The end of the world?

Easier English New Internationalist Ready Lesson: Intermediate +
This lesson:

• Speaking
• Prediction from title
• Vocabulary
• Dictation
• Reading
• Discussion
• Writing – a summary
What is this photo showing? Why?
This is the title and introduction of an article in New Internationalist:

Is it too late to stop the end of the world?

As we move towards a breaking point, should we prepare for the end of society? This is the question behind the theory of ‘deep adaptation’. The theory is becoming popular very quickly. Richard Swift writes about what our possibilities for the future are.

In groups, decide on:
- 4 ideas you think will be in the article
- 4 questions you hope the article will answer
Vocabulary: do you know any of these words / phrases? – what do you think they mean?

1/ Doomsday
2/ extreme weather
3/ jet stream
4/ climate grief
5/ deep adaptation
6/ resource curse
Match

1. Doomsday  a) hurricanes, tornados, typhoons, flash floods, drought etc
2. extreme weather  b) the many changes we need to help adapt to climate breakdown
3. jet stream  c) the last day of the world’s existence
4. climate grief  d) when countries that are richer in natural resources, are poorer, have less economic growth and are less democratic
5. deep adaptation  e) feeling very sad because of problems from climate change
6. resource curse  f) fast westerly winds high in the atmosphere
1. Doomsday c
2. extreme weather a
3. jet stream f
4. climate grief e
5. deep adaptation b
6. resource curse d

a) hurricanes, tornados, typhoons, flash floods, drought etc
b) the many changes we need to help adapt to climate breakdown
c) the last day of the world’s existence
d) when countries that are richer in natural resources, are poorer, have less economic growth and are less democratic
e) feeling very sad because of problems from climate change
f) fast westerly winds high in the atmosphere
Dictation
(one person reads out the next slide)
(then check)
In 1947, scientists started the Doomsday Clock to see how much closer we are getting to climate collapse each year. The first threat was nuclear war, and the clock was set at seven minutes to midnight. Midnight is the time of the end of humans. The clock has moved backwards and forwards 24 times. It was further away from midnight after the end of the Cold War, and much closer to midnight with the threat of the climate crisis. Today it stands at just 100 seconds to midnight!
Now read the whole article and:

a) Check whether the 4 ideas you predicted are in the article
b) See if the article answers your 4 questions
c) Discuss your predictions and questions with others

The whole article is here:

• https://eewiki.newint.org/index.php?title=Is_it_too_late_to_stop_the_end_of_the_world%3F
Writing challenge:

In pairs, answer the question: ‘Is it too late to stop the end of the world?’ in less than 200 words. You can read the article again and make notes, but don’t copy from the article.

Try to use as many of the phrases you learnt as you can: Doomsday, extreme weather, jet stream, climate grief, deep adaptation, resource curse.
Homework / follow-up:

Read the original article and see how much new vocabulary and grammar there is to learn:

https://newint.org/features/2022/04/04/it-too-late