

## New climate theories

*Air pollution is an increasing environmental concern, and rising global warming temperatures are not the only consequence....*

Climate change is now an indisputable phenomenon. Scientists have identified two distinct and worrying developments. While global warming, which has been predicted for some time, is clearly taking place, there is also growing evidence of global dimming – a reduction of sunlight.

According to BBC Online, the term global dimming was created by Gerry Stanhill, an English scientist who lives in Israel. Stanhill found that sunlight had reduced by 22% in Israel over the past few years. He also noted similar changes in the United States (with sunlight down 10%), in parts of the former Soviet Union (with a reduction of 30%), and in parts of the British Isles (with a loss of 16%) the cause appears to be air pollution. Now the final bad news: dimming has been keeping us cooler.

Global dimming has been artificially suppressing global warming. The same thing that has been causing global warming — burning fossil fuels has been causing global dimming for the most part. Once the generation and transportation industries stop pumping pollution and CO<sub>2</sub> into the air, the dimming problem will go away pretty quickly, but the CO<sub>2</sub> will linger for a couple of hundred years. That means that the temperature inhibitor of dimming will be removed and it will get potentially a degree or two warmer.

**"Climate change impacts humans and animals.**

Air pollution caused by fossil fuel emissions, will also probably cause a further

rise of 0.6 degrees Celsius of global warming, according to professor Stephen Schneider, a leading climatologist from Stanford University in California. He points out that in the past century there has already been a 0.7 degree temperature increase.

According to Schneider, the results will endanger species such as polar bears. The traditional life-style of the Inuit people of the Arctic will also be impacted. At the same time, the British Antarctic Survey has revised its predictions about the collapse of the Antarctic ice sheet. It used to be believed that it would remain intact until the turn of the 22<sup>nd</sup> century. Now there is a risk of a much more imminent collapse.

*David Walter*



### READING COMPREHENSION

① **Vocabulary :** Listen to the words from the texte, find their definition and say them properly. (Associe des mots du texte à leurs définitions. Ils sont notes sous les bulles. Ecoute-les puis prononce les en les associant à la définition qui convient.)

1. ....

2. ....

3. ....

4. ....

5. ....

- ⇒ A rise in the world temperature that has become a major environmental issue
- ⇒ to direct someone's attention
- ⇒ A gathering of a sample of data or opinions considered to be representative of a whole
- ⇒ to fall abruptly and completely
- ⇒ to continue unchanged

(point out- global warming- remain intact-survey-collapse)

What is the topic of this text (to answer this question find in the text the term created by an English scientist) (De quoi parle le texte? Indice: c'est le concept créé par un scientifique anglais):

Explain in French what is this phenomenon: (Explique ce phénomène en français)

Where was this phenomenon observed? Où a-t-il été observé?)

China France the USA the Antarctic Israel Spain Iceland

Some parts of the former Soviet Union the British Isles Australia

Complete these sentences with verbs in the present perfect to explain this phenomenon:

This phenomenon **has observed** **has been observed** **have been observed** in Israel, in the USA, in parts of the former Soviet Union and in the British Isles.

It's air pollution that **have caused** **has been caused** **has caused** global dimming.

Yet, even if it is a result of our over polluted atmosphere it

(have)..... some good effects since it

(protected)..... from global warming and as we are trying to fight against global dimming we may be worsening our other problem: global warming.

REVISION: Making predictions:

Complete the following sentences with the right word to report some of the predictions about the future of our planet:

The Polar bear.....be endangered.

There .....be an impact on the Inuit lifestyle.

The Antarctic ice sheet .....certainly collapse sooner than we thought.