

SOS

CLIMATE
CHANGE



Martina the sea turtle loves to swim among the coral reefs, since they are her favorite place to be. But she notices that every day there is less and less coral, and that the water is warmer than it used to be. Why is the coral dying? Why is the water warmer? What could be the reason?



When it is time for Martina to lay her eggs, she begins a journey to the same beach where she was born to build a nest to lay them. She swims and searches, but she can't find it!

"Where could it be? It has to be here somewhere!" says Martina.

Search as she might, she cannot find the beach. It's as if it has disappeared, swallowed by the sea.

Martina sadly floats in the water, swept away by currents that take her far, far away from where her beach once was.



Martina is lost, but she sees a friendly polar bear named Fredo to talk to.

"Where are we?" Martina asks, watching broken sheets of ice floating on top of the water.

"This is the North Pole," says Fredo, "or... it used to be. I don't know what's happening, but it isn't as cold as it used to be, and the ice is melting faster and faster! All of the animals that lived here have left because they couldn't find food anymore. And now I am all alone."

"I'm very sorry, Fredo," says Martina. "Something must be happening... I tried to find my beach and -poof!- it was gone. I was swimming in no direction in particular and now here I am. Let's try to find out what is happening. Hop on my back and let's get going!"



They set off together and after swimming and swimming arrive at the coast of Mauritania, in Africa. These beaches are home to many monk seals, who were forced to find new beaches to call home after their original homes on the shores of the Mediterranean were replaced by so many buildings there was no room left for them.

Martina and Fredo, seeing dark rain clouds rolling in, decide to take shelter in a nearby cave where they come upon Chloe, a baby monk seal who is crying uncontrollably.

"What's wrong, little seal?" asks Fredo.

"I'm sc-scared... I d-don't know where my brothers and sisters are," says Chloe, wiping a tear away with her fin. "The waves just got bi-bigger and then all of a sudden I was in here alone. I want my mommy, I don't know what to d-do!"



"Don't you worry, little seal," Martina says, hugging Chloe. "Fredo and I are a little bit lost too."

"We are on an adventure to find out why the planet is changing," explains Fredo. "If you want to join us, maybe we will find your family along the way!"

Chloe was a little wary at first, but finally she climbed onto Fredo's back and the three of them set off once again. Where will the current take them this time?



They swim and swim and after several days, Martina sees something on the horizon.

"Is that ice?" asks Fredo, swimming faster. When he reaches the ice, he runs about shouts "It is! It's ice! Do you think we've ended up back at the North Pole?"

All of a sudden, a small penguin appears and says, "Hello, I overheard you, and you're wrong. You are now standing on the South Pole."

"Oh, hello! You startled me. What kind a bird are you?" says Fredo.

"What kind of a bird am I?" asks the penguin, clearly annoyed. "I am a penguin, and my name is Pippo and I live here in the south pole with my family..."



Pipps then told Martina, Fredo and Chloe how the ice was also melting at the South Pole and how it was becoming more difficult to find fish to eat.

Martina, Fredo and Chloe ask Pipps if he would like to come along with them on their adventure to get to the bottom of things, and he agrees to join them and they set off once again.



Exhausted from swimming and desperate to find someone who can explain why the ice is melting and beaches are disappearing, Martina, Fredo, Chloe and Pippo start calling out

“Help! Help us, please!”



Little did they know that on a nearby shore some boys and girls were camping. When they boys and girls heard the call for help, they looked out to sea and saw the animals swimming toward them and were surprised to see such a strange group of animals together and coming their way!

When the boys and girls get over their initial shock, Martina, Fredo, Chloe and Pippo tell them about their adventure to discover why their habitats are changing. The boys and girls look at each other and then tell them that it might have something to do with climate change.

"Climate change? What's that??" exclaim Martina, Fredo, Chloe and Pippo in unison.



One of the boys, Lucas, explains that climate change is a problem that humans have a lot to do with. "The factories that make our food, clothes, and other things often pollute our air with gasses and contaminate our rivers and oceans with poisonous chemicals."



"We also have a lot of cars... too many cars, if you ask me, and we also use a lot of electronics. Most people don't realize that they are using energy that comes from burning gas, coal or oil every time they turn on a light, use their computer, charge their phones or tablets, turn on the air conditioning or heating, or take a shower."

Lucas continues to explain to them that when gas, coal, or oil is burned, tons and tons of gasses are released into the atmosphere that surrounds the planet and that when they combine with other gasses already in the atmosphere, like water vapor, they create a kind of ceiling in the sky. This is called the "greenhouse effect" because it is like the glass roofs of greenhouses, which let heat in but don't let it back out, so the heat gets trapped. This is what is causing the planet Earth to get hotter and hotter.



"The oceans have ended up becoming dumping grounds for all sorts of garbage, and they also absorb a large part of all the carbon dioxide that we produce, which is one of the gasses we produce the most. That's why the ice at the North and South Poles is melting, why water levels are rising, and why there are more and more bad storms, floods, wildfires and droughts."

"So," says Martina, outraged, "you mean to tell me this is all *your* fault?"

"Well... scientists say that a big part of it is," says Lucas.

The boys and girls all promise that they will work their hardest to raise awareness about the need to reduce the amount of poisonous gasses that are released into our atmosphere, because if something doesn't change the Earth will get so hot that it will be very bad for all living creatures.



Martina, Fredo, Chloe and Pippo, having gotten to the bottom of things and trusting the promise the boys and girls had made them, say goodbye and return to their respective habitats.

After they leave, the boys and girls start to discuss solutions to this serious problem. After a while, they decide they will become the "Protectors of the Planet", and will work tirelessly going to schools so that the students, their teachers and their parents can also promise to do their best to fight global warming.



So, what are the little things we can all do to keep the earth from getting even hotter? We can all work **together** from all corners of the world by asking politicians to plant more trees, encourage the use of public transportation, and promote the use of clean energy sources like solar- or wind-powered.



Each and every one of us can make a difference, and it doesn't have to be hard! Instead of using a car, we can walk or take a bike. Instead of throwing all our garbage into the same bin, we can reuse certain items and recycle what we can't reuse. Because when we all respect and take care of the world around us, we **all** win!



Illustration: IAIA Association independent knitting groups in Spain

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IAIA Association is a non-profit organization whose main objective is to improve the personal well-being, integral health and quality of life of vulnerable groups in a creative way: knitting solidarity. To get this objective, they created a “knitting therapy” where garments are knitted by collectives needed to fulfill a double objective, (1) occupying the time and mind of the knitters and (2) helping people in need.

IAIA Association also has the backing of institutions that support their social projects, from Obra Social LA CAIXA, to Fundación Biodiversidad (Spanish Ministry of Environment). The Association has been finalist of the prizes CLECE in 2015, and award-winning in the prizes TELVA SOLIDARIDAD 2016, with the second prize National Category; IAIA Association was award-winning also in the Atlantic project Awards 2017.

Its activity has been the subject of several exhibitions in the Clothes Museum, the Natural Sciences Museum, The Royal Botanic Garden, The Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries, Food and Environment, and also in the City of the Arts of Oceanographic of Valencia, valuing its social activity to the world of the culture and, even, the protection of the environment.

Esperanza Pernía is a Teacher by profession and by vocation. She was graduated from the Escuela de Magisterio of Zamora, obtaining a place as a candidate in the year 1984. Since then, she has been teaching primary and early childhood education. After seven years as a Teacher in the Canary Islands, she moved to the Community of Madrid in 1991 to the Gabriel Celaya School in Leganés and then to the CEIP Miguel Hernández. Esperanza completed a Master's degree in Childhood and Adolescence Needs and Rights at the Universidad Autónoma of Madrid and has collaborated as a Teacher in the educational enrichment program for high-ability students. She currently uses “Knitting Therapy” in her Knitting groups in Morlalzarzal (Madrid), and also participates in storytelling with books knitted by IAIA Association.

Alejandro Vicente inherited his vocation from his mother, Esperanza. This love for teaching allowed him to be graduated as a Master specialist in English at the Universidad Autónoma de Madrid. Since then he has exercised this profession while continuing to be updated in his training, which led him to take the Master's Degree in Teaching English as a Foreign Language with a specialty in bilingual education at the Universidad de Alcalá and the degree of Master in Early Childhood Education at the Universidad Camilo José Cela. In 2017 he obtains a place in the body of teachers by competition-opposition, exercising his functions as an English teacher in Primary and Infant Education in the CEIP Carmen Conde de Leganés until now.

Danielle Durden has a degree in Hispanic philology from the University of South Alabama (United States). She has been an assistant professor of Spanish for university students in the United States and an English teacher for basic, intermediate and advanced levels in Spain. Director of the English Academy Ontario English from 2013 to 2016; she currently works as a Secretary of Management at IE Business School and independently carries out translation and reverse translation works, as well as children's teller stories.



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