



In 2021, global leaders met in Glasgow, Scotland, for the **COP26** Climate Summit. For weeks, leaders across the world worked to come to an agreement to save the planet before it is too late.

Extreme weather events in 2021 **battered** and, quite literally, set fire to the world. In August, a powerful 7.2-magnitude earthquake hit Haiti, with at least 300 people dying and 1,800 others being injured. A deadly 5.6-magnitude earthquake also hit Pakistan in October, killing 20 people and injuring hundreds more.

2021 saw intense rains, causing cars and even buildings to float away in historic flash floods. Storm Aida with its 80 millimeters of rain in an hour led to New York City's first flash flood warning in September. In July, heavy rain **wreaked havoc** across parts of China, and in the same month in Europe, the continent saw the worst flood in decades.

2021 also had rare tornadoes in unusual places like Ontario, Canada, or Central Europe. Wildfires were also in climate news last year. Fires burned acres of land across the globe, and even the frozen **wastelands** of Siberia caught fire in the summer.

Difficult words: **COP** (Conference of the Parties) **batter** (to hurt or cause damage), **wreak havoc** (to cause widespread destruction), **wasteland** (a large area of undeveloped land, usually because it cannot be easily used).

Discussion Questions

Topic Talk

1. Define the following words: *batter*, *wreak havoc* and *wasteland*
2. Why did global leaders meet in Glasgow, Scotland in 2021?
3. Which countries in the world were hit by powerful and deadly earthquakes in 2021?
4. What caused widespread destruction across parts of China in July 2021?
5. What caused the first flash flood warning in New York City in September 2021?
6. What was unusual about the disaster that happened in Siberia last year?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Did you hear the news about the extreme weather events that battered the across the world in 2021?
2. Did any disasters wreak havoc across parts of your country in 2021? Please tell me more.
3. What do you believe accounts for the extreme weather conditions we've been experiencing these days?
4. Do you think it's high time we took the issue on climate change more seriously and did more efforts to solve it?