



# FROM KYOTO TO PARIS: U.N. AGREEMENTS ON CLIMATE CHANGE

## LEARNING GOALS

- To recognize the main differences between the Paris Climate Agreement and the Kyoto Protocol.
- To understand how international agreements and cooperation contribute to climate action.
- To practice drawing connections between local challenges and global contexts and best practices.

## ASSIGNMENT

Estimated Time: ~31 min

- Listen: "[Kyoto Treaty Fizzled, But Climate Talkers Insist Paris Is Different](#)" (4 mins; from 2015, when Paris Agreement was still being negotiated)
- Watch: "[What is the Paris Agreement](#)" (1:19)
- Read: [United States' Nationally Determined Contribution](#) (~5 mins)
- Watch: "[What Leaving Paris Could Mean](#)" (12:06)
- Listen: "[U.S. Formally Begins To Leave The Paris Climate Agreement](#)" (3 mins)
- Read: "[Hawaii Signs Legislation To Implement Goals Of Paris Climate Accord Anyway](#)" (~5 min)

## TERMINOLOGY

- **Climate Change** - a change in global or regional climate patterns, in particular a change apparent from the mid to late 20th century onwards and attributed largely to the increased levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide produced by the use of fossil fuels.
- **Paris Agreement** - an agreement within the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, dealing with greenhouse-gas-emissions mitigation, adaptation, and finance, signed in 2016.
- **Kyoto Protocol** - an international treaty signed on December 11, 1997 that implements the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change by committing industrialized countries to limit and reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) emissions in accordance with agreed individual targets. This treaty went into effect on February 16, 2005.
- **United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)** - an international environmental treaty adopted on May 9, 1992 and opened for signature at the Earth Summit in Rio de Janeiro from June 3 - 14 1992.
- **Treaty** - In the context of the United Nations, a treaty is a formal, negotiated agreement between countries that must be ratified by each of the governments that have signed it. In the United States, the Senate must ratify all treaties.
- **Convention** - In the context of the United Nations, a convention begins as an international meeting of representatives from many nations that results in general agreement about procedures or actions they will take on specific topics



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## KAHOOT QUIZ

- Go to Kahoot.it or use the Kahoot mobile app and enter the pin 07048554
- Or, use [this link](#)

## DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What are some key differences between the Kyoto Protocol and Paris Agreement?
- Most CO<sub>2</sub> emissions to date have come from the developed world. Most CO<sub>2</sub> emissions in the future will come from the developing world, including countries like China and India.
  - Should wealthier, more developed nations contribute more toward climate action than developing nations? Or should all nations share the responsibility?
  - Do you think the Kyoto Protocol, which focused on limiting and reducing greenhouse gases in industrialized nations only, was a fair and reasonable approach towards combating climate change? Or is Paris, which includes all countries but relies on voluntary commitments, the better approach?
- In international agreements like the Paris Agreement, how can countries hold each other accountable for their efforts, or lack thereof?
- Do you think the United States should remain in the Paris Agreement or not? Why?
- What are some of the consequences of the United States' decision to leave the Paris Agreement?
  - Has this decision impacted how individual states are handling climate change?
- Do you think the United States' Nationally Determined Contribution to the Paris Agreement was, as it stated, "fair and ambitious"?

## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [EPA's information About How You Can Take Climate Action](#) - Information about various ways you can take climate action (includes links and an updated list of EPA news releases).
- [Text of Kyoto Protocol](#) - Official text of the Kyoto Protocol
- [Text of Paris Climate Agreement](#) - Official text of the Paris Climate Agreement
- [Climate Watch Data](#) - Explore the Nationally Determined Contributions of the world's countries.

### National Organizations

- [Greenpeace](#) - A global, independent campaigning organization that uses peaceful protest and creative communication to expose global environmental problems and promote solutions essential to a green and peaceful future.
- [350.org](#) - An international environmental organization that aims to end the use of fossil fuels and transition to renewable energy by building a global, grassroots movement.

This lesson was created by Janelle Mateo.



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## ADDITIONAL RESOURCES (continued)

### Local Organizations

- [Sustainable Coastlines Hawaii](#) - A grassroots, local nonprofit organization that coordinates educational programs, team building corporate cleanups, waste diversion services, public awareness campaigns, and help others organize their own beach cleanups.
- [Kupu Hawaii](#) - Provides hands-on training in conservation, sustainability, and environmental education for young adults, with the goal of fostering the next generation of environmental and cultural stewards.
- [Surfrider Foundation - Oahu Chapter](#) - The Surfrider Foundation’s mission is to protect and enjoy our ocean, waves and beaches through a powerful activist network.
- [808 Cleanups](#) - Committed to restoring Hawaii’s natural beauty by empowering volunteers to conduct decentralized cleanups, responding to littering and vandalism of Hawaii’s natural spaces, saving indigenous ecosystems through education, and building sustainable solutions with community partners.

## IDEAS FOR ACTION

### Easier:

- Research other countries’ Nationally Determined Contributions, especially countries that emit a lot of CO2 like China, Canada, Japan, and other wealthy countries.
- Research some of the claims made in the PBS interview. Are they accurate?
- Make a social media post about climate change: ask about the different ways others take climate action

### Moderate:

- Take small steps of your own— walk or bike instead of driving, use less electricity, eliminate your food waste, eat less meat, support businesses that commit to sustainable practices, etc.
- Get friends and family involved: start composting at home, organize clothing swaps, etc.
- Participate in env. projects happening in your community or volunteer with an env. organization

### Hard:

- Contact PAAC and schedule a [climate simulation](#) at your school. Simulations are a fun and interactive way to learn more about climate change, its challenges, and potential solutions.
- Advocate for legislation that addresses climate change, climate resilience, or climate adaptation.

## HAWAII CORE STANDARDS FOR SOCIAL STUDIES (HCSSS) LINKS

- Content Standard [SS.WH.8.12.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.US.12.8.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.US.12.16.2](#)
- Content Standard [SS.PID.4.16.3](#)
- Content Standard [SS.PID.4.7.1](#)
- Content Standard [SS.7PI.3.8.3](#)
- Action Projects link to [SS.PID.5.7.1](#)