

# Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish student. She tries to raise awareness about climate change around the world.

## Greta's Family

Greta was born to Malena Ernman and Svante Thunberg in 2003. When Greta was born, her mother was an opera singer who travelled around the world to perform. Greta's father worked as an actor – just as his father had before him. Greta also has a younger sister named Beata.

## Did You Know...?

Climate change is the term used for the change in the temperature and climate of an area or planet. It is caused by high levels of carbon dioxide and can also be known as global warming.

## Learning about Climate Change

As a child, Greta was taught to save electricity, not to waste water and not to throw away good food. When she asked why, Greta first heard the words 'climate change'. At first, Greta did not understand why nobody seemed to be doing anything about it.

Greta began to research into climate change during her teenage years. She began to make small changes in her own life to help the planet. She cut out all animal products from her diet and stopped buying things unless she really needed them. In 2015, Greta also decided to stop flying in aeroplanes because of the impact it has on the environment.

Greta shared what she had found out with her family and they agreed to do the same. Greta's mother gave up all air travel and stopped travelling around the world to work. When Greta saw that her family had all made small changes too, this gave her hope that she could spread the word further and have a greater impact on the planet.

## Protests

At just 15 years old, Greta knew that she needed to act. When the new school year started, Greta decided to strike. She said that she would not go to school for three weeks. Instead, she began to protest by sitting outside the Swedish parliament. She gave out leaflets about what she called 'the climate crisis'. Greta was furious that governments around



the world were not doing everything that they could to stop climate change. News of Greta's protest quickly spread. Children around the world agreed with Greta and joined in with her protest.

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2018, Greta said that she would strike every Friday until her government began to act. She started a movement known as Fridays For Future. There have now been over 5,200 strikes by young people around the world. They all share Greta's concerns about the future of their planet.

### Greta's Viewpoint

Greta has been invited to speak at important events around the world. Her speeches say that:

- global warming is so serious that it will lead to the end of the world as we know it;
- adults are stealing the future of young people by not acting;
- we must act now if we want to change the future;
- decision makers must listen to scientists if the world is to undo its mistakes before it is too late.

