyptic terrorists, rampage shooters and fundamentalist cults like those who organised the poisonous gas attack on the Tokyo subway?

Those are people who want to end human life on Earth and bring about **Doomsday** - another word for the final, apocalyptic day of the world's existence.

So, we've seen how modern dangers, like nuclear war and climate change, further reduce the probability of human survival. But pupils, it's not all **doom and gloom!** We have to stay calm and responsible.

So, the danger of what we are experiencing might become a **false alarm** after all, if we stay at home! Let's hope we'll all understand the true life's treasures and change our usual point of view towards a more sustainable world. Bye for now!

(Adapted from the website: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/6-minute-english/ep-200312>)

VOCABULARY:

existential risks: dangers that threaten the continuation of human life on Earth

The historical record: the collection of all written and recorded past events concerning the human race

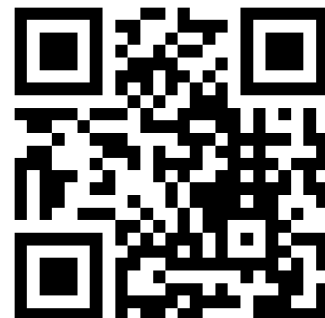
wipes out: completely destroys leaving nothing remaining

plagues: infectious, epidemic disease

Doomsday: final day of the world's existence; apocalypse

doom and gloom: a general feeling of pessimism or despondency

false alarm: warning given incorrectly so that people wrongly believe something dangerous is about to happen



Do the exercises: [Mentimeter link](#)

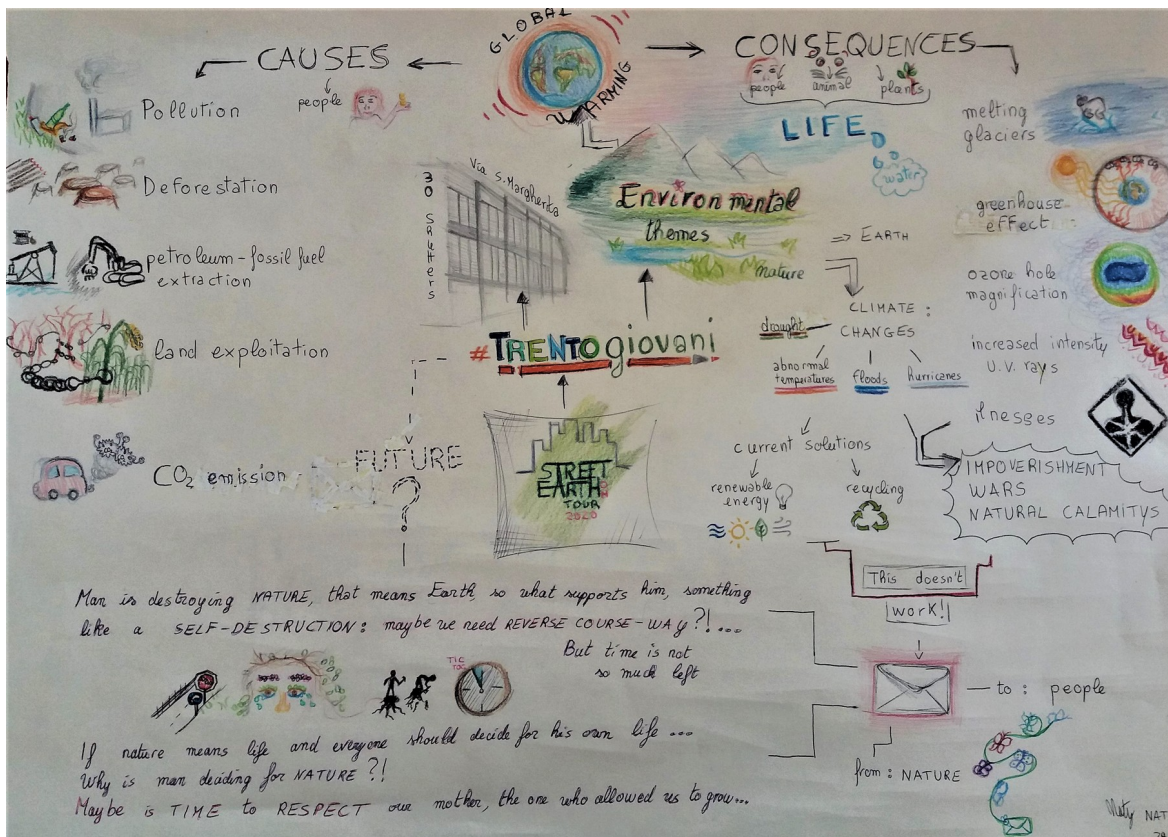
ACTIVITY 4

Brainstorming: what we could do to slow down this devastating process. The Brainstorm should be composed not only from written words but also from small related sketches.

- If you need some clue try the Word Search Game (ALL. 23)



Infographics from Pinterest



An example of Brainstorming created from a student who has dealt with a similar issue.