

Parent Guide



@twinklparents

We're excited to share this activity with you. If you are interested in finding more exciting, fun and interesting activities for you and your children, then check out these links to different areas of the [Twinkl Parents](#) website.

games



crafts



puzzles



experiments



word searches



What is this resource and how do I use it?

Read about climate change and the reasons why it is happening. The questions after the text will not only test your child's knowledge but will also help to improve the reading skills they practise in school, such as inference, retrieval and sequencing.

What skills does this practise?

Reading

Understanding

Retrieval

Summarising

Further Activity Ideas and Suggestions

Once children start to read longer chapter books, it can get boring reading the same book for a long time; this **Creative Reading Challenge** might inject a little interest into reading. Take a look at the **Year 5 Reading Comprehension** category on the Parents Hub for more comprehension tasks.

Parents Blog



Twinkl Kids' TV



Homework Help



twinkl

Parents Hub

Why is the climate changing?

Reading Comprehension

Ages
9 - 10



What is climate change?

Climate change (or global warming) is the process of our planet heating up. It refers to the long-term shift in temperatures and weather changes in a particular area or region. These changes usually occur over a long period of time. Scientists estimate that since the Industrial Revolution, human activity has caused the Earth to warm by one degree Celsius. While this might sound like a minor change, it will have a major impact on people and wildlife around the world.

What causes climate change?

The main causes of climate change are human activities - like cutting down forests, driving cars, creating electricity and burning fossil fuels. The process of burning fossil fuels has greatly impacted climate change. This process creates greenhouse gases which absorb heat/energy leaving Earth's surface, warming the atmosphere. The increase in greenhouse gases from human activity is making our planet unnaturally hot. Plants, soils and the oceans can absorb these dangerous gases, but they can't keep up with the amount being produced. Some greenhouse gases stay in the atmosphere for very long periods of time, from hundreds to even thousands of years.

Climate Change Greenhouse Gases

The most common types of greenhouse gases are:

- Carbon Dioxide (CO₂): This is the most common greenhouse gas created by human activity. Burning fossil fuels and making cement are two ways in which this gas is released into the atmosphere.
- Methane (CH₄): This is the second most common greenhouse gas created by human activity. Most of this gas comes directly from raising livestock.

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The Effects of Climate Change

Warmer temperatures, changing weather patterns and disrupting the usual balance of nature over time pose many risks to both humans and wildlife. Some of these risks include:

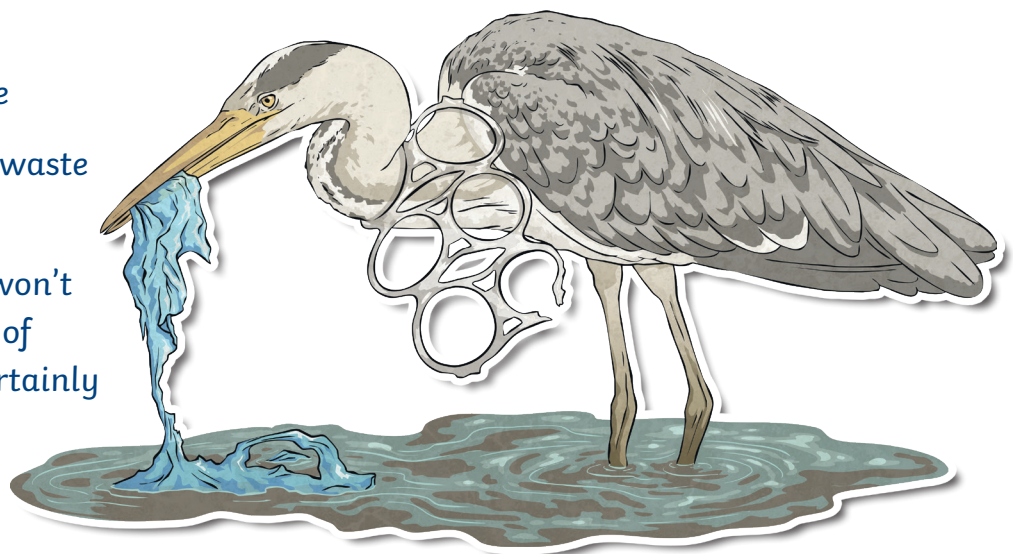
- rising temperatures
- more severe weather conditions
- increased drought
- loss of species
- warming oceans
- lack of food

What are the solutions?

Everyone can play a part in reducing our carbon footprint by making small changes. Some of these changes include:

- choosing cleaner ways to power homes and cars
- turning off lights and appliances that are not in use
- planting trees
- walking or cycling if possible
- recycling and reducing food waste

Making these small changes won't erase the significant problem of climate change, but it will certainly work towards a brighter future for us and for generations to come.



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Glossary

carbon footprint

This is the total amount of greenhouse gases created by what we do.

fossil fuels

Coal, oil and gas are examples of fossil fuels. They are types of energy that are not renewable.

renewable energy

This refers to electricity that is created from wind, water and solar sources. The source of the energy does not run out, so it is renewable.

drought

A drought is when there is a lack of rainfall over a long period of time, resulting in a water shortage.

species

A species is a group of living things that share commonalities, such as orangutans or snakes.

extinct

Something is extinct when it no longer exists; to be gone forever.

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Questions

1. What is climate change? Tick one.

a. the process of our planet cooling down

b. the process of reclaiming land from the sea

c. the process of our planet warming up

d. the process of planting new trees

2. By how many degrees have scientists claimed that the Earth has warmed up since the Industrial Revolution? Tick one.

a. 0.1°C

b. 1°C

c. 0.01°C

d. 10°C

3. Find and copy two words which show that burning fossil fuels has had a major effect on climate change.

4. Fill in the missing word.

The increase in _____ gases from human activity is making our planet unnaturally hot.

5. What is the name of the most common greenhouse gas?

6. Why do you think we should be worried about climate change?

7. What, in your opinion, is the most impactful effect of climate change?

8. What small steps other than those listed will you take in your home to reduce your carbon footprint?

9. Summarise what you learnt about climate change using 25 words or fewer.

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Questions - Answers

1. What is climate change? Tick one.

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3. Find and copy two words which show that burning fossil fuels has had a major effect on climate change.

greatly impacted

4. Fill in the missing word.

The increase in **greenhouse** gases from human activity is making our planet unnaturally hot.

5. What is the name of the most common greenhouse gas?

carbon dioxide (CO₂)

6. Why do you think we should be worried about climate change?

Child's own response, such as: We should be worried about climate change as its effects are severe to both humans and wildlife. If we continue to ignore what is happening, we will cause damage for future generations.

7. What, in your opinion, is the most impactful effect of climate change?

Child's own response, such as: I believe that loss of species is the most impactful effect of climate change as this could result in many of our wildlife species becoming extinct and, once those animals are lost, we can't get them back.

8. What small steps other than those listed will you take in your home to reduce your carbon footprint?

Child's own response, such as: I will only charge my consoles when they need to be charged. I will encourage my family to buy products with less packaging. I will play outside more and spend less time watching television.

9. Summarise what you learnt about climate change using 25 words or fewer.

Child's own response, such as: I have learnt that climate change is the process of our planet heating up. This is as a result of human activity and greenhouse gases.

Disclaimer: We hope you find the information on our website and resources useful. As far as possible, the contents of this resource are reflective of current professional research. However, please be aware that every child is different and information can quickly become out of date. The information given here is intended for general guidance purposes only and may not apply to your specific situation.

Eco-anxiety Disclaimer: While every care has been taken to ensure that there are no significant emotional triggers regarding eco-anxiety for learners in this lesson, any feelings that arise should be embraced and discussed non-judgementally.