

Final FPC Earth Day Presentation April 2024

Being the Calm in the Eye of the Storm

FPC Earth Day Presentation
Facilitators: Terry & Barb Gillespie
April 21, 2024




Being the Calm in the Eye of the Storm
Peace ...when chaos is all around

It's warming, it's us, we're sure, it's bad, we can fix it.

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1970s Environmental Legislation

- National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (1969),
- Creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), (1970)
- Clean Air Act (CAA) (1970)
- Federal Water Pollution Control Act Amendments (CWA) (1972)
- Marine Mammal Protection Act (MMPA) (1972)
- Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) (1972)
- Endangered Species Act (1973)
- Coastal Zone Management Act (1972)
- Marine Protection Research and Sanctuaries Act (1972)
- Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (1976)
- Deepwater Ports and Waterways Safety Act (1974)
- Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (1974)
- Water Resources Planning Act (1977)
- Water Resources Research Act (1977)
- Environmental Quality Improvement Act (1970),
- Environmental Education Act.

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What happened in the 1980s?

Jay Turner, an associate professor of environmental studies at Wellesley, says the environment used to be a bipartisan issue. But then in the 1980s, something changed. Partly as a result of the energy crisis, during the 1970s, one political party started reversing policies on environmental protection to promote economic growth during the Reagan era. Also, a rejection of science began to emerge during this era and has increased into the Trump era.


YEAR	PRESIDENT	VICE PRESIDENT
1973-1974	Richard M. Nixon (R)	Gerald R. Ford
1974-1977	Gerald R. Ford (R)	Nelson Rockefeller
1977-1981	Jimmy Carter (D)	Walter F. Mondale
1981-1989	Ronald Reagan (R)	George Bush

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Aldo Leopold wrote that:
"One of the penalties of an ecological education is that one lives alone in a world of wounds."

While his words about this world of wounds are true, we should see this as a privilege, not a penalty.

We know from our sacred scriptures, history books, and from science that long after death and destruction, long after the end of worlds, the work of creation continues.

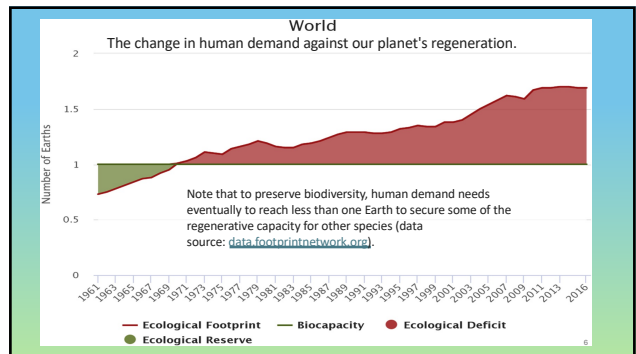


Resting Where God's Presence Unfolds Like the Piddhead Fern
©2015, FPC

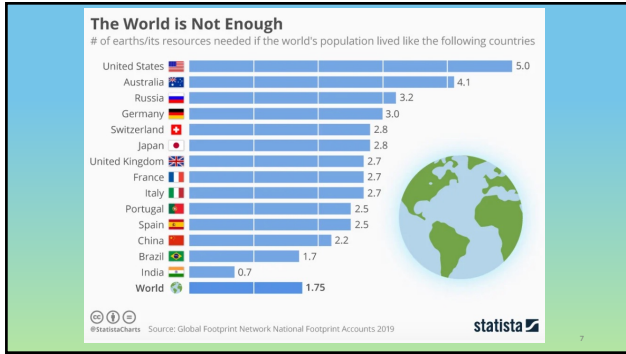
We can take heart in the wisdom of the Pirkei Avot, a collection of Jewish ethical writings that quote **Rabbi Tarfon** as having said:

"It is not your duty to finish the work, but neither are you at liberty to neglect it."

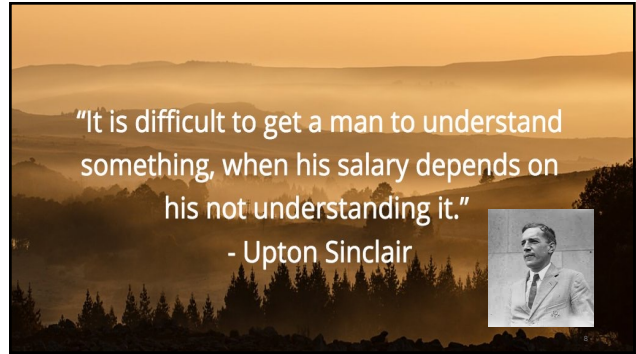
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"It is nearly impossible to get someone to understand what is collapsing their world and creating hell-on-Earth when the answer is their own civilization."

Michael Dowd

Michael interpreted additional biblical metaphors for his purpose of ecological advocacy. Primary among them was the need for humanity to break away from ecological destruction and to seek redemption as the "prodigal species" which was finally "coming home to Reality."

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Possible causes of a societal collapse include:

- natural catastrophe
- war
- pestilence
- famine
- economic collapse
- population decline
- overshooting carrying capacity
- climate change
- mass migration
- sabotage by rival civilizations

The average lifespan of a civilization is 336 years.

30 Past Civilizations

A collapsed society may revert to a more primitive state, be absorbed into a stronger society, or completely disappear.

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OVERSHOOT
The Ecological Basis of Revolutionary Change

"Humanity is locked into stealing ravenously from the future. That is what this book is about."

"A major aim is to show that commonly proposed 'solutions' for problems confronting us are actually going to aggravate those problems."

"In order to truly understand our predicament and not make things worse, we need a clear-headed ecological interpretation of history."

William R. Catton, Jr
Foreword by Stewart Udall

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"Our core ecological problem is not climate change. It is overshoot, of which global warming is a symptom."

Richard Heinberg

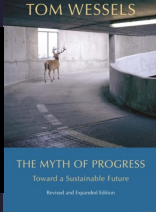
Richard is Senior Fellow of Post Carbon Institute, and is regarded as one of the world's foremost advocates for a shift away from our current reliance on fossil fuels. He is the author of fourteen books, including some of the seminal works on society's current energy and environmental sustainability crisis.

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Ecologically Overshooting Carrying Capacity

"Carrying capacity can be defined as the maximum population size that an ecosystem can support without being degraded in some fashion."

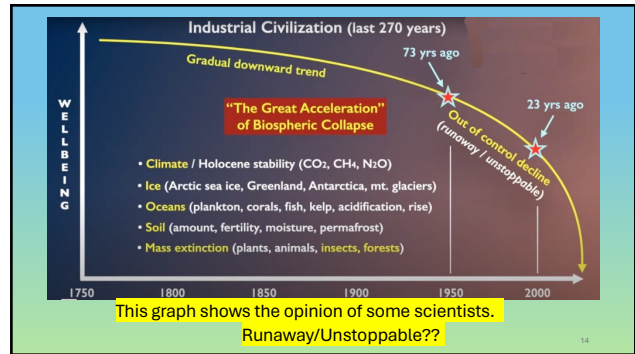
~ Tom Wessels, The Myth of Progress



TOM WESSELS

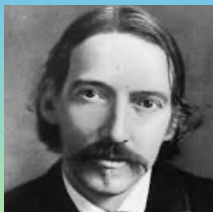
THE MYTH OF PROGRESS
Toward a Sustainable Future
Revised and Expanded Edition

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"Everyone sooner or later sits down to a banquet of consequences."



Robert Louis Stevenson

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Biodiversity is the variety of different forms of life on earth, including the different plants, animals, micro-organisms, the genes they contain and the ecosystem they form. It refers to genetic variation, ecosystem variation, species variation (number of species) within an area, biome or planet.

The Footprint of Biodiversity corresponds to the **negative impact of economic activity on ecosystems**, mainly terrestrial and marine organisms.

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Importance of Biodiversity

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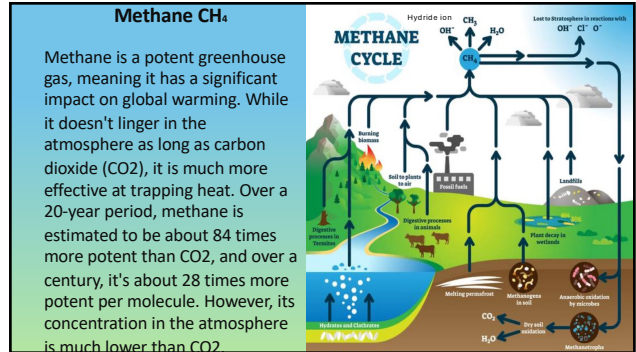
What is Carbon Footprint ?

The carbon footprint (or greenhouse gas footprint) serves as an indicator to compare the total amount of greenhouse gases emitted from an activity, product, company or country. Carbon footprints are usually reported in tons of emissions (CO₂-equivalent) per unit of comparison; such as per year, person, kg protein, km traveled and alike. For a product, its carbon footprint includes the emissions for the entire life cycle from the production along the supply chain to its final consumption and disposal.

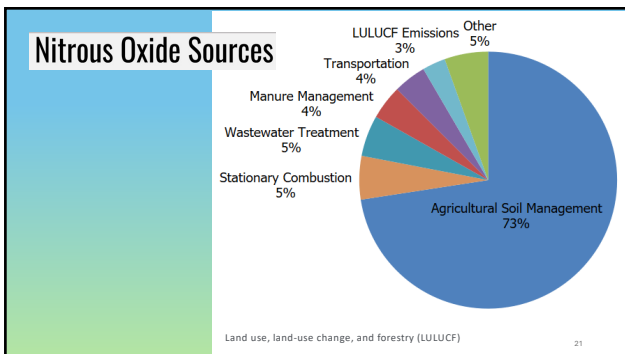
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A carbon footprint is the amount of greenhouse gases that are generated by our actions: (seven greenhouse gases covered by the Kyoto Protocol – carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), nitrous oxide (N₂O), hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), perfluorocarbons (PCFs), sulfur hexafluoride (SF₆) and nitrogen trifluoride (NF₃).
The average carbon footprint for a person in the United States is 16 metric tons/yr, one of the highest rates in the world.

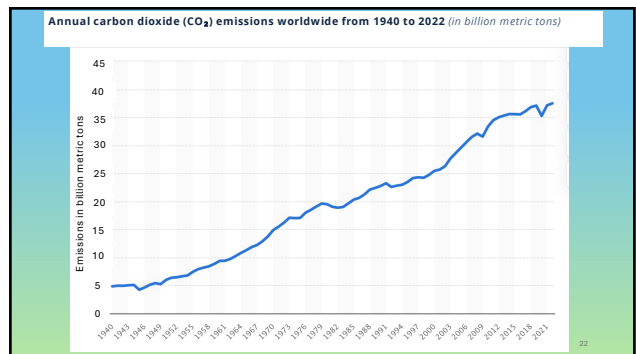
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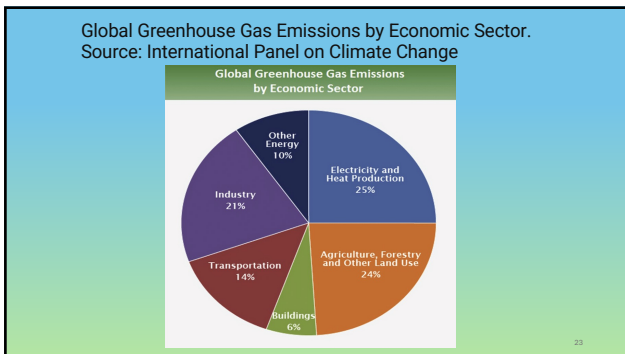
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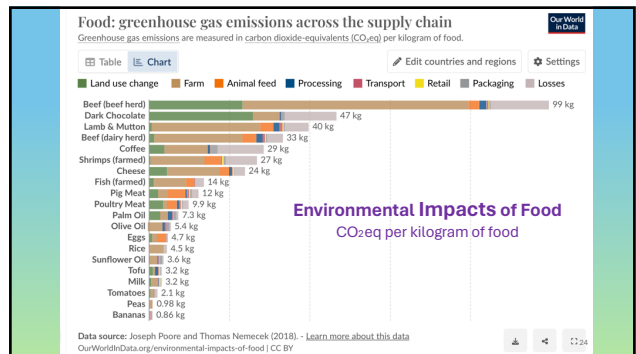
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Meat production significantly contributes to the release of greenhouse gases including carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide.

Beef is more resource-intensive to produce than most other kinds of meat, and animal-based foods overall are more resource-intensive than plant-based foods. Beef requires 20 times more land and emits 20 times more GHG emissions per gram of edible protein than common plant proteins, such as beans.

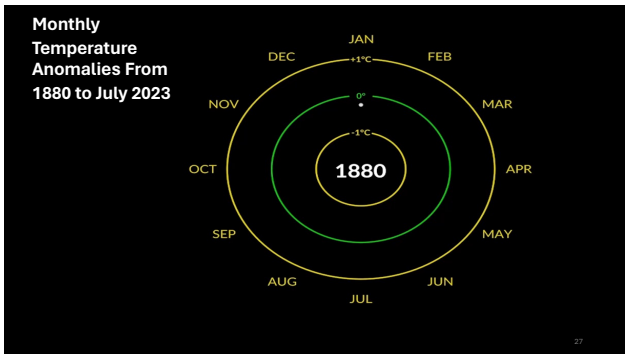
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Social and Economic Impact Of Climate Change

- The cost of adapting coastal areas to rising sea levels
- Relocation of whole towns
- Shrinking productivity of harvests
- Loss of the capacity to work due to heat
- Prices of basic foodstuffs and consumer goods will rise
- Extreme meteorological phenomena will cause widespread poverty
- More wars to gain access to limited resources
- Fresh water will be in short supply in some areas
- Diseases will spread due to higher temperatures

IBERDROLA For you. For the planet. ECONOMY AND CLIMATE CHANGE (More articles about Sustainability)

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Under the Sky We Make: How to Be Human in a Warming World

Kimberly Nicholas PHD

It's warming, it's us, we're sure, it's bad, we can fix it.

We basically have the tech we need to stabilize the climate.

We need to clarify our values and shift our mindsets and actions in line with what the science tells us is necessary to stop climate and ecological breakdown and preserve humanity.

To face the climate crisis, we need to harness facts, feelings, and action."

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Climate Change Isn't Fair

Climate pollution is distributed extremely unfairly. Overall, the United States and Europe, high-income individuals, and people alive in the last four decades have polluted way more than their fair share.

Both individual and collective actions, in both private and professional life, are needed to reduce emissions toward zero fast.

Everyone's personal climate budget needs to be 2.5 tons per year by 2030. This will require both system change to meet human needs without producing climate pollution, and eliminating overconsumption (lifestyle changes) for high emitters.

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So, we just touched on an **ecocide reality check** (destruction of the natural environment by deliberate or negligent human action).

Where do we go from here???????

- Change our priorities and behaviors among individuals and communities
- Denial
- Hide Somewhere
- flexibility, tolerance, acceptance, kindness, compassion
- Acceptance of our predicament but with compassion for each other

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Face Your Fears

The work of facing and ultimately coming to terms with climate reality can be understood in five nonlinear stages.

1. **Ignorance**- This is the state we all start in.
2. **Avoidance**- a mechanism to cope with feeling of overwhelmed
3. **Doom**- grief, despair, anger- These feelings are normal when facing the stark reality of the climate crisis.
4. **All the Feels**- acknowledge and tolerate your feelings, mindfulness, build up physical health, healthy eating, music, wine, laughter and tears with BFFs
5. **Purpose**- "the north star", achieving your goal- Your core values set the direction you think is right. Pursuing purpose is part of achieving meaning.

Building and cultivating a supportive community is a key strategy to boost your capacities and increase your resilience.

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Principles of Regenerative Agriculture

The diagram consists of a circle divided into six segments, each with an icon and a label:

- Top-left: Keep soil covered (with a tree icon)
- Top-right: Integrate Livestock (with a cow icon)
- Right: Increase Diversity (with a plant icon)
- Bottom-right: Minimize soil disruption (with a soil profile icon)
- Bottom-left: Maintain Living Roots (with a tree root icon)
- Left: (with a tree icon)

 A logo for 'REGENERATIVE AGRICULTURE' is in the bottom right corner of the diagram.

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Regenerative agricultural practices strive to achieve the well-being of our ecosystem by boosting soil health, water resources, soil organic carbon sequestration, and biological diversity. Regenerative farming is a framework of agricultural principles that can reduce the harmful impact of industrial agribusiness.

Instead of relying on tilling, regenerative farming practices focus on keeping the soil covered with vegetation and natural materials through mulching, cover crops, and pastures. Increased plant diversity. Diversity is an essential component in building healthy soils that retain excess water and nutrients.

Regenerative agriculture focuses on improving the health of soil, which has been degraded by the use of heavy machinery, fertilizers and pesticides in intensive farming.

A system of farming principles and practices that increases biodiversity, enriches soils, improves watersheds, and enhances ecosystem services.

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The personal actions that cut climate pollution fast are to fly less, car-free, and meat-free. Start with the one that feels most feasible for you.

Climate privilege means the more power and privilege I have, the more responsibility I need to take. Others having even more responsibility does not absolve me of my own.

Change happens by internalizing the urgency of the climate crisis and accepting personal responsibility, along with seeing others around us take action. Walking the talk is important.

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Making Meaning in a Warming World

Meaning is created from actions and relationships that align with our core values.

- giving
- care taking
- kindness
- seeing self as part of what's around us
- mattering to others
- community
- empathy and compassion
- lives of loved ones matter
- lives of those we have not met do matter
- help others to be more resilient
- concern for world
- living ethically and responsibly

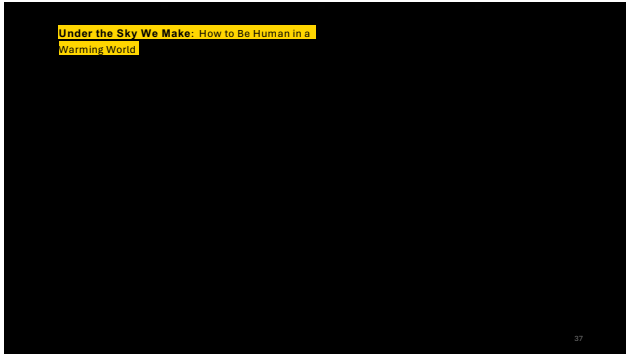
The diagram shows four quadrants around a central circle labeled 'CORE VALUES'. The quadrants are:

- COMMUNITY: Building relationships, supporting one another, and creating a sense of belonging.
- ADAPTABILITY: Embracing change, learning from experience, and being open to new ideas.
- INCLUSIVITY: Valuing diverse perspectives, creating space for all voices, and fostering belonging.
- INTEGRITY: Acting with honesty, transparency, and consistency between words and actions.

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- reduce consumption
- spend more time enjoying music, nature, more naps, read instead of consuming carbon
- what is enough, sufficient is enough - Sweden
- care less about the things we don't need
- work with purpose
- change in the community system
- protecting people and nature
- identify what you enjoy doing, fun, valuable
- never stop asking what you should do when you grow up
- all jobs must be environmentally compatible
- support environmentally friendly industries
- sustainable living
- Managing family size (ZPG)
- understand the facts of the world, reality
- all people of equal worth

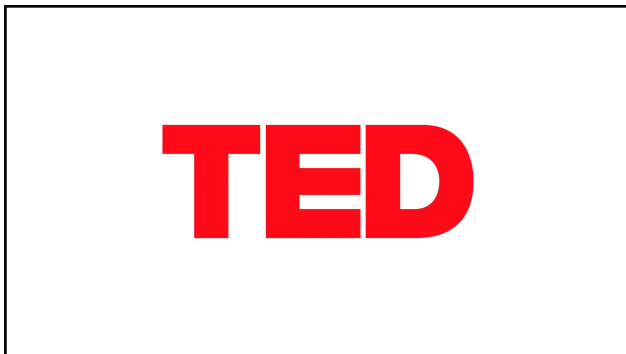
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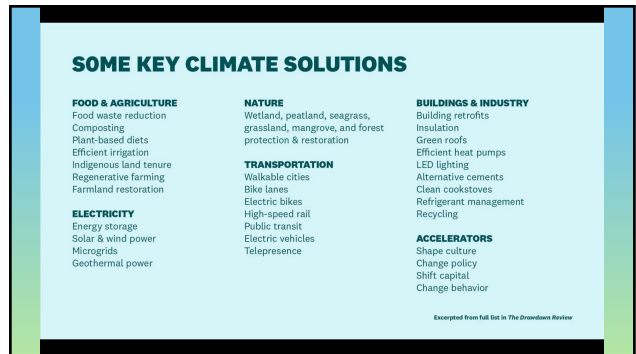
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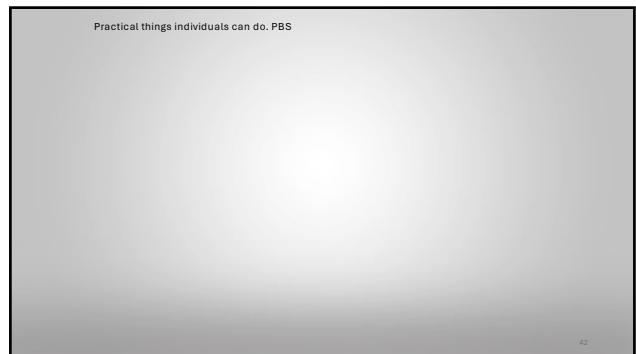
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A Statement of Wisdom

Live life fully, love the life you live, and be the biggest blessing to others that you can, for as long as you can. This is the key to experiencing joy independent of circumstances.

Michael Dowd

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Serenity Prayer secular version

Grant me the Serenity to
Accept the things I cannot change,

Courage to change the things I can,
And Wisdom to know the difference.

Living one day at a time,
Enjoying one moment at a time.
Accepting hardship as the pathway to Peace.

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**Discussion
Time**

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