



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Planet Earth in the Future

*An activity of "Planet Earth in 500 years"*

Read "Planet Earth in 500 years" (page 8-9, *What's Up* September 2021). In the article, the authors mention some human behaviours that are destructive to Earth.

1. List three such behaviors from the article.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

2. The following is an extract from a short science fiction story, *The Machine Stops*, written by E M Forster in 1909. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

"The truth is," he continued, "that I want to see these stars again. They are curious stars. I want to see them not from the air-ship, but from the surface of the earth, as our ancestors did, thousands of years ago. I want to visit the surface of the earth."

She was shocked again.

"Mother, you must come, if only to explain to me what is the harm of visiting the surface of the earth."

"No harm," she replied, controlling herself. "But no advantage. The surface of the earth is only dust and mud, no advantage. The surface of the earth is only dust and mud, no life remains on it, and you would need a respirator, or the cold of the outer air would kill you. One dies immediately in the outer air."

"I know; of course I shall take all precautions."

"And besides —"

"Well?"

She considered, and chose her words with care. Her son had a queer temper, and she wished to dissuade him from the expedition.

"It is contrary to the spirit of the age," she asserted.

*[If you wish to, you can read the whole story here:*

[https://www.cs.ucdavis.edu/~koehl/Teaching/ECS188/PDF\\_files/Machine\\_stops.pdf](https://www.cs.ucdavis.edu/~koehl/Teaching/ECS188/PDF_files/Machine_stops.pdf) ]

3. Who is the "she" in line 5? Why is "she" shocked?

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4. The “Earth” described by the mother seems to be very different from how we know Earth to be now. State three ways it is different, from the extract.

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

5. As a novelist, E M Forster used his imagination a lot. You can too! Imagine what Earth would be like 500 years from now. Draw it out below and write a short paragraph describing it.

- What will its landforms be like?
- What will its flora and fauna look like?
- Will the climate be any different from what it is now?
- Use your five senses to describe what you see, hear, feel, taste, and smell in your imagination of the future planet Earth.

The form consists of a large rectangular box. The top half of the box is blank, intended for drawing. The bottom half of the box contains ten horizontal lines, intended for writing a short paragraph.

*[Use a fresh sheet of paper if you need more space.]*