

## WHAT IS A CARBON FOOTPRINT?

1. A **pivotal** role the end of the [world](#)
2. **Strands** of climate an [amount](#) that is less than the [level expected](#) or [needed](#):
3. Grassroots a very [deep hole](#) that [seems](#) to have no [bottom](#)
4. Feasible a [person](#) who [lives](#) in a [city](#), [town](#), [cave](#),
5. Abyss the [ordinary people](#) in a [society](#) or an [organization](#)
6. **Outstrip** capacity central an important
7. Dwellers [able](#) to be made, done, or [achieved](#)
8. Shortfalls to be [greater](#) in [amount](#), [degree](#), or [success](#)
9. Doomsday a [part](#) that [combines](#) with other [parts](#)

consumption greenhouse gas emissions lack citizen  
atmosphere resources developing world household appliances  
Research and Development fossil fuels

**Passage 1: "Humans need to decide what kind of footprint we want to leave on the planet."**

Ordinary (1) \_\_\_\_\_ have a pivotal role to play concerning what kind of footprint they leave on this planet. Unraveling the many strands of climate change will be a grassroots, bottom-up movement. People have been hypnotized by the media and convinced of their helplessness on this issue. They need to feel that they have the power to change things. It is critical that the measures taken are felt to be feasible and effective and that reverting climatic trends means neither personal deprivation nor the end of our natural (2) \_\_\_\_\_. What can we do? We can make sure that our (3) \_\_\_\_\_ meet the highest efficiency standards. We can install solar panels and buy electric cars, so soon we will no longer need (4) \_\_\_\_\_ to generate energy. We can reduce our (5) \_\_\_\_\_ of water by using rainwater recapture systems and lowering volume flush in toilets and in showerhead flow.

**Passage 2: "The footprints of technology lead away from the abyss."**

Thomas Malthus famously theorized that the boom in the Earth's population would outstrip our capacity to produce sufficient food, thereby leading to (6) \_\_\_\_\_ and starvation. Has his prediction, presented in 1798, come close to reality? The answer is a clear "no." Great improvements in agricultural productivity have been accomplished, and food is more than abundantly supplied for the billions of earth dwellers. Any shortfalls are on the distribution side rather than the production side. What many fail to grasp about climate change is that, while many predict Malthusian doomsday scenarios due to global warming, new solutions are provided and new technologies are implemented to guarantee the continuance of mankind on this planet. Therefore, it is imperative that massive investments in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ be made. Solar, nuclear, wind, tide, geothermal, and other yet undreamed-of technologies will allow us to cut (8) \_\_\_\_\_ to zero. As these new technologies are transferred to the (9) \_\_\_\_\_, they will reduce even further the carbon dioxide currently being pumped into the (10) \_\_\_\_\_.

**Questions:**

- 1. What is the main argument of the first passage?** a) Ordinary people are powerless to combat climate change.  
b) Grassroots movements are essential to addressing climate change.  
c) Media and the government are solving the climate crisis.  
d) Global warming is a natural and unstoppable process.
- 2. In Passage 1, which of the following best completes gap (2)?** a) energy  
b) balance  
c) resources  
d) environment
- 3. What is the primary cause of food shortages, according to Passage 2?** a) Overpopulation  
b) Distribution problems  
c) Lack of technological advancements  
d) Poor agricultural productivity

- 4. Which technology is NOT mentioned as a solution to cutting carbon emissions in Passage 2?** a) Geothermal  
b) Solar  
c) Wind  
d) Hydropower
- 5. What does the author suggest about the future in Passage 2?** a) Technology will fail to address climate change.  
b) The world will face unavoidable Malthusian doom.  
c) New energy sources will help reduce carbon emissions.  
d) Population growth will outpace technological advancements.

**Discuss with your classmates and choose the most logical option to answer each question**

Read the following sentences from the article. Use the context to determine the meaning of the highlighted word. Then, provide a synonym or definition.

1. **"Unraveling** the many strands of climate change will be a grassroots, bottom-up movement."

- What does "unraveling" mean in this context?
- Synonym/Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

2. **"It is imperative that massive investments in (7) \_\_\_\_\_ be made."**

- What does "imperative" mean in this sentence?
- Synonym/Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

3. **"They need to feel that they have the power to change things."**

- In this context, what does the word "power" refer to?
- Synonym/Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

4. **"Any shortfalls are on the distribution side rather than the production side."**

- What does "shortfalls" mean here?
- Synonym/Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

5. **"We must embrace agency, for 'We are the music makers, and we are the dreamers of dreams.'"**

- What does "agency" mean in this context?
- Synonym/Definition: \_\_\_\_\_

## How eco-friendly is your lifestyle?

|                                                                           | Usually | Sometimes | Never |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|-----------|-------|
| 1. I walk, carpool, or use public transportation to go to work or school. |         |           |       |
| 2. I turn off lights when I leave a room                                  |         |           |       |
| 3. I use a laptop rather than a desktop computer                          |         |           |       |
| 4. I don't leave household appliances on standby                          |         |           |       |
| 5. I do not leave my cellphone charger plugged in                         |         |           |       |
| 6. I don't leave water running while I brush my teeth or wash my hair     |         |           |       |
| 7. I do not spend more than fifteen minutes in the shower                 |         |           |       |
| 8. I reuse plastic bags                                                   |         |           |       |
| 9. I like buying local produce only when I need it                        |         |           |       |
| 10. I avoid eating meat or fish                                           |         |           |       |