Climate Change

What Is Climate Change?



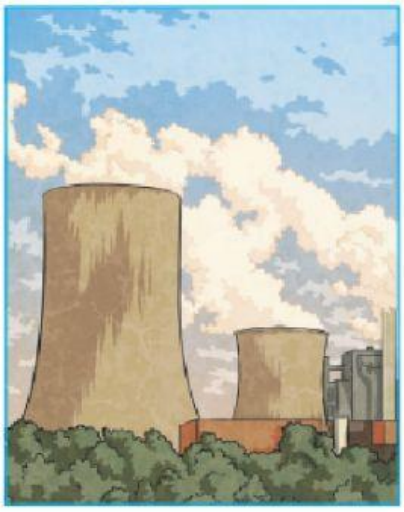
Climate change, or global _____, is the process of our planet heating up. Scientists have observed that, since the **Industrial Revolution**, human activity has caused the Earth's _____ to heat up by approximately 1°C. While that might not sound like much, that small rise in _____ has a big impact for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

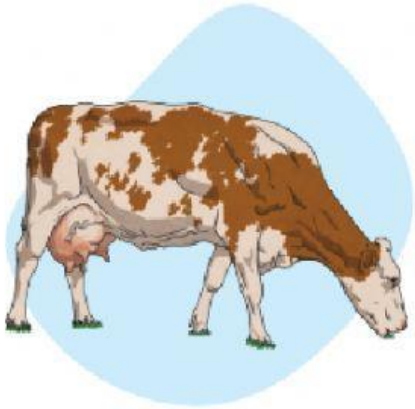
Burning Fossil Fuels



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'.

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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.

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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.



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