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Mission: Planet Earth: Our World And Its Climate--and How Humans Are Changing Them



Synopsis

From an American hero and dedicated scientist: A compelling introduction to the changes taking place in Earth's climate, written for the audience that matters most to our planet's future. Beginning with Sally Ride's unique, astronaut's-eye view of Earth's fragile atmosphere, *Mission: Planet Earth* describes how water, air, and other climate systems shape our world, and how a disruption in one part of the system can spread through the entire planet. Drawing on the latest scientific research and presenting a clear, even-handed account of the current state of climate studies, illustrated with helpful diagrams and stunning photographs of and from the front lines of climate change, here is a celebration of Earth's natural complexity--and a call to action for a new generation.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Grade 5
•This environmental-science primer introduces a range of important concepts necessary to understand climate change and global warming. Topics include the carbon cycle, water cycle, long-range carbon emissions data, biological evidence of climate change, and much more. The authors have an extensive background in science education, and their text exhibits an excellent balance of concept thoroughness with ease of comprehension. Attractive photographs and colorful graphics, including many charts and diagrams, are incorporated throughout. This is a great title for general reading; it may be less useful for research as the table of contents is rather vague and there's no glossary.
•Lindsay Cesari, Baldwinsville School District, NY Copyright

“The authors have an extensive background in science education, and their text exhibits an excellent balance of concept thoroughness with ease of comprehension.”
School Library Journal
“The narrative’s tone is less alarmist than most recent looks at global warming, but still threaded with lively language . . . and well stocked with both recent scientific findings and big, clear color photos.”
Kirkus Reviews

Long time friends Sally Ride and Tom O’Shaughnessy have written a great book on the changing climate of earth. The book is written for a middle school level, although it could be read and discussed with younger children and even older than the preteen set could benefit from reading the text and studying the charts. Always beneficial is the index included. I do wish that Sally Ride used more of the glory of the earth she saw in space other than the first two pages; or what she gained in the related field from her astronaut training. There are simple but comprehensive explanations explaining the changing climate of earth and how intricate the nature of what is occurring is. The charts included throughout are simple but complete, probably the best I have seen, they are so good, it made me wish for more, but information covered is sufficient and made attention-grabbing.

I read this book with my daughter (age 8) and we both loved it! It explains the science behind global warming in a way that is easy to understand. The diagrams and photos were especially helpful for my daughter to visualize the impact humans can have on the environment. We liked it so much that we also read the companion guide (Mission Save the Planet) which offers tips and ideas for ways we can conserve resources at home without too much effort.

Authors Sally Ride and Tam O’Shaughnessy present the issues of climate change due to human impact quite clearly. Any science that is discussed in their book is simplified and relatively easy to understand for young readers. The book is filled with colorful photos and illustrations that help you visualize certain processes and climate cycles. I would recommend Mission: Planet Earth to all.

This book provides a look at how the public education system can be used to promote a political agenda. Under the guise of a children’s science book, the theory of global warming is presented as a foregone conclusion; “The world is becoming warmer and people caused it” with a few sketchy facts and some junk science to back it up. A scary message; “We don’t have much time!” is thrown

in to make sure the target audience sits up and pays attention. And the target audience is not professional climatologists, college or even high school students, but middle school kids. A follow up book then provides a course of action for the newly enlightened students to follow. Education or indoctrination? Fascinating.

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