

See Your Ideas Sprout

An activity of "Australian fires warn the world..."

The story on the front cover of the new year's issue of *What's Up* is about huge wildfires in Australia. Sadly, a year ago, our 2019 front-cover story was also about an extreme weather crisis. Each of us can choose how to respond. Some people throw their arms up in the air in total despair. Others angrily point fingers at big businesses, governments, and whomever else they can blame. Then, there are those who study the facts through clear and hope-filled lenses, and then chip in to do whatever they can to save our planet.

Which of these three categories do you want to be in? If you would like to join the hopefuls, start here with this activity. Form a small group of Kids with Hope.

1. Read "**Australian fires warn the world to fix the climate crisis now**" (page 1, *What's Up* January 2020). Discuss in your group what can be done to reduce extreme climate change. Why are these Australian wildfires, rising sea levels elsewhere, and other natural disasters taking place more frequently? What are some solutions?

2. Turn to the back page of the same *What's Up* issue. Study the rich details in the "**Art to Heart**" scene. Read the explanation about the seeds.

3. Do the activity on page 24 by sketching three sprouting seeds of ideas that would make your family happy. This will prepare you for Step 4.

4. As a group, pick one idea that you all agree would help save our planet from extreme climate change. This idea is your "seed".

5. Follow artist Linda Yew's style of using the seedlings to illustrate ideas sprouting and growing — in the space here →, sketch what your group of Kids with Hope want to see your seed of an idea grow into.

6. Make a large, attractive poster of your artwork. Add a title, a brief explanation for your grand idea, and your names.

7. Plant your seeds in other kids' minds. Display all the groups' posters in a common space at school to share them with other classes. Better still, send *What's Up* a photo of your poster by emailing it to letters@whatsup.sg.

Our poster's title: