

Science is Onto It

I feel the climate changing and the temperature warming
But I know the scientists are researching

I see the devastating floods and droughts and the weather changing
But I know the meteorologists are helping

I hear the tsunamis, cyclones and hurricanes
But I know that advanced instruments are issuing warnings

I know that science is onto it

I feel the sickness of disease and virulent viruses
But I know that medical research is curing and preventing

I see the effect of human activities and the over population woes
But I know that biologists are researching

I hear the falling trees and the destruction of native habitats
But I know that zoologists and botanists are preserving our wildlife

I know that science is onto it

I feel the effects of communication breakdown
But I know that technology is advancing

I see that dams are drying up and fossil fuels are depleting
But I know that alternative power sources are being sought

I hear the sounds of noise pollution
But I know that sociologists are studying hard

**I know that planet earth is changing fast
But I know that science is onto it!**

Bradley Pearce
St Leonards Primary School

Earth Alert : A Planet in Change

**A planet in change
A warming climate
Ice shelves melting and sea levels rising
Viruses spreading, sea life dying
Droughts and flooding
Alert! Alert! Earth Alert!**

**A planet in change
A population expanding
Pollution and wastage abounds
Habitat destruction and endangered species
Disease and depletion of life
Alert! Alert! Earth Alert!**

**A planet in change
So steer the changes
Research for cures and better crops
Embrace technology and effective advancement
Recycle and reenergise
Alert! Alert! Earth Alert!**

**A planet in change
Fragile and unique
Evolving, eroding and existing
Maintain the delicate balance
Preserve, prepare, prevent and repair
Science leads the way
Earth Alert : A Planet in Change**

I Am Earth

I am Earth

Spinning and rotating endlessly in space

Freezing, scorching

Cracking, crashing, eroding

Providing life

I am Man

Cutting, burning, spraying

Polluting, clearing, building

Invading, taking

Not thinking

I am Earth

Warming, disappearing, dying

Changing rapidly

Habitats destroying

Losing life

I am Man

Recycling, planting, regenerating

Using clean energy

Reducing, caring

Thinking of the future

(Winner: Upper Primary)

MEIOSIS AND BEYOND.

By Kate Mitchell

Earth is a very complex place
Getting more intricate every day
We're ever changing, over time,
And DNA, it shapes the way.

It happened to me, it happened to you,
And everyone we know,
It's the process, the way and means,
By which we began to grow.

First of all, in mum and dad,
A full cell 'down below'
Decides it's time to split in half
And thus begins the show.

The DNA, the chromosomes,
They duplicate themselves,
This stage is known as Interphase,
It's the first step to new cells.

Next in line is Prophase 1
Where chromosomes find their mate,
Then moving through to Metaphase
They line the equatorial plate.

Anaphase gets into swing
And separates the pairs,
Pulling them to either ends
Of this cell of theirs.

Telophase and cytokinesis
Split the cell in half
Each new cell has a haploid set
Of chromosomes as staff.

With the first division over
It's time to make gametes
Whose chromosomes, through further work,
Come in even smaller sets.

Once again, the chromosomes,
Line up down the central plateau,
Then breaking at their centromeres
To opposite poles, the chromatids go.

Finally, an encore
For Telophase and co.
The original call is now in four,
Gametes with 23 chromosomes to go.

All that is now left to do
Is for a sperm to meet an ovum,
Two 23's make 46
And mitosis can take over.

Eventually a baby
Will take the world by storm.
Looks like mum? Looks like dad?
Either is the norm.

For with all our diverse chromosomes,
The possibilities are endless,
8 million different combinations
To potentially leave us friendless...

Sometimes, somewhere down the track
Something can go wrong,
An error in our DNA
Thrusts mutations to the throng.

But technology is growing,
And people are getting smart,
Gene therapies are out there
To help you fit the part.

As a race, we've all grown up
And changed from what we were
Evolving on, and up and out
Spins our ethics to a blur.

Life is ever changing,
And the world is always turning,
How humans cope in future times
Will test all of our learning.

The eradication of disease,
A better life for all;
Close your eyes; imagine;
Just what might befall...

(Winner: Intermediate)

Transformation of Life

The world is changing everyday
And this much I would like to say.
The creatures that inhabit our earth
Adjust with environments to be of worth.
With the occurrence of these earthly alterations
New creatures must, and do, make modifications.

Mitosis is the division of most cells
Meiosis is the formulation of new sex cells.
Discoveries by means of technical studies
Show different genes; hence “me” and “my buddies”
Meaning we don’t look the same
And that’s how it goes in this game.

Creatures depend on mutation to survive
They use these mutations so they can revive.
This delicate race of unique creatures
Will hopefully breed and create new features
All varied and different, thanks to meiosis
Something we find to be quite precocious.

Many millions of years ago
Dinosaurs ruled with a different mojo
With mammal like creatures underfoot
The earth existed with a different outlook.
The enormous dinosaurs sadly died out
But fortunately mammals are still about.

The mammals developed via mutations
With genes for new proteins, traits and variations.
These mammals adapted with fur and hair
To warm them and provide them with new flair,
Dinosaurs sadly lacked these adaptations
And regrettably are seen only in captions.

During meiosis and mitosis, as they grew and replicated
These surviving mammals adapted and mutated.
It is a collective series of early mutations
That now brings all animals with classifications.
Carnivores and herbivores have come along way
And aren’t we lucky the crocodile is here to stay.

Mutations can increase a creature’s survival
Or lead to disease and not their revival.
Mutations still happen to the “new world creatures”
Defences, poisons and camouflage all features
That form through systems of genetic mutation
And keep alive the progression of earth’s creation.