

A Report from the Field: How Climate Education Is Being Taught in the U.S.





Meet Your Presenter



Katie Worth
Investigative Reporter





COLUMBIA
GLOBAL
REPORTS

MISEDUCATION

How Climate Change

Is Taught in America

KATIE WORTH

What is it like to grow up in a place that's going away?

Source: PBS FRONTLINE



What is it like to grow up in a place that's going away?





www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/interactive/the-last-generation

My name is Izerman.





www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/interactive/the-last-generation

HOW IS CLIMATE CHANGE TAUGHT IN AMERICA?

...

some numbers to think about

AVERAGE SCHOOL DAY IN AMERICA

3 million teachers

50 million children

100,000 public schools

Source: National Center for Ed. Statistics

U.N.: 1/4 of American kids aged 14-17 reject the idea of a climate crisis.

Source: "The People's Climate Vote," UNDP and U. of Oxford, 2021.

Most science teachers spend between 0 and 2 hours a year on climate change.

Source: Plutzer, National Center for Science Education et al, 2019

A third of teachers say they tell their students that "many scientists believe" recent climate change is natural

Two thirds of teachers say they teach it as a debate 🤔

97 PERCENT OF CLIMATE SCIENTISTS AGREE
THAT HUMANS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
RECENT PLANETARY WARMING



100 PERCENT OF
CLIMATE SCIENTISTS
(WITH PEER
REVIEWED PAPERS
PUBLISHED IN 2019)
AGREE THAT HUMANS
ARE RESPONSIBLE
FOR THE RECENT
PLANETARY
WARMING!!!



SOURCE: James Powell, "Scientists Reach 100% Consensus on Anthropogenic Global Warming," *Bulletin of Science, Technology & Society*, November 20, 2019.

Global Warming

- work on chunk...
- practice their skills
- plan for coming sp...



In this chapter I think...
Predicting
Inferring

In my mind I see...
Visualizing

This is important because...
Determining
Importance

Parts of Speech

noun: verb: adjective:

interjection: preposition:

adverb: conjunction:

pronoun:

Building Words with Prefixes and Suffixes

Prefix	Suffix
anti-	-able
dis-	-ful
in-	-less
mis-	-ly
non-	-ness
re-	-ous
sub-	-tion
super-	-ward
trans-	-wise
under-	-worthy
un-	-ness
up-	-ness
us-	-ness
us-	-ness
us-	-ness
us-	-ness



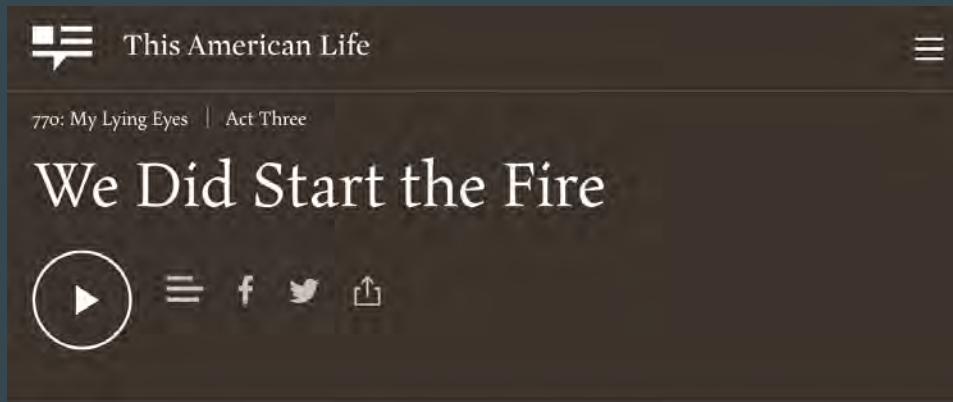


FIRE IN PARADISE



SUBSCRIBE

www.youtube.com/watch?v=F3OX1PR2SCM



The screenshot shows a dark-themed podcast player interface. At the top left, there is a logo consisting of three horizontal lines and a speech bubble, followed by the text 'This American Life'. At the top right, there is a hamburger menu icon. Below the header, the text '770: My Lying Eyes | Act Three' is displayed. The main title 'We Did Start the Fire' is prominently featured in a large, white serif font. Below the title, there is a play button icon inside a circle, followed by a hamburger menu icon, a Facebook 'f' icon, a Twitter bird icon, and a share icon.



Sometimes even when you live through something, it can be hard to see it for what it is. Reporter Katie Worth has a story about a 7th-grader in that position. (15 minutes)

Katie reported this story for the PBS series [Frontline](#) and the [Ground Truth Project](#). She is the author of the book [Miseducation: How Climate Change Is Taught In America](#).

By [Katie Worth](#); Produced by [Chris Benderev](#)

Song: ["You Can't Pull the Wool Over my Eyes"](#) by Mike Penny and his Moonshiners

www.thisamericanlife.org/770/my-lying-eyes/act-three-11



231

Handicap parking sign

Handicap parking sign

LET'S GROW SCIENCE 7

- 2
- 5
- 4

PARADISE
CHOOSE
ATTITUDE
OF
RATITUDE

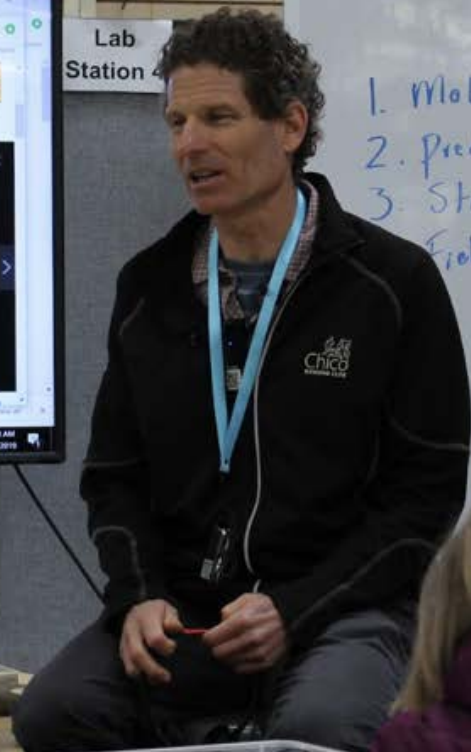








Lab Station 4



This American Life

770: My Lying Eyes | Act Three

We Did Start the Fire

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HOW DID IT GET TO BE THIS WAY?

WHAT THINGS INFLUENCE CLIMATE EDUCATION IN AMERICA?

- STATE GOVERNMENT
- MONEYED INTERESTS
- ACADEMIC STANDARDS
- INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS
- PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS
- RELIGIOUS INTERESTS
- LOCAL GOVERNANCE
- PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
- THE FOSSIL FUEL INDUSTRY
- ENTRENCHED IDEOLOGIES
- TEXTBOOK PUBLISHERS
- DISINFORMATION CAMPAIGNS

This American Life

770: My Lying Eyes | Act Three

We Did Start the Fire

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What does a good climate education look like?

IT'S REAL

IT'S US

IT'S BAD

THERE'S
HOPE

INTREPID TEACHERS



Partnering with Philadelphia teachers to inspire climate action

Bethany Wiggin, founder of the Penn Program in Environmental Humanities, is working with public high school teachers across Philadelphia to incorporate climate education into the classroom.



INTREPID STUDENTS AND PARENTS!!!



Philly teens are sharing their climate change stories

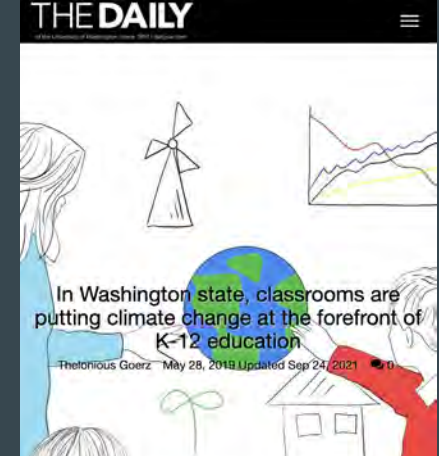
High schoolers from around the city are talking about hot classrooms, devastating storms, and the convergence of climate change and inequity.

By Sophia Schmidt · October 13, 2022



"Climate change is a threat to my future," says 12-year-old June Guthrie, shown here in 2017 with dad Park and siblings Kai and Lola. Wildfires near the family's home in California helped spur Park Guthrie to get kids and teachers working on climate change issues. (Kristan Klingelhofer)

SUCCESSFUL ADVOCACY FOR REAL CHANGE



Pa. hasn't updated science education standards since 2002. New plan would be first to acknowledge climate change

The standards, which haven't been updated since 2002, would overhaul what students are supposed to learn in Pa. science classrooms.

By Avi Wolfman Arent · September 15, 2020



Wilmer can recite them by name.

SCROLL OR USE YOUR KEYBOARD TO CONTINUE

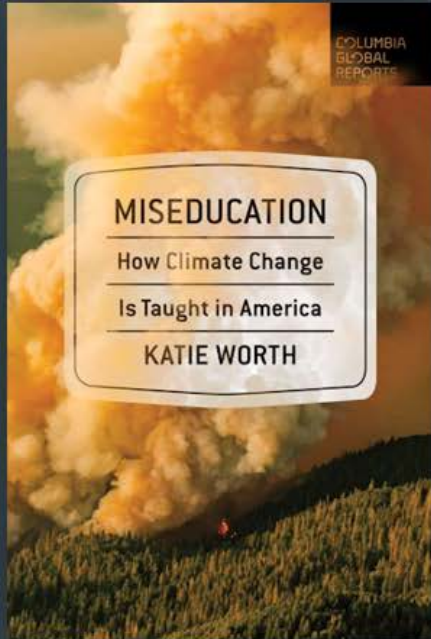




www.pbs.org/wgbh/frontline/interactive/the-last-generation



Other Resources from Katie Worth



- 💧 [Miseducation: How climate change is taught in America \(Nov., 2021\)](#)
- 💧 [Why Climate Change Is a Tough Topic to Teach](#)
- 💧 [We Did Start the Fire](#)



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FREE Playbook

A Playbook for Launching a
District-Wide Sustainability
Initiative

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#StompOutCarbon

Questions? Thoughts? Opinions? Insights?

