

5.8 The World

You may have seen or heard about the movie *The Day After Tomorrow*. This was probably the first blockbuster that dealt with global warming. What this tells us is that people are really starting to become interested in this environmental concern.

In 1992, the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) wrote the World Scientists' Warning to Humanity. Read their warning on the UCS website:

<http://www.ucsusa.org/ucs/about/1992-world-scientists-warning-to-humanity.html>

It starts with the words: "Human beings and the natural world are on a collision course". Even if a quarter of what they say is true, this warning provides a grim reality check for everyone. Of course, there are things we can do to stop global warming and the folks at UCS have some strategies that you and your class could adopt. Go to the UCS website's Frequently Asked Questions about Global Warming:

http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science/global-warming-faq.html

Answer the following questions:

1. Is global warming already happening?

2. Are humans contributing to global warming?

3. How much warmer is the Earth likely to become?

4. Would a temperature rise of a couple of degrees really change the global climate?

5. Is there anything we can do about global warming?
