

# A Climate Emergency

## What is Climate Change?

There is a difference between weather and climate. There are many different types of weather that belong to different seasons. Like rain in winter and sunshine in summer. The word climate describes the weather over a long time. Our climate is changing, our planet is heating up.

The average temperature on Earth is getting warmer because there are more greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are made from burning fossil fuels (coal, oil and gas) to heat up our homes, run cars and aeroplanes and to run factories. It is also released through animal burps! This means the more animal products (like cheese and milk) and meat we eat, the more animals there are on farms and the more methane (a greenhouse gas) is released into the atmosphere.

## What are the Effects of Climate Change?

Climate change affects our planet in lots of different ways. The ice in the Arctic and Antarctic is melting, which makes the sea levels rise 6mm each year. Although this doesn't sound like much, this is enough to flood cities like London by 2100. Oceans are also getting warmer which is causing larger storms. Summers are becoming hotter and drier, which causes droughts and forest fires. If we carry on putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, Earth's temperature could go up by 4 degrees or even more.

## What Difference Can I Make?

We can all help in many different ways to stop the temperature of our planet rising even more. Here are just some of the things we need to do:

**Stop burning coal**, oil and gas to make electricity, and heat houses, and use solar and wind power instead.

**Reduce** our use of cars and aeroplanes. Switch to electric cars, bikes and walking.

**Eat less meat** so we need fewer animals that produce methane.

**Insulate houses** so they don't use so much energy to keep warm.

**Reduce** the amount of things we own

**Repair** things when they break down

**Re-use** old things

**Recycle** them when they are really not working anymore.

Everything we own, phones, TV, furniture, clothes, toys takes energy to make, that puts more greenhouse gas into the atmosphere.

Climate change is big and it is scary, but together we can fight it. As Greta says

“TOGETHER AND UNITED, WE ARE UNSTOPPABLE”

Greta Thunberg, Environmental activist

1. Circle an example of a greenhouse gas:

Oxygen

Carbon Dioxide

Methane

2. Find and copy one way that greenhouse gasses are made

3. Look at the section ‘What are the effects of climate change?’  
Find and copy one word that means the same as ‘hotter’

4. List one change that we can make to stop the temperature of our planet getting warmer

5. Write one way that climate change is affecting our planet.

6. If we keep putting greenhouse gasses into the atmosphere, how much warmer could our planet become?

7. Why do we need to reduce, reuse, repair and recycle?

8. In your own words, what do you think Greta means?

# A Climate Emergency - Answers

## One Star Comprehension Answers

**1. Methane**

**2. Burning fossil fuels or though animals/animal burps**

**3. Warmer**

**4. One of the following:**

- Stop burning coal, oil and gas
- Reduce our use of cars and aeroplanes
- Eat less meat
- Insulate houses
- Reduce the amount of things we own
- Repair broken things
- Re-use old things
- Recycle

**5. One of the following:**

- Ice is melting and sea
- Sea levels are rising
- Oceans are getting warmer
- Larger storms
- Hotter and drier summers
- Droughts and forest fires

**6. 4 degrees or more**

**7. Everything we own uses energy to make it which puts more greenhouse gases into the atmosphere**

**8. Refers to working together, stronger together than working on our own, working together to fight against climate change**