

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 <i>adj</i> , liquid <i>adj</i>
global	covering or affecting the whole world: global issues/warming	rise	increase, go higher rise <i>n</i> OPP fall <i>v, n</i>
gradual	happening slowly over a long period of time gradually <i>adv</i>	unpredictable	If sth is unpredictable , you can't say how it will change in the future. OPP predictable ; predict <i>v</i>
the atmosphere	the gases around the Earth, planets, etc.	heatwave	a period of unusually hot weather
harmful	causing damage, injury or illness harm <i>v</i>	disappear	If sth or sb disappears , they go away and people cannot see them.
gas	a substance like air, e.g. <i>oxygen, hydrogen, carbon dioxide</i>	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 <i>adj</i>	disease	illness in people, animals or plants
pollution	gases, chemicals, etc. that harm the environment pollute <i>v</i>	spread	reach more people or places
human	connected with people	grain	the seeds of a plant that we eat, e.g. <i>rice, corn, wheat</i>

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.

1 Complete the words.

► human

- 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