

FOCUSED PRACTICE

1 JULY BREAKS RECORD

Read the article. Insert **a**, **an**, or **the** where necessary. If no article is needed, leave a blank.

July Breaks Worldwide Temperature Record

Global Warming

BY TRACI WATSON

WASHINGTON—July was the^{1.} world's warmest month on record, and 1998 is on track to become the^{2.} planet's hottest known year, data reported Monday shows.

—^{3.} ^{→ingeneral} temperatures in each of the past 15 months have broken global highs for that month. But July was distinctive in another way: Its average of 61.7 degrees Fahrenheit was more than half a degree higher than that of July 1997, the planet's previous warmest month, according to the National Climatic Data Center in Asheville, North Carolina. Scientists say the increase, 0.6 degrees, is unusually large.

"It would be hard to ignore that something's going on—and that something is global warming," Vice President Gore said Monday in announcing the data.

Last year was the hottest year measured since reliable data collection began in the late 1800s.

Gore has held a^{4.} series of news conferences to focus —^{5.} attention on —^{6.} global warming, one of his pet causes. And the weather is working in his favor.

A^{7.} ^{is a special wave} heat wave slammed North Texas with 29 consecutive days of triple-digit temperatures in July and August. the^{8.} ^{→درای} heat is blamed for 126 deaths in the state.

Heat in the^{9.} ^{استثنای} Middle East has killed 52 people and sickened hundreds, according to The Associated Press. Even Egyptians, used to toiling in the desert, have taken to working at night to avoid 100-degree daytime heat that has persisted for three weeks. Temperatures have hit 122 degrees in Kuwait, where pools have equipment to chill the water.

Temperatures soared to 100 in Paris on Monday, and even higher elsewhere in

Section 9

USA TODAY, Sunday, August 2, 1998

France. Locals and tourists splashed
10. in fountains near the Eiffel Tower and the Louvre.

Some scientists suspect that the new records are due partly to the El Niño weather phenomenon and partly to global warming. But a few say the higher temperatures are part of the normal climate cycle.

Most scientists agree that global warming, the gradual rise in worldwide temperature over the past century, is caused by so-called greenhouse gases. These gases are emitted by cars, factories, and
11. ^{→ general Noun} power plants. They rise into the
12. atmosphere and trap heat.

Some climate experts predict that

continued global warming could bring more floods, more droughts, and higher sea levels that would inundate coastal areas.

But scientists caution that it is impossible to link global warming to any given abnormal weather event.

Gore has long been one of the most prominent voices calling for action against global warming. He was the primary supporter in the White House of an international treaty to slow global warming that was written in December 1997 in Kyoto, Japan.

That treaty has been greeted with skepticism in the Senate, which must ratify it for the United States to take part.
13.

Copyright 1998, USA TODAY. Reprinted with permission.

2 DISASTERS

Here are some notable environmental disasters that have occurred in this century. Insert **a**, **an**, or **the** where necessary. Leave a blank where no article is required.

Disaster at Sea: Many Lives Lost

APRIL 16, 1912. The Titanic, a
 1. 2.
 British steamer, sank in the North
 3. Atlantic ocean last night after hitting an
 4. iceberg, disproving its builders' claims that it couldn't be sunk.

Partial Meltdown at Three Mile Island

On March 28, 1979, the worst
 5. nuclear accident ever to occur in the
 6. United States took place at the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor in Pennsylvania. the causes
 7. were an equipment failure and
 8. a human error, leading
 9. to a loss of coolant in the
 10. reactor and a partial
 11. meltdown of the reactor's
 12. nuclear core. the
 13. meltdown of the nuclear
 14. core could have been total. If the
 15. coolant hadn't been lost, the accident might
 16. not have happened.

Chernobyl Damage Wider Than Previously Reported

DETAILS ARE FINALLY EMERGING. On April 26, 1986,
an fires and explosions following an
 17. 18.
 unauthorized experiment caused the worst accident
 19. in the history of nuclear power at the nuclear power
 20. plant in Chernobyl, Ukraine.
 At least thirty-one people were killed in the known
 21. disaster itself, and a general radioactive material was released into
 22. the atmosphere. Approximately 135,000 people were evacuated from the vicinity. Scientists warned
 23. of a
 24.

MASSIVE OIL SPILL IN ALASKA

MARCH 24, 1989. the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* struck Bligh Reef in
 25. Prince William Sound, Alaska, tonight, causing the worst oil spill in
 26. a U.S. history. More than 10 million barrels of a general oil were
 27. 28. spilled, causing the death of a general many animals and resulting in
 29. a general great environmental damage. the captain of the
 30. 31. 32. *Valdez* was said to have been drinking in his cabin at the time of
 33. the accident, with the ship being piloted by the first
 34. 35. 36. mate, who was inexperienced. Exxon agreed to pay for the cost of
 37. cleaning up the spill. It was determined that the captain, rather
 38. 39. than the first mate, should have been piloting the vessel.
 40. 41.

Source: Some information taken from *The World Almanac and Book of Facts 1999* (Mahwah, NJ: Primedia Reference, 1998), pp. 228, 236.

3 EDITING

Read the following composition about genetic engineering and the environment. It contains twelve errors in the use of articles. Find and correct the errors. Some of the errors are made more than once.

Genetic Engineering and the Environment


People say we are now able to perform genetic engineering. I am against this for several reasons. First, it is dangerous to tamper with ~~the~~ nature because we don't know what will happen. We could upset the balance of ~~the~~ ^{ingeneral} nature. For example, people are against the mosquito because it carries ~~a~~ malaria. Suppose we change the DNA of the mosquito so that it will die off. That will stop ~~a~~ malaria, but it will upset the balance ^{of} ~~of~~ the nature because certain other species depend on the mosquito. If we destroy it, these other species won't be able to survive. This will have ^a ^{adj} serious effect on ^{the} ^{know} environment.

Second, genetic engineering will take away people's control over their own lives. Suppose scientists develop the capability to isolate ^{the} gene for violent behavior and they eliminate this gene from future generations. This may eliminate violence, but I believe that behavior is ^a matter of choice, and this type of genetic engineering will eliminate choice. It will make people behave as someone else has determined, not as they have determined, and it will take away ~~a~~ individual responsibility.


Third, genetic engineering will remove chance from our lives. Part of what makes ~~the~~ life interesting is unpredictability. We never know exactly how someone, or something, is going to turn out. It's fun to see what happens. As far as I am concerned, we should leave genetic engineering to ^{the} Creator. ^{= god → definite noun}

COMMUNICATION PRACTICE

4 LISTENING

 Read these statements. Then listen to the conversation between a husband and a wife.

1. a. The Indian tribe wants to kill all whales.
b. The Indian tribe wants to kill some whales.
2. a. The standoff is between all environmentalists and all Indians.
b. The standoff is between some environmentalists and some Indians.
3. a. The newspaper article supports the environmental point of view in general.
b. The newspaper article supports a particular environmental point of view.
4. a. The husband supports all Indians.
b. The husband supports a particular group of Indians.
5. a. The husband thinks the Indians should be able to kill all whales.
b. The husband thinks the Indians should be able to kill some whales.
6. a. The wife believes in saving some whales.
b. The wife believes in saving all whales.
7. a. The wife thinks it's cruel to hunt all whales.
b. The wife thinks it's cruel to hunt some whales.
8. a. Some cattle are domestic animals.
b. All cattle are domestic animals.
9. a. The wife thinks all whales are intelligent.
b. The wife thinks some whales are intelligent.
10. a. The husband thinks we should consider the viewpoint of all Indians.
b. The husband thinks we should consider the viewpoint of a particular group of Indians.

 Now listen again. Then circle the letter of the sentence that correctly conveys the information in the conversation.

5 DISCUSSION

First make a list of ways to solve the following environmental problems. Then discuss your solutions with a partner. Present your suggestions to the class.

- saving endangered animals
- improving air quality
- improving water quality
- disposing of garbage
- ensuring the supply of clean water

