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Activity

Why did it snow in Texas?

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Read the Texas case study in **WIDELAND Vol. 33, No. 2**. This article explains the causes of unusual and extreme snowfall and low temperatures in Texas in February 2021 as well the impacts of this event.

Task 1

Categorise the **impacts** of this extreme weather event into social, economic and environmental. You will need to add a key and beware they may be some impacts that could fall into two categories.

Hundreds of car accidents due to snowy and icy conditions	Flights cancelled	Green sea turtles were paralysed and had to be rescued
High energy demand led to power cuts across the state affected 4.5 million people	Some cities experienced loss of water as water treatment plants loss power	Wind turbines froze and stopped creating energy

Task 2

Which of the 6 impacts above do you think is most significant? Justify your answer.

Task 3

Write a letter to President Joe Biden to explain the impact of climate change on the polar vortex and Texas. Encourage President Biden to take action to tackle climate change using facts from the article to support your points.

Teacher notes

Students should start by reading the article independently or as a class. This activity gives the opportunity for students to practise categorising impacts into social, economic and environmental before choosing and justifying which they believe is most significant. The final task asks students to write an emotive and persuasive letter to President Biden asking him to take more action on climate change.