Note to Teachers: The teachers who wrote this lesson would like feedback from fellow teachers in the Zinn Education Project community before it is finalized.

Send your feedback after using the lesson to Share Your Story. You will receive a climate justice book in appreciation.

We will alert you once the authors have received enough feedback to make revisions and to post this lesson in our standard layout.

Meet Today's Climate Justice Activists: A mixer on the people saving the world

By Matt Reed and Tim Swinehart

Introduction

The climate crisis is a global emergency that requires, in the words of UN scientists, "unprecedented changes in all aspects of society." Or as Greta Thunberg, founder of the global student strike for climate movement, says, "We can't save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed. Everything needs to change, and it has to start today."

For educators this means it is no longer enough for our students to simply understand the science of climate change, or how the climate crisis currently affects people and places around the world. If we focus only on the causes and effects of the climate crisis, then we miss out on the story of students organizing school strikes for climate across Australia and Europe. We miss out on how protests at Standing Rock have inspired a generation of new activists, including Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez. We miss out on the imaginative responses to the climate disaster that have grown out of communities across the world such as Casa Pueblo in Puerto Rico.

We wrote this mixer to highlight some of the stories of climate justice activists, especially young people, who are organizing toward climate action. We chose roles that bring together various strands of the climate justice movement, and that highlight the broad coalition of groups are working toward the goal of a just transition — including people who students might not recognize as climate activists.

By bringing the story of the climate justice movement to our classrooms, we create an opportunity for our students begin to see themselves as part of this movement — as activists — capable of creating the change that so often feels out of reach. As Jessie, one of the students in our classes reflected after the mixer,

> I rarely get the opportunity to talk about such a scary and pressing issues *in class*, with my peers and teachers. Prior to this lesson I would have said I could not be a climate justice activist. Now I think I can be. In the future, I hope to be a part of a climate justice organization and do more.

Materials needed

- Copies of Climate Justice gallery walk photos, either taped around the walls of the classroom or placed on desks.
- Mixer roles, cut up. One for every student in class.
- Blank nametag, such as "Hello, my name is…" Enough for every student in class.
- Copies of "Climate Justice Activism Mixer Questions" for every student.

Time required

- A portion of one class period for gallery walk, ideally before the mixer.
- One 45-minute class period for the mixer, questions, and discussion.
- One 90-minute "block" class period for the gallery walk, mixer, questions, and discussion.

Suggested procedure

- Before the start of class, either tape or place climate justice gallery walk photos around the room. Explain to students that they are going to be learning about climate justice activism taking place around the world today.
- Share with students that they will have a silent discussion about climate justice by looking at and commenting on various images. Their job is to try to make sense of the photos by leaving one of three types of comments for each photo: I see, I feel, or I wonder. Provide models or examples of thoughtful types of comments for students to write.
- Give students about 10-15 minutes to silently walk around the room and comment on photos — not enough time to get bored, but just enough time to saturate their eyes with various images.
- In partners and as a whole group, invite students to share their thoughts, feelings, and questions from the gallery walk. A good prompt for this could be: "What are some observations, feelings, or questions you have based on the photos and comments? What connections come to mind?"
- Explain to students that they are going to do an activity to learn more about climate justice, and in particular, climate justice activism. Distribute one mixer role to each student in class. There are 28, so in many classes, some students will be assigned the same role.
- Have students fill out their nametags, using the name of the individual they are assigned. Tell students that in this activity you would like each of them to attempt to become these people. Ask students to read their roles several times and to memorize as much of the information as possible. Encourage them to underline major points and circle key words, people, or places.
- Distribute a copy of "Climate Justice Mixer Questions" to every student. Explain their assignment: Students should circulate (or mix) throughout the classroom, meeting other climate justice activists. They should use the questions on the sheet as a guide to talk with others about climate justice activism and complete the questions as fully as possible.

They must use a different individual to answer each of the questions. Tell students that this is not a race; the goal is for students to spend time hearing and learning from one another, not just hurriedly scribbling down answers to different questions. We like to begin this activity by role playing or modeling at the front of the class our expectations, to emphasize what we hope the conversations to look and sound like. We also have found it helpful to post ground rules for the activity. Must-have ground rules include: using no accents or stereotypes, respect and speak the truth of your role, one on one conversations, no beehives (three or more person conversations), have fun.

- Give students ample time to talk to a wide variety of activists. We have found this activity works best when the teacher circulates around the room, as well, especially to make sure students are not straying too far away from their role.
- Afterward, ask students to share some of their findings with the whole class. It's helpful to give students time to quick-write before sharing aloud so that they can use their notes from the mixer. This discussion afterward does not need to be exhaustive, but enough to make sure that students share key observations about climate justice activism. Possible questions include:
    - What were some of the issues or problems that inspired people to become activists?
    - What were some of the actions people took? Why?
    - What were the strategies or goals of their activism?
    - What did you find most inspiring, and why?
    - What type of activism is new to you?
    - What connections did you make between the photos and the mixer?
    - What are some of the problems climate activists encountered in their work?

Follow up

- Read Hannah Jones's essay "From Mountain Top Removal to Divestment" and respond to the following prompts: How did Hannah Jones become a climate justice activist? What inspired her? What obstacles did she experience? What climate or environmental issues in your community do you care about and want to see changed?
- Have students select one person highlighted in the climate justice activism mixer, research more about their life and their activism, and ask them to create a poster that highlights their work.
- Watch Avi Lewis and Naomi Klein's film *This Changes Everything* and use the Blockadia role play written by Bill Bigelow, Adam Sanchez, and Tim Swinehart to explore climate justice activism more deeply.
- Design a lesson or two that highlights local climate justice activism. For example, in Portland, Oregon, we taught lessons about the Portland Clean Energy Fund.

Climate Justice Activism Mixer Questions

1. Find someone who works in their local community to address the climate crisis. Who is the person? What local actions are they taking?

2. Find someone trying to address the climate crisis through legal or legislative action. Who is the person? What legal or legislative action are they taking?

3. Find someone using direct action to address the climate crisis. Who is the person? What direct action are they taking?

4. Find someone who is inspired by activism elsewhere and is taking action themselves in solidarity. Who is the person? What inspired them to take action?

5. Find someone who is a student working for climate justice. Who is the person? How are they using their role as a student to take action?

6. Find someone whose story involves a connection between environmental justice and racism. Who is the person? What is the connection between environmental justice and racism?

7. Find someone fighting to prevent increased use of fossil-fuels. Who is the person? What are they doing?

8. Find someone working to create an alternative to a fossil-fuel based economy. Who is the person? What is the alternative they are working on?

Eve Miller, Humanitarian Enterprise of Loving People, St. James, Louisiana

My home used to a paradise. I live in the house that I grew up in, which is the same house that my grandfather built when he moved to this small town founded by formerly enslaved African Americans in the 1840's. In the sugarcane fields that still surround this house we no longer see butterflies or hear crickets. And nothing seems to grow in my vegetable garden anymore.

This is because I live in what we call "Cancer Alley."

My local government recently changed land rules to allow oil and chemical companies to build large tanks and factories nearby. These plants emit a frightening mix of toxic pollutants into the air and water. When we heard that our government was considering allowing these companies to move here, we were not surprised to see that the vote was stacked against us. Our four African American representatives, who live here, voted no. The five white representatives, who do not live here, voted in favor of the companies. We are tired of being "collateral damage," and we refuse to sit by while our home and land is destroyed. So we're getting organized and fighting back.

We began hosting meetings at a local church twice a month to educate our community. Once enough people were educated and upset, we circulated a petition and gathered hundreds of signatures of residents who opposed the rule change. We then partnered with local lawyers who sued our local government about the rule change. While many doubt whether we can ultimately win our lawsuit and prevent the rule change, we believe our fight is about much more. It is about shining a light on the grave racial and climate injustices that these companies cause in our backyards.

Justin Guariglia, Climate Signals, New York

For as long as I can remember, I have always felt a deep connection with the environment. So when I decided to become an artist, I knew that my art would focus on the relationship between our planet and the human activities that shape it. I wanted my art to show how people can both benefit and harm the very places that we live.

For 20 years I worked as a photojournalist in China and Taiwan, and it was there that I saw how the pursuit of profits could hurt communities and our environment. My camera captured photos of the physical impacts of coal-fired power plants and fossil fuel based cars. To me, the consequences of burning fossil fuels and its relationship to climate change could not have been more clear. Human activity is destroying our planet.

Art can turn abstract ideas into specific or relatable ideas that people can more easily understand. In our everyday lives, we don't think that switching on a light will affect a glacier thousands of miles away. But it does. My art helps show how our local and everyday decisions are connected to the global changes in our climate. This is why in 2015 I joined NASA to photograph melting ice caps around the globe. And in 2018 I worked to install art installations around New York City. Titled "Climate Signals," I use regular old traffic signals that we see everyday while on the road to alert people to the climate crisis. When you see a traffic signal that says "Slow Down," what do you do? You slow down. Now imagine that same traffic signal instead with the caption, "Stop Coal-anization." Now you are thinking of the connection between coal, climate change, and our everyday use of it.

While we need more science to understand the climate crisis, what we also need more of is political action to stop it. This means finding new ways to communicate about the climate crisis that everyday people can understand. This is what my art is all about.

Harry Smiskin, Yakama Tribal Council Chairman, Toppenish, Washington

The Yakama Nation is recognized by the U.S. government as a sovereign Indian tribe. I am chairman of our tribal council. We have rights that we reserved in the Treaty of 1855, which we signed with the U.S. government. Treaties are the highest law of the land. And this treaty secures for the Yakama people the right to fish "in all usual and accustomed places," including the Columbia River. This includes the right to live free from environmental damages caused by anything coming from outside the boundaries of our Reservation — including the transportation of coal and oil through our ancestral lands.

But it is clear from our history that what is agreed upon through treaty must be enforced through action. For more than 150 years, outsiders have ravaged the Yakama People's ancestral lands, water, and air. We have been told that this destruction is progress. But this so-called progress has nearly wiped out our Indigenous culture. The most recent stories of this type of "progress" are promised by large international fossil fuel companies. However, we know that the creation of fossil fuel export shipping ports threatens our land and could turn the entire northwestern United States into a hub to export fossil fuels around the world.

We believe that trading the promise of wealth and jobs today for health and well-being of our future generations is a fools trade. This is why we fought the Morrow Pacific coal export port. We held rallies and protests to raise awareness. We met with government officials to see how our fishing rights would be negatively affected. We lobbied our state governor. And ultimately, we successfully blocked the coal export port after partnering with local environmental groups to pressure our state government.

Our treaties give us rights that only Indigenous people have. If we do not defend and fight for our rights, then we risk losing them. But we only won because we refused to give up. We will continue to partner with Indigenous tribes around the Pacific Northwest to protect our rights and our future generations.

Elizabeth Thiel, Portland, Oregon, Association of Teachers (PAT), vice-president

I have been committed to having the teachers union be fully supportive of social and environmental justice work. Too often in the past, teachers unions have focused narrowly on salaries, health benefits, pensions, hours, and working conditions. These are all important, and we are legally obligated to represent our members in these matters. But unions should also care about what goes on in the classroom, what goes on in our community, and what goes on in the world. Since I've been in the union leadership, PAT has reached out to social and environmental justice teachers to see how we can be more supportive. We co-sponsor the Northwest Teaching for Social Justice Conference. We host the monthly Oregon Writing Project social studies curriculum group. We co-sponsored the Teaching in a Time of Trump conference. And we also support climate justice work in Portland Public Schools. We signed on to support the school board's climate justice resolution, we hosted and co-sponsored with the PPS Climate Justice Committee a full-day workshop on *A People's Curriculum for the Earth*, and we are eager to find ways to continue to cooperate with and support climate justice work in Portland's schools.

Jeff Ruch, Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility, Washington, D.C.

Too often I hear people blame our government for not doing enough to protect us against the worst effects of the climate crisis. But to blame government is only sort-of true. While our elected leader still debate whether the climate crisis is real, there are thousands of government workers who believe the crisis is real and who act each day to protect our climate.

We at Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility empower government workers to become "whistleblowers" — people who publicize or leak information to the public — so we can show how government is failing to protect our climate. We work with anyone in government, including the people who research and create our scientific environmental reports, manage the many laws and regulations that safeguard our water, land, and air climate protecting regulations, and investigate companies that violate these rules.

We call our whistleblowing "anonymous activism," because we work mostly with the anonymous or hidden workers of government. We use information these workers provide us to pressure government to change its actions. For example, we recently published a report using internal government documents to show how the Environmental Protection Agency has reduced investigations of corporate polluters to a 30-year low. When a government agency is not acting in the public's best interest and does things they shouldn't do, that's when we go in. We must do this because too often, government environmental policies benefit major fossil fuel companies instead of our children and future generations.

Some criticize our activism because we do not follow the rules. We are told that if government workers are unhappy with policies or rules, we should talk with our managers instead of making the information public. But what happens if you do not trust your manager?

Government workers refuse to be bystanders in the face of our climate crisis. How much longer can we sit on the sidelines while our political leaders fail us?

Doria Robinson, Urban Tilth, Richmond, California

I am a third-generation Richmond resident, and director of Urban Tilth, a community-based organization dedicated to cultivating urban agriculture and helping our community build a more sustainable, healthy, and just food system. We have seven gardens where we train youth and community members to build the capacity to produce our own food.

Agriculture is a huge contributor to carbon emissions and global warming — all the petrochemicals used to prepare the fields, and to run the tractors and machines — so food is a place where we need climate action. We need to create local food systems, not just because of the need to reduce the climate costs of transportation, but also for resiliency.

We work in the shadow of Chevron's Richmond oil refinery, a constant source of pollution for the community. A community that is almost 80 percent people of color. A refinery fire in 2012 produced a black, toxic cloud that moved over all the gardens, leaving a gooey film on everything. We were forced to rip all of the food out; we didn't feel good about feeding it to anybody. When Chevron held a community meeting at City Hall after the fire, the young folks at Urban Tilth wanted to talk back — so they delivered some of the toxic food to the Chevron representatives and dumped it on the stage.

The fire showed us that when you reconnect people with land, they start to realize that it matters what's in the air, it matters what's in the water — especially if you're feeding it to others and putting it in your mouth.

I see our gardens as a metaphor for Richmond in general. You have these things that have been completely undernourished — people and places — and we're one of the forces trying to bring life back, putting nutrients back into the soil, putting people back on the land, and in the process hopefully waking people up.

Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum, Idle No More, Canada

We're all far too idle. We're going to be idle no more!

This was the consensus we came to after learning about Canada's Bill C-45. Three other Indigenous and anti-racist Canadian women activists and I were tired of the violence caused by colonialism and our fossil fuel economy. Bill C-45 paves the way for expansion of tar sands mining and for building a pipeline to carry some of the Earth's most polluting, carbon-intensive oil from Alberta to the Pacific coast for shipment overseas. We agree with scientists that this mining would mean "game over for the planet." The Bill also removes protection to our waters and forests and allows big corporations to build on land and pollute local waters.

After learning about the Bill, we met together and wondered: How can we mobilize? What do we need to do? We designed workshops and teach-ins to educate our communities about the impact of the Bill. And we came up with the #IdleNoMore to connect with other Indigenous leaders throughout Canada and mobilize people who care about people and the planet to take action. Soon after, we began coordinating with groups of activists across Canada and the United States. Using the common #IdleNoMore, groups planned rallies and other demonstrations to raise awareness. Groups created public art, some blockaded roads and waterways where pipelines and plants were planned to go, some even went on hunger strike. Indigenous music, dance, and language was woven throughout these protests to assert the power and relevance of Indigenous culture.

In our fossil fuel based political and economic system, silence is taken as consent. For us, #IdleNoMore is our way of saying that we will not be silenced, and that we do not give consent. #IdleNoMore is about the power of Indigenous peoples and grassroots activists across North America who say that enough is enough. An alternative world is possible!

Jackson Koeppel, Soulardarity, Detroit

Imagine it is winter and you are coming home from work or school. It is dark and cold outside. You crave one thing — to get home to a warm and lit home. But as soon as you turn onto your street you find that all the street lights are off. In fact, all 1,400 street lamps in your small community have been shut off.

This is what happened to me and my neighbors in Highland Park, Michigan. Rather than give up, we decided to take power into our own hands. We're now fighting for what we like to call energy democracy.

Highland Park is a small city within Detroit. Like the rest of our city, our community was once flush with wealth from the production of automobiles. Now, nearly half of our residents live in poverty. Housing blight and arson scar our homes and deep potholes litter the roads. The electric grid is old and poorly maintained, resulting in frequent blackouts. Our local government was in debt and unable to turn the power back on. And despite all this, our local power utility companies expect residents to pay more for less service. The lack of jobs and poor living conditions are forcing many longtime residents to move out. We felt powerless as a community, and completely dependent on the decisions of others, so we took power into our own hands.

Soulardarity started an energy cooperative, a community-based and controlled buying club. Our idea was simple, we wanted an energy system that could power our homes, be environmentally friendly, and save us money. We called this energy resilience.

We have not taken Highland Park completely off the fossil fuel energy grid, but more than 100 homes use solar power for their daily energy use and we've installed dozens of solar lamp posts. Most importantly, we have a renewed sense of hope for our community. Each solar panel makes us more resilient. Each new resident involved makes us more democratic. Shouldn't all energy systems be like this?

Victoria Barrett, Our Children's Trust, Eugene, Oregon

Every year since before I was born in 2000, world leaders have talked *at* each other instead of to one another in hopes of reaching an agreement on how to stop the climate crisis. In all that time, they have barely scratched the surface of an issue that the world's top climate scientists say we now have 12 years to stop — and that is an optimistic estimate.

When will global leaders admit that global climate negotiations are a charade that hides the truth under false solutions and jargon? How many millions of people will have to die from climate damage such as drought, famine, super storms, and wildfires before world leaders commit to implementing real solutions to defeat this crisis?

It is time we hold our elected leaders accountable.

This is why I joined with 20 other young people aged 11-22 to sue our government. We believe global climate change violates our "fundamental constitutional rights to freedom from deprivation of life, liberty, and property." Many say that we're too young to sue. But actually, our age makes our point. You see, the youth of our country and the world will be dealing with disaster within our lifetimes; some of us will be in our 30s in 2040, the year by which a United Nations scientific panel now expects some of the biggest crises to begin.

We know that our lawsuit faces long odds and relies on a legal and political system that has failed us too many times already. However people also said this about the lawsuits challenging same-sex marriage and racial segregation.

I've been doing this work for five years and have given up money, friendships, and a normal adolescence. I've taken breaks from school and even failed a few classes.

At the same time, I watch my government and governments around the world trade my future for profit — a future my mother fought hard to secure through sacrifice, when she made the journey to immigrate to the United States. There's a lot of anger and depression inside of me because of this, but I found happiness and reward in seeing the solutions, power and love in the climate justice movement. Marginalized communities understand that giving up their own comforts to protect lives. I have found that resilience can't be taught, and it doesn't come from a president: it comes from the adversity you have faced. This is why, to fight the powers that hand away pieces of our environment for profit, we must enlist the people who have lived on the margins of society. People power will always be stronger than the people in power.

Alexandria Ocasio Cortez, U.S. House Representative, New York

We cannot count on the politics of old to address our climate crisis. We need bold politicians and bold policies that create good jobs today and give hope to the youth of tomorrow. I was elected by voters in New York in 2018 not because we reject the Trump Administration. I was elected to advocate for laws that address our voters' needs.

Our science is clear. In order to prevent the world from the worst effects of climate change — massive floods, droughts, and irreversible sea-level rise — we need to start reducing our carbon pollution immediately, and cut it in half by 2030. And right now, we're nowhere close. But in addition to our climate crisis, we have a crisis of inequality. Too many people, especially communities of color, experience joblessness, unaffordable healthcare, and massive student loan debt.

This is why I joined a group of protesters from the climate justice group Sunrise Movement to demand a Green New Deal. This is going to be the New Deal, the Great Society, the moon shot, the Civil Rights Movement of our generation. A Green New Deal would be unlike any other government program that we've seen before. In 10 years we could end our dependence on fossil fuels, stop emitting carbon, and create tens of thousands of new jobs installing solar panels, improving our coastlines, and manufacturing electric vehicles. This would also provide much needed jobs and wealth to many who are left behind in our economy.

Many tell me that I am wasting my time protesting and that I need to spend more time compromising with other lawmakers. But the truth is, our current political system has failed us, our communities, and our planet. Right now all politicians have a choice to make. Do we participate in politics-as-usual, or do we stand with the voters and demand real and immediate change?

Kathy Jetñil-Kijiner, Poet and Educator, Marshall Islands

I was born in the Marshall Islands, raised in Hawaii, went to college in Oakland, California, and currently live in Portland, Oregon. But I am Marshallese, and my poetry is grounded in my experience there. As a performance poet, I travel around the world, performing at conferences, demonstrations, schools. Here in Portland, I was hired by the Portland Public Schools Climate Justice Committee to lead a workshop for about 80 teachers at the Portland Association of Teachers offices, and to perform and lead writing workshops for students in high schools and middle schools.

I spoke to more than 2,000 students and teachers. I want students to understand what climate change means to some of the most vulnerable people in the world — like people in the Marshall Islands. But I also want students to know how my people were colonized and abused, and how the U.S. military tested 67 nuclear weapons on my islands, and then neglected to address our medical needs from radiation poisoning.

I want the world to feel our pain, our anger, and our will to fight to survive. This is what I want Portland students to learn, and it's why I have agreed to continue performing and leading workshops for Portland students.

Mishka Banuri, co-founder of the Utah Youth Environmental Solutions, Salt Lake City, Utah, USA

I am in the 11th grade at West High School in Salt Lake City. As a Pakistani Muslim American, my faith and identity influence my beliefs and actions each day. In the 9th grade I went to an interfaith conference where I first learned about the connections between Islam and protecting the environment. My environmental activism is guided by my spiritual belief that the health of the land is related to the health of the people, so we must respect the Earth.

But where I live in Utah, our political and business leaders have yet to make the connection between the health of the land and of the people.

I couldn't believe when I heard about students at another high school protesting against a state resolution asking for the Environmental Protection Agency to regulate carbon emissions. The people elected to represent me were voting on policies that threaten our future. The science is clear: Climate change is real and its effects are already harming peoples around the globe. We could not sit still and allow this to continue.

So we wrote our own policy in 2017. Our elected representatives refused to allow even a hearing. So we organized our own unofficial hearing and invited legislators and students of all ages. We packed one of the biggest conference rooms in the Capitol building. Students from all over the state testified about why addressing climate change is important. We realized that many politicians and voters did not see how climate change affected us locally. So we showed how rising temperatures, snowfall, and air quality affect Utah residents every day. We listened to lawmakers who were initially opposed to the bill and added language to represent the concerns of their constituents.

After just a year and half, the same committee that had rejected the first hearing unanimously passed the resolution. Most people told us that to pass a policy like this in a conservative state was a waste of time. But our efforts to lobby conservative lawmakers and get the resolution approved shows what young people can accomplish.

Politicians at every level of government make choices about our lives. We need to be there to tell them how to make these decisions. As a young person, I'm really really scared about the threat of climate change and do not trust the people making decisions for me. And as a Pakistani Muslim American, I feel intimidated by mostly older white men who control our government. But I also know that climate change is too big of an issue for us to let go of and trust that our older generations will do what it takes to change our fossil fuel economy. It's our time to act.

Linda Garcia, Stand Up to Oil, Vancouver (Washington)

When the large oil companies, Tesoro and Savage, began hosting meetings in my community — the Fruit Valley neighborhood of Vancouver, Washington — they told us about all the money and jobs they would provide for us. Specifically, they promised to build a new, multi-million dollar oil terminal to carry oil from North Dakota and Canada to our ports. Since we're one of the poorest neighborhoods in the county and many people are desperate for better opportunities, we believed in and listened to this promise — at first.

But the oil companies forgot to mention the potential health and environmental harm from this project. A new oil facility would handle an estimated 360,000 barrels of oil per day delivered by diesel-powered, mile-and-a-half-long trains that would run through neighborhoods like Fruit Valley and along the banks of the Columbia River Gorge, an unspoiled treasure of temperate rainforest and desert protected as a National Scenic Area. Increased air pollution and the potential for oil and chemical spills would be other side-effects. They also forgot to mention that they've been fined multiple times by the government for their air pollution and that some of their workers had died in accidents at oil terminals similar to the one they were proposing to build.

To me, the promise for a few good jobs did not outweigh the consequences. I've called Fruit Valley and Vancouver home for over 20 years, and I knew it was time to fight. "Sometimes, you kind of go into momma bear mode," I told my son.

I worked with the Fruit Valley Neighborhood Association to pass a resolution against the terminal. We knocked on neighbors' doors, educated one another about the project. Is a job today worth ruining our children's future? We were worried that nobody would have our back, that we were too insignificant to take on a big, bad oil company. But once we saw everyone coming together, we had the boost of energy we needed to keep organizing.

We spent four years showing up at rallies and testifying at meetings. We built relationships with environmental groups such as the Sierra Club, Columbia Riverkeeper, and EarthJustice. We worked with the workers at the Port, the International Longshore Workers Union to make sure they were on our side, too. We listened and acted alongside Native American communities who have long advocated against these projects. We helped elect city officials who opposed the oil terminal. And after four years of organizing, we won! Washington State rejected the oil terminal plan, and the oil company decided to walk away.

The best part of our work is that we've created an extended family within a community of people who may have assumed they had nothing in common. Now that common ground has been found, many are excited to use that grassroots energy to create other progressive changes in our communities.

Jared Smith, International Longshore and Warehouse Union, Local 4, Vancouver, Washington

Many said we could not do it. We could not win.

Four years ago, two big oil companies began trying to convince city government to create what they called the Vancouver Energy Project. At a cost of $210 million, the Project would have brought 360,000 gallons of crude oil a day along the Columbia River Gorge and into Vancouver. It would have been the largest oil-by-rail terminal in the country.

We first learned about the Project in 2013 after our local newspaper published reports of secret meetings. Many in our community were outraged by the closed-door meetings. After digging, we learned that that Port of Vancouver reached a deal in secret with oil companies to build the nation's largest oil-to-marine export terminal without first holding public hearings on the dangerous proposal.

This is not the future that our union or our community seeks. The future our members support includes sleek, pale wind blades — not smoldering oil cars. We feared that these rail cars full of oil could bring catastrophic disaster to our community. Each of the cars carries 30,000 gallons of highly flammable crude as the trains travel through dozens of towns before reaching the west coast. This is what happened in Lac-Mégantic, a town in Quebec, Canada, after their community began allowing trains full of oil through their town. The disaster killed 47 residents and injured many others. Our union began publicizing the extreme safety hazard this project could bring. We found that since 2006 there have been 24 serious oil train crashes.

For four long years, members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 4 organized with community and environmental allies to stop big oil's scheme. We began showing up to local planning and project permitting meetings and questioned their proposals and claims. We reached out to the neighborhood groups closest to the terminal, since they would be the first affected by any disaster. We reached out to local environmental and community advocacy groups. We emailed each week, keeping them posted and reminded them about upcoming meetings. We then demanded our local leaders oppose the Project, and when they voted unanimously to oppose it, we demanded state politicians do the same. The oil companies who wanted the terminal tried to stop us by spending millions of dollars to elect their own politicians.

But at the end of the day, voters win elections, not money. So we made sure that we always had more voters on our side than they had on theirs. Our fight is not over yet, but we know that as long as we've got the community on our side, we will win.

Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth, Minnesota

What could $7 billion do? That's the question we face in Minnesota. And what is at stake with this question is the future of our economy and the future of our society.

The fossil fuel companies and our governments want to use that money to finish a new oil pipeline that runs from the tar sands of Canada to Lake Superior. Once filled with oil, its carbon output will be equivalent to 50 coal-fired power plants. This pipeline will connect with older pipelines, increasing the risk for new oil spills that threaten our rivers and fields. According to our estimates, the $7 billion it will cost to build the pipeline will lead to over $170 billion in expenses annually, the total cost of insurance, environmental clean up, the increased cost of healthcare, the roads and powerlines needed to construct the pipeline, and more. Every major scientific report, from the United Nations to the U.S. government, says that completing this pipeline will make it near impossible to prevent the worst effects of climate change.

We at Honor the Earth believe something better can be done with this $7 billion. You see, Indigenous tribes throughout the region are developing new and sustainable methods of producing energy. The Navajo Nation just completed the Kayenta Solar Project. On my reservation, we are just beginning a solar thermal panel manufacturing facility to make solar thermal panels that you can put on the south side of your house and reduce your heating bill by about 20 percent.

The $7 billion could be a downpayment on what many are calling the New Green Deal. It would give us a chance to create an economy that reaffirms our relationship to the Earth and gives us a shot to prevent the worst effects of climate change. In Minnesota, a New Green Deal would provide much needed jobs and income to the Native American communities who experience unemployment and poverty. You see, Indigenous people have a lot of experience with sustainability, a lot of years of it. So we are working with organizations to demand our state and our government invest this money in our future economy and our peoples. We could call it energy justice, or we could just call it the enlightened economy.

Khanh Pham, Manager of Immigrant Organizing with the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon

At the Asian Pacific American Network of Oregon (APANO), we believe that in order to address climate change, we also need to tackle the poverty, inequality, and racism that our communities experience. We have long known that Asians and Pacific Islanders are the first and hardest hit by climate change. But what many people in Portland easily forget is that these same groups are struggling to find living wage jobs.

Refusing to do nothing, we met with other groups led by communities of color and immigrants to discuss the connection between climate change and poverty. At first our meetings were held in the basement of a local church. We were a scrappy and all-volunteer group of representatives from various organizations.

After several meetings, we began wonder: What if we passed a local ballot measure — a law — that required the wealthiest in our community to invest in renewable energy and green jobs for the most marginalized groups in Portland. No other city in the country had ever adopted such a law.

We needed to gather more than 60,000 signatures to even have a chance to vote for our ballot measure, which meant recruiting hundreds of volunteers to have thousands of conversations with strangers. Our volunteers had to stand on street corners and knock on doors, regardless of rain, snow, and sun. We partnered with more than 200 local organizations, who supported our measure and encouraged their members to support it as well.

It wasn't always easy. Several influential newspapers and businesses opposed our measure. They said it would increase the cost of everything from coffee to clothes, and questioned whether it was a 'good' use of money. But we built community relationships based on shared values of climate and economic justice, and our unrelenting commitment to these values led us to victory! On November 8th, 2018 Portland became the first city to pass such a law. In 10 years, we hope we will have put solar on every school building in Portland, and that at least 100 multi-family apartment buildings will have been weatherized.

Hannah Jones, Swarthmore Mountain Justice, Pennsylvania

In 2010 I was a student at Swarthmore College and sympathetic to sustainability and environmental issues. But when I first saw a mountaintop removal coal mining site, I knew that I needed to do more.

I was standing in an island of trees and homes in Central Appalachia, surrounded by a moonscape of leveled rubble. I could see bulldozers in the distance, digging, shoveling, scraping away at the earth. The rubble was being pushed into a nearby valley, covering streams and poisoning watersheds that fed the surrounding communities. We met with local residents who shared stories about poisoned water, coal company thugs sending death threats, centuries of political corruption, and the neglecting of clean air and water standards.

After this trip, I joined a group of students who began learning about ways activists in other countries took action for justice. We met with longtime scholars and activists and read about the movement on U.S. college campuses to divest from apartheid in South Africa. We learned that divestment — the withdrawing of money — proved effective at shifting the debate in the United States on the ethics of apartheid. It was important to us to act within our own local community and engage our friends and neighbors. So we began looking for connection between our college and the issue of mountaintop removal.

We then learned that our own college was profiting off of that destruction. Swarthmore had $1.8 billion in investments, and some of those investments were in the companies and industries that promote coal mining in Central Appalachia and around the world. If Swarthmore were to divest from fossil fuels, it would draw a clear line in the sand: It is wrong to profit off of the destruction of others' communities.

In early 2011, we officially started a fossil fuel divestment campaign, calling on the school to divest from 16 fossil fuel companies. We hosted workshops to educate our campus community about the human and environmental impact of mining. We held public and nonviolent direct actions such as skits and plays to highlight the role of the fossil fuel companies. Wanting to reach even more students from across the country we hosted the Fossil Fuel Divestment Convergence. More than 200 students met and learned from communities across the country fighting against fossil fuels. We learned from Crystal Lameman of the Beaver Lake Cree Nation fighting the tar sands in Canada, Junior Walk from West Virginia fighting mountaintop removal coal mining, and Yudith Nieto fighting oil refineries in Houston.

We wanted to bring together two types of groups who have a large stake in seeing an end to the fossil fuel industry: people in communities that have been sacrificed time and again in the name of fossil fuel profits, and young people who will bear the consequences of the climate crisis far longer than the generations that came before them. This was about connecting mountain justice with racial justice and economic justice. Our movement is just getting started.

Simmone Ahiaku, People & Planet, United Kingdom

I'm part of a student-led movement in the United Kingdom (UK) that empowers young people with the knowledge, skills, and confidence to make change happen, at home and globally. In 2013 we launched our Fossil Free campaign to demand universities to divest — to stop investing in and receiving money from — fossil fuel companies. If fossil fuel companies do not have money, they cannot drill or pump oil from the ground.

The science and research is clear: The fossil fuel industry is driving us toward a global climate crisis. We will not prevent the worst case predictions of climate change without stopping our use of fossil-fuels.

UK universities and colleges support the fossil fuel industry directly through the research created by professors, their $6.6 billion investments in fossil fuel companies, and their partnerships with some of the worst-offending companies in the world like ExxonMobil, BP, and Shell. We don't think it's right for universities to profit from or invest in companies driving the climate crisis. Instead, our universities should lead the fight against climate change.

Our campaign has three simple demands: Stop accepting fossil fuel money, stop working with fossil fuel companies, and promote job training and research into renewable sources of energy. How are we doing this? We build and support grassroots student groups at universities throughout the country to hold their university accountable. We circulate petitions, partner with local community groups, and fight. We hold rallies, we organize sit-ins and demonstrations. We will not stop until the top decision-makers meet our demands.

Our Fossil Free campaign so far has pressured 69 UK and 2 Irish universities to divest from fossil fuels in some form, totaling nearly $14 billion.

Henry Red Cloud, Lakota Solar Enterprises, South Dakota

More than 140 years ago, my great-great-grandfather, Mahpíya Lúta imagined a different world. He imagined a world where the light-skinned people would be living in harmony and balance with the Lakota people. My company, Lakota Solar Enterprises, is helping to fulfill his vision.

We need to replace our fossil fuel economy with a renewable energy economy based in unity and compassion for people and the planet. To us, renewable energy means not only lowering our carbon footprint, but also providing good jobs. Today, somewhere between 60 to 80 percent of Native Americans are unemployed. Native people are in survival mode every day. The average Lakota, where I come from, lives on $6,100 per year, which isn't much. And our land and water is constantly under threat from large companies who want to build oil pipelines and mine for uranium. We could no longer remain idle with our people and planet living in these conditions.

We came up with a money-saving, efficient air heater that saves 30 percent of your heating costs over its lifespan. We partnered with Trees, Water & People, a nonprofit based out of Fort Collins, Colorado. We have manufactured hundreds of these units and created dozens of new jobs. We also have a job training center, Red Cloud Renewable Energy Center, where we train "solar warriors." Dozens of Native American students receive certificates in building and installing solar panels so we can make renewable energy a grassroots effort, for the people and by the people.

Joanna Sustento, Typhoon Haiyan Survivor, The Philippines

From the biggest of tragedies, hope can be found. My name is Joanna Sustento. I had a happy life, a good job, great friends and a wonderful loving family. But in a matter of minutes, all of that changed. For those who experienced Typhoon Haiyan, the strongest typhoon ever recorded, it was apocalyptic. I witnessed my mother, father, brother, sister-in-law and 3-year-old nephew swept away by the storm surge. Typhoon Haiyan killed more than 10,000 people and left more than 14 million people homeless. But it's not just statistics and numbers in a news report. This is about us, the people.

Those of us who experienced Haiyan gained a powerful story to tell, because our experiences, our stories, put a human face on the numbers, on the statistics of climate change. I believe that these human stories have the power to change the current system.

So we began telling our stories. In 2015, I organized with typhoon survivors, fisherfolk, farmers and other environmental organizations. We demanded that the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines investigate 47 oil, coal, and gas companies and hold them responsible for human rights violations resulting from climate change. These companies include some of the world's largest companies, such as Shell, BP, Chevron, and ExxonMobil. We worked with scientists and climate researchers to gather evidence so we could win. We also have been participating in climate justice rallies and marches to raise awareness about our stories. We believe we have the power to pressure governments and corporations to stop burning fossil fuels. It is through our stories that we can change that global mindset about climate change.

Patti Snyder, Oakwood Beach Buyout Committee, New York

I've lived in the Oakwood Beach neighborhood of Staten Island, New York, since I was 8. Those of us who live here on Staten Island like to joke that we live in the forgotten borough of New York City. Superstorm Sandy turned this joke into reality.

You see, we do not have the sort of political power that the other boroughs have. No celebrities live here, and none of us makes the kind of money to influence local politicians to prioritize our issues or concerns. Superstorm Sandy destroyed hundreds of our homes, and heavily damaged thousands more. What made the damage even worse was the years being ignored by our city. Neither the New York City or state governments had invested in new storm protections for our area. When the Federal Emergency Management Agency offered to provide loans or small grants to help homeowners rebuild, we knew that it would be a matter of time before our houses would be destroyed again. With sea level rise and larger storms likely in the years to come, many of us quickly realized that we needed to move.

So we got organized. Instead of loans and grants to rebuild, we organized hundreds of homeowners to demand that New York State buy our homes from us so that we could have the money to live elsewhere. We called it the Oakwood Beach Buyout Committee. We walked door to door and called each house. We educated neighbors about their options, and made it clear that if they joined us, they could finally get their voice heard in government. We had a clear demand. We called it *retreat*, meaning that we would move from the land only if government promised not to build or develop it in the future. Within a year we got most of our neighbors to agree to sell their land and the state agreed to buy our homes at full value so we could move elsewhere. We were so successful that nearly a dozen neighboring communities also began organizing buyout committees.

Now our former neighborhoods are returning to the wetlands that they were before they were developed. This is the best sort of natural protection for storms in the future. We did not need to wait for government to save us. Instead, we took power into our own hands.

Lucie Atkin-Bolton, 14-yrs-old, Australia School Strikes 4 Climate Action, Sydney

We are a handful of nearly 8,000 students in Australia who say enough is enough. This climate crisis is only going to get worse if we don't take action now.

We've known that our climate faces a crisis unlike anything humanity has ever experienced before. In school and at home we've learned about the forest fires in the Arctic Circle. We've learned about the bleaching and loss of The Great Barrier Reef. We've all experienced the extreme and unusual weather, from droughts to floods. We are scared. Scared for ourselves today, and for the generations that are going to come after me. If our climate is changing this fast now, then what will it be like for us in 30 years? 60 years? We're tired of talking. We have to act, we have to make change.

Some of us learned about the 15-year-old Swedish student, Greta Thunberg, who started boycotting classes before parliamentary elections in her nation in 2018. She demanded that politicians take action to end the use of climate harming fossil fuels. After reading more about what she did, we began to wonder what our politicians were doing. Right now, our political leaders aren't doing much at all. They're promoting coal-sourced energy when, if we really want to have a better planet Earth, we need renewable energy. So we decided to act. We began writing letters, having rallies and protests at our schools. But still nothing happened. So we decided to stop going to school, to go on strike, just like Greta. Right now, striking for climate action is more important than missing a day of school. Of course, the politicians began criticizing our actions, calling us irresponsible and saying we should leave politics to the politicians. So we responded, "If you care so much about our education and what you're teaching us, why aren't you doing anything about the climate crisis?"

Soon more students began learning about our strike, and like us, decided they needed to act. We did not win what we wanted from our politicians this time around, but we're refusing to give up. It's our future. If we want it, we will need to keep fighting for it.

Greta Thunberg, School Strike 4 Climate, Sweden

The first time I heard about the climate crisis, I thought: That can't be right; no way there is something serious enough to threaten our very existence. If it was, everyone would be talking about it. Elected leaders would be calling on citizens to act swiftly and decisively, governments would be adopting new laws, business leaders would be changing the way they do business. But when I turn on the TV, I see elected leaders still debating the facts, and business leaders doing the bare minimum.

Today, we use one hundred million barrels of oil every single day. There are no politics to change that. There are no rules to keep that oil in the ground. So we can't save the world by playing by the rules, because the rules have to be changed. Everything needs to change and it has to start today.

I could no longer sit idly by in class day after day while our elected leaders and government failed to act to address this crisis. So I decided to go on strike — to refuse to go to school — unless my country, Sweden, enacted laws to reduce our carbon emissions by 15 percent. We are a wealthy country, and have the money and ability to act now. Why wait? I was inspired by the massive student walkouts in the United States to protest gun violence. They were able to draw attention to gun violence by refusing to go to school. Maybe I could do the same in Sweden. It was hard at first, few students joined me. But after my effort received press coverage, more students started to join and organize strikes in Sweden, and across the world. Since I began my school strike in August, millions of students in more than 100 countries across the world have joined.

I like school and I like learning, but we are facing the biggest crisis humanity has ever faced. When students ask the question, "What I am doing?" I am quick to say, "You don't have to school strike. It's your choice. But why should we be studying for a future that soon may be no more? Our actions now are more important than school, I think."

Katie Carbonara, Sunrise Movement

"Step Up, or Step Aside!" "We have 12 years, what's your plan?"

These were the rallying cries of 200 young people, to House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi, as we delivered letters, sang songs, and told our stories in the halls of Congress to let our elected officials know that we demand a Green New Deal to radically transform our society, produce 100 percent of our energy from renewable sources, and provide good jobs to everyone who wants one. I was also one of 51 young people arrested for occupying Speaker Pelosi's office. I will never forget sitting in her office, watching the death tolls from the fires in California rise on the TV on the wall. Or joining my voice in song and story with young people from all across this country who are scared about what climate change means for our futures. For the first time since 2016, I felt powerful. I felt hopeful that we could create a better world that works for all of us.

The United Nations climate scientists tell us we have just 12 years to move our world off fossil fuels completely, or we face catastrophic climate disaster. That is why I support Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's resolution to create a Green New Deal in Congress. It is the only legislation to match the scale of the crisis, while also addressing racial, regional, and gender-based inequalities in income and wealth. But this won't happen without a fight — there's too much at stake for the fossil fuel companies, the big banks, and the wealthy elite that are currently calling the shots. But we've got the power of the people to tip the balance in our favor, and I've now seen that the people are ready for the fight.

Growing up learning about the Civil Rights Movement and other times of great change in history, I always wondered what choice I would have made: Would I have joined, would I have fought? I now have my answer. If you are ready to make your voice heard in this fight for our planet, our communities, and our humanity, join us.

Arturo Massol-Deyá, Casa Pueblo

We in Puerto Rico are still reeling from the devastation brought by Hurricane Maria in 2017, a storm that killed thousands and devastated communities in every corner of our beautiful home in the Caribbean. And as carbon emissions continue to increase, we are told to expect even more powerful and frequent storms.

Hurricane Maria showed us how dependent we are on fossil fuels for our electricity. It showed us how our food system requires the burning of gas in trucks, ships, and planes just to fill our plates. It showed us that the selling of our public lands and public resources only makes us more dependent on an economic system that prioritizes dollars over lives. It showed us how our whole economy sows the seeds of destruction for even worse storms.

Maria also taught us how to reject top-down solutions. We at Casa Pueblo have been working for nearly 30 years to create a more decentralized energy system that uses a combination of solar power and wind turbines. In the aftermath of Maria we were one of the only communities who had electricity. We distributed thousands of solar powered lamps and hundreds of solar powered refrigerators. We have also worked to support sustainable and small-scale agriculture that is not dependent on imported fertilizers or seeds. Most recently we launched #50ConSol, a new campaign to move Puerto Rico to use 50 percent renewable energy by 2027. We believe when people have local control, local ownership, and draw on local resources, we can build more sustainable communities and a more sustainable planet. Our time is now.

Jacqueline Patterson, director of the NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Program

We can no longer fight to just end racism or economic inequality without tackling climate change. To end racism means we need to tackle economic inequality and the climate crisis, all at the same time.

As director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Environmental and Climate Justice Program, my job is to educate people in this country and engage them about our climate crisis. When I give talks to local NAACP chapters or university groups, I often tell people the story of Antoine, a young boy I met in Indiantown, Florida. Antoine lives three miles away from a coal-fired power plant. He has severe asthma. There are so many poor air-quality days in Indiantown, Florida, he often has to watch his friends play outside from his living room window. You see, if he went outside, he'd have an asthma attack. That community is not only polluted, but it also has one of the highest rates of poverty. Because of the pollution and poverty, the property values are lower. This means the schools receive fewer tax dollars and fewer resources. Antoine and many like him are not only trapped inside due to pollution. They're trapped in cycles of poverty and under-resourced schools. The oppressions here overlap and interconnect.

So how do we get out of this emergency? I help groups define and create programs that address the intersection of oppressions caused by the climate crisis, racism, and poverty. I call this the fight for a just transition. Just transition is about using clean energy and providing good jobs. It's about making sure all schools have the resources they need to survive and that all people have access to the wealth they need to thrive. It's about changing our deeply flawed political and economic systems that create winners and losers. The more we can educate people to see how the climate crisis is connected to other crises, the more people we can engage in this fight!

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez (pronounced 'Shoe-Tez-Caht'), Earth Guardians and Our Children's Trust

My dad taught me that protecting the Earth is a responsibility, the same way our ancestors had the responsibility to do so. My mom was involved in environmental activism, and I've been working my whole life with the Earth Guardians, a global organization of young people working on environmental action. I started when I was 6 years old, speaking at a local environmental rally in my area, where I told parents how important it is to educate your kids on climate change. I've been involved in local rallies and protests ever since. This gave me an outlet to use my passion and my voice, and it was empowering. Now, I work on climate change, fracking, and Indigenous issues because I have a personal investment in them, and because I recognize that this issue going to affect all people, but especially people of color, Indigenous people, and youth.

I'm also part of the federal lawsuit, *Juliana et al. v. United States et al.*, that charges the federal government has failed to protect the life, liberty, and property of my generation by ignoring the climate crisis. We're in a position where 21 young people are going up against the most powerful country on the planet and one of the biggest industries on Earth — the fossil fuel industry — and there's so much at stake. The marching in the streets, the lifestyle changes haven't been enough, so something drastic needs to happen. The change that we need is not going to come from a politician, it's going to come from something that's always been the driver of change: people power, and the power of young people.

LaDonna Brave Bull Allard, Standing Rock Sioux Tribe Historian, North Dakota

I am the historian and genealogist for the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe. I never thought of myself as an activist or a person on the front lines in protest. When I first learned about the Dakota Access Pipeline, I believed my role was to go out into the community and educate people.

And then I realized educating and activism can be the same thing.

I was there when the first tipis went up at Standing Rock, a massive camp-in led by the Standing Rock nation, aimed at blocking construction of the Dakota Access Pipeline. The Pipeline carries oil from North Dakota across several states and under the Missouri River. At first, our camp was small, but through creative organizing it grew to multiple camps that have housed as many as 7,000 people from all over the world.

We tried to block the Pipeline in multiple ways. We used lawsuits and other legal challenges to prevent construction and linked up with the folks who successfully fought off another pipeline, the Keystone XL. We believed in nonviolence, so we asked organizations such as Moccasins on the Ground to provide us with direct action training so we could stop the bulldozers and block the roads. We used social media to publicize our activism and connect it with other world movements for environmental and Indigenous justice.

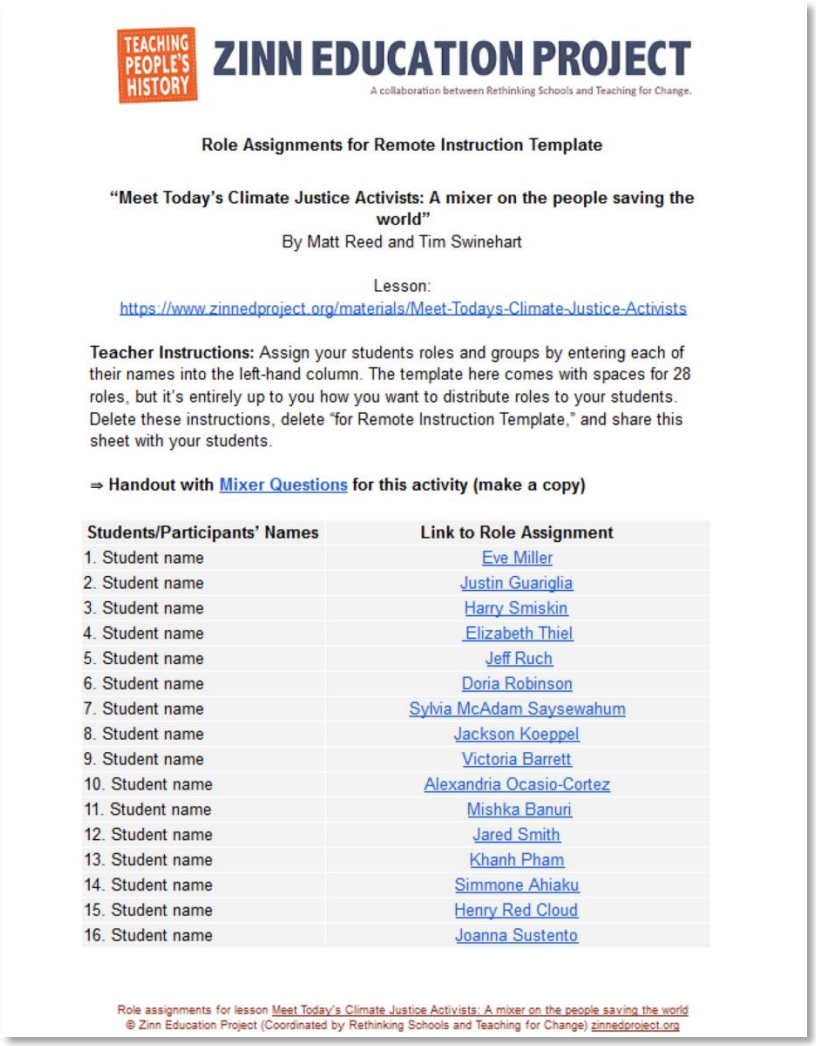
The Standing Rock camp-in became something bigger than any of us. When people say, "Who started this?" I say, "There was no one leader. There was no one person. It was everybody." In the middle of all of this was the youth, who continued to stand up, who continued to bring that power, that healing.

And we fought. We endured many clashes with law enforcement and private security. We faced water cannons, tear gas, attack dogs, and freezing temperatures. Many of us were arrested, including my own daughter, and mistreated by our courts. We would tell people that we're water protectors, not protestors.

Eventually the Pipeline was built and our camp-in demolished. But this activism only strengthened our movement, and now we continue to fight alongside other Indigenous communities around the United States and the world. We are also building a new camp that shows people how to live on the Earth sustainably, to do organic farming, green energy, thermal, wind, and solar. If the whole United States went into green energy, we could provide more jobs than fossil fuel. We can provide a way of living that causes people to live good with the Earth.

Use the online role assignment template for remote instruction.

Click here to make a copy of the Google Doc, pictured below, with links to the online materials. Copy the Google Doc "Role Assignments for Remote Instruction Template," enter your students' names in the left column, and the class will be able to access their roles online by clicking on the linked names to the right.



TEACHING PEOPLE'S HISTORY

ZINN EDUCATION PROJECT

A collaboration between Rethinking Schools and Teaching for Change.

Role Assignments for Remote Instruction Template

"Meet Today's Climate Justice Activists: A mixer on the people saving the world"

By Matt Reed and Tim Swinehart

Lesson:
https://www.zinnedproject.org/materials/Meet-Todays-Climate-Justice-Activists

Teacher Instructions: Assign your students roles and groups by entering each of their names into the left-hand column. The template here comes with spaces for 28 roles, but it's entirely up to you how you want to distribute roles to your students. Delete these instructions, delete "for Remote Instruction Template," and share this sheet with your students.

⇒ **Handout with Mixer Questions for this activity (make a copy)**

Students/Participants' Names	Link to Role Assignment
1. Student name	Eve Miller
2. Student name	Justin Guariglia
3. Student name	Harry Smiskin
4. Student name	Elizabeth Thiel
5. Student name	Jeff Ruch
6. Student name	Doria Robinson
7. Student name	Sylvia McAdam Saysewahum
8. Student name	Jackson Koeppel
9. Student name	Victoria Barrett
10. Student name	Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
11. Student name	Mishka Banuri
12. Student name	Jared Smith
13. Student name	Khanh Pham
14. Student name	Simmone Ahiaku
15. Student name	Henry Red Cloud
16. Student name	Joanna Sustento

Role assignments for lesson Meet Today's Climate Justice Activists: A mixer on the people saving the world
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Then, share the specific materials you want to use with your students for synchronous or asynchronous learning.