

GREEN MOVEMENTS

- Before reading the following article on the green movements cluster on the word 'green'.

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green

During the 1950s it became increasingly evident that the impact of industrial development and population growth on the natural world had produced what amounted to a state of emergency.

A series of powerful arguments¹ – ethical, aesthetic, scientific and economic – demand the protection of our natural heritage. The basic message is simple: conservation is not a luxury,² but a necessity. Conservation pressure groups have learnt to adopt high-visibility campaigns to get this message across.³

In 1971 the Friends of the Earth organization in Britain dumped⁴ 1,500 bottles on the doorstep of Schweppes, the soft drink manufacturer. Preferring confrontation to persuasion, the Greenpeace movement made headlines⁵ by putting themselves between the harpoons⁶ and their targets in the Save the Whales campaign. Later, these activists risked injury as they steered⁷ their small boats under barrels of nuclear waste as they were being dropped⁸ into the North Sea. Green politics today is not just about saving rhinos and tigers, it is concerned with the environment in all its forms – animals, plants, the climate, food, soil and water – in short, with the whole ecosystem.

Green parties are now established in almost all West European countries and conservation pressure groups in Britain are among the most active in Europe. Friends of the Earth has launched a number of successful campaigns in the UK to increase public awareness. They have also released⁹ secret government reports concerning the use of dangerous, even fatal pesticides.

Internationally, there are now Friends of the Earth groups operating in 30 different countries, working on projects which range from opposing uranium mining in Australia to saving coral reefs in Japan.



GLOSSARY

- 1 reasons
- 2 something which is not essential
- 3 to make something clear
- 4 left
- 5 became famous
- 6 spears, weapons used for catching whales
- 7 directed
- 8 thrown
- 9 made available to the public

READING COMPREHENSION

- Answer the following questions.

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| ① What are conservation pressure groups and what is their task? | ② Why do they often adopt high-visibility campaigns? |
| | ③ What is the Friends of the Earth organization? |

ACTIVITIES



VOCABULARY

- Read the text again and find synonyms for the following words.

- | | | | |
|---------------|-------|------------|-------|
| ① Clear | | ④ Producer | |
| ② Harmful | | ⑤ Nations | |
| ③ Association | | ⑥ Plans | |

WRITING

- Write sentences which have the same meaning as the following.

- ① Conservation is not a luxury, but a necessity.

- ② Conservation pressure groups adopt high-visibility campaigns.

- ③ Green politics today is not just about saving rhinos and tigers.

- ④ They have released secret government reports concerning the use of dangerous pesticides.
