

A large crowd of people is shown from behind, with many hands raised in the air, suggesting a protest or a large gathering. The background is filled with green trees, and the overall atmosphere is one of collective action.

Debate

Will School Climate  
Change Protests Make  
a Difference?



# Climate Change Protests: The Context



In late 2018, Swedish student Greta Thunberg led a school strike in order to inspire world leaders into taking action on climate change. She spent three weeks sitting outside of the Swedish parliament on Fridays in order to make a statement.

More recently, thousands of students across the world have walked out of classrooms to protest inaction on climate change and a small number of students in the UK have begun doing the same.

**On the 15th of February, 2019 a number of demonstrations took place in the UK with the same goal: to demand that the government act upon climate change. Will it make a difference?**



# What Do You Think?

## Who do you agree with? Why?

"Protesting is a visible and effective means of making a stand for something you believe in passionately and it's very exciting to see that young people are involved. The government have ignored many protesters on the subject of the environment for years, but now students are skipping classes to do so, perhaps they'll pay attention and listen."

"Protesting isn't an effective means of promoting social change at all – there are hundreds if not thousands of demonstrators outside parliament every single week and they all want something different. I also think it's highly unlikely that the government would listen to school children on the matter if the opinions of climate change experts can't change their mind."

# For and Against



Recent protests by school students are picking up a lot of news coverage and attention to the matter of climate change but some head teachers, parents and carers are expressing concerns about students missing school.

**List reasons for and against students striking from school in order to promote action on climate change.**



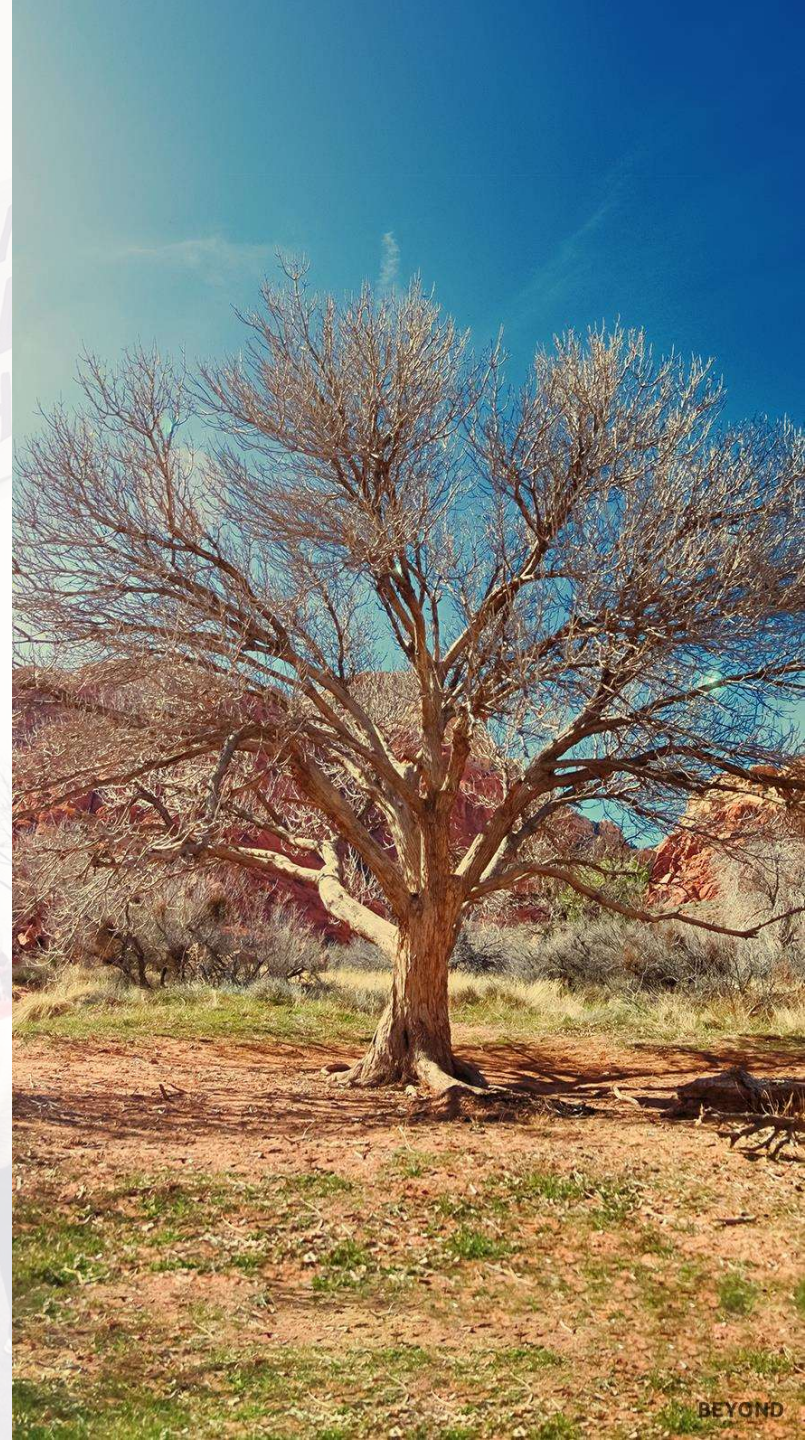
# Personal Response

Do you think that striking from school will bring attention to climate change?

Do you think it will make the government act upon it in the future?

Why do you think students have chosen to strike on, and disrupt, a school day in order to bring attention to this topic?

**Write down your own personal thoughts and feelings on the topic.**







# **The Big Question: Will School Climate Change Protests Make a Difference?**

Working with your group, prepare a speech or presentation to tackle the question above. Consider the pros and cons and come to a conclusion that you can present to the rest of your class.



**BEYOND**  
DEBATE