16 Climate change





Global warming is the **gradual** increase in the average temperature of the earth's **atmosphere**, and is caused by an increase of **harmful gases** in the **environment**. Many scientists believe that most of this **pollution** is the result of **human** activities. Here are some of the **effects**:

- As the **ice** at the **poles melts**, sea levels could **rise** by almost a metre in the next century.
- There will be more extreme and **unpredictable** weather, e.g. **heatwaves** or floods.
- The earth will become even warmer because **rainforests** are **disappearing.**
- **Famine** and **disease** will **spread**, and this will **affect** people, especially in poor countries. They will have to import **grain,** which will be too expensive.

GLOSSARY

climate change	changes in the earth's weather, especially the increase in the temperature of the earth's *atmosphere*	**melt**	If you heat ice, it **melts:** it changes from a **solid** to a **liquid**. ALSO **solid** *adj*, **liquid** *adj*
global	covering or affecting the whole world: ***global issues/warming***	**rise**	increase, go higher **rise** *n* OPP **fall** *v, n*
gradual	happening slowly over a long period of time **gradually** *adv*	**unpredictable**	If sth is **unpredictable**, you can't say how it will change in the future. OPP **predictable**; **predict** *v*
the atmosphere	the gases around the Earth, planets, etc.	**heatwave**	a period of unusually hot weather
harmful	causing damage, injury or illness **harm** *v*	**disappear**	If sth or sb **disappears**, they go away and people cannot see them.
gas	a substance like air, e.g. *oxygen, hydrogen, carbon dioxide*	**famine**	**Famine** happens when many people die because there is not enough food in a country.
the environment	the natural world; the air, land and water in which people, plants and animals live **environmental** *adj*	**disease**	illness in people, animals or plants
pollution	gases, chemicals, etc. that harm the environment **pollute** *v*	**spread**	reach more people or places
human	connected with people	**grain**	the seeds of a plant that we eat, e.g. *rice, corn, wheat*

SPOTLIGHT *effect* n, *affect* v

An **effect** is a change which is caused by something.
- *What are the **effects of** global warming?*

Affect means 'change something in a particular way'.
- *Climate change will **affect** all our lives.*

LIVEWORKSHEETS

1 Complete the words.

▶ h u m a n

1 pr___d___ct___ble
2 dis___ ___ ___ear
3 f___m___ne
4 atmo___ ___ ___ere
5 d___s___ ___se
6 env___ro___m___nt
7 p___ll___t___ ___n
8 h___rmf___l
9 l___qu___d
10 gr___d___al

2 Good or bad news? Write *G* or *B*.

▶ This gas won't harm anyone. G

1 Some kinds of animals are disappearing. .....
2 The animals aren't affected by the floods. .....
3 Famine is spreading. .....
4 This liquid is harmful. .....
5 There's less disease in the city now. .....
6 The earth's temperature is rising. .....
7 The ice at the poles is gradually melting. .....
8 The river is polluted. .....
9 It's not a local problem: it's global. .....
10 We have a lot of grain. .....

3 Circle the correct word.

▶ If something rises, it goes ***up*** / ***down***.

1 Ice is ***solid*** / ***liquid***.
2 How does the situation ***effect*** / ***affect*** you?
3 It's all very ***predictable*** / ***unpredictable***: you never know what's going to happen.
4 My brother is studying the effect of the problem on ***the environment*** / ***the pollution***.
5 Global warming is caused by ***people*** / ***human*** activity.
6 There was snow in the mountains, but now it's ***spreading*** / ***melting***.
7 If there is a gradual change in something, it happens ***slowly*** / ***quickly***.
8 Water is a ***liquid*** / ***gas***.
9 The rainforest is gradually ***disappearing*** / ***melting***.
10 There are harmful gases in the ***atmosphere*** / ***effect***.

4 Complete the sentences.

▶ The earth is gradually getting warmer.

1 We had a lot of extreme weather last year: a long h_____ in the summer and then rain and floods in the autumn. I think it's all part of c_____ change.
2 If you freeze water, it changes from l_____ to s_____ .
3 The beach was p_____ with oil, which seriously a_____ the sea birds and animals.
4 Environmentalists p_____ that there will be a r_____ in sea levels in the future.
5 With g_____ warming, some kinds of plants and animals are d_____ very fast.
6 Certain diseases s_____ from person to person very quickly.
7 P_____ has a very h_____ effect on the environment.
8 After many months without rain, there will be only small quantities of g_____ to feed people, so there is a real danger of f_____ in this part of Africa.
9 What are the main e_____ of global w_____ ?
10 Doctors fear the d_____ could soon s_____ as far as Europe.

5 ABOUT YOU AND YOUR COUNTRY Write your answers, or ask another student.

1 How worried are you about global warming? .....
2 Do you have rainforests in your country? If so, what is happening to them? .....
3 Has the climate changed in recent years in your country? If so, how? .....
4 Which human activities do you think are harming the environment most? .....
5 What kind of pollution is common in your country? .....

TEST YOURSELF

LIVEWORKSHEETS