# Greta Thunberg

## Introduction

Greta Thunberg is a Swedish activist who works to address the problem of **climate change**. She is the founder of a movement known as Fridays for Future. It is also known as School Strike for Climate. Thunberg began the movement in August 2018 when she missed school to sit outside the Swedish parliament with a sign that read (in Swedish) "School Strike for the Climate." Just over a year later, in September 2019, millions of protesters marched in climate strikes in more than 163 countries. The protests were held on all seven continents.

## Early Life

Thunberg was born on January 3, 2003, in Sweden. Her mother is an opera singer, and her father is an actor. Thunberg was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome, a kind of **autism** spectrum disorder. People with Asperger syndrome typically focus very deeply on one idea or interest. Thunberg's cause became climate change. She first learned about climate change when she was about 8 years old. A few years later, when she was 12 or 13, Thunberg became a climate activist. She got more involved in the climate movement and did what she could to make people aware of the problem of climate change. She became a **vegan** and refused to travel by airplane. (Airplanes emit a large amount of the gases that contribute to climate change.)

*Greta Thunberg holds her sign outside the Swedish parliament in 2018.*

*Hanna Franzen—EPA-EFE/Shutterstock.com*

Word box
To be involved= être engagé
To travel= voyager
A strike= une grève

## Activism

In the weeks leading up to the 2018 Swedish election, Thunberg sat in front of the parliament building with her sign. She wanted the lawmakers entering the building to do something about climate change. The first day of the strike she was alone, but more people joined her as the strike continued. After the election Thunberg returned to school four days a week but still skipped school on Fridays to strike. These were called Fridays for Future. It inspired hundreds of thousands of students around the world to participate in their own Fridays for Future. Students held strikes in many countries, including Belgium, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Finland, Denmark, France, and the Netherlands.

Soon after Thunberg began her strike, she received invitations to speak about climate change. She spoke at various United Nations climate events, the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, the European Parliament, and in front of the legislatures of Italy, France, the United Kingdom, and the United States. Her speeches were collected in a book and published as *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference* (2019). In May 2019 Thunberg was named one of *Time* magazine's Next Generation Leaders. Seven months later, in December, she was named *Time*'s Person of the Year.



LIVEWORKSHEETS

**Read the document and answer the questions**

**A-Global comprehension**

1- What type of document is it ?

☐ an extract from a novel ☐ a web article ☐ a web biography

**2- Read the *introduction* and the *early life* chapters : Complete the ID card**

Last Name :……

First name:……

Date of birth :……

Current age :……

Nationality :……

Particularity :……

Job :……

Father's job :……

Mother's job :……

**B- Detailed comprehension**

Read the ***early life*** and ***Activism*** chapters and complete :

1- What is Asperger syndrom: a type of...

☐ food ☐ cancer ☐ obsession about something

2- Highlight the words dealing with ***Greta's interests*** and quote the lines

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| *activism* ... | environment... | Phones ... | *school*... | *strike*.... |
| **climate** ... | love ... | social medias.... | | FOOD ..... |
| TRANSPORTATION... | | *fashion* ..... | | **politics...** |

3- What is '***Friday for future***' ? Choose the right answer

☐ the fact of skipping school on Fridays
☐ the fact of being vegan on Fridays
☐ the fact of protesting by skipping school on Fridays

4- Where did she travel to speak about climate ?Circle the right answer and justify

5- What do these numbers refer to :

163.....12 or13.....

seven (l.9).....

6- The odd one out :

**A-Greta- Swedish- Autism- environment activist- planes**

B- Europe- Africa- USA-

*C- time's magazine-a leader-strike- skip school- national*

LIVEWORKSHEETS