Treaty intended to achieve “stabilization of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.

Signed and ratified
Signed, ratification pending
Signed, not ratified
Non-Signatory
- The Kyoto Protocol emerged from the United Nations so called Earth Summit held in Brazil in 1992. Seeing the need to cut greenhouse gas emissions, the organization proposed a treaty that would help stabilize emissions “at a level that would prevent dangerous anthropogenic interference with the climate system.” (Quote on slide) This would be a ten year agreement to cut greenhouse gas emissions.
- Treaty was not finalized until 1997 and the United States and Australia both stated they would not ratify it, citing the absence of binding targets for developing nations.
- This map shows nations that have signed the treaty, signed and ratified, ratification pending, and non-signatory. Note that Australia has since signed and ratified the treaty, leaving the United States as the only major country to not have ratified the Kyoto Protocol.
- As of May 2008, 181 countries have ratified the Kyoto Protocol

Source for images:

Sources for information:
Successes

Many nations have followed through on their agreement and cut greenhouse gas emissions, an example is the European Union.
• This graph shows the carbon emissions from various areas between 1800 and 2000. We are most concerned with the end of the graph which demonstrates many countries have reduced their emissions.

• The yellow and red-orange lines represent areas that are part of the European Union and you can see their emission have dropped. The EU has dropped their emissions by 5%

• The Kyoto Protocol should have been more successful, we will see why this was not the case in the next slide.

Source for the image and information:
Failures

This chart demonstrates the failure of the Kyoto Protocol to reduce worldwide greenhouse gas emissions. Why is this the case?

- Finalized halfway through its 10 year life.
- Refusal of United States to ratify it.
- Absence of binding targets for developing nations.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>India</td>
<td>+103%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>China</td>
<td>+150%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United States</td>
<td>+20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Russian Federation</td>
<td>-20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Japan</td>
<td>+11%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Worldwide Total</td>
<td>+38%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
• Chart shows the change in greenhouse gas emissions for several countries between the years 1992 and 2007. As you can see, many countries have increased dramatically rather than decrease their emissions since the introduction of the Kyoto Protocols.

• Although the treaty was introduced in 1992, it wasn’t finalized until 1997 when it was already halfway through its 10 year life. This made the goals somewhat unattainable in the time allotted.

• The United States still refuses to ratify the treaty. We are the largest total emitter and largest emitter per capita in the world and without the United States, the treaty is not as successful.

• The reason the United States will not ratify it is because of the absence of binding targets for developing nations. A look at the chart shows why this is important. Both India and China’s emissions have increased dramatically; 103% and 150% respectively. Without binding targets for developing nations, they will only increase their emissions and it will be harder to reduce them in the future.

Chart adapted from:
The Major Accomplishment
The major accomplishment of the Kyoto Protocol is bringing awareness to the fact that we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions and protect our environment. Even if the goals of the Protocol are not met, it will have been a great starting point. The Protocol is helping the world work together to protect our planet, much like the world banded together to remedy the Ozone Hole calamity. It shows that many countries are serious about environmental protection and show others that need to be less selfish and focus on what’s really important: the protection of Earth. Now that the first Kyoto Protocol is nearing its end, we can only hope that its successor will be even more concise and accepted. If past problems are any indication, it is clear that we are capable of working together to solve a global problem and the Kyoto Protocol is helping to do just that.