

Name.....class.....No.....

## What is **CLIMATE CHANGE**?



First of all, what is climate? Climate is the weather, such as temperature and rainfall in a region. For example, the temperature in the Amazon is always high and it rains almost every day. In the Antarctic, it is always freezing and there is almost no rain. Those are two types of climate. Climate change describes a change in these conditions, over a long time. NASA scientists tell us that Earth's surface is warming up. That is across the whole planet, not just one or two regions. Most scientists agree that this change is man-made - that is, because of human activity. Burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, gas) releases greenhouse gases, particularly carbon dioxide and methane. Greenhouse gases are like a blanket around Earth - they stop heat from escaping. That is how we get global warming. Cars, factories, power stations, farms, heating our homes - all these everyday things contribute to climate change. It is a problem because as Earth warms up, the ice at the North and South Poles melts, seas rise and land is lost. Forests heat up and then burn. Animal habitats are lost. Some governments are trying to reduce carbon emissions. The Paris Agreement (2015) is an international agreement to limit the amount of greenhouse gases countries are allowed to emit. However, we can all contribute. We must use less energy: switch off the heater; walk, don't ride in the car etc. Vegetation gives off oxygen and soaks up carbon, so if possible, support greening projects by donating money, or plant some plants yourself, or even plant a tree.

### Are the sentences TRUE or FALSE?

1. It rains a lot in the Amazon  TRUE  FALES
2. 'Climate' describes weather conditions  TRUE  FALES
3. Earth is cooling down  TRUE  FALES
4. Most scientists say that global warming is caused by natural events  TRUE  FALES
5. If Earth warms up, that is fine, no problem  TRUE  FALES
6. The Paris Agreement gives out advice about holidays in France  TRUE  FALES
7. Individuals can help with climate change.  TRUE  FALES

### 8. Answer the questions in full sentences:

11. What does 'climate' mean?
12. Describe the climate where you live
13. What have NASA scientists observed?
14. Are the causes of global warming natural?
15. What do most scientists agree on?
16. How do greenhouse gases act?
17. Why is it a problem if the world heats up?
18. What are governments doing about it?
19. What is the Paris Agreement?
20. What can individuals do to help?

Regreening is planting trees in areas where trees used to be. It is planting trees and other vegetation in de-forested areas. The prefix re- means again.

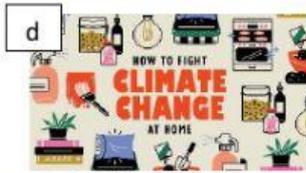
**NOTE** What is the difference between climate change and global warming?

Previously, climate change was referred to as global warming. However, people began to question that term. If it was particularly cold, or if there was a lot of snow, people asked: how can the world be getting warmer??? It was not a good description. What is happening now is that the world is warming up, sure, but also, the weather is more extreme, for example, some countries are getting a lot more rain than usual. Therefore, 'Climate change' is a better description.

**VOCABULARY EXERCISE: Choose the right option:**

21. Temperature means: how hot / how fast / how heavy
22. The South Pole is at: the equator / the Arctic / The Antarctic
23. NASA stands for: National Association of Shop Administrators / National Aeronautic and Space Administration / Natural Air Safety Association
24. The surface is: in the middle / exterior / interior
25. Fuel is a form of rain / energy / gas
26. Release means: give off / catch / grab
27. Global means: worldwide / square / circular
28. Habitat is: a furniture store / animal home / atmosphere
29. To limit means: to reduce / to increase / to emit
30. To emit is to: take in / limit / give off
31. Give off means: to emit / to omit / to spread
32. Soak up is to: absorb / evaporate / reduce
33. Carbon, or Carbon dioxide (CO2) is: liquid / solid / gas
34. Regreening is to: paint your walls green / recycle / plant vegetation and trees

**Match the picture with the message : What message/points are they making?**



34. Image to promote recycling
35. Things you can do to help
36. This image is promoting vegetarianism/veganism
37. Factories emit/release/give off greenhouse gases which are responsible for global warming
38. Save the world! Plant trees. Save the rain forests.
39. The ice caps are melting and polar bears and other animals will have nowhere to live

40. It just doesn't work like that. หมายถึง