

Reading Worksheet – Climate and Environment

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____

Reading

Scientists say that the temperature of the Earth is rising. This problem is called global warming. When the Earth becomes warmer, ice at the North and South Poles begins to melt. As a result, sea levels rise. Some places may have floods while others experience drought.

One reason for global warming is the greenhouse effect. Normally, heat from the sun warms the Earth and then escapes back into space. However, gases such as carbon dioxide trap the heat in the atmosphere and make the planet warmer.

Rainforests are very important because they absorb carbon dioxide and help control global warming. Unfortunately, many forests are cut down for wood or farming. This process is called deforestation.

Factories, power stations and vehicles release harmful gases into the air. This causes air pollution. Some chemicals mix with water in the atmosphere and fall as acid rain, which damages trees, rivers and buildings.

Exercise 1 – Vocabulary Match

- | | |
|----------------------|---|
| 1. Global warming | a. Rain that contains harmful chemicals |
| 2. Deforestation | b. Dirty air, water or land |
| 3. Pollution | c. Cutting down forests |
| 4. Acid rain | d. Gases trapping heat from the sun |
| 5. Greenhouse effect | e. Increase in Earth's temperature |

Exercise 2 – True or False

1. Global warming makes the Earth colder. _____
2. Ice at the poles melts because of global warming. _____
3. Rainforests help control carbon dioxide. _____
4. Deforestation means planting more trees. _____
5. Acid rain damages trees and buildings. _____

Exercise 3 – Multiple Choice

1. Global warming causes: a) sea levels to rise b) sea levels to fall
2. Rainforests help the environment because they: a) absorb carbon dioxide b) produce pollution

3. Factories and vehicles cause: a) pollution b) forests
4. Acid rain damages: a) trees and rivers b) the sun

Exercise 4 – Short Answer

1. What is global warming?

2. Why are rainforests important?

3. What causes air pollution?
