

## 5A Climate change

### Vocabulary

#### The environment

1 a Match the meanings to the words. Use a dictionary to help you.

1 the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic	<input type="checkbox"/> a	drought
2 cutting down a forest	<input type="checkbox"/> b	power stations
3 harmful chemicals in the air or water	<input type="checkbox"/> c	climate change
4 coal, oil and gas	<input type="checkbox"/> d	the ice caps
5 carbon dioxide	<input type="checkbox"/> e	rainforests
6 when there is no rain for a long time	<input type="checkbox"/> f	CO <sub>2</sub>
7 the tropical forests	<input type="checkbox"/> g	pollution
8 tropical storms	<input type="checkbox"/> h	greenhouse gases
9 gases that trap the sun's heat	<input type="checkbox"/> i	deforestation
10 these produce electricity	<input type="checkbox"/> j	hurricanes
11 the Earth is getting hotter	<input type="checkbox"/> k	fossil fuels

### Comprehension

2 a  3.2 Read and listen to the text.

Complete the gaps with words a–k from exercise 1a. Which word isn't used?

b What is 'the biggest cause' of climate change?

# Climate change: its biggest cause

We hear a lot today about <sup>1</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. Thousands of articles are written about it in newspapers and magazines; TV programmes are made about it.

<sup>2</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, like <sup>3</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ (carbon dioxide), are released into the atmosphere. The sun's heat is trapped by these gases and gradually the world is getting warmer.

Scientists believe that, as a result, <sup>4</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ will melt, sea levels will rise and many islands and coasts will disappear under the water. We will also see more extreme weather, such as <sup>5</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, heavy rain, high temperatures and <sup>6</sup> \_\_\_\_\_.

A lot of greenhouse gases are produced when <sup>7</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ are burnt by <sup>8</sup> \_\_\_\_\_, factories, cars and aeroplanes.

However, the biggest cause is <sup>9</sup> \_\_\_\_\_. The world's forests – especially the tropical <sup>10</sup> \_\_\_\_\_ of South America, Africa and South-East Asia – are very important for the Earth's climate. But every year, over 200,000 square kilometres of forests are destroyed. That's an area the size of Britain.

In some cases, the trees are cut down and the wood is taken away. It's used for buildings and furniture. However, in many cases, the land is wanted for farms. The trees are just burnt down, and billions of tonnes of greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere. Twenty-five per cent of all CO<sub>2</sub> is produced by deforestation. (Aeroplanes produce three per cent.) If we want to save the planet, we must save the forests!