

Smog makes Beijing put sunrise on giant TVs

21st January, 2014



People in Beijing cannot see the sun. The air is full of smog (a mixture of smoke and fog). The smog is so thick that it blocks the sun

all day. People really miss seeing the sun. Beijing's leaders decided to do something so people could see the sunrise. They put giant LED screens across the city. People stand in front of the digital screens and watch the sunrise. The screen in Tiananmen Square also had a special message on it. It was a public announcement that read: "Protecting the atmosphere and environment is everyone's responsibility." The live, digital sunrise is already a hit with tourists. Ricardo Hernandez from Mexico said: "It looks like science fiction. It's kind of cool, but it's also worrying. This smog sucks."

The air quality in China's cities often becomes bad in winter. People burn more coal for heating in the winter months. This makes more pollution. Beijing's mayor promised to make the air cleaner. He said the city would spend \$2.4 billion this year to improve the air quality. Many workers wore face masks on their way to work. They did not want to breathe the poisonous air. One man told reporters: "I couldn't see the tall buildings across the street this morning. The smog has become worse in the last two to three years." He said the smog usually makes him feel bad: "I often cough and my nose is always running," he said. The US embassy advised people to, "avoid all physical activity outdoors".

Sources: Daily Mail / Huffington Post

Writing

What is best, the sunrise or the sunset? Why?

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

the sun / smog / sunrise / LED screens / special message / announcement / tourists / air quality / heating / pollution / face masks / poisonous / tall buildings / cough / nose

True / False

- People in Beijing can now watch the sunrise on their TVs. T / F
- The smog in Beijing blocks the sun all day. T / F
- A message on a giant TV in the street told people to care for the Earth. T / F
- A tourist said there was nothing cool about watching the sunrise on TV. T / F
- The air quality in China actually gets better in winter. T / F
- Beijing's mayor will spend \$2.4 million on cleaner air. T / F
- A man could not see the tall buildings across the street. T / F
- The American embassy said people should not exercise outside. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1. mixture | a. obstructs |
| 2. blocks | b. toxic |
| 3. message | c. stay away from |
| 4. responsibility | d. notification |
| 5. worrying | e. make better |
| 6. bad | f. combination |
| 7. improve | g. past |
| 8. poisonous | h. troubling |
| 9. last | i. duty |
| 10. avoid | j. terrible |

Discussion – Student A

- What do you think when you see lots of smoke coming from factories?
- Would you move to another place if your town was always smoggy?
- Do you prefer the sunrise or sunset?
- Where is the best place to see the sun rise?
- What's the difference "sunrise" and "sun rise"?
- Would you like to see different colours in a sunrise / sunset?
- What do you think the sunrise looks like on the Moon?
- What questions would you like to ask Beijing's mayor?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|-------------------------|
| 1. The smog is so thick that it blocks | a. running |
| 2. everyone's | b. the poisonous air |
| 3. already a hit with | c. sucks |
| 4. It looks like science | d. responsibility |
| 5. This smog | e. tourists |
| 6. Beijing's mayor promised to | f. him feel bad |
| 7. They did not want to breathe | g. activity outdoors |
| 8. the smog usually makes | h. fiction |
| 9. my nose is always | i. make the air cleaner |
| 10. avoid all physical | j. the sun all day |

Discussion – Student B

- Where was the most beautiful sunrise you ever saw?
- Is there a lot of smog where you live?
- What can people do to reduce the smog?
- What do you think of televising the sunrise for people to see?
- How would you feel if there were no visible sunrises in the future?
- What do you do to protect the environment?
- Do you think what's happening in Beijing is science fiction?
- Is it the government's responsibility to make sure the air is clean?

Spelling

- a ixmrute of smoke and fog
- giant LED crsens
- a public noennuamtnc
- Protecting the atmosphere and irnetmenvon
- everyone's rseipoilybstni
- It looks like seneicc fiction
- air lqtiuay
- This makes more Inooiputl
- btaeher the poisonous air
- The smog has become oersw
- I often ohcug and my nose is always running
- avoid all iplyscah activity outdoors

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Overpopulation

You think overpopulation is the biggest problem for the Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these problems to solve (and why): logging, nuclear waste or overfishing.

Role B – Logging

You think logging is the biggest problem for the Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these problems to solve (and why): overpopulation, nuclear waste or overfishing.

Role C – Nuclear waste

You think nuclear waste is the biggest problem for the Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these problems to solve (and why): logging, overpopulation or overfishing.

Role D – Overfishing

You think overfishing is the biggest problem for the Earth. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that aren't so bad about their things. Also, tell the others which is the easiest of these problems to solve (and why): logging, nuclear waste or overpopulation.

Speaking – Giant TVs

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the things you would most like to watch in giant TVs at the top. Change partners often.

- | | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| • the sunrise / sunset | • a nature documentary |
| • a sports game | • your videos / photos |
| • a movie | • the news |
| • a video game | • a music concert |

Answers – True False

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