

## Climate Change

### 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.



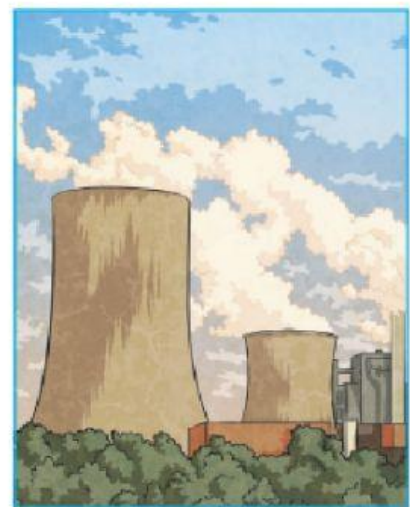
Unfortunately, rising temperatures don't just mean that we'll get nicer weather. The changing climate will make our weather more \_\_\_\_\_ and very unpredictable. As temperatures rise, some areas will get wetter and lots of \_\_\_\_\_ and humans could find they're not able to **adapt** to the changes.

### What Causes Climate Change?

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

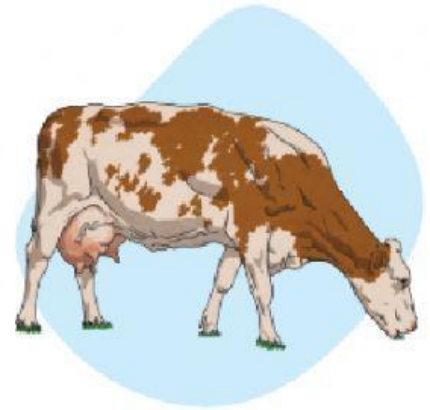
#### Burning Fossil Fuels

**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.

