

I can understand the main points and identify specific detail in an article.

1 Match the phrases below with definitions 1–5.

environmental laws greenhouse-gases sign a petition
take legal action win a court case

- 1 carbon dioxide and methane are examples of these greenhouse gases
- 2 add your name to a list of people who are asking the government to do something _____
- 3 successfully challenge a person or organisation in court _____
- 4 rules that people and businesses must follow which protect the land, sea and air _____
- 5 try to change a situation using lawyers _____

2 Read the article. Match headings a–e with paragraphs 1–4. There is one extra heading.

- a Other ways the organisation helps
- b Victory for four green teens
- c Future plans
- d Why was the victory so important?
- e The organisation that supported them

3 Read the article again. Choose the correct answers.

- 1 The Global Warming Solutions Act
 - a tried to stop all greenhouse gases immediately.
 - b was rejected by the government in the 1990s.
 - c tried to reduce greenhouse gases all over the USA.
 - d made a lot of people angry.
- 2 Why was this an important win?
 - a It was the first victory against the state government since 2008.
 - b Because it means the state must now clean up the air.
 - c Because it means the state must now reduce energy costs.
 - d Because it was the first court case about the environment.
- 3 Our Children's Trust
 - a is a government organisation.
 - b trains young people to become lawyers when they're older.
 - c educates and supports young people who want to take legal action.
 - d thinks not many young people care about the environment.
- 4 What do the people at Our Children's Trust believe?
 - a We can't wait any longer to save the environment.
 - b Children cause environmental problems.
 - c No governments are taking any action.
 - d The Global Warming Solutions Act isn't good enough.



Teenagers against climate change

1

Four teenagers in the USA have recently won an important court case against the Massachusetts state government to make them reduce greenhouse gases. The 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act says that all state governments must reduce greenhouse gases by 20 percent. In 2012, the Massachusetts state government hadn't done anything and so hundreds of young people signed a petition. The Massachusetts state government still didn't do anything, so the teenagers took the state government to court. The teenagers lost their first court case, but last week another judge decided that the state government was wrong and it must now improve traffic and use more renewable energy.

2

The teenagers were working with Our Children's Trust, an organisation which uses legal action when local governments don't follow environmental laws. The organisation was started in Oregon in 2011 and they encourage and train young people to get involved in environmental change. Our Children's Trust knew that the biggest supporters of action against climate change are usually young people and so they wanted to help make their voices heard by governments who were not doing enough.

3

The organisation believes that we must act against climate change urgently, so that the children of the future can have a clean and safe world to live in. They are involved in lots of similar cases with other state governments at the moment. They also make short films to educate people about the environmental problems we face in the world today.

4

The victory in Massachusetts was a huge success, not only for the state, but for young people in general, as it has shown that young people really do have a voice. Governments cannot sit and do nothing anymore when people are polluting the air.

