



# Environmental Impacts of the Coronavirus Crisis

## Information for students

- In your Contemporary World class, you have likely explored the theme of environment. Some of the topics include:
  - Choices regarding the environment made by states or other organizations/groups
  - Establishing international agreements
  - Recognizing environmental problems and seeking solutions
- In recent weeks, satellite images showing dramatic drops in air pollution have circulated on social media; the fog surrounding polluted cities has been replaced by blue skies, to the point where people in India have been able to see the peaks of the Himalayas for the first time in decades. In some areas of the world, polluted rivers and bodies of water have also become clearer and some species have been sighted in places they haven't been seen in years.
- All these changes are seen as a silver lining to an otherwise very dark period. More and more, scientists are explaining how certain changes could lead to a healthier planet, and a healthier population, with many diseases and physical conditions being linked to pollution.
- Think about these topics and how the pandemic could lead to potential changes in the future.
  - Do you think that most states and businesses will want to go back to normal as soon as they can, in order to stimulate the economy? Support your opinion with examples from articles, TV and radio news reports, or by browsing on social media.
  - Do you think the pandemic will reshape the world after people observe the environmental and societal advantages of a global economic slowdown?
- Make a list of changes you might have noticed in your surroundings and other changes you've seen happening around the world.

## Materials required

Useful resources, depending on personal preferences and availability:

- Device with Internet access
- Writing materials (paper, pencil, etc.)



### Information for parents

- Remember that the purpose is for your child to do research and to become informed, not to produce work to be evaluated.
- You can familiarize your child with some concepts that might be challenging for them. Think about the environmental changes you've observed or heard about in the last decade. Discuss the questions together and perhaps encourage them to contact someone else if they have more questions.