

BEFORE YOU READ:

What is an activist?

Heatwaves in Europe ... glaciers melting in Greenland ... wildfires in California. Climate change is happening. Can we still stop it? Eco-activist Kelsey Juliana thinks it's worth a try*.

KELSEY JULIANA

"I'll take the U.S. President to court* over climate change!"

“It's time to take action!”

WORDWISE * court (n): law-making house where decisions are made by a judge * to be worth a try (phr): something we should try even if it might not work * to blame (v): to say someone else is responsible for something (often something bad) * pressing (adj): important and needing immediate attention * to get something (v, inf): to understand * to erode (v): when wind and sea gradually destroy the coastline * to turn a blind eye (idiom): to know something is happening but to ignore it * mile (n): 1 mile = 1.6km * barefoot (adj): without shoes * fossil fuel (n): natural material such as coal or gas which is burned to make power * to alter (v): to change * to lobby (v): to try to influence a politician or someone with power

THE CLUB INTERVIEW

CLUB: What turned you into an activist?

Kelsey: Blame* my parents! They took me to my first protest rally when I was two months old.

CLUB: Why did you choose climate change?

Kelsey: I believe it's the most pressing* issue my generation will ever face. We're the ones who have so much to lose.

CLUB: You took your state governor to court when you were 15! Did your friends in high school think you were weird?

Kelsey: No, they supported me ... they just didn't join me! They got it*, but they didn't do anything. We have to think about college, exams, soccer practice - and then there's climate change, which is such a long-term thing.

CLUB: What's happening in your home state of Oregon?

Kelsey: You can go to the coast in Oregon where the starfish are dying because of rising sea temperatures. You can see how climate change is eroding* the coast. If you look, you can see it. Or you can turn a blind eye*.

CLUB: Is it true you marched 3,000 miles* across the United States to raise awareness of climate change?

Kelsey: Yes, I even started the march barefoot*, but after three weeks I had to give that up. My feet hurt too much! There were only about 100 of us, but it was worth it.

CLUB: You're taking your case all the way to the President of the United States. What are you fighting for, Kelsey?

Kelsey: The right to grow up breathing clean air and drinking clean water. We're against fossil fuels* and we want climate justice!

CLUB: What will happen if you win?

Kelsey: If we win, the President will have to make policy changes that could alter* the course of climate change.

CLUB: What's your message to teens?

Kelsey: You don't have to be an activist to do something! Get that into your head!

Find out more about Kelsey Juliana online:

www.ourchildrenstrust.org/kelsey/
@Kelsey_juliana

DISCUSS IT!

Think of an issue you're passionate about.

- What is it? Why do you care?
- What can you do?

PERSONALITY QUIZ

What kind of activist are you? Take our test!

1 Which of these are you best at?

- a) Problem solving
- b) Networking and meeting people
- c) Public speaking

2 Which is the most effective way to get change?

- a) Education
- b) Street demonstrations and riots — get the story in the news!
- c) Petitions and people power!

3 Imagine you join a campaign group. Which of these are you most likely to do?

- a) Read the group's newsletters
- b) Share and 'like' their online posts
- c) Volunteer and join protest events

4 There's an election next year. Do you

- a) run for election?
- b) lobby* the candidates?
- c) vote?

5 Which of these do you agree with most?

- a) "Individuals can change anything."
- b) "Only politicians can change things."
- c) "Nothing will ever change."

SCORES AND ANALYSIS ON PAGE 15>>

LISTEN

Track 4: CLUB talks to two teen campaigners.
www.mg-plus.net/audio

