



ISSUES OF THE WORLD

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES MAGAZINE

This magazine consists of the first project work completed by KS4 students of the Senior School, for the academic year 2021-2022.

All students, whose work appears in this magazine, have done their best to apply the knowledge acquired and the skills developed so far, during their studies in Global Perspectives IGCSE.

Through their work, students aim to raise awareness on issues that might concern people all around the world, demonstrating their understanding of the concept of Perspectives, while exhibiting their skills in Planning, Questioning, Research, Analysis and Synthesis.

Editing: Ms Maria Xystra

The Senior School, January 2022.



Coronavirus

By Alexandra Manias

Covid cases have been increasing due to the lack of people following health measures like wearing a mask or disinfecting regularly. Covid was originally discovered in Wuhan, China but has spread throughout the world. It was a consequence of 'wet markets', a place where fresh animals (sometimes illegal) are killed on spot. It is very crowded so sometimes animals swap genes and the virus changes and becomes infectious to humans.

According to Worldometer, the place with the most covid cases is the United States. They have had about 54 million cases and around 840 thousand deaths. Cases in Cyprus were quite low in October but from then on, the cases have started to increase from under 200 to more than 5 000. Furthermore, anyone can catch covid however people usually 85 and over are more at risk due to the possibility of their symptoms becoming severe.



A new variant has surfaced which was first discovered in South Africa, called the Omicron variant. This variant is more contagious but less dangerous than the other variants. The symptoms include scratchy or sore throat, nasal congestion, dry cough, headaches and muscle pain. Vaccines can be effective in reducing the covid symptoms from developing to dangerous levels, but they do not prevent you from catching the virus, which is a common misconception.

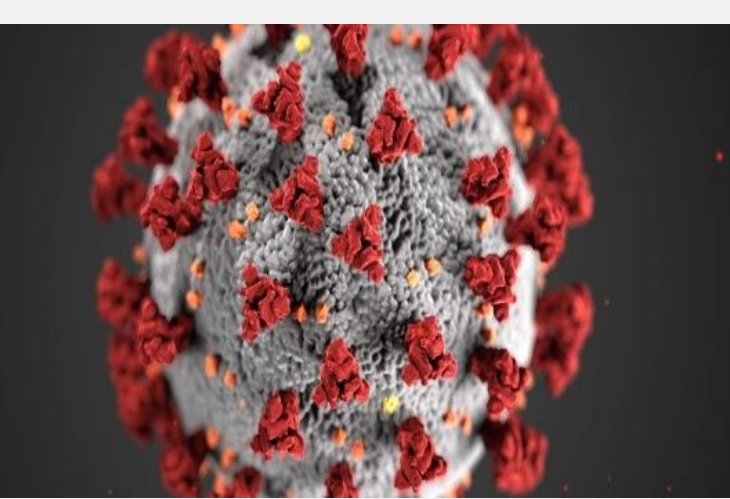
Lastly, the increase in covid cases does not only have an effect on people's health but lockdowns can take an economical toll on countries. A way of reducing cases could be that people have covid tests done more frequently when entering a public place and that all health measures are taken more seriously.

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COVID-19

BY CHRISTINA PITSILLIDOU

- Covid-19 has been around for 2 years and is still here affecting the world. Covid-19 is a very serious dangerous disease, and we should all take the precautions we have to keep safe and follow all the rules. So far there have been more cases than ever so far around 303M and 5.48M deaths from Covid-19.
- So there are many rules in the world so we can try and prevent people from catching Covid for example some rules in school are having to wear masks not being able to take them off showing Covid safe passes to go in and all Christmas and Easter celebrations must be canceled in schools but exams for all 3 years of upper secondary schools will still be doing exams this June so everyone start studying for them and do your best. The rules that we have in schools are also very similar to rules generally for example wherever you go you must always wear a mask and show either your safe pass for your vaccination or a 72hour rapid test or a PCR.
- Luckily, we will not be going on another lockdown in Cyprus according to the government we just have to stay safe and keep the cases low and for summer we all just must think positive and be on the bright side of things and hopefully Covid will be more or less gone by then. Even though Covid is still here people are still allowed to travel again by following the rules by wearing their masks and having a valid PCR and being vaccinated.
- Let's just hope for the best and hope Covid will be slowly slowly going away and stop affecting people and making them suffer and die from it and remember if you have Covid or have been a close contact then isolate for 10 days immediately and make sure your negative when your isolation is over stay safe and follow the rules.

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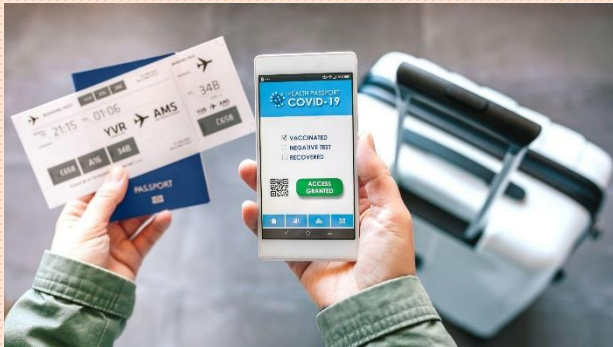
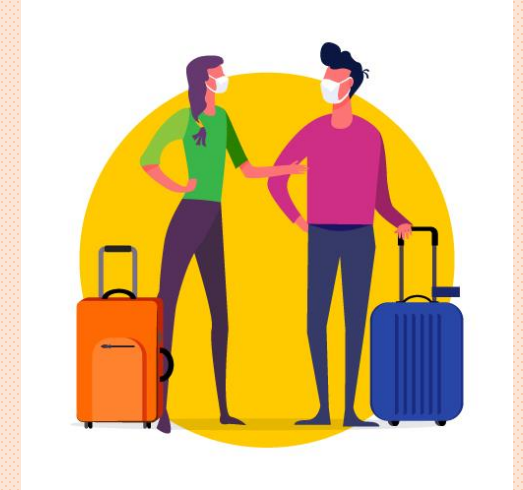
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TRAVEL AND COVID-19

By Danae Kartoude

Covid-19 has affected many industries around the world but one of the most remarkably destroyed industries is the travel and tourism industry.

Firstly, leisure travel between countries and even within, was almost completely restricted in the years 2020 and 2021 with the numbers for tourism dropping by a dramatic 74%, with lockdowns and closed borders occurring everywhere. Travel during this time has also proved to be a complicated and draining process which a lot of people choose to avoid. Even once people manage to travel, activities within the country are restricted. Furthermore, Covid has affected the work factor in aviation. According to Harris Kartoudes, A-380 pilot at Emirates Airlines, almost all A-380 airplanes were completely immobile in 2020 and 2021 causing 1,300 staff members to be made redundant. Other airlines have completely shut down causing severe economic damage to countries like Cyprus who rely on tourism.



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Interview: Harris Kartoudes

There are almost no countries that don't require a vaccine for entrance but most also require a negative PCR or Antigen test. For example, Austria in the summer of 2021, required a vaccine for people over the age of 18 as well as a negative Antigen test for all travellers. Travel during the pandemic has proved to be a complicated process with multiple steps to complete. The regulations for every country are different so I will be explaining travel to the US as of a recent experience. Firstly, all travellers over the age of 12 must present a vaccination certificate as well as a negative 48-hour PCR test. Travelers under the age of 12 must also have a negative 48-hour PCR test and flight pass needs to be completed and approved by everyone. Upon arrival, all documents need to be presented and Antigen tests have to be done on the 3rd to 5th day since arrival. Depending on the State you have arrived to and the country you departed from, quarantine might be required. Overall, Covid-19 has affected all industries, but the travel industry will require the most time to rebuild perhaps never fully recovering.

ANOREXIA NERVOSA:

By Georgia Papadopoulou

THE DESTRUCTING ZONE NO ONE MUST ENTER

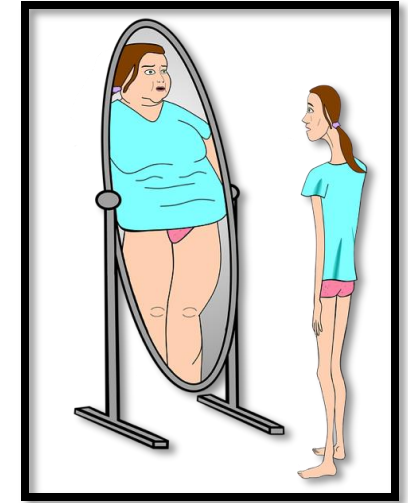
Many people – especially women – find themselves becoming fighters in a battle full of mental and physical torture, that unfortunately results in their own mental and physical downfall. Such war, is also known as ‘Eating Disorders’. However, today we are shifting the focus towards one of its battles, the ‘Anorexia Nervosa battle’. Firstly, you might ask yourselves, ‘what defines Anorexia Nervosa?’ Well, according to the National Institute of Mental Illness, it is when a person is experiencing ‘a significant and persistent reduction in food intake leading to extremely low body weight; a relentless pursuit of thinness; a distortion of body image and intense fear of gaining weight; and extremely disturbed eating behaviour’. In addition to Anorexia Nervosa being recognised as an eating disorder, it is also a form of a serious mental health disorder, as people who struggle with Anorexia Nervosa can experience changes in the way they feel, think and behave. So, as it strongly influences the brain it is therefore established as a form of mental health disorder.

Unfortunately, some of its triggers are out of one’s control- like our genes. Some people are born with the genetic propensity towards perfectionism, persistence, and sensitivity. However, there are other factors that can be controlled, such as the ones related to mental health (disorders) and the environment that a person surrounds itself with, for instance social media, unrealistic beauty standards, and unhealthy examples.

Moreover, when one is battling - or has already defeated- Anorexia Nervosa, depending on each individual’s severity of the condition, Anorexia Nervosa has the tendency to leave its mark by causing many different long-term medical problems, such as possible infertility for females, heart-related issues and leaving the patient with harmed vital organs. However, it can also lead to other types of mental health disorders - due to the traumatic effect which it had on the mind. For instance, anxiety disorder, depression, along with suicidal thoughts ! Thus, if not treated soon enough it can be fatal; there is a death rate of 5.35% amongst patients struggling with it.

However, when people realise that the ground they are stepping on is lethal, there is always a way to rush towards the exit of this torment and recover psychologically and physically. Yet, this includes receiving medical assistance, for example psychoanalysis, medicine, nutritional guidance, group therapy, and/or hospitalisation.

In conclusion, there are multiple health hazards that come along with Anorexia Nervosa, out of which there is no return for some. Hence, in order to prevent these negative effects from taking place, it would be ideal to help and support anyone which you think might be a falling victim of Anorexia Nervosa. Just be there for them. Save someone the long and arduous suffering.



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Bulimia Nervosa By Christina Nicolaou

“Bulimia nervosa is a disorder characterized by episodic binges (consumption of huge amounts of food and drink in a short period of time), which are followed by self-deprecating thoughts and a fear of gaining weight.” This leads to activities such as fasting or exercising or vomiting to get rid of the consequences of the binge.

Bulimia is most associated with young women, and teens. According to the U.S. Department of health and human service on average, women develop Bulimia at 18 or 19 whereas teen girls between 15-17. But that doesn't mean that it doesn't occur in men. But still women account for the vast majority of people with bulimia nervosa (almost 90% in clinical samples).

What causes Bulimia is still unknown. Genetics, biology, emotional health, societal expectations, and other factors could all have a part in the development of eating disorders.

Unfortunately like any other eating disorder, Bulimia leaves behind some long-term effects. To start with, harm to the heart can occur. This happens when your body doesn't have enough calories to burn so it begins to eat muscle in order to stay alive, low blood pressure or heart palpitations is a result of weak heart's inability to pump blood adequately. The long-term consequence could lead to cardiac arrest. Vomiting on a regular basis can erode your teeth's enamel resulting in erosion, damage and even tooth loss. Additionally, it causes kidney stones and renal failure. This happens due to the lack of hydration.

But there are some ways to at least try and treat Bulimia Nervosa. The first step in treating Bulimia is restoring nutritional balance so that the body can repair itself as much as possible. A specialized eating plan should be devised for each Bulimic so that they feel they can manage with ordered and healthy eating.

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The Causes And Effects Of Racism By Rebecca Petrou



What is Racism?

Before the topic stated in the title of this article is elaborated, it is important to understand what is meant when the term 'racism' is used. The word Racism is defined as 'prejudice, discrimination, or antagonism by an individual, community, or institution against a person or people on the basis of their membership of a particular racial or ethnic group, typically one that is a minority or marginalized' in Wikipedia

What are the causes of racism?

There are many reasons that cause racism, but one of the most common include being surrounded by people who have racist beliefs. It is likely that someone will adopt these negative views if, for example, their friends or family members are racist. Another common root of a person being racist is the way that the media represents these groups and ethnicities, and by extension, the stereotypes that are created by these representations and the blame that is put on communities. The way that the media portrays these people, negatively affect the way that society views them. For example, when Black people are over-represented in the news about violent crimes or how the Asian community is blamed for the cause of the recent pandemic of Covid 19.

What are the consequences for the victims of Racism?

It is well known that people and children that experience racism in their life can be bullied in school, can be called slurs, and are harassed in their lifetime. These are common occurrences and things can escalate at a higher level than this. There is also often brutality involved or violent behaviour towards these individuals. In addition to this, it is proven that victims of racism are likely to have worse physical and mental health than those who are not. Research shows that the stress that is associated with racism can cause high blood pressure and an overall weaker immune system, that can therefore lead to more long-term health conditions. It is also proven that racism is prone to affect mental health twice as many times as physical health. Some mental health issues that are associated with racism include depression as well as anxiety and PTSD.

What are some things that people can do to not contribute to racism?

One of the ways that can prevent someone from being Racist or contributing to microaggressions is by being informed. It is also important to make sure the sources that one is getting their information from are reliable and trustworthy so that they are not exposed to false information. Another way is to call out racism if you witness it and educating and informing others. This is important because you are still to blame if you witness racism and do nothing about it.

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STEREOTYPES IN OUR DAILY LIFE

By Stela Lito Erotokritou



A stereotype is a fixed generic image or group of qualities that many people feel it represents a specific type of person or situation. A few popular stereotypes such as ‘woman are bad drivers’ or that ‘blondes are less intelligent.’ These 2 examples of common stereotypes are more focused on negative characteristics. Other common stereotypes such as ‘Asians are cleverer’ and ‘men are strong and can do all the work’, can seem like a good thing since they are focused on positive characteristics. So, if stereotypes are focused on positive characteristics will that make them any better? The answer is still no, because treating them as a favorable group can lead to a surprising amount of harm to those it describes, those it does not and even those who believe that is true.

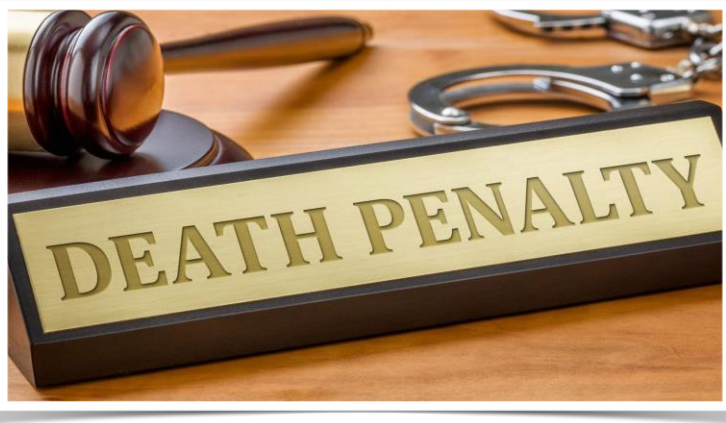
What other effects can stereotyping have on an individual? Can it affect their confidence? An experiment by two psychologists in 1995 by putting the theory of stereotype threat to the test, found that an individual does not have to believe in the stereotype to be vulnerable to it.

But how do we create stereotypes in our daily life? For example, you go to a restaurant, and you pick a new meal that you did not like, you might stereotype it and never order it again or you try a sport for the first time and the next day you get sore, so you stereotype it and decide that this sport is not for you. Everyone’s stereotypes are created by their own individual experiences that might become our beliefs.

We base our individual stereotypes on our first impressions and that might prevent us from giving it another go and try correcting our mistakes or improving as individuals. We should also acknowledge and challenge these labels so that we can eliminate harmful stereotypes for the global good.

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THE DEATH PENALTY

THE EFFECT IN OUR SOCIETY

By Jacqueline Dzaghigian

The death penalty is a huge cause of crime in today's society, and does much more harm than good. Although the death penalty is supposed to decrease crime rates effectively, according to The Death Penalty Information Center, many statistics actually show that the countries that have abolished capital punishment have substantially lower crime rates. Furthermore, a UCLA study conducted on capital punishment in Oklahoma found that "there was a significant increase in stranger killings and non-felony stranger killings after Oklahoma resumed executions after a 25-year moratorium." This shows that the death penalty isn't a barrier for people who want to do harm.

COST

The cost of carrying out a death sentence is another problem, as it is much higher than that of carrying out the life imprisonment sentence by a factor of 2 to 5, some say 10. What causes such a high cost for it as per The Death Penalty Information Center, are the endless appeals, a ton of expensive procedures like DNA testing, and others which drag on for years, or even decades! Other resources like time and effort are also used up much more in case of the death penalty. All these procedures lead to major inconvenience, which is not in the government's advantage.

WRONG EXECUTIONS

The death penalty puts many innocent lives at risk around all the countries that use the system. Some aren't even granted fair trials as for example a case in Chicago where twelve African-American men were repeatedly beaten and tortured by former lieutenant John Burge during interrogation. Eleven of these men are currently on death row, while one man died of medical neglect at the hands of prison caretakers. Their right to a fair trial was stripped away. Is this what the death penalty wants to achieve? If the government wants to send a message that killing is wrong, how can it convey the same by killing a person and ignoring their own laws?

WHAT CAN BE DONE TO STOP THIS ISSUE?

Solution

Find an alternative for the death penalty.

Course of action

Countries should use life imprisonment.

why is this the solution?

If the government wants to use an effective, humane way to punish the convicted, it is to let them reflect on their mistakes all their life instead.

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The Digital Divide of Education By Charis Chrisanthou

Since the rise of the coronavirus back in March 2020, many individuals have been relying on the internet to complete daily tasks. For example, students using platforms like zoom or teams to join their lessons, or adults working full time from home. This was and continues to be a huge change for everyone to have to adapt to so quickly and be expected to do so successfully. For students, who have immediate access to technology and are familiar with it, this is an easy transition. However, for young people who do not have access to technology this proves to be near impossible.

As students who attend a private school, it is safe to say everyone is familiar and some would say we even rely on technology in our daily lives. This made transitioning online during the rise of the coronavirus quite a simple task in terms of the accessibility and experience using the internet. However, in countries which suffer majorly from poverty, children who have little to no access to technology and internet are being restricted from a fulfilled education. This is not only in impoverished countries but also in first world countries with families that are less fortunate.

The global digital divide is a problem I feel is not talked about, addressed, or acknowledged enough for its severity and issues it can cause. Students who do not have access to technology could isolated socially from their fellow peers and could have a severe lack of communication causing misunderstandings especially during these times where everyone is relying on technology. Currently, many schools are actively trying to incorporate more technology into their teaching which previously could have proved an issue for students' which families who cannot afford the latest technology or internet, but especially now during Covid.

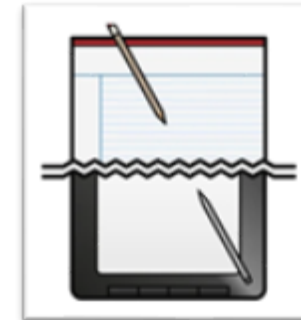
Studies conducted by UNESCO, show that only 55% of households globally have access to the internet and in poorer countries this percentage drops drastically to below 20%. Now, this divide even affects gender, with data from the internet portal World stats showing that 52% of women and 42% of men are affected globally. This may sound like a small difference but when on a scale such as the entire world this is a difference of millions of individuals without access. For students during this time, this is a make-or-break issue for their future, stretching the gap between economic and social differences bigger as low-income families do not have the funds to support their children to have a better future.

This issue is a major global concern, especially at this time with online work and school going on, which I think should be talked about more and made aware of to more people who don't experience it. As by bringing it to the surface, solutions for the ongoing divide which shows to be a larger gap than many realise.

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THE LAW THAT PUT US A THOUSAND YEARS IN THE FUTURE IS NOW DEAD

By Michael Atiyah

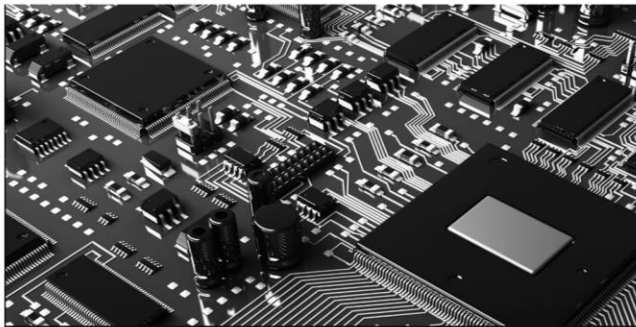
WHAT'S NEXT?

Moore's law is not a law of nature in the way gravity is nor is it a law of man the way traffic lights are. It is an observation that has guided our development for 60 years and thrown us a thousand years in the future.



In 1965, Gordon Moore made a simple observation: He said that the number of transistors on a microprocessor chip will double roughly every two years. The impact of this cannot be understated, our entire technological world runs on this principle. We have mapped galaxies made machines that can move at hundreds of miles per hour and created digital worlds indistinguishable from reality under this law. However, this is coming to an end.

None of it was inevitable; the world's chipmakers deliberately decided to stay on this track. Software developers made applications that were harder and harder on existing computers, customers wanted more and more power. The result has been smaller and smaller transistors until the point where they reach Heisenberg's uncertainty principle. This means that electrons can pass easily through transistors negating their purpose and ruining the computer. The upshot of this is that we will have to stop shrinking the size of transistors for them to still function. There is hope though. Quantum computers which are a new branch of computers that can handle significantly more complex



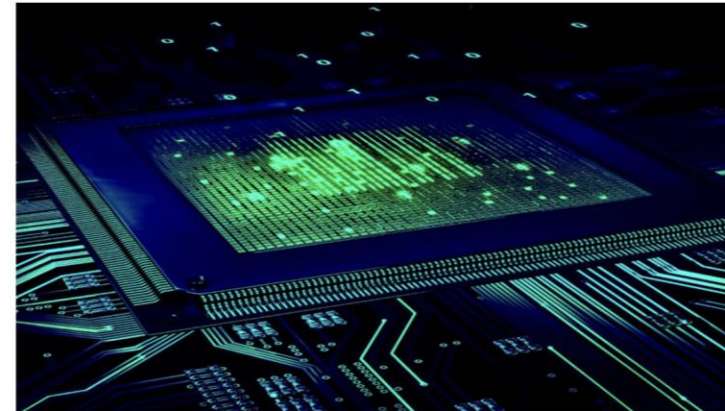
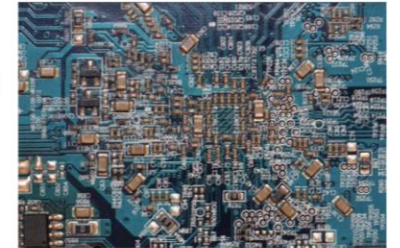
problems than regular super computers by creating complex multidimensional computing spaces which allows complex problems to be represented in different ways.

Another avenue in which developers are trying to bypass the death of

Moore's law is by using chips with specialized architecture for certain tasks and some people are even researching using cells or DNA as integrated circuits.

The lesson to take away from all this is that the rate at which technology develops will slow down greatly in the next few years and the solutions to this will take a long time to make commercially viable. This is not some far off phenomenon this is a real problem that will have large effects on the way we live our lives.

For the Senior School's GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES magazine, I'm Michael Atiyah signing off.



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Global chip shortage and how it affects car sales By Dimitris Hadjiconstantinou

The global chip shortage problem

Demand exploded to 20 percent year-over-year and disrupted supply chains created a very large gap ... and that exploding demand has persisted. While Intel expects production to ramp back up in 2023, he also believes the pandemic-driven push towards buying more computers and gaming hardware is here to stay. Xbox Series X and PS5, Engadget, "I'd like to say things have improved, but they actually have gotten a little bit worse, and I'm not surprised," O'Donnell, said in a recent interview with Engadget.

While it's an issue that affects practically everyone, the chip shortage has been particularly painful for gamers. The bill also includes \$190 billion towards improving American semiconductor R&D, all in the hopes of becoming more competitive with China, which dramatically boosted its chip production over the last decade. Today, millions of products - cars, washing machines, smartphones, and more - rely on computer chips, also known as semiconductors. Sales of used cars are up, for instance, because new vehicles, often packed with thousands of individual chips, are in short supply.

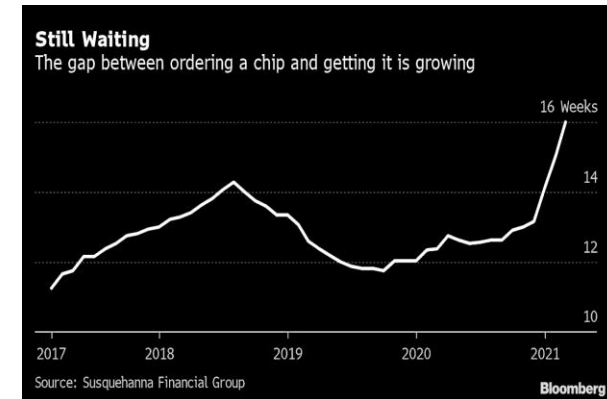
The chip shortage has delayed a new car for musician Kris Halpin. Thankfully, Mr Halpin says that Motability agreed to extend the lease and insurance on his current car until the new one arrives. In the coming months and, particularly over Christmas, it's possible that even more products will fall foul of the shortage. The chips that are in short supply perform various functions in modern products, and there are often more than one in a single device. But the suppliers say that some of the components he needs containing semiconductors will not be available for 12 months or more.

I think this whole mess of the chip shortage is a global issue because it affects the whole world and not just one country. If you went out to buy a new chip or car with a chip the storage is very limited.

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GLOBAL WARMING

By Lena Neophytou

Ever since the pre-industrial period Scientists have been observing the rising temperatures in the Earth's Climate. However, over the past decades it has been drastically increasing to a concerning extent. In 1950 the world's carbon dioxide emissions were at 6 billion tonnes which had quadrupled in by 1990, which is just 40 years later to 22 billion ton.



Many choose to ignore the issue as they don't feel responsible yet, the most prominent causes of Global Warming are industrialization, deforestation, urbanization and other human activities, these actions lead to an increase in greenhouse gasses which trap heat around the earth.



Scientists and specialists warn that if we don't do anything about it, there will be severe consequences.

As stated by an American politician: "Climate change is no longer some far-off problem; it is happening here; it is happening now."

Many people believe that the effects will only become a problem in the future, however many effects can already be seen. In the arctic sea levels have been rising due to changing weather conditions, If this continues happening, Countries close to the coast will start flooding soon. All around the world weather conditions have become more severe with wildfires, storms and droughts happening frequently.



Following the warnings of specialists, it is important to act now. You can help with small things such as recycling or reusing. It is also important to reduce waste and the use of electricity. This can be achieved by switching off plugs if they aren't used, don't leave lights on if you don't need them etc. Other suggestions include using public transport or walking instead of using the car and make use of renewable energy.

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Species going extinct By Simoni Georgiou

The fact that species keep going extinct causes many problems globally, nationally, and locally. Even though people notice that fact, they don't seem to do anything about it even though they have the power to help.

At least 100000 species go extinct every year in a rate of 0.01% a year, which is a large number of species in a very fast rate. Extinction of species causes loss of degradation of habitat over exploitation invasive species as well as climate change, nitrogen pollution and overconsumption. People are aware of this fact, but they are not doing anything about it, even though there are several courses of action that people can take. They could buy eco-friendly products, follow the 3-R rule (recycle, reuse, reduce), don't buy souvenirs made from endangered species or even spread awareness to the people around them to do the same. As the map highlights, Asian as well as South American countries have the highest numbers of endangered animals, with India, Brazil and Australia all featuring in the global top 10. Many people wonder what is going to happen if species keep going extinct in this rate. If a species has a unique function in its ecosystem, its loss can prompt cascading effects through the food chain, impacting other species and the ecosystem itself. willing to make a change.

Many people globally seem to not care about this issue, because they don't realize how much of a problem it is. They also don't think that it is going to affect them in any way, because there might not be many species going extinct near the area they live and that is why they might not take the necessary courses of action that might help with dealing with this issue. If we view this issue from a national perspective, we might see that people living in Asian or South American countries might be more interested in helping with this issue, as there are more species going extinct near the area they live in so they might feel more responsible, therefore they might be more willing to make a change.



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ENDANGERED SPECIES AND ANIMAL EXTINCTION

By Sophia Garrett

Nowadays, people are desensitized to the vitality of different sectors of our ecosystem, and the rate of extinction is rapidly increasing across all species, as a result. As defined by the Oxford Dictionary, extinction: “a situation in which a plant, an animal, a way of life, etc. stops existing.” However, extinction is not the only result of human destruction, endangered species are just as important.

The causes of extinction and endangerment are many. Firstly, the greatest threat to animals and plants are humans, as the population grows housing becomes a more crucial issue. Urbanization and processes like it cause our natural ecosystem to be destroyed and not rebuilt.

As our population grows our need for resources grows with it. One of these resources being food. As the rate of farming speeds up but the rate of planting does not, we are led to a shortage of resources. People can take only so many fish from the sea or cut down so many acres of forests without permanently damaging ecosystems and threatening species. For many species, this “overharvesting” may mean total extinction.

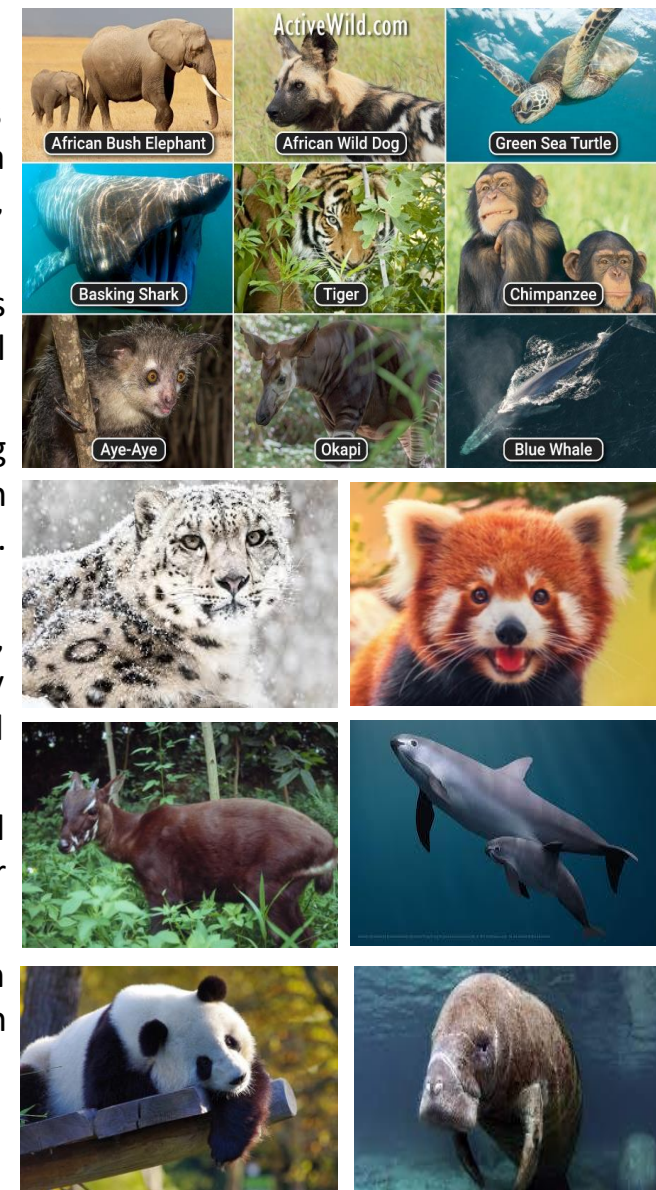
Deforestation, once again linked to overpopulation, causes destruction of habitats the places where plants, animals, and other organisms live. When species no longer have a habitat in which to thrive their kind dies out, and so do any animals that need those animals to thrive. For example, if a worm's habitat is destroyed, the birds which eat them will also suffer consequently.

Lastly, an incredibly important cause of extinction is pollution. Phenomena such as acid rain, oil spills and overconsumption of nonrecyclable materials are massive factors in the destruction of our planet and subsequently our ecosystem. Acid rain kills off species rapidly, oil spills poison marine life and plastic pollution kills animals everywhere.

Despite all this, we are not entirely doomed. There are ways we can prevent the extinction of various species. Even though it is important for big corporations to do their part in saving our planet and ecosystem, we can also help, on an individual level. Here are some simple things YOU can do that will make an immediate difference!

- Reduce your home's chemical waste and use organic products when possible.
- Start recycling all waste possible i.e. plastics, glass, paper, and metals, and even composting organic waste.
- Plant native vegetation which attracts pollinators in your yard and promotes plant growth and reproduction.
- And finally, report any harassment of threatened and endangered species.

You should care about endangered species because, Plants and animals maintain the health of our ecosystem. When a species becomes endangered, it is a sign that an ecosystem is out of balance.



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Why are Irrawaddy dolphins becoming extinct?

By Stephanie Poullikka



The Irrawaddy dolphins lack the characteristic beak and streamlined head of most dolphins, instead having a blunt snout and a high, rounded forehead. They live for 30 years, however they have been declining for about 50 years due to pollution, incidental injuries, careless captures and the decrease of wild fish which is what they live on.

With the Irrawaddy dolphins going extinct (them being an indicator of a healthy river ecosystem), this would be a sign of bad care to the animals and nature which is a potentially devastating decline of resources on earth. Moreover, this may lead to problems in the economy as Irrawaddy dolphins are a main focus of marine tourism in Southeast Asia, so being no Irrawaddy dolphins could mean no tourists and Southeast Asia may be left with issues to do with the economy and money income.

There are multiple ways of preventing this from happening, or even slowing their extinction down, however many would have to take part, even people not living in a local area to Irrawaddy dolphins. In conclusion, everyone would have to work together as this is a world where we all live on and have to care for, so recycling waste, using transport which pollutes the planet less such as bikes instead of cars, or even being more careful to not cause incidental catches of creatures in the ocean as fish, cephalopods and crustaceans which are what the Irrawaddy feed on and are slowly starting to run out.



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Polar Bears

By Olga Zachariades



- Polar bears are a hyper carnivorous bear whose native range lies largely within the Arctic Circle, encompassing the Arctic Ocean, its surrounding seas and surrounding land masses. It is the largest type of bear species, as well as the largest extant land carnivore. A polar bear (adult male) weighs around 350-700kg (770-1,540 Lb.), while a sow (adult female) is about half that size. Although it is the (sister species) of the brown bear, many body characteristics are adapted for cold temperatures, for moving across snow, for ice and open water, and for hunting seals, which makes up most of its diet. Although most polar bears are born on land, they spend most of their time on the sea ice. Their scientific name means "maritime bear" and derives from this fact.
- Polar bears hunt their preferred food of seals from the edge of sea ice, often living off fat reserves when no sea ice is present. Because of their dependence on the sea ice, polar bears are classified as marine mammals. Because of expected habitat loss caused by climate change, the polar bear is classified as a quite vulnerable species. For decades, large-scale hunting raised international concern for the future of the species, but populations rebounded after controls and quotas began to take effect. For thousands of years, the polar bear has been a key figure in the material, spiritual, and cultural life of circumpolar peoples, and polar bears remain important in their cultures.
- Historically, the polar bear has also been known as the "white bear". Due to human threats ranging from global warming to oil and gas drilling, this habitat and food sources are at risk. The IUCN Red List notes the polar bear is vulnerable the last step before it becomes officially endangered. If polar bears become extinct, we will have no balance in biological populations, and we won't have a well-functioning eco system. What we can do to help is to try carpooling or biking to work. Transportation is a leading cause of greenhouse gas emissions and making your daily commute a little greener will go a long way towards a healthy environment. By starting a charity fundraiser for a nonprofit that helps the environment and choose an organization whose mission we support. Lastly, we could all consider how our diet impacts the planet, we could reduce our consumption of animal products.

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