

Half of world's beaches could disappear by 2100

6th March, 2020



Rising sea levels could see the demise of half of the world's beaches by the end of this century. Climate scientists predict that 50 per cent of sandy beaches along the world's coastlines could vanish over the next eight decades if climate change

continues on its current path. The scientists are from the European Commission's Joint Research Centre. They warned that the shorelines of many highly-populated areas and tourist hot-spots are threatened by erosion from climate change and surging sea levels. Areas at risk of disappearing forever include well-known, popular beaches in Australia's Surfers' Paradise, the islands of Hawaii, Brazil's Copacabana Beach, and the Costa del Sol in Spain.

The scientists reported that countries like The Gambia and Guinea-Bissau in Africa are predicted to lose over 60% of their beaches. The country to be worst affected is Australia, where 12,000km of coastline could end up underwater forever. The researchers wrote that: "A substantial proportion of the world's sandy coastline is already eroding, a situation that could be exacerbated by climate change. [This]...could result in the near extinction of the world's sandy beaches by the end of the century." Research co-author Dr Michalis Vousdoukas said there were two important ways we could reduce this trend and save the beaches. He said we had to, "reduce emissions and manage our coastline in a more sustainable way".

Sources: thesun.co.uk / dailymail.co.uk / time.com

Writing

There is no way to reverse climate change and save our beaches. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

sea / demise / beaches / the end of this century / coastlines / tourist / hot-spots / lose / worst / underwater / climate change / extinction / sandy / trend / emissions

True / False

- a) Climate scientists said 50% of our beaches could disappear by 2100. T / F
- b) The scientists say climate change is threatening our beaches. T / F
- c) The scientists say tourist hot-spots are safe from the beach erosion. T / F
- d) Brazil's Copacabana Beach will not be affected by rising sea levels. T / F
- e) Some countries in Africa will lose over 60% of their beaches. T / F
- f) Australia will be the worst affected country in the world. T / F
- g) Scientists say most of the world's sandy beaches will not disappear. T / F
- h) Scientists said there were 10 things we can do to save our beaches. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. demise | a. course |
| 2. predict | b. method |
| 3. path | c. impacted |
| 4. threatened | d. increasing |
| 5. surging | e. considerable |
| 6. affected | f. forecast |
| 7. substantial | g. movement |
| 8. exacerbated | h. end |
| 9. trend | i. worsened |
| 10. way | j. endangered |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) What purpose do beaches serve?
- c) What impact would the loss of beaches have on a country?
- d) Are beaches better than countryside?
- e) How would the extinction of beaches affect the society of a country?
- f) What different kinds of beaches are there?
- g) How can we reduce emissions?
- h) What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. see the demise of | a. reduce this trend |
| 2. coastlines could vanish | b. of disappearing forever |
| 3. shorelines of many | c. exacerbated by climate change |
| 4. surging | d. over the next eight decades |
| 5. Areas at risk | e. the world's sandy beaches |
| 6. coastline could end | f. sea levels |
| 7. a situation that could be | g. up underwater forever |
| 8. result in the near extinction of | h. a more sustainable way |
| 9. two important ways we could | i. half of the world's beaches |
| 10. manage our coastline in | j. highly-populated areas |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of beaches?
- How important are beaches?
- How bad would it be if half the world's beaches disappeared?
- What is your favourite beach?
- Why do people like beaches so much?
- What are the bad things about beaches?
- How much is climate change responsible for beached disappearing?
- How would the loss of beaches affect you?

Spelling

- the semedi of half of the world's beaches
- the world's coastlines could hsnvai
- over the next eight cddesea
- seenhoilsr of many highly-populated areas
- threatened by nooiesr from climate change
- iggsurn sea levels
- tidrdecpe to lose over 60%
- A substantial iprroonpot
- that could be aaeedxbtbc by climate change
- the near ntxiitneoc of the world's sandy beaches
- reduce oesisinsm
- in a more stlaeuanibs way

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. f	3. a	4. j	5. d
6. c	7. e	8. i	9. g	10. b

Role Play

Role A – Cycling

You think cycling is the best thing to fight climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): showers, not baths, vegetarianism or electric cars.

Role B – Showers, Not Baths

You think showers, not baths is the best thing to fight climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): cycling, vegetarianism or electric cars.

Role C – Vegetarianism

You think vegetarianism is the best thing to fight climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): showers, not baths, cycling or electric cars.

Role D – Electric Cars

You think having only electric cars is the best thing to fight climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): showers, not baths, vegetarianism or cycling.

Speaking – Climate Change

Rank these with your partner. Put the best things to fight climate change at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| • More recycling | • Cycling |
| • No flying | • No baths |
| • Drink tap water | • Vegetarianism |
| • Walk everywhere | • Electric cars |

Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	F	d	F	e	T	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.