

## A The problem

**WHAT IS THE GREENHOUSE EFFECT?**

Many **greenhouse gases**, e.g. carbon dioxide, methane and ozone, **exist**<sup>1</sup> naturally and are needed to **create**<sup>2</sup> the **greenhouse effect** that keeps the Earth warm enough to **support**<sup>3</sup> human life. However, the use of **fossil fuels**, e.g. oil, natural gas and coal, has produced **excessive**<sup>4</sup> amounts of greenhouse gases, and the **result**<sup>5</sup> is **global warming**: an increase in the average temperature on Earth. Of the 15 warmest years **on record**<sup>6</sup>, 14 have **occurred**<sup>7</sup> since 2000.

The **effects**<sup>8</sup> of **climate change** can already be seen in our everyday lives. Summers are getting hotter and winters are getting wetter, so **drought**<sup>9</sup> and **floods**<sup>10</sup> are becoming more common. With it, animal and plant life is **suffering**<sup>11</sup> – some species will disappear altogether – and certain illnesses, e.g. hay fever, asthma and skin cancer, are becoming more common.

To stop global warming from destroying<sup>12</sup> our environment<sup>13</sup>, we need to act now.

<sup>1</sup> are real or present

<sup>2</sup> make something happen or exist

<sup>3</sup> help (human life) to continue

<sup>4</sup> more than you want or need

<sup>5</sup> something that happens because of something else that has happened

<sup>6</sup> If information is *on record*, it has been written down or kept on a computer.

<sup>7</sup> happened; *fm*

<sup>8</sup> a change or result that is caused by something

<sup>9</sup> a long time without rain when people do not have enough water

<sup>10</sup> when water covers an area that is usually dry, often from too much rain

<sup>11</sup> experiencing something which is unpleasant

<sup>12</sup> damaging something so badly that it does not exist or cannot be used

<sup>13</sup> the air, land and water around us

## B The solution\* – or part of it

To **reduce** global warming [make it less], the nations of the world will have to **act** together [do something to solve a problem; *syn take action*]. In the meantime, individuals can also help.

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**SIX WAYS TO REDUCE GLOBAL WARMING:**

- 1 Don't throw things away - recycle paper, glass, plastic, etc. so that it can be used again.
- 2 Save<sup>1</sup> energy<sup>2</sup> e.g. switch off lights when you leave a room.
- 3 Don't waste<sup>3</sup> water, e.g. turn off the tap when you are brushing your teeth.
- 4 Change light bulbs for more energy-efficient<sup>4</sup> ones.
- 5 Drive less and walk more.
- 6 Plant trees<sup>5</sup> because trees reduce the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, and so reduce greenhouse gases.

\* the answer to a problem

<sup>1</sup> don't waste

<sup>2</sup> gas and electricity

<sup>3</sup> use it badly

<sup>4</sup> working well and not wasting energy

<sup>5</sup> put a new tree in the ground

### 58.1 How do you pronounce the underlined letters? Use the index to help you.

- 1 global Is it like go or got? *ge*
- 2 flood Is it like foot or fun? *fu*
- 3 fuel Is it like food or few? *fu*

- 4 drought Is it like no or now? *no*
- 5 suffer Is it like son or soon? *so*
- 6 climate Is it like educate or comfortable? *cl*

### 58.2 Match the words on the left with the words on the right.

- |                  |                          |           |
|------------------|--------------------------|-----------|
| 1 the greenhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> | a warming |
| 2 global         | <input type="checkbox"/> | b change  |
| 3 fossil         | <input type="checkbox"/> | c effect  |
| 4 greenhouse     | <input type="checkbox"/> | d fuels   |
| 5 climate        | <input type="checkbox"/> | e gases   |

### 58.3 How can we help with global warming? Cover the opposite page and complete the text.

- Don't <sup>1</sup> *throw away* paper, glass and plastic; <sup>2</sup> *recycle* it.
- Don't <sup>3</sup> *waste* water: turn off the <sup>4</sup> *tap* when you brush your teeth.
- <sup>5</sup> *Save* energy by <sup>6</sup> *switching off* lights when you leave a room.
- <sup>7</sup> *Plant* trees in order to <sup>8</sup> *reduce* the amount of carbon dioxide.
- <sup>9</sup> *Take* action now, before it's too late.

### 58.4 Complete the explanations.

- 1 We don't have to create greenhouse gases; they *exist* naturally.
- 2 Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere *create* the greenhouse effect.
- 3 Global warming is the *result* of an increase in the amount of greenhouse gases.
- 4 Two *effects* of climate change have been hotter summers and wetter winters.
- 5 A *drought* is often the result of too much rain when the rivers are full.
- 6 A *drought* is a long period without rain, and they are *experiencing* more frequently now.
- 7 The *climate* is the air, land and water around us.
- 8 If you *damage* something, it is so badly damaged, it cannot be used again.
- 9 If something is *working well*, it works well and doesn't waste energy.
- 10 *Energy* is the power that comes from gas, electricity, etc.

### 58.5 Complete the tables. Use a dictionary to help you.

| verb    | noun             | verb    | noun     |
|---------|------------------|---------|----------|
| recycle | <i>recycling</i> |         | solution |
| waste   |                  | reduce  |          |
| destroy |                  | support |          |
| exist   |                  | suffer  |          |

### 58.6 Over to you

Answer the questions. If possible, talk to someone else about the problems.

- 1 Can you see the effects of global warming and climate change in your country? What do you see?
- 2 What things do people recycle every week?
- 3 Do you think you often waste water and energy? How?
- 4 What more could you do to solve the problem? Does it worry you?