

Due Friday, Nov. 22, 2013

Homework from the Future

"Welcome to the future, CK-21. My name is Gif McCoy!"



"Huh? What? Where am I?" asked the confused CK-21.

"Sorry, you must be very majorly confused," said Gif.

"Allow me to explain. It's the year 2512, and my history teacher gave us some extracurricular homework. The assignment was to create a virtual 21st-century kid. Then I must show him or her around the year 2512. You're a talking, thinking, and feeling hologram—like a 3-D picture! I programmed you to only know about the world up to 2012."

The CK-21 looked around in amazement. "This looks like the world before the Industrial Revolution. Everything is so green and beautiful. I can smell something spectacular. Is that the ocean? Where are we?"

"You're in Kansas!" said Gif. "Kansas is home to some of the most beautiful ocean views and coastline in the world!"

"Kansas has ocean views?" asked the CK-21 in disbelief.

"Well, by the early 21st century, people knew that the massive use of fossil fuel was heating up the planet. But people didn't stop their destructive lifestyles. They just kept using up Earth's resources. The ice sheets melted, and Earth's crust shifted. Volcanic pressure burst through in places that never had volcanoes." Gif continued, "In 2130, the oceans began to rise over farmland and cities. In 300 years, most of the eastern United States was covered with water. All that remains are the Smokey Islands—formerly the Smokey Mountains."

"Oh," said the CK-21, sadly.

"Don't look so depressed," Gif said. "People did eventually learn from their mistakes and decided to make important changes. Today, we have less land, and fewer people. But we know how to use wind, solar, and hydropower efficiently. This has allowed the planet to come back to life."

The CK-21 stared out at the waves of the Eastern Ocean lapping at the Kansas coast. "I wonder why your teacher wanted you to show me this."

"I think I have an idea why! You've got some homework too," Gif said.

