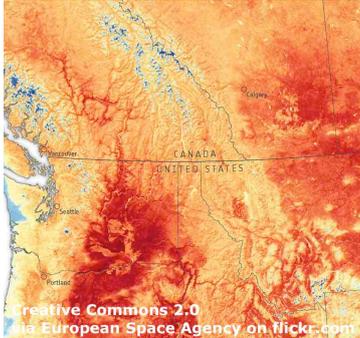


UN says extreme heat is the new normal

20th July 2023



The United Nations weather agency has warned that extreme temperatures are "the new normal". Scientists say climate change is making heatwaves longer, hotter and more frequent. Many countries have been experiencing record hot weather in the past week. In parts of the USA and China, the mercury went over 50°C (122°F). In Death Valley, California, it was 53.9°C; and in Xinjiang, China, it got up to 52.2°C. In Spain and Italy, the temperature rose to 46°C. Many European countries and Japan have issued heat alerts. They advised people to stay in the shade and drink plenty of water. The U.N. weather agency has warned Europe's heatwave could continue for another month.

A spokesperson for the United Nations warned of the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions. He said: "Extreme weather is increasing in frequency in our warming climate. It is having a major impact on human health...and water supplies." He added: "We have to step up efforts to help society adapt to what is unfortunately becoming the new normal." The European Travel Commission said the extreme heat is making holidaymakers change their travel plans. People who used to holiday in Spain, Italy and Greece are choosing to go to cooler countries instead. A woman who wanted to "escape the heat" by going to Rome complained that the Italian capital was hotter than her hometown in Texas.

Sources: bbc.com / dailymail.co.uk / cbsnews.com

Writing

It is too late to change the warming climate. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

United Nations / extreme temperatures / heatwaves / mercury / heat / the shade / greenhouse gas / climate / health / society / normal / holidaymakers / travel plans

True / False

- 1) The UN said extreme temperatures are because of climate change. T / F
- 2) Temperatures in parts of the USA and China were above 52°C. T / F
- 3) Japan has issued a heart alert to old people. T / F
- 4) The UN said the heatwave in Europe could last for another month. T / F
- 5) The UN said people should stop growing vegetables in greenhouses. T / F
- 6) The UN said climate change is having a minor impact on health. T / F
- 7) Fewer tourists are going to Spain because of the heatwaves. T / F
- 8) A woman in Rome said the city was hotter than her hometown in Texas. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. warned | a. sadly |
| 2. parts | b. get away from |
| 3. rose | c. last |
| 4. plenty | d. increased |
| 5. continue | e. serious |
| 6. spokesperson | f. regions |
| 7. major | g. representative |
| 8. unfortunately | h. cautioned |
| 9. extreme | i. important |
| 10. escape | j. a lot of |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What do you think of greenhouse gases?
- c) How does extreme weather affect people's health?
- d) Have you changed your plans because of hot weather?
- e) Do you prefer going to hot or cold countries?
- f) Where do you go to 'escape the heat'?
- g) Do you like the weather in your country?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the UN weather agency?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-----------------------|
| 1. Scientists say climate change is making | a. on human health |
| 2. the mercury went | b. issued heat alerts |
| 3. European countries and Japan have | c. for another month |
| 4. They advised people to stay in | d. the heat |
| 5. Europe's heatwave could continue | e. over 50°C |
| 6. the need to cut greenhouse | f. help society adapt |
| 7. It is having a major impact | g. the shade |
| 8. step up efforts to | h. holiday in Spain |
| 9. People who used to | i. gas emissions |
| 10. wanted to escape | j. heatwaves longer |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of hot weather?
- What's the hottest temperature you can be in?
- What do you think of the heatwaves?
- What should people do in very hot weather?
- Why are countries experiencing hotter weather?
- What's the hottest weather you've experienced?
- Is boiling hot or freezing cold weather best?
- What would you do if it was over 50°C outside?

Spelling

- The United Nations weather cgnyra
- hotter and more freuteng
- iixcepnengre record hot weather
- the ptertmareeu rose to 46°C
- stay in the saedh
- nncitoeu for another month
- greenhouse gas smoeisisn
- having a major tiamcnp on human health
- water upselpsi
- step up efforts to help syoicte adapt
- choosing to go to cooler countries eatdisn
- the Italian apcital

Answers – Synonym Match

| | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|-------|
| 1. h | 2. f | 3. d | 4. j | 5. c |
| 6. g | 7. i | 8. a | 9. e | 10. b |

Role Play

Role A – Turn Off Lights

You think turning off lights is the best way to ease climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): cycling everywhere, eating more vegetables or planting trees.

Role B – Cycling Everywhere

You think cycling everywhere is the best way to ease climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): turning off lights, eating more vegetables or planting trees.

Role C – Eat More Vegetables

You think eating more vegetables is the best way to ease climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): cycling everywhere, turning off lights or planting trees.

Role D – Plant Trees

You think planting trees is the best way to ease climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): cycling everywhere, eating more vegetables or turning off lights.

Speaking – Climate Change

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to reduce climate change at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| • Turn off lights | • Use buses and trains |
| • Buy used clothes | • Do not fly |
| • Cycle everywhere | • Eat more vegetables |
| • Drink tap water | • Plant trees |

Answers – True False

| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | T | 2 | T | 3 | F | 4 | T | 5 | F | 6 | F | 7 | T | 8 | T |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.