

Leave for future generations a livable environment

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What are the biggest environmental problems you can think of? There are many environmental problems around the world. For example, there is plastic pollution, abnormal weather, deforestation and more. They must be solved. Among these problems, I think plastic pollution and deforestation are the biggest problems. I have some reasons for each.

First of all, I will talk about plastic pollution. Plastics are not being recycled and if we burn it, dioxin will be released. The dioxin is harmful to our bodies and it causes problems in human reproduction and development. Plastic takes a lot of time to break down, so they are being swept away into the ocean and they tend to stay there for most of their decaying life. Fish swallow them because they mistake those plastic pieces for food. In 2009, a dead young sperm whale was found on the sandy beach of Harris, Scotland. The autopsy came back with 100kg of garbage reported to be taken out of the stomach. Can you imagine how bitter the sperm whale was? The plastic that can't be digested is accumulated in the stomachs of many aquatic animals. After a certain amount of plastic fills the stomach, fish get weak and they die in the end. Now, many people are working hard to use as little plastic as possible around the world. An example of this process was the decision by many countries to make plastic bags charged and spread the use of paper straws. These changes are not so big, but a lot of people are able to change this situation by cooperating with this progress.

Second, I will talk about deforestation. Do you know what the blessing is that the forest can bring? Forests generate oxygen, prevent landslides, and maintain biodiversity. Forests give us a lot of benefits. However, forests are being deforested in many countries and regions. Every week, an area of forest as large as Tokyo is lost. 30% of the world's forests have already disappeared, 20% are in danger, and only 15% remain in the raw forest. I think it's really bad. What can we do to stop it? Why do people cut the trees? Paper is made from trees. Many people need it, so many trees have to be cut down. Thus, we should use less paper or use recycled materials. Planting trees is the most direct solution, but it's not so easy to do it. It's important to start with small steps.

Not only these two, but all of the environmental problems need to be solved. I'm just a high school student and I don't have any power or status. However, I can change the world by doing something every day. Our actions now have something to do with our future society. I want to do what I can do, and make a better future.