

## Debating climate change in schools

Use this reading to inspire debate. Suggested debating points are on the following page.

### How can one sell the air?

How can one sell the air  
or buy the warmth of the earth?

It is difficult for us to imagine.

If we don't own the sweet air  
or the bubbling water,  
how can you buy it from us?

Each hillside of pines shining in the sun,  
each sandy beach and rocky river bank,  
every steep valley with bees humming  
or mists hanging in dark woods,  
has been made sacred by some event  
in the memory of our people.

We are part of the earth  
and the earth is part of us.

The fragrant flowers are our sisters;  
the reindeer, the horse,  
the great eagles, are our brothers.

The foamy crests of waves in the river,  
the sap of meadow flowers,  
the pony's sweat and the man's sweat  
are one of the same thing.

So when the Great Chief in Washington  
sends word he wants to buy all these things,  
we find it hard to understand.

By Chief Seattle, 1854, extract from a speech.

## To encourage debate, use these statements:

1. Trees are members of our community.
2. It's the job of people like us to stop climate change. Companies and governments don't need to do anything.
3. Protecting the planet for animals is more important than protecting it for humans.
4. If no one else is making sacrifices to save the environment, then it's ok for me not to.
5. Sometimes it's justified to use single-use plastics.

Everyone who produced this resource has volunteered their skills. Please tell us how you found it on: facebook [@LifeJackets Reading](#) or Twitter [@life\\_jackets\\_uk](#).

LifeJackets uses stories and poems to help children understand today's big questions.

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