

Climate Change

What do you know about climate change? Fill in the missing words using the table below. Remember to use the glossary to look up any words in bold.

warming	sun	melt	coal	temperature
sea	digestive system	surface	billion	rainfall
energy-saving	trees	food	factors	animals
car	factories	cut down	water	extreme

What Is Climate Change?

Climate change, or global _____, is the process of our planet heating up. Scientists have observed that, since the **Industrial Revolution**, human activity has caused the Earth's _____ to heat up by approximately 1°C. While that might not sound like much, that small rise in _____ has a big impact for people and wildlife around the globe.



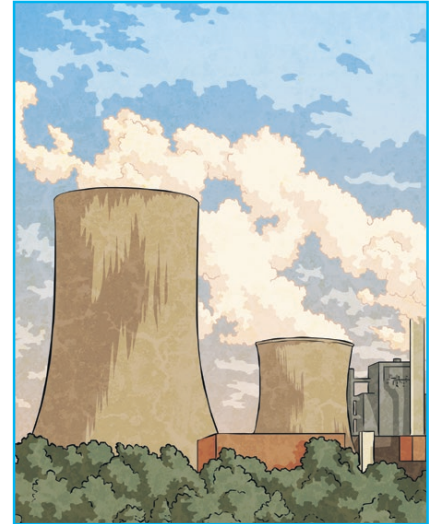
Unfortunately, rising temperatures don't just mean that we'll get nicer weather. The changing climate will make our weather more _____ and very unpredictable. As temperatures rise, some areas will get wetter and lots of _____ and humans could find they're not able to **adapt** to the changes.

What Causes Climate Change?

There are many different _____ that cause climate change. Below are some of the main causes.

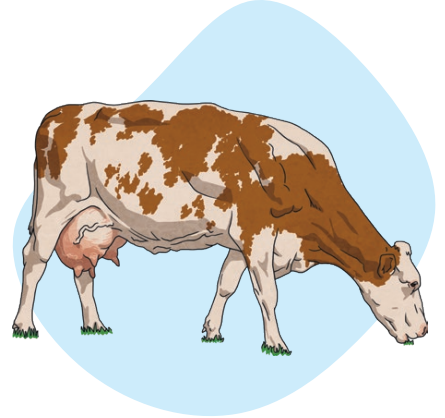
Burning Fossil Fuels

Industrialised countries, which are countries that have a lot of machinery and many _____, burn large amounts of **fossil fuels**, such as oil and _____. The gases from this process are released into the **atmosphere** and act like an invisible blanket, trapping heat from the _____ and warming the Earth. This is known as the 'greenhouse effect'.



Farming

The eating habits of cows are also a factor. Methane is a type of greenhouse gas and, just like us, when cows eat, it builds up in their _____ and is released in the form of a burp or fart! There are almost 1.5 _____ cows releasing all that gas into the atmosphere, so it really adds up!



Deforestation

Forests help to absorb the greenhouse gases from the air because _____ take in carbon dioxide. This means forests are really effective in preventing climate change. Sadly, many



rainforests are being _____ for their wood and to clear the way for farmland and roads.

How Is Climate Change Affecting the Planet?

A warmer climate is affecting and could continue to affect our planet in a number of ways. There will likely be much more _____, which could lead to floods. The extreme rises in temperature could also lead to **droughts** and a limited _____ supply. Wildlife could also be drastically affected as the **polar ice caps** _____, the rainforests are cut down and the _____ levels rise.



What Can We Do to Help Prevent Climate Change?

Small changes in your own home can make a real difference.

You could try:

- switching to _____ - _____ light bulbs;
- walking instead of using the _____ ;
- turning off electrical items when you're not using them;
- recycling;
- reducing your _____ waste.



Glossary

adapt: To become used to new conditions.

atmosphere: The layer of gas that surrounds Earth.

drought: A long period of very low rainfall, leading to water shortages.

fossil fuels: Fuels that come from old life forms that decomposed over a long period of time. They are then used as a source of energy.

industrialised: When a country starts to use machines to do work that was once done by people.

Industrial Revolution: A period, from around 1760 - 1840, of major changes in the way products are made. Products were no longer being handmade but instead were made in factories and by machines.

polar ice caps: Sheets of ice found near the North and South Poles.