

Global Warming

I matter because ... Do I matter? If I do matter, then why? Let's think about it.

Throughout the 10 years of my life, I have had the wonderful experience of visiting many countries like France, Italy, India, England, Australia, to name a few. All these countries are unique, diverse, and special in their own way, and each of these places, when observed carefully are amazing. But this natural beauty is at risk, because of Global Warming.

At first, I heard the term “Global Warming” on the news, although I didn’t really pay attention to it or care much about it. My first real encounter of global warming was when my family and I went to Alaska. If you have ever been to Alaska, you would agree that it is a beautiful, diverse and ever-changing place. In Alaska we saw numerous Elk grazing lazily in the tundra. We saw bears roaming freely in search of food. We saw small red squirrels scurrying from one place to the other. We also explored and adventured to several glaciers. These glaciers felt like they were Mount Everest. They were huge! We would start at the muddy bottom, crossing the brown streams on long wooden planks. Then we would get onto the white ice and climb up, being very careful not to slip down and hit someone else. Once we got to the top, we could see the shimmering ice surrounding us for what felt like miles. We even went to a glacier that was in someone’s back yard! One of the glaciers had a sign in front of it and that sign showed me how fast these glaciers were melting. I could see how the glaciers were melting really slow in the past century, but in these last 15 years, the glaciers have started to melt away much faster! “These glaciers won’t be here for long!” I thought worriedly. This was just my first encounter of global warming, and it wasn’t the last.

In Australia, we went to see The Great Barrier Reef. We went on a tall boat with about 30 other people, to go snorkel in the great barrier reef! I was so excited! Though my tummy wasn't as excited as I was, I got seasick on the way there. Once we got to the reef, we saw this small island, covered with wild birds of all sizes, and this island was barely 50 ft x 50 ft. The guides on the boat told us that this island was restricted because the birds lived there. I quickly got my goggles and snorkel on, and this wet suit thing which was supposed to keep you warm in freezing water. Then, I gathered as much courage as I could and leaped off the boat creating a huge splash. I quickly felt the icy water soak my wet suit and I felt the freezing water of the Pacific Ocean swish all around me, making me shiver, and making my teeth clatter. Once I got over the freezing chill of the water I looked down and saw the beautiful corals, each a different color, it was one of the most beautiful things I have ever seen in my life! But I noticed that much of the coral had turned as white as plastic. I later found out that when the water heats up, the coral can't survive. This reef, I realized, was also being affected by global warming. It was then realized what global warming meant; It means that the Earth is heating up, alarmingly quickly!

All these events are not isolated, they have an effect in places that you wouldn't expect. Venice, Italy is a very interesting, and beautiful place. This floating city is a unique place, even by the world's standards. There are lanes of houses, and separating them, instead of roads, are canals. These canals are unlike any other. Instead of cars, because there are no roads, people use rowboats in the canals, or they walk from one place to the other. For me, it was like walking into an alien paradise. This city was awesome! But it is being impacted by events that are taking place all the way across the world. In Alaska, when a glacier melts, the water from the glacier goes into the ocean, raising the sea level. All the way across the world, this floating city is

starting to sink! This was very weird I thought. “The Sea looks the same to me.” I was very wrong. This just goes to show that Global Warming affects all of us, and that’s where I come in.

I matter because I can help stop global warming. I already do this by, not leaving lights on, to save electricity made by thermal plants, which are one of the causes of global warming. I don’t leave the stove on, therefore not burning fossil fuels, a huge cause of global warming. But I can do more. Trees breathe CO₂, the stuff that makes global warming. So, I can plant trees. I can use less paper to save the trees that already exist. I can also help raise awareness so that we can all put a stop to this problem. But these are all ways *I* can help stop global warming. But even if I do my part, the impact will be small. The world is calling on everyone to help pull us out of global warming. What can *you* do?

I think if we humans stand together, we can do anything. But we need someone to give examples, give ideas, and someone who will lead us. My role is to give examples of how people can slow global warming. This is why, I matter.