

## ENVIRONMENT

# Greta Thunberg



**G**reta Thunberg is a name that has become **synonymous** with climate **activism**. It is a name that became even more popular when thousands of students across Canada skipped school on Friday, September 27, to protest government inaction regarding our climate crisis. At just 16 years of age, Greta Thunberg has become a passionate voice for the world's fight against climate change.

Greta was born on January 3, 2003, in Stockholm, Sweden, and she is no stranger to fame. Her father, Svante Thunberg, is an actor and producer. Her mother is an international opera singer. She has a younger sister who is also a singer. At the age of 11, Greta was diagnosed with autism, but rather than seeing this as an obstacle in her life, she says that it is her "superpower."

For half of her life, Greta has been concerned about our changing climate. It was at the age of 8 that she first realized the climate crisis the world was in. Between then and now, she has been spreading the word through

books, documentaries, interviews, and protests.

The movement of students missing classes to protest on Friday began in August 2018 when Greta began protesting outside the Swedish Parliament. Her protests called for stronger action on global warming.

Inspired by the social media hashtag, #FridaysForFuture, youth across the world began to join her in her protests. In Montreal, the September 27 protest saw over 500,000 people take part in the march for climate action, making it the largest in Quebec's history.

Greta joined the people of Montreal and addressed the crowd by saying, "We are not in school today, you are not at work today, because this is an emergency and we will not be bystanders." Greta's passion and desire to bring awareness to climate change has given her the opportunity to be heard by some of the world's most powerful politicians.

She has been spending much of the past year travelling around Europe attending various climate change **summits** and spreading

her message. On September 23, 2019, she attended the 2019 United Nations Climate Action Summit in New York City. It was there that she made a passionate speech to world leaders.

It is the hopes of many people, young and old, across the world that these world leaders hear her message. ★



## DID YOU KNOW

In August 2019, Greta travelled from Europe to North America on a 60-foot racing yacht equipped with solar panels and underwater turbines. She refuses to travel by air in order to lower her carbon footprint.

To view videos, go to:  
<http://resources.dynamic-classroom.ca/books/vzzv>

Video



## WORD POWER

**SYNONYMOUS:** A word, name, or phrase that very strongly suggests a particular idea, or quality.

**ACTIVISM:** Strong actions (such as public protests) to help make changes in politics or society.

**SUMMIT:** An international meeting of world leaders to discuss a certain issue.

**ENVIRONMENT**

**Greta Thunberg**

1. Why did thousands of students in Canada skip school on September 27?

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2. Greta was diagnosed with what? How does she view her diagnosis?

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3. How did the movement begin?

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4. Explain the impact of #FridaysForFuture.

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5. How has Greta been spreading her message?

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**CRITICAL THINKING**

1. Did you participate in the September 27 climate strike? What was your experience?

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2. What do you think is your “superpower”? Explain your answer.

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