

..... : A crisis in Northern Thailand

Lead in

In pairs discuss these questions:

climate change

floods

1) What are the main environmental problems in Northern Thailand?

drought

waste disposal

water pollution

air pollution

other

2) Which of the above have a negative impact on people's health? How?

3) Which are caused by human behaviour? How?

4) Which are getting worse / better? How? Why?

5) Which are annual problems? When do they happen?

Section 1 (0.00 - 0.33)

1) Watch the beginning of a documentary and complete the heading at the top of the page.

2) What do you see in the beginning part of the documentary?

Prediction 1

In pairs discuss what you think the documentary will be about. Then make a list of three things you think will be included in the video.

e.g. The main causes of air pollution in Northern Thailand.

Section 2 (0.33 - 1.54)

Watch the video and match the speakers to what they say.

1	Dr. Michael Shafer		A	"You can't see the countryside. The countryside is dry and horrible."
2	Dr. Wolfram Spreer		B	"... air pollution is the worst environmental pollution because we have no choice. We have to breathe."
3	Ricky Ward		C	"The particles are so small they embed themselves in our lungs."
4	Dr. Tippawan Prapamontol		D	"The burning season is terrible for the health of everyone it touches."
5	Sakada Darawan		E	"... if we look at a population in the millions and this risk is increased for everyone."
6	Dr. Rungsrit Kanjanavanit		F	"... anybody who is susceptible like sick people, children, elderly people. They have problems."

Section 3 (2.58 - 3.32)

- 1) What did Alice and Am both notice?
- 2) What did they do?

Section 4 (6.50 - 7.55)

Watch the video and match the speakers to what they say.

1	Dr. Peter Hoare		A	"It does become the most polluted place on earth."
2	Dr. Rungsrit Kanjanavanit		B	"Then suddenly you break through that and you're in bright sunshine."
3	Gordon Hirst		C	"You don't see the blue skies for six weeks..."
4	Leslie Junlakan		D	"It has never been as bad as last year."
5	Keegan Kennedy		E	"You can see that it's covered in a layer of grey, like a blanket covering our city."
6	Dr. Wolfram Spreer		F	"... everybody's coughing because they're not used to the smoke."

Section 5 (8.40 - 12.10)

- 1) For how long has the burning season been a problem?
- 2) Why has it become worse?
- 3) Does rice farming cause air pollution?
- 4) Which crops have increased in recent years?
- 5) What is 'contract farming'?
- 6) What does Dr Spreer say we need to focus on?

Prediction 2

In pairs discuss what the main problems are and what the possible solutions might be.

Problems	Solutions

Section 6 (12.27 - 13.50)

- 1) What is the Biochar kiln made from?
- 2) What is the purpose of the chimney?

Section 7 (14.15 - 17.46)

Before you watch read the statements and predict the order of the steps of the biochar kiln process. Put the numbers 1 - 8 in the first column. Then watch and check your answers.

	A	Remove the chimney.
	B	Put the chimney on the kiln.
	C	Leave the char to rest.
	D	Put out the fire.
	E	Light the fire and burn the agricultural waste.
	F	Put the char in the ground and mix it with manure.
	G	Fill the kiln with agricultural waste.
	H	Mix the char with soil or compost and use it.

Section 8 (17.47 - 22.04)

- 1) At what temperature do the gases burn?
- 2) What remains after the process?
- 3) Why is the biochar kiln a good solution?
- 4) What might the short-term solution be?
- 5) What are the disadvantages of growing corn?

Section 9 (23.46 - 24.37)

- 1) What does Dr. Michael Shafer mention as the 'costs' of the burning season?
- 2) Does Dr. Wolfram Spreer believe that there is a single solution?
- 3) What does he say about artificial rain?

Section 10 (25.28 - 26.00)

- 1) Is Rungsrit Kanjanavanit optimistic about solving this problem? Why? / Why not?

Prediction check

- 1) In pairs look back at your predictions 1 and 2. Did you predict correctly?
- 2) Was there anything you didn't write down in your predictions that you knew before watching the documentary?

Reflection

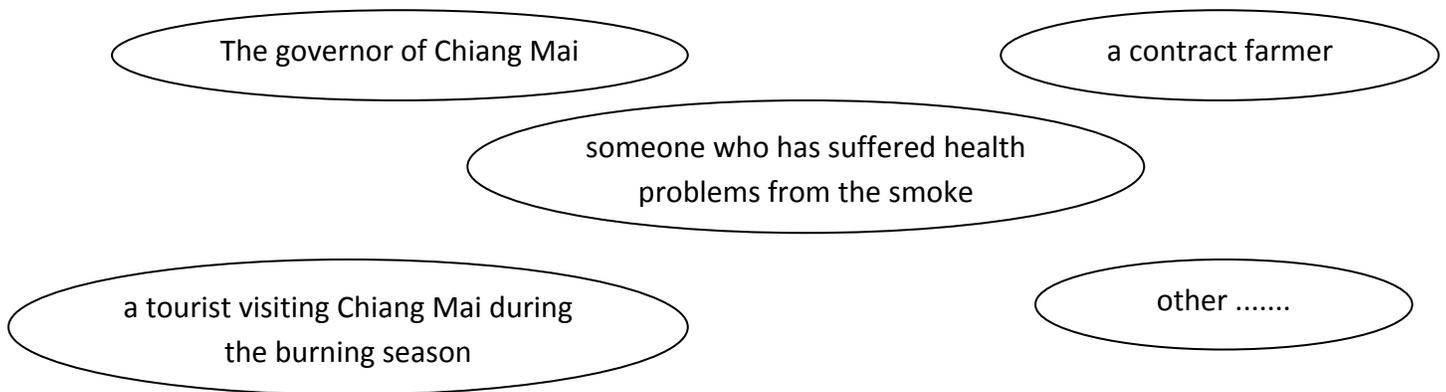
Talk in a small group and discuss your reactions to the documentary.

- 1) What did you think of the documentary? *I thought it was*
- 2) Did anything in the documentary surprise you? *The fact that surprised me.*
- 3) Is there anything else you'd like to know about this topic that wasn't covered in the documentary? *I'd like to know....*
- 4) Who do you think should watch the documentary? *Why? I think , because ...*
- 5) What do you think ordinary people can do to help solve this problem? *In my opinion ...*
- 6) What will you do to help solve this problem? *I will.... How about you?*

Follow on task

In small groups imagine that you are helping with the production of a follow up documentary on this topic.

- 1) Think of a person you would like to interview.



- 2) Write a list of questions that you would like to ask them in the interview. Make the questions relevant to the person you have chosen.

3) Work with a students from another group. Exchange questions and read your partners' questions and imagine you are the person who will be interviewed and think of answers to them. Ask and answer each others' questions.

Video link and more information: <http://smokethedocumentary.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/smokethedocumentary>