

11 Man and Nature

- A) ročné obdobia, počasie, prírodné katastrofy
- B) fauna (zvieratá v Zoo, domáce) a flóra (záhradkárstvo)
- C) stav životného prostredia (znečistenie pôdy, vody, vzduchu)

A) Seasons of the year, natural disasters, weather

Year – divided – 4 seasons: spring, summer, autumn, winter

Each lasts about 3 months

Spring: considered to be the most beautiful season of the year; nature begins to awake, new life begins

- nights get shorter, days – longer; more sunshine, warmer
- first flowers appear in garden + woods, e.g. snowdrops, snowflakes, etc.; birds come back from south, their singing is marvelous
- weather – unpredictable, changeable

Summer: considered to be the most beautiful season of the year; 2 months holidays, journeys, relax

- sky – clear + bright, sunny and dead calm weather, no wind, heat wave = hot+dry; storms(thunder + lightning), after a rainbow can appear

Autumn: the school year starts

- days get shorter, some a few fine days of Indian summer
- time of harvest, we pick fruits (apples, pears, plums, etc.)
- trees shed their leaves which are colourful
- weather – cloudy sky, foggy mornings rains for a long time, cold wind blows

Winter: snowfall, icy wind, hard frosts, snows a lot

- time of winter pleasures – throwing snowballs, building snowmen, sledging, skiing, skating, sliding, etc.

Natural disasters (catastrophes):

Flood - too much rain, snow melts, rivers + streams swell

Drought – suffer from heat wave – hot+dry weather, no rain → land becomes arid

Wind storm – velocity of wind is higher → may cause devastation (hurricane, tornado, ...)

fire, volcano, earthquake

C) Problems of Environment

Man – dependant on the natural world surrounding him: cut wood to make a fire; picked wild berries + killed animals to feed the family, a farmer needed land to build house, plant crops and raise domesticated animal, so the man started to exploit nature. Population grew; people needed more – has damaged and even destroyed nature. Humankind's advances resulted in changes in the Earth's atmosphere and the environment we live in. Pollution is one of the serious problems of our era. Situation is critical; we must find solution to the most serious aspects facing today: air, water and soil pollution

The greenhouse effect, the hole in the ozone layer

Acid rain

Serious weather changes

Deforestation (the cutting down of tropical rain forests)

Disappearance of many animal and plant species

Pollution: huge amount of dangerous chemicals, carbon dioxide, radioactive particles, and dangerous gases.

The CFCs destroy the ozone layer that is protecting our planet from dangerous rays of the sun. Ultraviolet radiation can cause skin cancer, eye damage and blindness, may influence our body immune system so it's not able to cope with infections. Some chemicals mix with water to make acid rains, which damages buildings, kills trees and pollutes the soil.

Air/soil/water pollution - caused by: - chemicals getting into water, soil and air.

- └ from factories,
- └ products we use daily (laundry detergents,
- └ pesticides and fertilizers

- cars produce exhaust fumes
- waste/rubbish (e.g. packaging, paper, old bottles + cans, etc.) →
burned –polluting the air or buried – polluting the soil

All these chemicals get into atmosphere or leak into the soil and pollute our water

Solutions/ efforts to stop the destruction:

- worldwide ban on the use of CFCs
- cars run on unleaded petrol
- alternative sources of energy – solar, wind, water
- tree planting
- public transport instead of cars
- buy more environmentally friendly products compost organic trash
- recycle
- save energy

Picture : Tasks:

- Look at the photos showing the different seasons. Compare and contrast the pictures.
- Which season is it? Where are the people and what are they doing?
- What is your experience of these activities? What other activities might you do (sport, relax, holidays).

Tasks:

- What catastrophes can you see in the pictures? Compare and contrast them. In your opinion which of these natural disasters are the worst? What kind of damage do they cause?
- Have there in our country ever been any of these natural disasters? Do you remember when it was?

Topic: Tasks:

- Give reasons that cause pollution of the environment (water, soil, air pollution) and talk about possible solutions.
- Explain your attitude to the environment. How do you protect it?
- How much time do you spend in the countryside and how do you behave there?

Simulation – Man and Nature

1. Your friend is a reporter for a student magazine finding out about people's attitude to the environment. He asked you for the interview and wants to know:
 - what environmental problems you know about the place where you live,
 - if you think our parks and playgrounds are clean enough for children,
 - what you do to protect the environment and if you separate the litter.

2. Your friend is a reporter for a student magazine, finding out about people's attitude to zoos. Discuss the following points:
 - What do you think of zoos, are they good and useful places, or prison for animals?
 - Your visit to the zoo (where did you go, who did you go there, what did you do there, what was the most interesting part, would you recommend the visit to your friend)