

A Climate Emergency

What is Climate Change?

There is a difference between weather and climate. There are many different types of weather that are common to particular seasons. For example, rain in winter and sunshine in summer. The word climate describes the typical weather over a longer period of time. Our climate is changing, our planet is heating up.

The average temperature on Earth is increasing because of an increase in the amount of greenhouse gases being released into the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases are produced 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 and meat we consume, the more animals there are on farms and the amount of methane (a greenhouse gas) released into the atmosphere increases.

What are the Effects of Climate Change?

Climate change affects our planet in many different ways. The rise in temperature is causing the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic to melt, 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 and fiercer 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 further. 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. In the section ‘What is Climate Change?’ find an antonym for the word trap.

2. In the section ‘What are the Effects of Climate Change?’ find and copy an adjective which describes the change in summer.

3. In which year could cities like London be flooded?

4. Name a gas which is classed as a greenhouse gas and describe how it is released into the atmosphere.

5. Why do we need to reduce our use of cars and aeroplanes?

6. Why do you think the subheading 'What Difference can I Make?' has been used?

7. "Together and united, we are unstoppable". Rewrite this phrase in your own words.

8. What effect does the quote from Greta have upon the reader?

A Climate Emergency - Answers

Two Star Comprehension Answers

1. Released
2. Hotter or drier
3. 2100
4. Methane
5. To reduce the amount of fossil fuels used to run them
6. Refers to giving the reader advice, encouraging the reader to take action, informing the reader of the steps they can take to reduce the effects of climate change.
7. A quote which refers to working together against climate change, achieving more together than alone, a greater force as a team
8. Refers to inspiring people to work together to combat climate change/makes the reader believe it is something they can achieve