

Causes and Effects of Climate Change

National Geographic



Watch the video and then fill in the missing words.

Human activities from _____ to overpopulation are driving up the Earth's temperature and fundamentally changing the world around us. The main cause is a phenomenon known as the _____. Gases in the atmosphere, such as _____, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons let the sun's light in, but keep some of the _____ from escaping, like the glass walls of a greenhouse. The more greenhouse gases in the atmosphere the more heat gets trapped strengthening the greenhouse effect and increasing the earth's _____.

Human activities, like the burning of _____ have increased the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere by more than a third since the Industrial Revolution. The rapid increase in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has warmed the planet at an alarming rate. While Earth's climate has fluctuated in the past, atmospheric carbon

dioxide hasn't reached today's levels in hundreds of thousands of _____.

Climate change has consequences for our _____, our weather, our food sources and our _____. Ice sheets such as _____ and Antarctica are melting. The extra water that was once held in glaciers causes sea levels to rise and spills out of the oceans, flooding coastal regions. Warmer temperature also make _____ more extreme. This means not only more intense major storms, floods and heavy snowfall but also longer and more frequent droughts. These changes in weather pose challenges. Growing crops becomes more difficult. The areas where plants and animals can live shift and water supplies are _____.

In addition to creating new agricultural challenges, _____ change can directly affect people's physical health. In urban areas, the warmer atmosphere creates an environment that traps and increases the amount of _____. This is because smog contains ozone particles, which increase rapidly at higher temperatures. Exposure to higher levels of smog can cause health problems, such as _____, heart disease and lung cancer. While the rapid rate of climate change is caused by humans, humans are also the ones who can combat it. If we work to replace fossil fuels with _____ energy sources like _____ and _____ which don't produce greenhouse gas emissions, we might still be able to prevent some of the worst effects of climate change.

