

Meet X, Earth Guardian



He's 16. He lives in Boulder, Colorado. He is Native American. He's a rapper and musician. And he inspires thousands of other young people to protect the environment. His name is complicated: Xiuhtezcatl*. But you can call him "X" for short.

Xiuhtezcatl Martinez started trying to help the environment when he was very young. At age six, he saw the Leonardo DiCaprio documentary *The Eleventh Hour*, about protecting the planet. It touched him so much, he made his first speech, to an ecological demonstration. In it, he said that when he was five, he wanted to go with his little brother and close down all the factories in the world. But then, he said, when he turned six, he realised that we citizens have power. We buy the products the factories make. We can influence them.



* Pronounced "Shoe-Tez-Caht"



Help

factory (n) industrial building where products are made

citizen (n) inhabitant of a country or town

SPEAKEASY NEWS

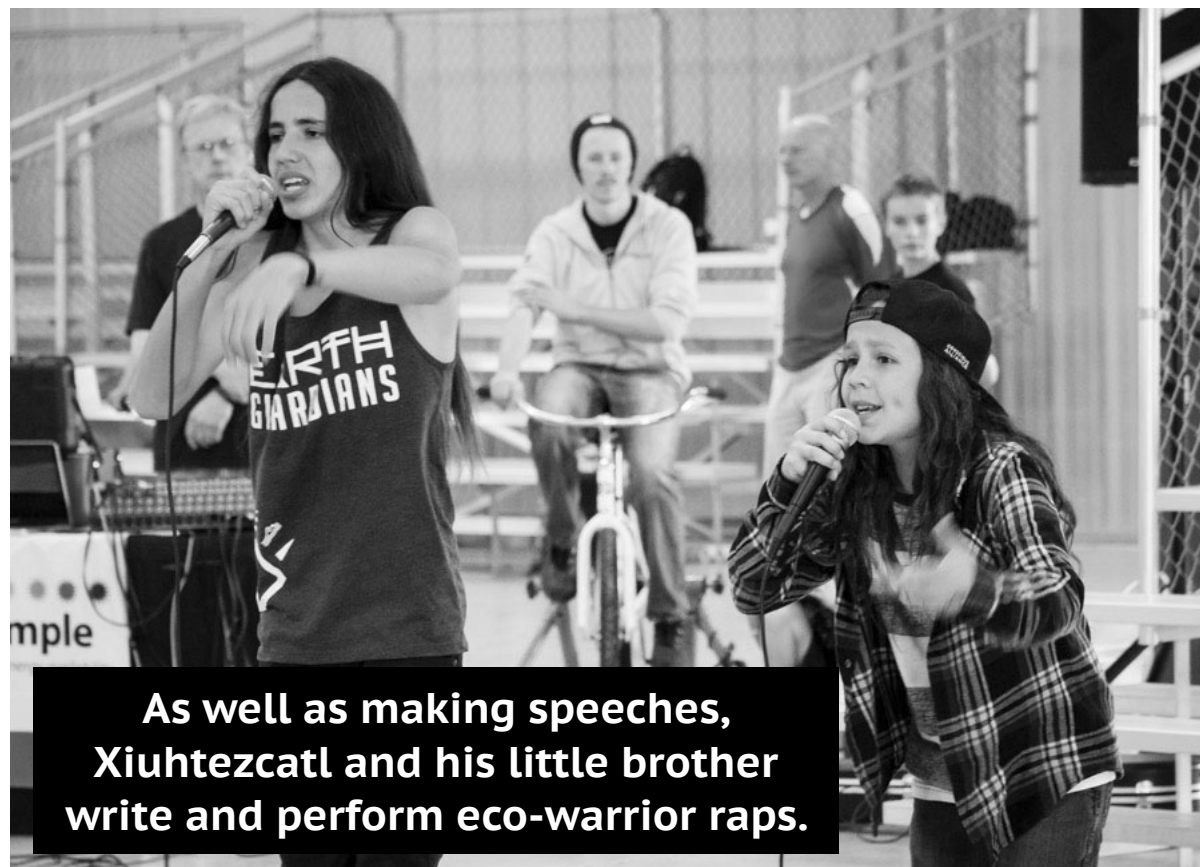
L'actualité au cœur des cours d'anglais



Nathan

Xiuhtezcatl and his five brothers and sisters grew up in a family that respected the environment. His Mexican father taught them his Aztec traditions, music and dance. Like most Native American cultures, Aztec descendants believe they are simply guardians of the Earth: it is their responsibility to treat the planet respectfully and preserve it for future generations.

His mother founded an organisation called the Earth Guardians. Today, it has groups or crews of young people in thirty countries actively helping the environment.



As well as making speeches, Xiuhtezcatl and his little brother write and perform eco-warrior raps.



Think Globally, Act Locally

X is an inspiring speaker. He participated in the COP21 environment summit in Paris in 2015. He was the youngest person to address the United Nations on climate problems.

But he also works with his Colorado Earth Guardians crew on projects to help their local environment. Some of their successes:

Help

treat (v /tri:t/) to act towards

found (v /faʊnd/) start an organisation

crew (n /kru:/) a group of people working together (on a ship or plane for example); a gang

Pesticides: These chemicals protect some plants but cause harm to others, to insects and animals, and they can pollute water humans drink. Earth Guardians persuaded

Boulder parks to stop using pesticides and use natural methods instead.

Plastic bags: Shops had to stop giving free plastic bags. Shoppers are encouraged to bring re-usable bags that don't pollute.

Fracking (or hydraulic fracturing): This method of extracting natural gas and oil from the Earth is opposed by many environmentalists. Earth Guardians helped suspend fracking in Boulder and are now campaigning for a suspension in the entire state of Colorado.

"Our Voices are Powerful"

Xiuhtezcatl thinks everyone can help make a better future. He says, "Changing the world starts with one person, one idea, and it grows. It's the entire society choosing a more just and sustainable way to live. Be a poet, be an activist, be a photographer, whatever it is you love. Get involved with politics, with business, or with science. Use your passions to change the world." ■

Help

instead (adv /ɪn'sted/) in the place of

re-usable (adj /ri:'ju:zəbəl/) that you can use again

oil (n) petroleum. Refined oil is the fuel for cars.

campaign (v /kæm'peɪn/) protest/ask for social or political changes

grow (v) get bigger

sustainable (adj) that can be continued into the future

get involved (v) participate in, take an interest in



Xiuhtezcatl receiving the 2016 Children's Climate Prize.