

Prof. Guha-Sapir's Fun School

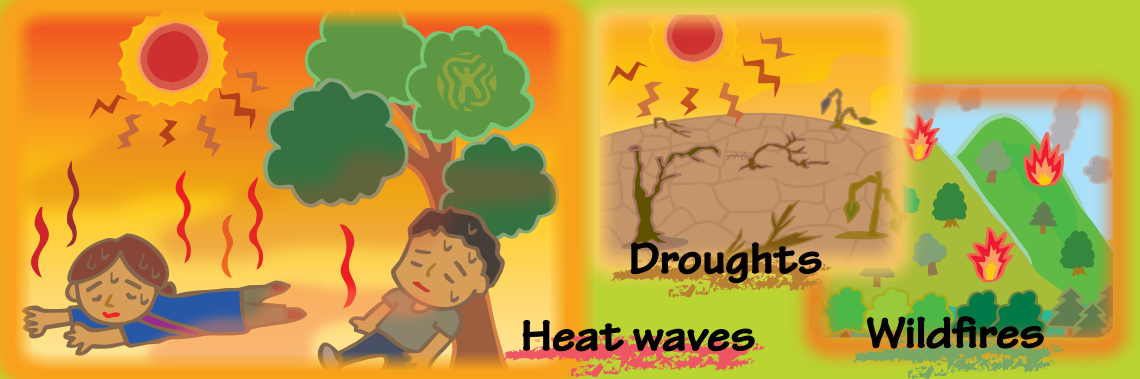
18th issue, January 2025

What to do to prevent disasters





Lately, many people have been affected by extreme **heat waves**. Heat waves are disasters, which can also cause droughts and wildfires.



Hidden on pages 1-7 (one on each page) are Blue Planet Prize symbols in various colors! Can you find them all? Check out the answers in the comic on the Asahi Glass Foundation's website! [This →](#)



This disaster database, "EM-DAT," contains records from over 100 years.



Recent disasters are different compared to the past. How do you think they've changed?



Hmm... Come to think of it, I heard summers weren't this hot in the past.



There are many types of other disasters, like floods and landslides.

By learning about past disasters, we can prepare for future ones and reduce damage.



Floods



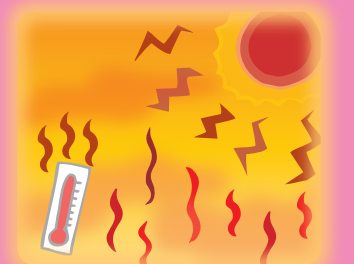
Storms



Floods



Storms



Heat waves

Recently, the proportion of floods, storms, and heat waves has increased relative to other disasters.



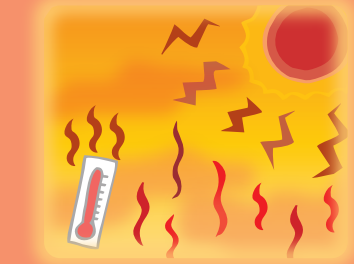
All of these are related to climate factors like rain, wind, and temperature.



Floods



Storms



Heat waves



Rain



Wind



Temperature

For example, if we know where dangerous and safe places are...

Danger



Close to a River



When a flood is likely, evacuate to a higher place, like the second floor.

we'll know where to evacuate, and we can also choose to live in safer areas.

Second floor or higher.



Recently, climate-related disasters have been occurring far more often than those caused by earthquakes or volcanic eruptions.



Do many people live in dangerous areas?



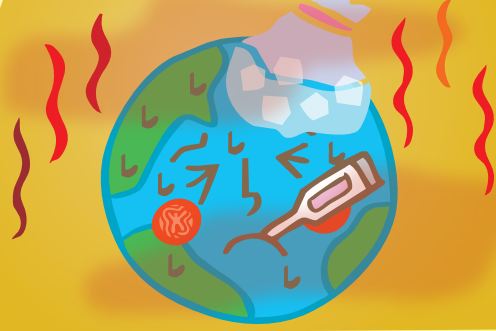
In poor countries, many people have no choice but to live in such areas; so they suffer particularly **severe damage**.



Why are climate-related disasters increasing?



The main cause is climate change due to global warming.



Plus, disasters have become more severe compared to the past. Floods that used to occur only once in 100 years now occur almost every year, and the number of victims is increasing. This is because more people are living in high-risk areas prone to disaster damage.

Danger



Danger



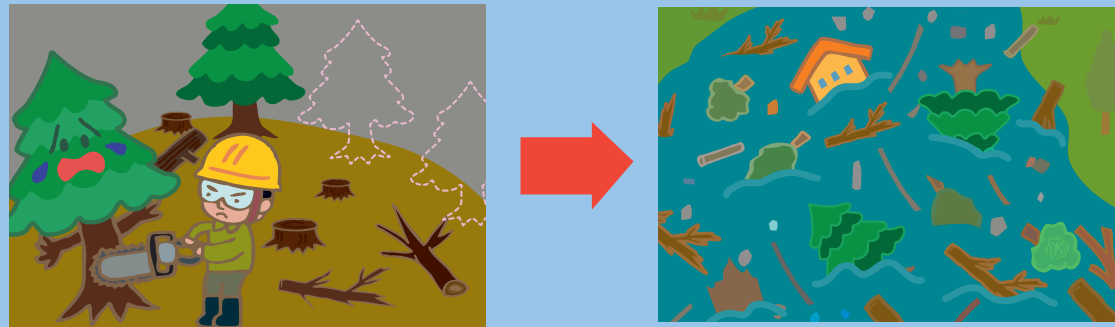
For example, people may drown or their house may be swept away in floods; and even after the flood, the unsanitary conditions lead to the spread of diseases, making life even harder for the poor.



It's not fair, because wealthy countries, not poor countries, are mainly responsible for climate change.



To reduce natural disasters, it's important to prevent environmental damage. When forests are lost, the soil retains less water, making floods more likely.



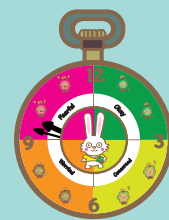
Protecting the environment helps protect the world from disasters.



But what if a disaster happens tomorrow...?



There are many things children can do, like helping the elderly or people with disabilities. Please grow to be an adult who can protect those who are more vulnerable.



Environmental Doomsday Clock

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January 2025

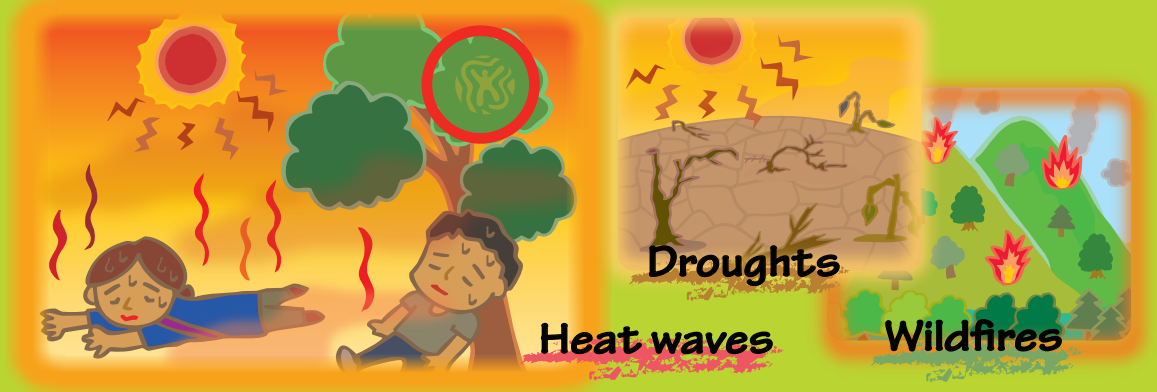
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**Did you find all the symbols?
Here are the answers!**



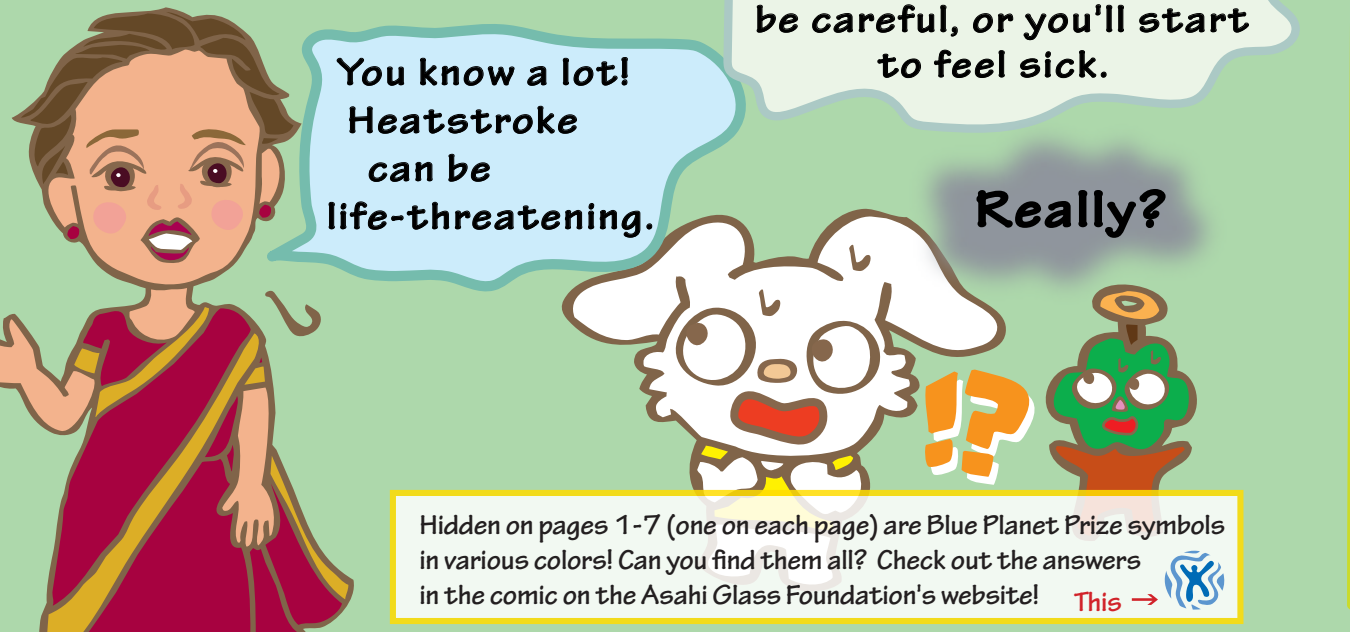


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Professor Debarati Guha-Sapir
2023 Laureate of the Blue Planet Prize

On hot days, you have to be careful, or you'll start to feel sick.



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They're all natural disasters.





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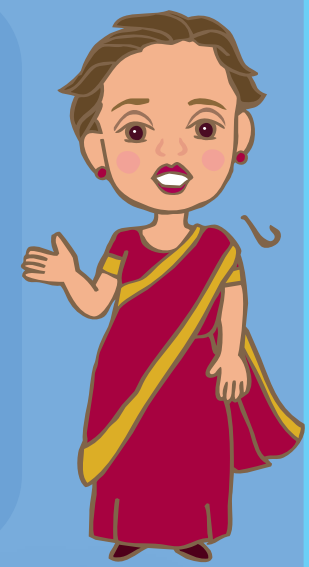
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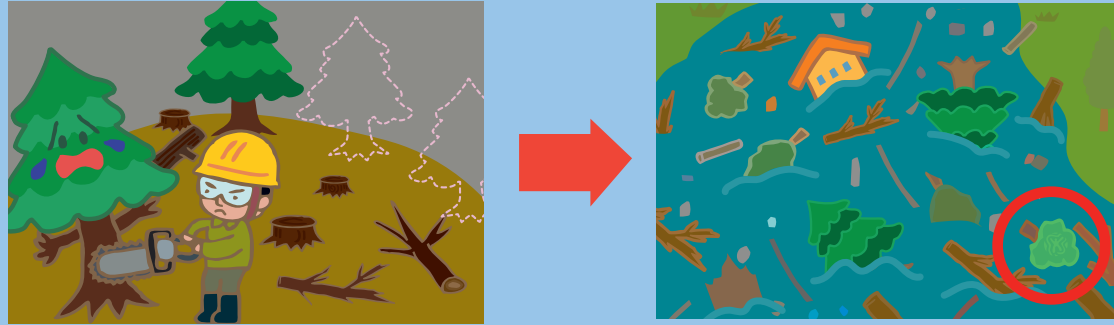
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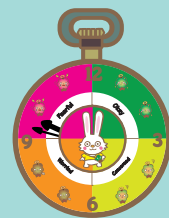
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