

Inez Fung

Podcast Length: 15:47

Character Value: **Standing up for what is right**

Health Message: **Aerobic exercise & cardio fitness**

Synopsis

In this episode of the Walking Classroom, students learn about a famous climate expert and top female scientist, Dr. Inez Fung. Dr. Fung teamed up with other scientists to bring attention to climate change and work towards stopping our Earth from getting too hot for us to comfortably live. She believes that we need to understand how our behavior will affect the earth in the long-term and that what we do on land is connected to what's happening in the atmosphere.

Objectives

- Identify the key ways that Inez Fung helped us understand climate change.
- Understand how climate change is connected to our activities here on Earth and recognize that our behavior can affect the planet negatively.
- Understand why too many greenhouse gases make the earth get hotter.

Procedure

If you want to compare student comprehension before and after listening, administer the Comprehension Quiz before doing anything related to the podcast. Retest after walking.

1. Review key vocabulary (included definitions are limited to the context of today's podcast).
 - **climate (noun):** The weather conditions in an area over a period of time
She lived in a hot, dry climate where she had never seen snow, and it hardly ever rained.
 - **atmosphere (noun):** The air; the gases surrounding a planet
She had trouble breathing because the atmosphere was filled with pollution and smoke.
 - **greenhouse gases (noun):** Gases like carbon dioxide that trap heat in the atmosphere
Greenhouse gases make our planet warmer.
2. Build background by asking students, "Have you ever heard of anyone being a climate expert or studying global warming? Do you know what global warming is?"
3. (allow time for discussion)
4. Podcast preview: "Today we're going to learn more about a famous scientist named Dr. Inez Fung. She was one of the first women to study weather patterns and our atmosphere. Ready? Let's go!"
5. Walk!

Questions for Thought and Discussion

Upon return to the classroom, discuss the main ideas and content from the podcast using the questions and suggested answers below.

1. **What were some of the big ideas of this podcast?**
 - ✓ *Dr. Inez Fung believes that we need to understand how our behavior will affect the earth in the long-term.*
 - ✓ *What we do on land is connected to what's going on up in the atmosphere.*
 - ✓ *Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide trap heat. If there are too many of them in the earth's atmosphere, the planet will get too hot.*
2. **Dr. Fung wants ordinary people to understand her research. Why do you think it is important for us to know about climate change?**
 - ✓ *Suggestion: Dr. Fung wants us to understand how our behavior and everyday habits affect our planet. It's not just up to the lawmakers and scientists, ordinary citizens have to be involved and care too.*
3. **It's not often that everyone is in agreement with research and scientific findings.**
 - a. **Do you think that people or companies ever challenge Dr. Fung or try to ignore her research?**
 - ✓ *Suggestion: Companies and people that may be responsible for creating greenhouse gases may try to ignore her or say her research is wrong.*
 - b. **What character traits might Dr. Inez Fung possess that kept her from giving up even if her research is ignored?**
 - ✓ *Suggestion: Dr. Fung is a very determined individual that believes in what she is doing so much that she continues to work hard to share her research, even when things are difficult or others try to ignore her.*

Inez Fung Comprehension Quiz

Name: _____

Date: _____

1. Inez Fung studies
 - a. other planets
 - b. the oil industry
 - c. the atmosphere
2. Why does Inez Fung want us to pay attention to her research?
 - a. She believes that her work is better than other scientists' work.
 - b. She wants us to understand how our behavior affects our planet.
 - c. She is making discoveries that will affect future space travel.
3. Why is carbon dioxide building up in our atmosphere?
 - a. Burning fossil fuels is causing too much carbon dioxide to be released.
 - b. We are producing more carbon dioxide to help keep our Earth cool.
 - c. The more trees we plant, the more carbon dioxide is released.
4. Greenhouse gases...
 - a. are released by plants when they grow.
 - b. trap heat.
 - c. contribute to fossil fuels.
5. What would be the best word to describe Dr. Inez Fung?
 - a. determined
 - b. lazy
 - c. bashful
6. Why is Inez Fung considered to be a pioneer?
 - a. She was the first female PhD at MIT.
 - b. She was one of the first female scientists to explore climate change.
 - c. She has explored new territories and traveled to outer space.
7. Put the following events in the order in which they occurred. (1, 2, 3)
 - ____ People used too much fossil fuels, causing a buildup of carbon dioxide.
 - ____ The polar ice caps began to melt at a dramatic rate.
 - ____ Global warming occurs, causing the Earth's temperature to rise each year.
8. What is the best way that lawmakers could help solve climate change problems?
 - a. They could try to limit the amount of greenhouse gases that could be released.
 - b. They could try to destroy all carbon dioxide.
 - c. They could try to force everybody to destroy their cars.
9. Taking in oxygen while you exercise only affects your lungs.
 - a. true
 - b. false
10. Your heart helps pump oxygen throughout your body.
 - a. true
 - b. false