

Global Warming for Young Minds :

A Global Warming and
Sustainability
Guide For Children

Flemming Bermann



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To Heather, *my inquisitive daughter,
who will experience the impact of
global warming and climate change in her lifetime.*

Introduction

The world we are living in is changing. Never before has it been so important to educate the next generation about global warming and climate change. Our children have the right to know the impact these major challenges facing humanity might have on them. But perhaps more importantly, they also need to be taught how they and everyone else can become part of the solution by living sustainable lives.

When my daughter reached the tender age of seven, I wanted to introduce her to the basics of global warming and climate change, and sustainability. Within a few weeks I gave up searching for a suitable book or material on the Internet. In truth, I was so dismayed by the lack of quality and choice that I ended up writing my own book on the subject. From the beginning I planned it to be fun because all learning should be fun—even when it is a serious subject. Secondly, I wanted to avoid scaring my daughter or blinding her with science and technical facts. The result is *Global Warming for Young Minds*, which has served us both well.

My daughter loved it and it became obligatory bedtime reading for many weeks. She now confidently talks about how to minimize the impact of global warming and has turned into an expert recycler, while I feel happy knowing that she is much better prepared for adult life.

My hope is that *Global Warming for Young Minds* will serve you well too, and provide your children with some of the knowledge and understanding necessary for them to live successful, sustainable lives in a world that is changing fast.

- Flemming Bermann

About this book

This book is for anyone who wants to teach young children about global warming, what it is, the impact it may have on the planet and what we individually can do to help ensure that our planet remains a pleasant place to live.

While it is easy to fall into the trap of trying to teach children the exact science behind global warming or convey the facts in a way that may frighten young minds, the aim has always been to promote a simple but accurate message about sustainability and shared responsibility in a fun and engaging style.

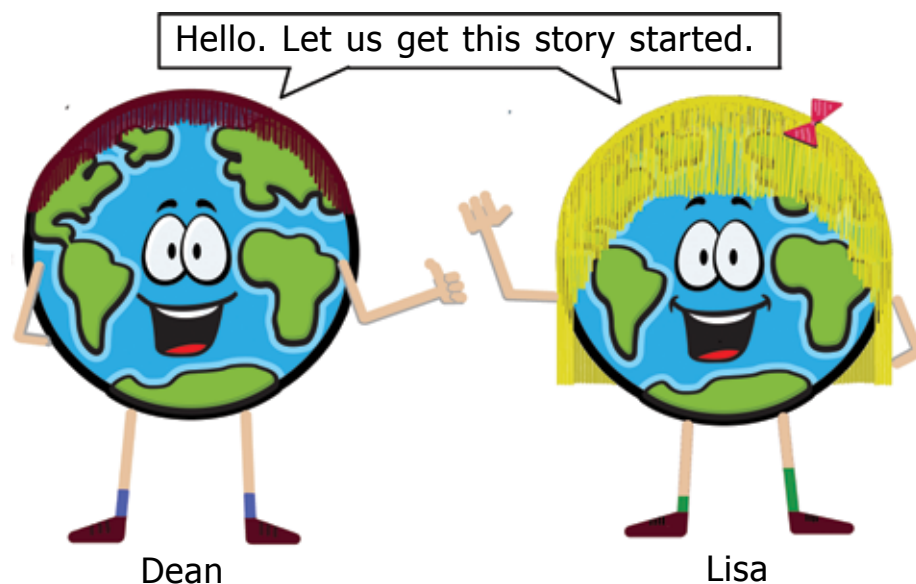
The book is aimed at children between the ages of six to 10 years, but older age groups may also find the content of interest and a starting point for further research.

The book's message is built up slowly with lots of repetition, which links the individual chapters together. This improves children's understanding and learning, and makes it possible to read the book a little at a time. Each chapter is one page long and richly illustrated with colourful drawings and real life pictures.

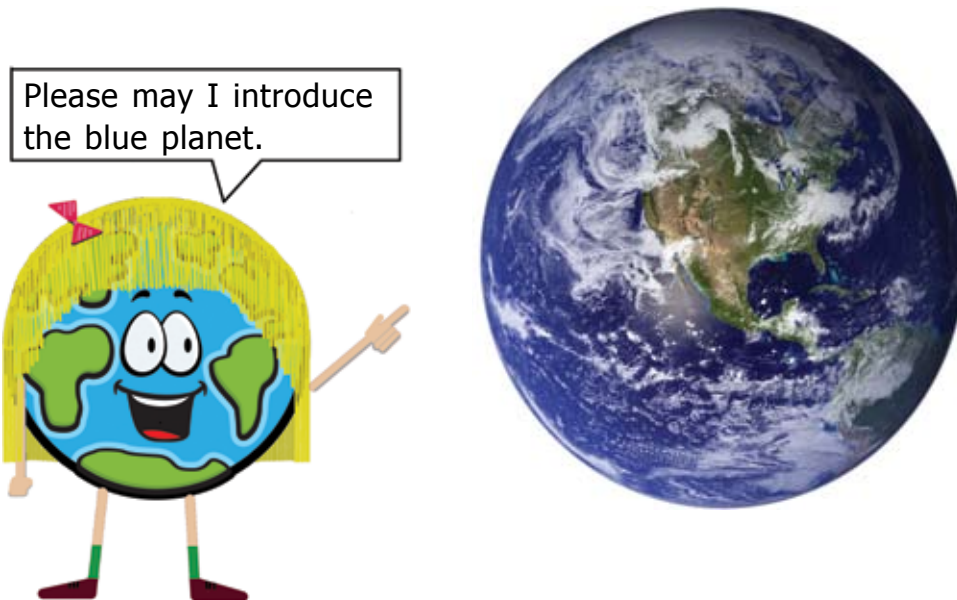
To further help children learn specific keywords and relax in between the different chapters, many fun experiments and puzzles have been included throughout.

For those who would like to test their children's understanding, a set of simple questions and answers have been included at the end of most chapters.

Finally, throughout the book Dean and Lisa will pop up and help emphasise some of the main points to understand and learn.



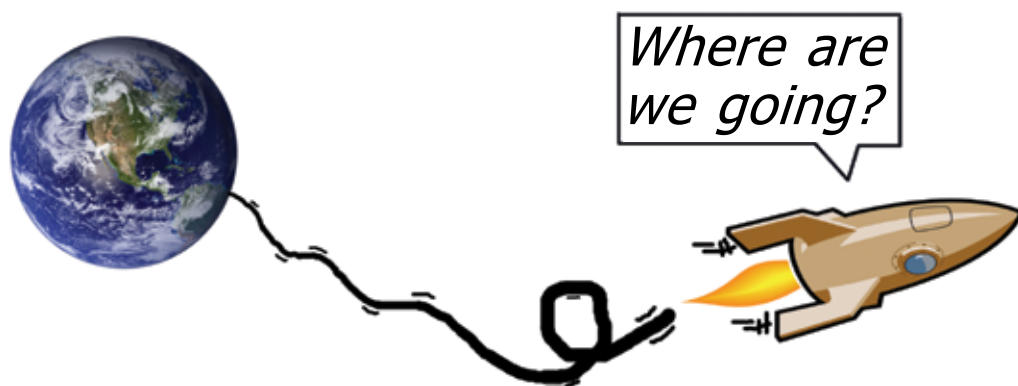
Earth: Our Blue Home



This is Earth. Earth is also called the blue planet because of all the water that covers most of its surface. This is where you and lots of other people, plants, and animals live. Some live in the water, others on land.

Earth is our home. It provides us with the food we eat, the air we breathe, and things we need to build houses, make clothes, and lots of other useful items.

We only have one Earth, so we need to look after it well. We can't just jump into a space rocket and go somewhere else if things don't work out here.



So, it is very important that we look after our blue planet because we need it to continue to be a great place to live. A place where there is enough food, fresh air, and building materials for everyone.



Dean's and Lisa's Learning Check



- * What is the name of the planet where we live? (Earth)
- * What is Earth also called? (Blue Planet)
- * Why do we need to look after the Earth? (Because we need a place to live. There is no where else to go.)
- * Name some of the plants and animals living on Earth. (Pet, farm, and zoo animals, grass, flowers.)

The Atmosphere is Like Onion Rings

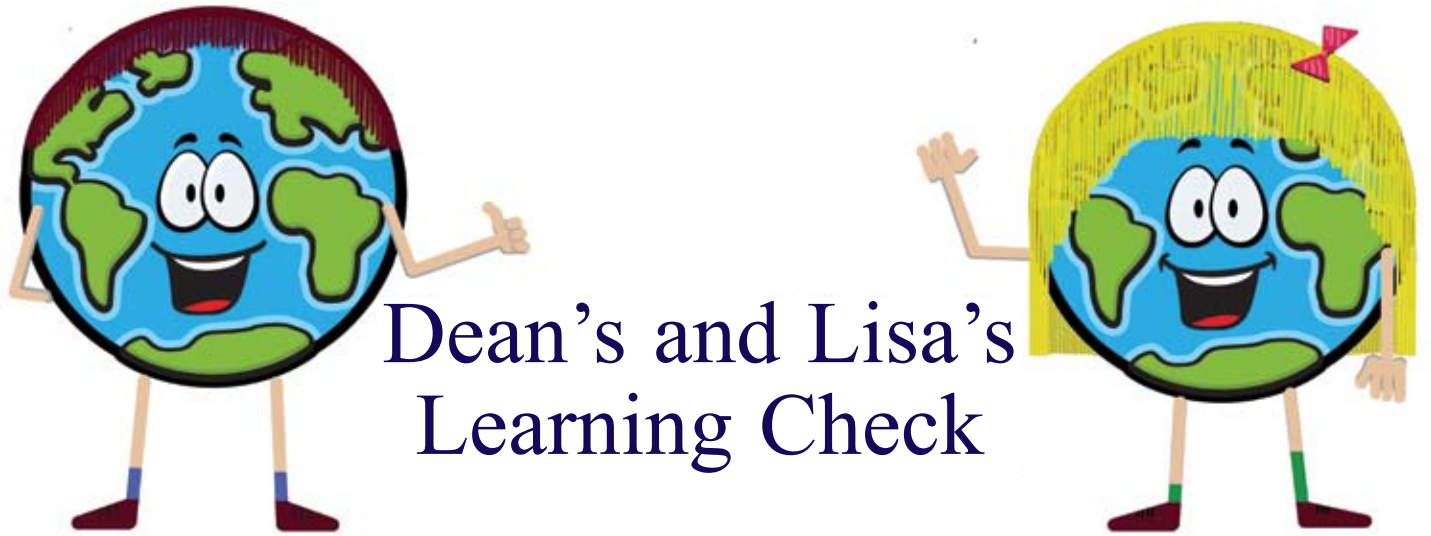
Did you know that the Earth is surrounded by the atmosphere and that the atmosphere is split into different layers just like an onion?

The atmosphere is like onion rings.



The first couple of layers, which are nearest to the Earth, are called the lower atmosphere. You can see these lower layers when you look at the sky. This is where the clouds float and airplanes fly.





Dean's and Lisa's Learning Check

- * What surrounds the Earth? (The atmosphere)
- * Is it possible to see the atmosphere? (Yes)
- * How is it possible to travel up into the atmosphere? (By plane or a space ship)
- * What floats around in the lower part of the atmosphere? (Clouds)