

Read the text below.

Match paragraphs 1-5 to their subheadings a-e.

13,400
1881 1891 1901 1911 1921 1931 1941 1951 1961 1971 1981 1991 2001
1890 1900 1910 1920 1930 1940 1950 1960 1970 1980 1990 2000 2010

- a) What is our responsibility?
- b) What causes climate change?
- c) How can we stop climate change?
- d) What is climate change?
- e) What are the effects of climate change?

Climate Change

1

Climate change is an issue that affects every country in the world. When we talk about climate change we are referring to changes in the Earth's weather, in particular **global warming** or the increase in the planet's temperature.

2

In the last 200 years, human activity has resulted in excessive amounts of **greenhouse gases** being produced. When people burn **fossil fuels**, such as coal, oil and gas they release the greenhouse gas, carbon dioxide into the **atmosphere**. Methane, another greenhouse gas is produced by bacteria in landfill sites and from modern agriculture. These gases trap heat in the atmosphere, just like the glass walls of a greenhouse trap the sun's heat. This is causing the Earth's temperature to rise.

3

Climate change is having a devastating effect on our planet. We are experiencing longer and more **extreme** heat waves. In some areas, farmers cannot grow crops or find suitable land for their animals because of droughts. If temperatures continue to rise, many plants and animals will not be able to survive. In other areas, climate change is causing heavier rainfall and severe floods. In addition, many cities and countries located at sea-level are at risk from flooding due to rising sea levels caused by melting ice caps and glaciers. If we do not take action, these problems will probably get worse.

4

If we want to reduce climate change, we must reduce our 'carbon footprint' which is the amount of greenhouse gases we **release** into the atmosphere. Small changes in our daily lives can make a big difference. For example, we can turn off lights and electronic devices when we are not using them, walk or ride a bike instead of travelling by car, take shorter showers to save water, use reusable bags instead of plastic bags and recycle our waste.

5

Climate change is a serious threat to our planet. Some people think that governments have to solve climate change but fighting climate change should be considered everyone's responsibility. As it is caused by human actions, we must all take action to stop it.