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| **Environmental issues** |
| 35 billion tons of carbon/year are emitted  **Global Warming**   * Data from the IDMC (Internally Displacement Monitoring Centre) **83.5 million** climate refugees identified between 2011 and 2014. * Disappearance of glaciers: rise in sea levels, and worsening of global warming, since they will no longer reflect sunlight to send it back into space (albedo effect) * Public health : extension of the transmission season for **mosquito-borne diseases.** Global warming of **2 to 3°C** would increase the number of people exposed to malaria by 5% (+ **150 million people**) * The IPCC (Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change) was created to provide policymakers with regular scientific assessments on climate change, its implications and potential future risks, as well as to put forward adaptation and mitigation options.   *Solutions :*  **COP26** : aim = reach carbon neutrality (China by 2060, India by 2070) transition to green energies  *Criticism* : Greta Thunberg -> « *greenwashing* », « *business as usual* », we need to address the root-cause of the problem  **Waste disposal**   * **Innovations** to tackle climate crisis : fishing nets to clean the ocean (company *Ocean Cleanup*), plastic-free cleaning products * Researchers at Brandon University, Canada, found that waxworms are able to "ingest and metabolize polyethylene at unprecedented rates" * Most countries **export their waste to poorer countries**. (EU exported about 50% of its plastic waste to China. It was buried, piled in landfills or incinerated in the open air.)   **Deforestation**   * Forests represent 31% of the Earth’s surface, 2nd greatest **carbon sink** (8 billion tons CO2 absorbed per year) * World Resources Institute (WRI) : in 2018 **12 million hectares** of deforestation (Brazil 1.4 million in 2018) * Deforestation in **profit** of agriculture (45% deforestation in South-East Asia for **palm oil** -> plastic-free packaging or Nutella), real estate, furniture wood, fire wood, **mining** (Carajas mine, Brazil, destroyed 150.000km2 of forest) * President Jair Bolsonaro (Brazil) giving free pass to **illegal deforestation** (739sq km lost during May 2019) * Increased with **seasonal fires** ( *Rim Fire*, 2013, near Yosemite National Park destroyed 1.050km2 of forest)   *Conflicts :*  **Chico Mendes**, defender of the Amazon rainforest and its inhabitants, murdered in 1998 on the order of a wealthy landowner.  Deforestation finances **civil war in the Democratic Republic of Congo**, cutting down trees and selling the wood to buy weapons.  **Endangered species**   * **100 animal/plant species disappear every DAY** (WRI) due to deforestation, poaching (*braconnage*) or the destruction of their habitat * The **IUCN Red** **List** of endangered species : more than **40,000 species** are threatened with extinction * Coral species threatened by the warming and acidification of oceans (dissolves exoskeletons) * Associations, NGOs to protect wildlife **WWF**, **Sea Shepherd**   *Solutions :*  **EU shark finning laws** in 2012 (fins will have to stay attached to sharks bodies)  BUT : 63-273 million sharks killed every year still |
| Is technology a solution to tackle the climate crisis ?  Will sustainable development be sufficient to tackle global warming ?  Are governmental actions just greenwashing ? |
| A green tax = une taxe verte  Ampoules de basse consommation = low-energy lightbulbs  Greenhouse effect = l’effet de serre  Sorting = le tri (sélectif)  A landfill = un site d’enfouissement des ordures  A heat wave = une canicule  Overfishing = la surpêche  The depletion of resources = l’épuisement des ressources  To harm the environment = nuire à l’environnement  A green activist = un militant écologique  A tree-hugger = un écolo  To cut down a tree = abattre un arbre  Poaching = braconnage  An endangered species = une espèce en voie d’extinction  To become extinct = disparaitre |