

Song and quiz: Live as if our Future Matters. (Xiuhtezcatl)

Ever since he was little, Mexican-American boy Xiuhtezcatl (pronounced *ju:’tezko:t* or *shoo-TEZ-kawt*) Martinez has been trying to make the world a better place.

He was born in the US state of Colorado in 2000. On his father's side his ethnicity is Mexika, an indigenous people who ruled the Aztec Empire from their city state of Tenochtitlan in what's now called Mexico City until it was destroyed by Spanish invaders in 1521. His father taught Xiuhtezcatl about their Mexika heritage, central to which is the belief that all life is connected, and that it's the sacred duty of all Mexika people to protect the natural world for future generations.

For Xiuhtezcatl, this meant it was his duty to become an environmental activist and do everything he could to save the planet. When he was just six years old he gave his first public talk, the first of hundreds including several at the United Nations. He has also written books on the environment and music, written about progressive politics for *Teen Vogue* magazine. In June 2015, when he was 15 years old, Xiuhtezcatl was invited to speak at the United Nations General Assembly on Climate Change. This was three years before fellow teenage activist Greta Thunberg addressed the 2018 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Poland.

Watch the video and read the lyrics as you listen.

See if you can fill the gaps with these words:

dysfunction / greed / lost your mind / planet / polluted / revolution / stand together / wave on the sea

united / blind

Chorus

1:12] Live as if our future matters

Don't leave us an Earth that is torn and battered

The ruling generation's gotta wake up now

And our generation's gonna show you how



[1:21] Why are you sleeping? Why are you so 1_____?

When I look around I think you've 2_____

How can you diss the Earth this way?

She gives us all life each and every day

But you spit on her and you ask for more

Without thinking what future generations will endure
What will be left by the time you are done?
Your children will suffer from your 3 _____

Chorus

[1:48] The air's so 4 _____, gettin' hard to breathe
Forests disappearing, there'll be no more trees
Water is rising in the seas
You unleashed a storm because of your disease
Warning bells are ringing, you better take heed
Destroyin' the Earth with your 5 _____
The storm is comin', you better beware
What you're leaving us children just ain't fair

Chorus

[2:16] Youth are united, all over the 6 _____
We're not taking our awesome Earth for granted
We 7 _____ and we're changin' the game
Our movement will go down in history of fame
And all the people who've been fighting for so long
Are the heroes who have made our 8 _____ strong
United together our message will be heard
And we'll create a world that we deserve

Chorus twice

Live as if our future matters (3 times)
3:08] Time to tell a story of all that's good
Show the world we all share the same hood
We have to protect our 9 _____ force
And get reconnected to our life source
We're gonna get a generation of inspired youth
To stand up together and tell us the truth
That people are risin' like a 10 _____
To change the direction of our destiny

Chorus

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez Quiz

Now, try to do this quiz to see what you've learnt about Xiuhtezcatl Martinez

1. How old was Xiuhtezcatl when he gave his first public talk?
A 6 B 8 C 15
2. What was his first talk about?
A the United Nations B using less electricity C progressive politics
3. In the song **Live as if our Future Matters**, what are these lines about (from the verse starting at 1:48)?
*The air's so polluted, gettin' hard to breathe
Forests disappearing, there'll be no more trees*
A environmental destruction B creating a better future C environmental activists
4. What are these lines about (from the verse starting at 2:16)?
*And all the people who've been fighting for so long
Are the heroes who have made our revolution strong*
A environmental destruction B creating a better future C environmental activists
5. What are these lines about (from the verse starting at 3:08)?
*That people are risin' like a wave on the sea
To change the direction of our destiny*
A environmental destruction B creating a better future C environmental activists
6. What is Xiuhtezcatl's indigenous heritage on his father's side?
A Spanish-American B Mexican-American C Mexica
7. His father taught him that it's his sacred duty to _____ the natural environment.
A pray for B protect C pollute
8. President Barack Obama awarded Xiuht the U.S. Volunteer Service Award. A volunteer is someone who
A does no work B works very hard C works for nothing
9. Xiuht gave a speech to the United Nations in New York in June 2015. This was three years _____ Greta Thunberg's speech at a UN conference in Poland.
A before B shorter than C after

