

## From Year 7 class at Todoroki School in Tokyo, Japan

Hello! We are alpha students in TCU Todoroki junior high school. In alpha class in our school, we have students with experiences in other countries.

Thank you for the letter. It was very interesting, and we were so surprised to hear that nearly 3 billion animals were killed because of bushfires in Australia. In our Japanese class, we learned about deforestation, so it was a familiar topic for us. These are some other issues in Japan and what our school is doing to prevent environmental problems.

First, we have been talking about deforestation. We realized this is a big problem because it could lead to animals losing their habitats. Second, we have also talked about micro plastic. This also leads to animals dying because when animals eat plastic, it is not decomposable, so they will die.

At TCU, we try to do the following things:

- Plant trees and flowers to reduce carbon dioxide
- Use less paper which prevents heat island phenomenon (all students can use iPads in classes instead at TCU)
- Recycle plastic bottles and bottle caps
- Save electricity

Of course there are some other topics we are interested in. We learned about the damage of the coral reefs, too, and we want to know more about it. Is this a big problem in Australia? What kind of programs are there to lessen the damage to coral reefs? Please send us the answer. We are waiting for it.

Thank you for reading our letter about environmental issues and countermeasures this school addresses.



Hello,

We are students in Tokyo City University Todoroki Junior Senior High School! We are Alpha students in Junior 1-1. Our names are Celine, Chloe, Lia and Tomoya.

Thank you for your letter. It was really interesting. We were really sad to hear about the 3 billion animals who died in the fires. It was tragic.

In our letter, Lia wrote about environmental issues in Japan, Chloe wrote about what we do at Todoroki and Tomoya and Celine wrote about global issues.

We look forward to meeting you.

Class J1-1

#### 1. Environmental Issues in Japan (Lia)

In the past, extreme weather was rare. But nowadays, extreme weather is common because of increased greenhouse gases and the influence of global warming.

In Japan, the average temperature has been rising at a faster pace than in other countries. The Japanese government has said that in 100 years the temperature in Japan has increased by 1.19 °C. Also, the number of days with short, heavy rainstorms (so called guerilla rainstorms) are increasing while the number of sunny days are decreasing.

According to the Japanese government, the solution to this problem is, “to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to virtually zero”.

I hope that the environmental problems will be fixed for our future.

#### 2. What we do at Todoroki (Chloe)

In our school, we are doing various things to help the environment.

- Collecting unused stationary
- Recycling pet bottle caps
- Volunteering

By collecting unused stationary, we can donate it to people that need it and lesson the amount of stationary being thrown out. It also helps lesson the number of plastic bags being used when buying stationary. By recycling pet bottle caps, it helps pay for Vaccines for kids that don't have easy access to them.

Our clubs also volunteer around Todoroki town, doing things like cleaning the road and organizing donations.

We help the environment by doing the 3R initiative (Reduce, Reuse, Recycle) and by volunteering to clean the town. I hope we can find more ways to help the environment in the future.

### 3. Global Issues (Celine)                      The ozone layer

Before the 2000s, the ozone layer had been getting worse for many decades. However, in the last decade, this situation has been changing and this is due to many countries government's efforts.

First, the ozone layer plays a significant part in protecting the earth from UV rays but Freon gas damages the ozone layer.

In 1987, the Montreal Protocol was adopted and regulation of Freon gas emission was limited worldwide. Owing to this declaration, since the early 2000's, the ozone layer has been recovering 3% per decade and the United Nations predicts it will recover completely in 4 decades.

### 4. Global Issues (Tomoya)

A global issue we would like to exchange ideas about is access to food and water. Food and especially water is needed for a healthy ecosystem for humans. Luckily we have safe and transparent water access every day. But 2.2 billion people lack access to water. I think we have all seen people drinking dirty, mud-coloured water and it makes me sad. What do you think about food and water issues?

- In your letter you said you have made posters to remind students to turn off lights. Are they taking action?
- What does the Australian government do to help the environment?
- What effect did the fire have on Australia?

Thank you.

Here are some pictures of recycling at Todoroki.







