

Watch and listen to the film and number the following words and expressions as you hear them.

Try to determine the meaning from context

	a decade of change		how can we progress
	back to the wall		hugely ambitious target
	burden is pretty severe		I couldn't agree more
	collective confidence		I truly think things are about to start to move
	common goal		launch an idea, product, ship, spacecraft
	contingent on		no greater challenge than
	could be the spark that will give it the impetus		perish
	diverse, broad range		progress this issue
	doom and gloom		real groundswell of young people
	even though...it isn't hopeless	1	the most prestigious global environmental prize there has ever been
	fate of humankind in the balance		the thing that strikes me is...
	galvanize		time is of the essence
	generational hand-on		we will have to have made huge strides
	get our act together		we've reached a tipping point
	hard work and heavy lifting		what is so brilliant about the earthshot prize, is that...
	harness the wisdom and knowledge ... with the energy		what the prize does, is to...
	has a knack for coming up with		

How can we save our planet? Sir David Attenborough speaks on the Science Focus Podcast

1. Paraphrase what Sir David Attenborough says at the start
2. What does he say about how aware people are?
3. Will we get to a stage where the problem can be solved?
4. Why has he made these documentaries?
5. What has he learned from his work?
6. Are politicians listening?
7. What example does he give of a dramatic change in attitude?
8. Where should we start?
9. What example does he give?
10. What do you have to do at Davos?
11. What about people like Donald Trump?
12. What stands out most for him in his experience?
13. What his his final advice?

CRITIC'S PICK

‘David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet’ Review: Ruin and Regrowth

In this moving documentary, the famed naturalist maps how steeply the planet’s biodiversity has diminished over his lifetime.

By Natalia Winkelman

New York Times, Oct. 4, 2020

The majestic documentary “David Attenborough: A Life on Our Planet” opens with its title subject standing in a deserted location. It’s the territory around the Chernobyl nuclear plant, (1)_____ that was evacuated after human error rendered it uninhabitable. Only later (2)_____, Alastair Fothergill, Jonnie Hughes and Keith Scholey, pull their camera back to reveal that the territory, (3)_____, has grown into a lush wildlife paradise.

Calling the film ([streaming on Netflix](#)) his “witness statement” for the environment, David Attenborough (4)_____ his more than 60-year career as a naturalist, (5)_____ the planet’s biodiversity has degenerated before him. Global air travel was new when he began his work, and footage of him as a young producer encountering exotic flora and fauna (6)_____, note to his plea to restore ecological balance.

Astonishing nature photography accompanies his retrospective. To illustrate the emptying of oceans, the directors intercut (7)_____ with images of large gutted fish, frozen and stacked for market. Equally upsetting is the loss of rain forests, (8)_____ between flourishing vegetation and uniform rows of oil palms planted for profit. Such cinematic juxtapositions are persuasive: A dying planet is an ugly one, while healthy ecosystems please the eye and the earth.

The most devastating sequence finds Attenborough (9)_____ in future decades — global crises that he, as a man now in his 90s, will not experience. (10)_____.

Sustainable farming in the Netherlands has made the country one of the worldwide leaders in food exports. Fishing restrictions around the Pacific archipelago nation of Palau (11)_____. The film’s grand achievement is that it positions its subject (12)_____ humans and the natural world. Life cycles on, and if we make the right choices, ruin can become regrowth.

Match these phrases to a gap in the text:

- a. a once buzzing area
- b. as a mediator between
- c. charting the disasters we face
- d. enabled marine life to rebound
- e. goes on to trace
- f. in its vacancy
- g. lends a moving, even haunting
- h. mapping how steeply
- i. showcased through the stark cutoff
- j. thriving coral habitats
- k. will the directors
- l. Yet he finds hope by extrapolating small successes