

## David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet

*I am [David Attenborough](#) and I'm 93. This is my witness statement." There is a tremendously moving sense of finality about Attenborough's terrifying new documentary on the climate emergency. It is being marketed as a retrospective, a look back at his life and 60-years-plus career. But make no mistake about its true agenda: Attenborough is here to deliver a stark warning that time is ticking for the planet. It is a personal film – and political, too. There is emotion and urgency in that familiar soothing voice. At one point he rubs his eyes, reddened and damp.*

1. What human disaster happened in the city of Chernobyl in 1986?
2. What was the world population in 1937? Percent of rainforest remaining \_\_\_\_\_
3. What percentage (%) of species were wiped out when a meteor crashed into the Earth, killing all of the dinosaurs?
4. By 1954, what percentage (%) of wildlife was remaining?
5. What does the word 'Serengeti' mean? \_\_\_\_\_
6. In what year was the Apollo 8 mission launched?
7. Which ocean animals were being hunted to near extinction in the 1970s? \_\_\_\_\_
8. In 1978 what was the population \_\_\_\_\_ and the carbon content? \_\_\_\_\_
9. By how much had Borneo's rainforest decreased by the end of the 20<sup>th</sup> century? \_\_\_\_\_
10. What percent of forests have been eliminated? \_\_\_\_\_ What percent has been eliminated? \_\_\_\_\_
11. Up to how many species of tree are there in a small patch of rainforest? \_\_\_\_\_
12. What % of large fish have been removed from the ocean? \_\_\_\_\_
13. What color did the coral begin to turn? \_\_\_\_\_
14. What change happened in the ocean to cause coral to turn this color? \_\_\_\_\_
15. In the last 40 years, what percentage (%) of the summer sea ice in the Arctic reduced?
16. In 1997 what was the population \_\_\_\_\_ and the carbon content? \_\_\_\_\_
17. How many trees do we cut down each year? \_\_\_\_\_
18. What was the Earth's population in 2020? Percent of rainforest remaining \_\_\_\_\_
19. What will happen to the globe over the coming decades when you're an adult?

2030s

2040s

(note Trump administration rolled back Obama era methane regulations. Methane has 84 times the heat absorbing power of CO<sub>2</sub> )

2050s

2080s

2100s

20. How many people are estimated to be on Earth by 2100? \_\_\_\_\_
21. What is significant about Japan's population?  
What could we do to slow population growth?
22. Why is solar significant?  
In which country is the world's largest solar farm? \_\_\_\_\_
23. How did people on the island of Palau respond when their fish stocks decreased?
24. How could many humans change their diets to make it more sustainable? \_\_\_\_\_
25. What did Costa Rica do to turn things around?
26. Which greenhouse gas do trees absorb from our atmosphere?
27. What has happened to the city of Chernobyl since it was evacuated 30 years ago?

**Discussion questions:**

Since 2000, the world has experienced 19/20 hottest years in recorded history. What are the things that we can do to avoid humanities fate?

Why is Mr. Davey showing you this film in a history class?