

Police arrest 1,000 Extinction Rebellion protestors

25th April, 2019



The police in London have arrested more than 1,000 protestors in the past week. Many of central London's busiest areas have been brought to a standstill as tens of thousands of demonstrators staged peaceful protests on

bridges, landmarks and traffic intersections. The protestors are part of the newly formed Extinction Rebellion. This is a movement focused on bringing the UK government to declare climate change as a global emergency and to pass laws to considerably reduce the UK's carbon footprint. Campaigners have three key demands: for the government to "tell the truth about climate change"; to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2025; and to create a citizens' assembly to oversee progress.

The Swedish teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg met leaders of the UK's main political parties on Tuesday. The 16-year-old is a Nobel Peace Prize nominee. She is attributed with starting the global school protests in which students have been striking for a greener planet. She told politicians that the future of all the world's children had been "sold so that a small number of people can make unimaginable amounts of money". She added: "You don't listen to the science because you are only interested in the answers that will allow you to carry on as if nothing has happened." One protestor said: "I support Extinction Rebellion. Civil disobedience is important to show this is an emergency."

Sources: metro.co.uk / bbc.com / theguardian.com

Writing

We should all join Extinction Rebellion to save the planet. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

police / London / busiest areas / demonstrators / landmarks / emergency / carbon / teenage / activist / political parties / greener planet / children / money / disobedience

True / False

- Protesters largely brought areas of London's suburbs to a standstill. T / F
- Protesters want the UK government to declare a climate emergency. T / F
- Protesters told the government they have five key demands. T / F
- The UK government said it would create a citizens' assembly. T / F
- A 16-year-old Swede met leading UK politicians. T / F
- An activist told politicians that children's futures had been sold. T / F
- The activist told politicians they aren't interested in the science. T / F
- A protestor said civil disobedience was a bad thing. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. protestors | a. proclaim |
| 2. standstill | b. back |
| 3. declare | c. supervise |
| 4. key | d. credited |
| 5. oversee | e. inconceivable |
| 6. main | f. demonstrators |
| 7. attributed | g. continue |
| 8. unimaginable | h. central |
| 9. carry on | i. halt |
| 10. support | j. principal |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about Greta Thunberg?
- How much of an environmental activist are you?
- Should Greta Thunberg win the Nobel Peace Prize?
- To what degree is money and greed hurting Earth?
- Are governments really listening to climate scientists?
- What do you think of civil disobedience?
- What questions would you like to ask Greta Thunberg?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. brought to a | a. nothing has happened |
| 2. bridges, landmarks and | b. to oversee progress |
| 3. considerably reduce the UK's | c. disobedience |
| 4. tell the | d. amounts of money |
| 5. create a citizens' assembly | e. standstill |
| 6. leaders of the UK's main | f. traffic intersections |
| 7. striking | g. political parties |
| 8. make unimaginable | h. truth about climate change |
| 9. carry on as if | i. for a greener planet |
| 10. Civil | j. carbon footprint |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about climate change?
- What would make you demonstrate in the streets?
- Will protestors make governments change environmental policies?
- What is the worst thing for the environment?
- What do you think of the name 'Extinction Rebellion'?
- How much danger is our planet in?
- How can your country reduce its carbon footprint?
- What difficulties are there in reducing carbon emissions to zero?

Spelling

- tens of thousands of stsoaerrdonmt
- landmarks and traffic cnnreoiitesst
- ceadlre climate change as a global emergency
- inaolbdsrecy reduce the UK's carbon footprint
- reduce carbon nisemsosi
- create a citizens' mblysaes
- teenage environmental itaivtsc
- a Nobel Peace Prize emennoi
- etadtbrtiu with starting the global school protests
- make aalnumbiigen amounts of money
- I sprtpou Extinction Rebellion
- Civil edenisdiebo is important

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Climate Change

You think climate change is the most important thing to protest about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tax rises, equal rights or war.

Role B – Tax Rises

You think tax rises is the most important thing to protest about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): climate change, equal rights or war.

Role C – Equal Rights

You think equal rights is the most important thing to protest about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tax rises, climate change or war.

Role D – War

You think war is the most important thing to protest about. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as important. Also, tell the others which is the least important of these (and why): tax rises, equal rights or climate change.

Speaking – Protests

Rank these with your partner. Put the most important things to protest about at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| • equal rights | • climate change |
| • nuclear power | • tax rises |
| • construction | • corruption |
| • a government | • war |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	T	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.