

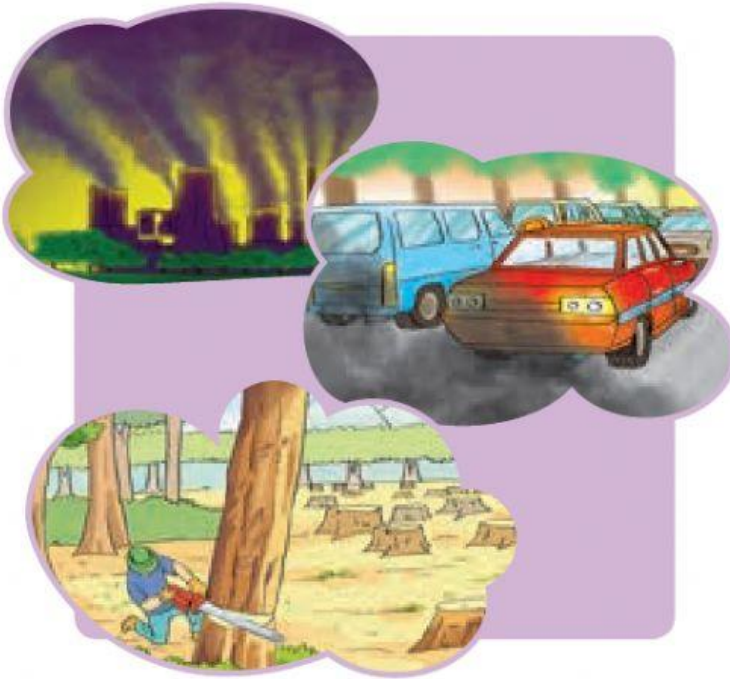
SKILLS

UNIT 6: GLOBAL WARMING

READING

Global warming is real

- 1** Work with a partner and guess what problems are described in the pictures. Then answer the question: What do you know about these problems?



- 2** Read the text and select the statement that expresses its main idea.

- a. Global warming is the rise in the world's temperature.
- b. Global warming leads to the extinction of millions of species in the world.
- c. Global warming is mainly caused by humans and has negative impacts on people's lives.
- d. People have to work together to reduce the risks of global warming.

Global warming, the rise in temperature around the earth's atmosphere, is one of the biggest issues facing humans nowadays. The results of numerous studies show that global warming is real. It is mainly man-made and its effects on people and nature are catastrophic.

The biggest cause of global warming is carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from coal burning power plants. When coal is burnt to make electricity, it releases a large amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. In the USA, about 40% of CO₂ emissions come from

electricity production. The second greatest source of CO₂ emissions is the burning of petrol for transport. In the USA, motor vehicles running on petrol are responsible for about 33% of CO₂ emissions. The situation is getting worse as the demand for cars is increasing rapidly in the modern world. Another reason for the temperature rise is the cutting down of forests for wood, paper or farming. Forests absorb and capture CO₂ from the atmosphere. This process has been disrupted by the current alarming rate of deforestation.

The worst effect of global warming is the rise in sea levels worldwide, which could make millions of people lose their homes. Global warming also results in severe weather-related natural disasters such as droughts and floods that can kill or injure large numbers of people. Global warming with increasingly high temperatures can reduce crop harvests globally, which may lead to famine. It is also predicted to have the worst impact on water supplies. Water shortages are likely to delay economic growth and damage ecosystems. Another scary effect of global warming is the disappearance of millions of species in the world. Widespread loss of species is a matter of great concern for humans since we cannot exist without species diversity on Earth.

It is important that people understand that human-caused global warming is happening and its effects on us are serious. Everybody has to take some action now to reduce the risks.

- 3** Match the words with their meanings.

- | | | |
|-----------------------|---|--|
| 1. catastrophic (adj) | a | all living creatures and plants in a certain area and the relationships between them |
| 2. famine (n) | b | the mixture of gases surrounding the earth |
| 3. absorb (v) | c | the fact of having many different types of people, animals, plants or things |
| 4. capture (v) | d | take in (gas, liquid, heat) from the space or surface around |
| 5. atmosphere (n) | e | catch and keep somebody / something in a place |
| 6. ecosystem (n) | f | when a lot of people do not have enough food and many die |
| 7. diversity (n) | g | disastrous |

Activity 4. Read the text and decide whether the following statements are True (T) or False (F). Write T or F onto the blanks given.

1. Global warming is the natural catastrophe which exerts great influence on human beings.
2. Carbon dioxide (CO₂) emissions from coal-fired power plants are the leading cause of global warming.
3. The forested areas decreasing at an amazing speed has reduced their absorption of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.
4. Global warming makes sea levels rise, which is likely to cause extreme shortages of food, causing suffering and death.
5. Widespread extinction of species is a major source of concern for humans, as we cannot thrive on Earth without a diverse range of species.
6. It is dispensable that everyone should act immediately to mitigate the negative effects global warming have on them.

Activity 5. Read the passage again and complete the outline below with NO MORE THAN THREE WORDS in each blank.

Introduction: Global warming, the rise in the earth's (1), is caused by (2) and seriously impacts their lives.

Body:

- Main idea 1: There are three causes of global warming

+ (3) of global warming is the emitting of (4) when coal is burned for producing (5)

+ Another (6) comes from motor vehicles running on (7)

+ Deforestation increasing at an amazing speed also interferes in the forest's ability to (8) CO₂.

- Main idea 2: The impacts of global warming on people's lives are very serious.

+ (9) become homeless due to the rise in sea levels

+ Large numbers of people can be (10) by severe natural disasters

+ Famine and (11) take place globally owing to extreme (12)

+ Millions of species become extinct, upsetting (13)

Conclusion: Humans should (14) to alleviate the (15)

..... effects of global warming on themselves.