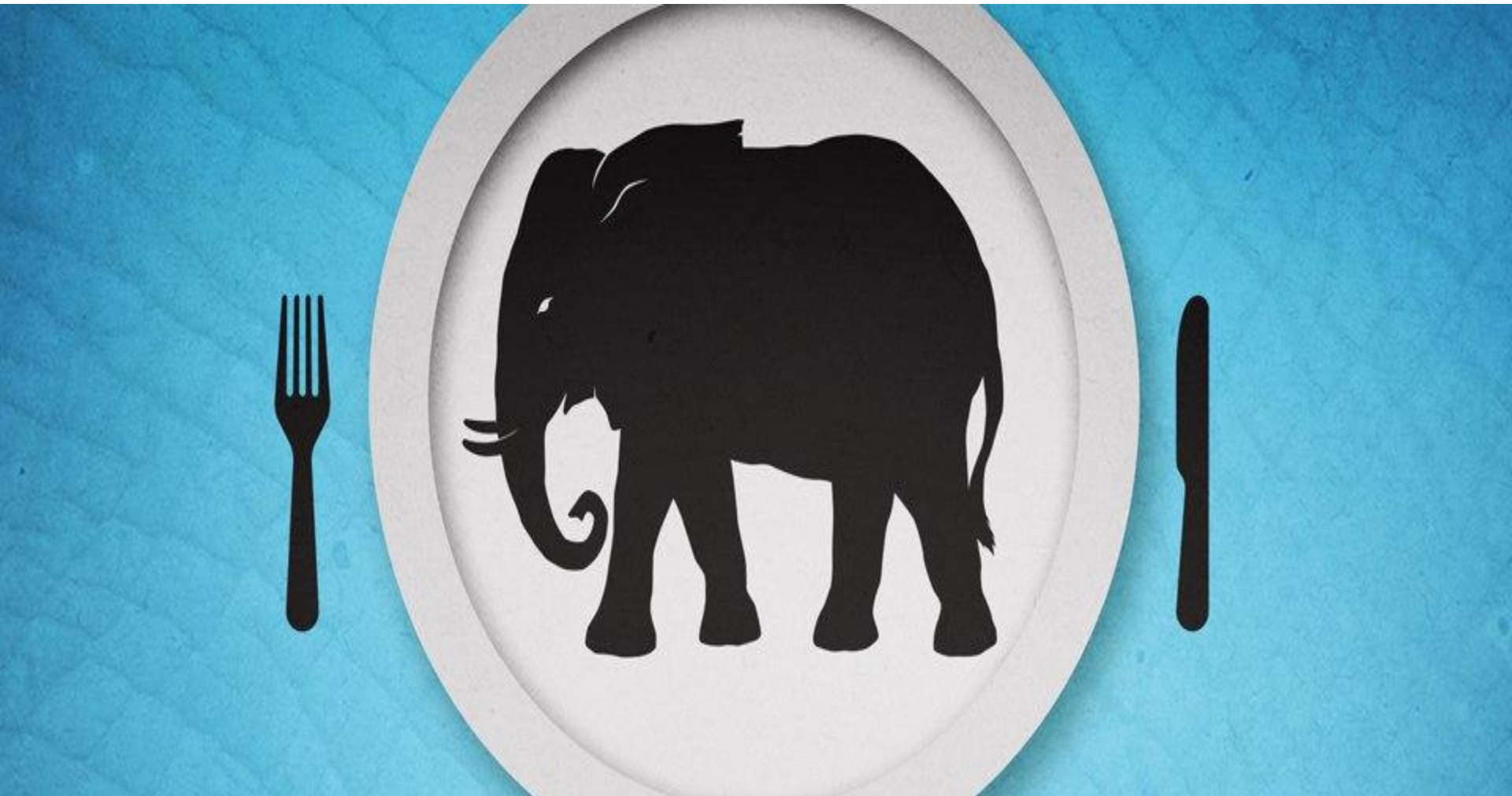


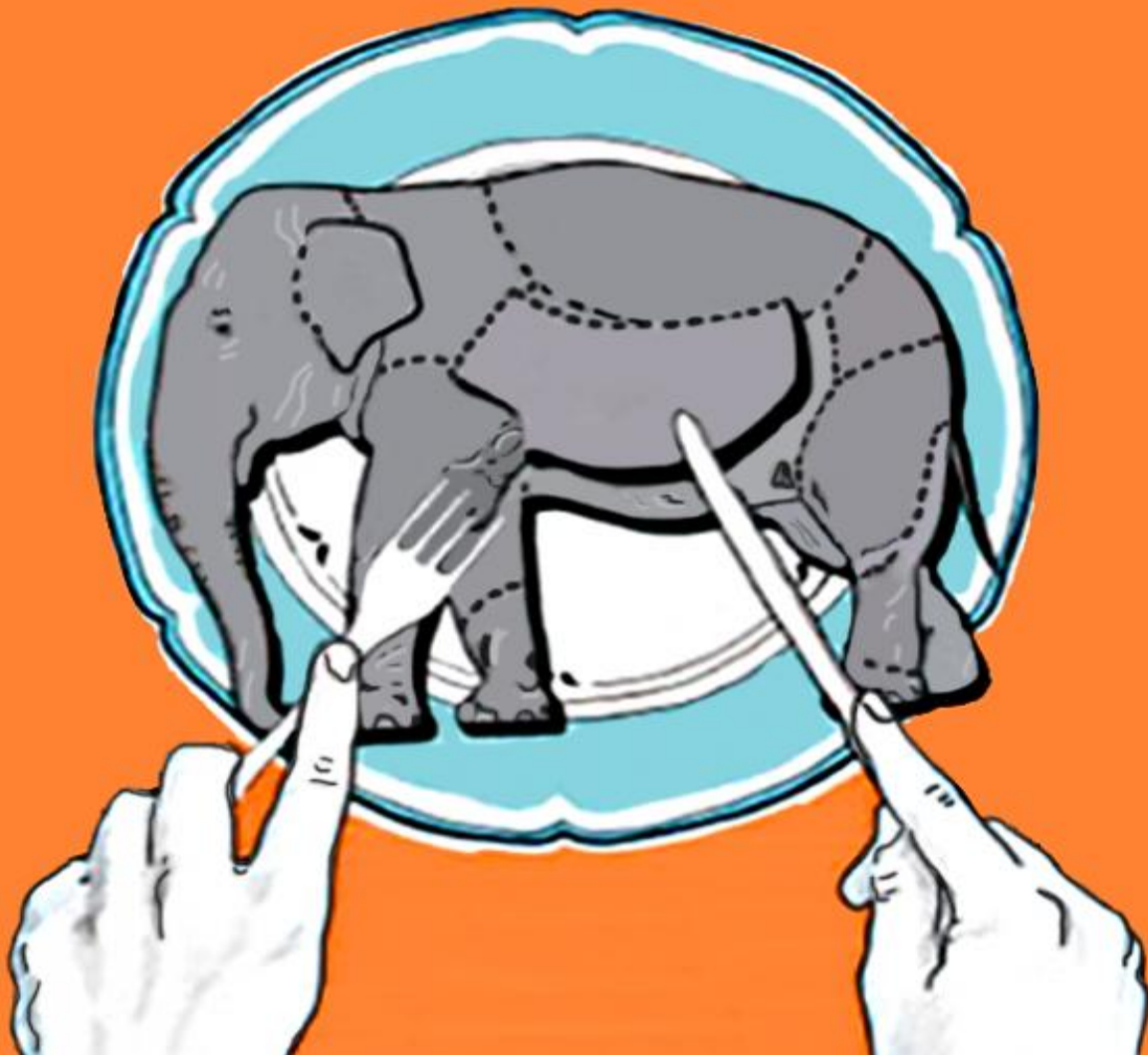
# Environmental problems



# Difficult to eat?



**Is it easier now?**



**Global Warming**

**Deforestation**

**Alternative Energy**

**The Ozone Layer**

**Pollution**

**Recycling**

# Don't forget to mark!



**NEW WORDS**



**“KEY” WORDS**

# Global Warming

Scientists say the temperature of the earth could rise by 3°C over the next 50 years. This may cause drought in some parts of the world, and floods in others, as ice at the North and South poles begins to melt and sea levels rise. Global warming is caused by the greenhouse effect. Normally, heat from the sun warms the earth and then goes back into space. But carbon dioxide and other gases in the atmosphere trap the sun's heat, and this is slowly making the earth warmer.

# The Ozone Layer

The Ozone layer is a layer of gas high above the surface of the earth that helps to protect it from the sun's ultraviolet radiation, which can damage our skins and cause cancer. Scientists have recently discovered holes in the Ozone Layer, caused by substances called CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons) CFCs are used in fridges, aerosol cans and in the production of some plastic products. Some companies now make aerosols that do not contain CFCs, and these are often marked "Ozone Friendly".

# Deforestation

Rainforests help to control global warming because they absorb carbon dioxide. In recent years, large areas have been destroyed, as the trees are cut down for wood or burnt to clear the land for farming. The burning releases a lot of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Many rainforests grow on poor soils, and when they are cut down or burnt, the soil is washed away in the tropical rains, so that the area may turn to desert. Many plant and animal species that live there could become extinct.



# Pollution

Factories, power stations and transport dump lots of carbon dioxide and other gases into the air. This is a major cause of the greenhouse effect. A lot of petrol contains lead, which is very poisonous and can cause brain damage in children. Most cars use unleaded petrol today and hybrid cars use batteries and petrol to use less petrol. Some poisonous gases fall to the earth as acid rain. Acid rain also damages trees and buildings, and can kill fish in lakes and rivers. Rivers can also be polluted by industrial waste from factories and chemicals used by farmers.

## Alternative Energy

Most of the energy we use today comes from coal, oil and gas. But these will not last forever, and burning them is slowly ruining the atmosphere. We need to look for other ways of producing energy. Solar Power is a way of using the sun's energy as heat or to make electricity. We can also use wind-power by building modern windmills that spin in the wind. We can also create electricity from sea water coming in and out with the tides.

# Recycling

Recycling is the process of using objects and materials again. About 60% of rubbish from homes and factories contain materials that could be recycled. Recycling saves energy and materials, and also reduces damage to the countryside. Glass, paper and aluminium cans can all be recycled very easily. Many towns have special bins for bottles and cans where people can leave their empty bottles and cans for recycling. A lot of paper bags, writing paper and greeting cards are now produced on recycled paper.