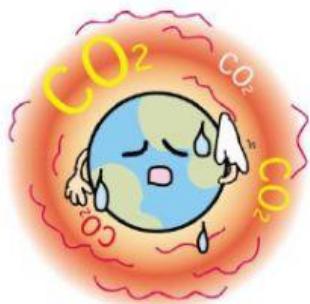


# What is CLIMATE CHANGE?

First of all, what is climate? Climate is the weather, such as temperature and rainfall



in a region. For example, the temperature in the Amazon is always high and it rains almost every day. In the Antarctic, it is always freezing and there is almost no rain. Those are two types of climates. Climate change describes a change in these conditions, over a long time. NASA scientists tell us that Earth's surface is warming up. That is across the whole planet, not just one or two regions. Most scientists agree that this change is man-made - that is, because of human activity. Burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) releases greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide and methane. Greenhouse gases are like a blanket around Earth - they stop heat from escaping. That is how we get global warming. Cars, factories, power stations, farms, heating our homes - all these everyday things contribute to climate change. It is a problem because as Earth warms up, the ice at the North and South Poles melts, seas rise and land is lost. Forests heat up and then burn. Animal habitats are lost. Some governments are trying to reduce carbon emissions. The Paris Agreement (2015) is an international agreement to limit the amount of greenhouse gases countries are allowed to emit. However, we can all contribute. We must use less energy: switch off the heater; walk, don't ride in the car etc. Vegetation gives off oxygen and soaks up carbon, so if possible, support regreening projects by donating money, or plant some plants yourself, or even plant a tree.



Are the sentences TRUE or FALSE?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. It rains a lot in the Amazon		
2. 'Climate' describes weather conditions		
3. Earth is cooling down		
4. Most scientists say that global warming is caused by natural events		
5. If Earth warms up, that is fine, no problem		
6. The Paris Agreement gives out advice about holidays in France		
7. Individuals can help with climate change.		

Answer the questions in full sentences:

- 1) What does 'climate' mean?
- 2) Describe the climate where you live
- 3) What have NASA scientists observed?
- 4) Are the causes of global warming natural?
- 5) What do most scientists agree on?
- 6) How do greenhouse gases act?
- 7) Why is it a problem if the world heats up?
- 8) What are governments doing about it?
- 9) What is the Paris Agreement?
- 10) What can individuals do to help?