

# Climate activists dump charcoal in famous fountain in Rome

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Climate change activists from a group called Ultima Generazione (Last Generation) turned the Trevi Fountain's water in Rome black on Sunday. They used diluted charcoal to change the color. The group did this to protest against climate change and make people think about the dangers of using fossil fuels, such as coal, oil, and gas. Burning these fuels is bad for our environment because they contribute to global warming.

The protestors also referred to recent deadly floods in a part of Italy called Emilia Romagna, saying these types of disasters are happening because of climate change. They were arrested by police for what they did to the fountain.

Officials in Rome were upset about what happened. They said that it was wrong to damage a famous place that many people love to visit. The Mayor of Rome said it would take a lot of time, effort, and water to clean the fountain and restore it back to normal.

This is not the first time these activists have put charcoal in famous fountains. They've done it twice before to other fountains in Rome. Their message is that they want the government to take more action to deal with climate change. Other groups agree, saying Italy isn't ready to handle the problems that climate change can cause, like more floods.

The Trevi Fountain is special because people throw coins into it, and this ensures that they will come back to Rome one day. The coins are collected and given to a charity that helps people. So, the act of the activists could also affect the collection for the charity.

## Comprehension Questions:

1. Why did the climate change activists change the water of the Trevi Fountain black?

- a) To celebrate a holiday.
- b) To protest against climate change.
- c) To clean the fountain.
- d) Because they dislike the fountain.

2. What do the activists want people to think about when they see the black water?

- a) The beauty of charcoal.
- b) The importance of cleaning fountains.
- c) The history of the fountain.
- d) The dangers of using fossil fuels.

3. What do the activists believe is causing disasters like the floods in Emilia Romagna?

- a) Careless people.
- b) Climate change.
- c) Broken dams.
- d) Bad luck.

4. Why were the officials upset about the incident?

- a) Because they thought it was a waste of charcoal.
- b) Because the black water scared tourists away.
- c) Because the charcoal could hurt the fish in the fountain.
- d) Because they believed it was wrong to damage a beloved site.



5. What is a consequence of the activists's actions at the Trevi Fountain?
- People may stop visiting Itali.
  - The government might decide to shut down all fountains.
  - The fountain might require a lot of effort to restore.
  - The fountain might permanently remain black.
6. What do the activists want from the government?
- More public fountains.
  - More action to deal with climate change.
  - To stop the use of all fountains.
  - To clean up the fountains regularly.
7. What's special about the Trevi Fountain?
- Its water has healing powers.
  - People throw coins into it hoping to return to Rome.
  - It's the biggest fountain in the world.
  - It's the only fountain in Rome.
8. How could the act of the activists affect the charity?
- The charity might have to clean the fountain.
  - The charity might receive less money if fewer people throw coins.
  - The charity might get more publicity and donations.
  - The charity might have to pay for the damage to the fountain.
9. What could be the future actions of the activists if the government doesn't respond?
- They might get jobs in the oil industry.
  - They might start cleaning the fountains themselves.
  - They might leave the country.
  - They might target more fountains or other public places.
10. What is the main idea of the article?
- A fountain in Rome was dyed black by activists to demand action against climate change.
  - A fountain in Rome is a popular tourist destination where people throw coins and make wishes.
  - The process of cleaning and restoring the Trevi Fountain is a long and costly procedure.
  - Fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas contribute to global warming.

## Speaking/Writing:

- Discuss these questions with a partner or a small group.
- Choose one topic and write a response to it. Show your writing to a classmate or teacher.

1. Do you think it's okay to damage public property during a protest? Why or why not?
2. How can countries prepare for the problems caused by climate change, such as more floods?
3. What is an example of a successful protest in the history of the world? Describe what happened.

