



ITSON
Educar para
Trascender

INSTITUTO TECNOLÓGICO DE SONORA

Coordinación de Educación Continua

Área de Idiomas

Level 3

Handout 17. Global warming

NAME: _____

I. Read the text and discuss with a partner.

Global Warning!

The Earth is heating up and most scientists believe that it's all our fault. When we burn fossil fuels, greenhouse gases such as carbon dioxide increase and surround the earth like a thick blanket. This traps heat and temperatures rise. Scientists say that in the next 100 years, average temperatures will rise by about 5-9°F. This doesn't sound like a lot, but it means BIG trouble! Ice is already melting, sea levels are rising and the climate is changing. How exactly is all this changing our world, and what will happen if we don't act in time?

Cities under the sea

According to recent climate reports, melting ice from the polar ice caps and mountain glaciers could cause sea levels to rise by about 3 feet by 2100. If this happens, whole countries such as the Maldives will vanish and millions in low-lying areas like parts of Bangladesh will lose their homes. Already, two small Pacific islands have disappeared under the waves. Coastal cities including Shanghai, Bangkok, New York and London will also be under threat. In Greenland, ice is melting three times faster than just a few years ago. If the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica ever melt completely, sea levels will rise about 200 feet. That's enough to cover almost every major city on Earth!

Wildlife in great danger

Global warming is a serious threat to wildlife. In particular, Arctic polar bears are in great danger. The ice that they hunt from is melting very fast, so they have to swim further and further to find food. Many starve or drown. By 2100, summer ice may disappear completely in the Arctic, and polar bears probably won't survive. Changing weather patterns and rising sea levels threaten thousands of other species too. Some people believe that 30-40% of the world's species could become extinct because of climate change.



Wild wild weather!

Heavy rain and snow, storms, heatwaves, droughts, more powerful hurricanes and tornadoes ... these all happen a lot more frequently these days and more and more climatologists now believe this is because of global warming. When sea temperatures rise, there are changes in the atmosphere. If you live in a chilly place, you might think global warming sounds great. But climate change doesn't just mean hotter temperatures. It means more and more extreme and unpredictable weather!



So ... what on earth can we do?

Reduce your carbon footprint*. Cycle, walk, or take a bus instead of traveling by car, use energy-saving bulbs, and wear more clothes instead of turning up the heat. Experts say we must do something NOW! If sea levels start rising even faster, it will be impossible to stop!

* how much CO₂ we personally produce due to our lifestyles!

II. Write four questions about the text, then ask your partner.

1. _____?
- _____
- _____
2. _____?
- _____
- _____
3. _____?
- _____
- _____
4. _____?
- _____
- _____

III. Mark the sentences T(True), F (false) or DS (doesn't say)

- | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 Most of the world's mountain glaciers will melt in the next 100 years. | <input type="button" value="T"/> | <input type="button" value="F"/> | <input type="button" value="DS"/> |
| 2 It might not be possible to go on vacation to the Maldives in 2100. | <input type="button" value="T"/> | <input type="button" value="F"/> | <input type="button" value="DS"/> |
| 3 Ice in Greenland is melting more slowly than five years ago. | <input type="button" value="T"/> | <input type="button" value="F"/> | <input type="button" value="DS"/> |
| 4 Polar bears come from Greenland. | <input type="button" value="T"/> | <input type="button" value="F"/> | <input type="button" value="DS"/> |
| 5 In a hundred years, polar bears may be extinct. | <input type="button" value="T"/> | <input type="button" value="F"/> | <input type="button" value="DS"/> |
| 6 Warmer seas cause more extreme weather. | <input type="button" value="T"/> | <input type="button" value="F"/> | <input type="button" value="DS"/> |

IV. In teams, discuss the following questions. Use will probably, will definitely, might/may, probably won't, definitely won't in your answers.

1. What will happen in the next 100 years? _____
2. What could ice melting cause? _____
3. Which cities will disappear if ice melts? _____
4. Which animal won't survive because of global warming? Why? _____
5. How does global warming affect weather? _____
6. What can you do to reduce global warming? _____