

B. Read the text quickly and decide which futurologist's set of predictions is pessimistic and which is optimistic. Then listen, read and discuss your answers.

Life on Earth a hundred years from now...

Since the 1950s, we have destroyed more than a third of the natural world. Our way of life has caused many serious environmental problems. We use huge quantities of natural resources and produce too much rubbish. Pollution is affecting the climate and our planet is getting warmer. The question is: will things ever change for the better?

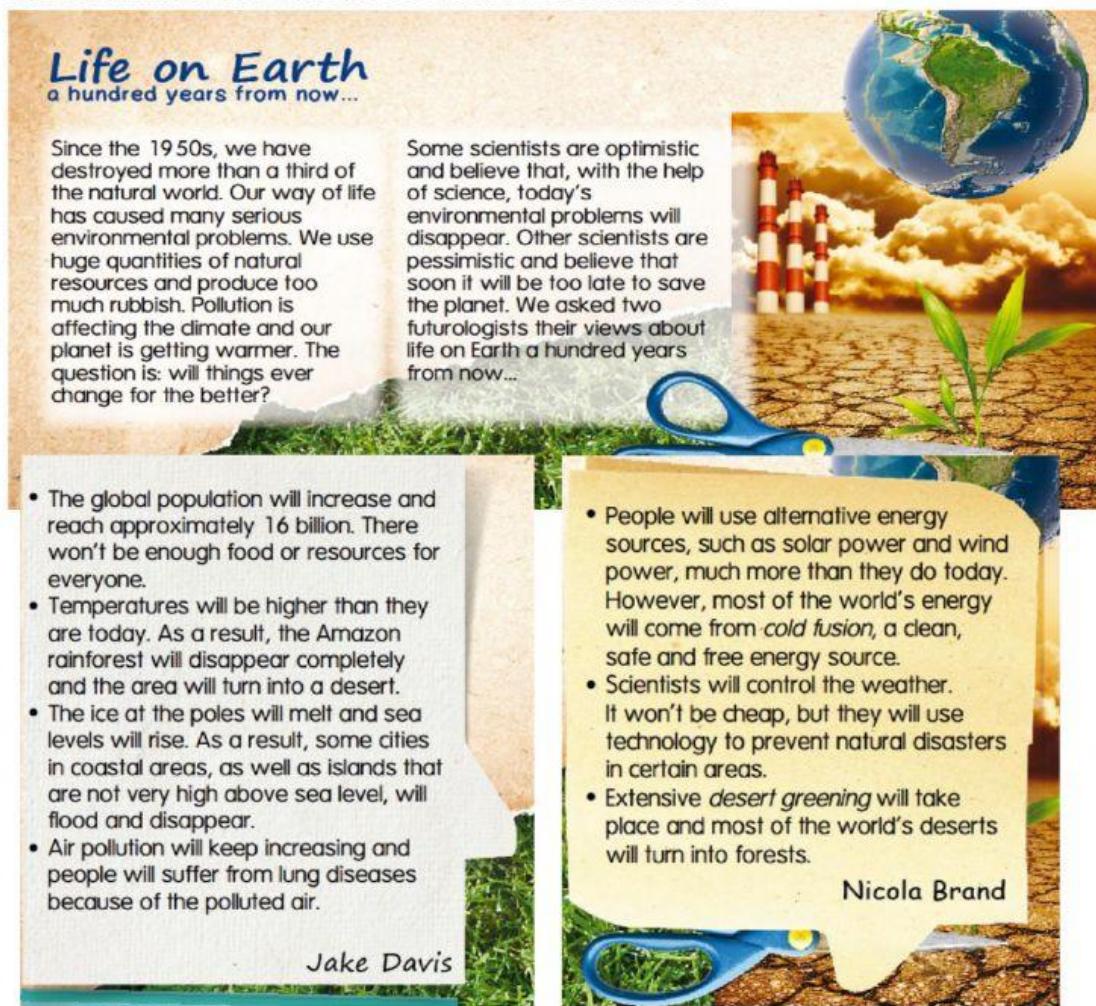
Some scientists are optimistic and believe that, with the help of science, today's environmental problems will disappear. Other scientists are pessimistic and believe that soon it will be too late to save the planet. We asked two futurologists their views about life on Earth a hundred years from now...

- The global population will increase and reach approximately 16 billion. There won't be enough food or resources for everyone.
- Temperatures will be higher than they are today. As a result, the Amazon rainforest will disappear completely and the area will turn into a desert.
- The ice at the poles will melt and sea levels will rise. As a result, some cities in coastal areas, as well as islands that are not very high above sea level, will flood and disappear.
- Air pollution will keep increasing and people will suffer from lung diseases because of the polluted air.

Jake Davis

- People will use alternative energy sources, such as solar power and wind power, much more than they do today. However, most of the world's energy will come from *cold fusion*, a clean, safe and free energy source.
- Scientists will control the weather. It won't be cheap, but they will use technology to prevent natural disasters in certain areas.
- Extensive *desert greening* will take place and most of the world's deserts will turn into forests.

Nicola Brand



Read again and complete the sentences.

1. Many serious environmental problems exist because of our way of life.
2. Humans produce a lot of _____.
3. According to Davis, people won't have enough _____ or _____.
4. He also believes that _____, the ice at the poles, _____ and some islands won't exist 100 years from now.
5. According to Brand, scientists will manage to create better _____ conditions and as a result, we will have fewer _____.
6. She also believes that the Earth will be greener and will have fewer _____.

