

Text 02

Global Warming

Scientists made an alarming discovery in the 1980s. They found out that the average temperature of the Earth's surface was slowly rising. This trend is called global warming. Today we know that global warming is increasing because more and more gases get into the atmosphere.

A greenhouse is a glass house in which plants grow. The glass lets light in and at the same time keeps heat from getting out. This heat keeps the plants warm, even when it is cold outside. The same happens to the Earth's atmosphere. It lets sunlight in and keeps carbon dioxide and other gases from getting out. We need these gases but too much of them trap more heat.

For a long time people on our Earth didn't think a lot about greenhouse gases. The situation changed when people started using more and more energy in the form of fossil fuels, like oil, gas and coal. We burn fossil fuels to power factories, run cars, produce electricity and heat houses. As fossil fuels burn they let carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.

During the last few decades people have also cut down many forests. Trees use carbon dioxide when they make their own food. Fewer trees mean that less carbon dioxide is taken out of the atmosphere.

Scientists have different opinions on how warm the Earth's surface will really get. The increase may be between 1.5°C and 6°C by the year 2100. Warmer weather will make ice caps and glaciers melt. Sea levels could rise dramatically. Plants, animals and people living in coastal areas all could be in danger. The weather may change in many areas of the world. Floods, droughts could be the result.

People in colder regions might welcome warmer weather but those who live in regions that are already hot may suffer from new diseases. At the same time some

animals may not survive because they cannot adapt to the new environment. They could move to other places in order to live there.

Finding a solution to solve the world's biggest environmental problem is not an easy task. Although we need energy to make our economy grow there are things that could be done to fight off this problem. Travelling by public transport could take many cars off the roads. You could turn off lights, TV sets, computers and other electrical items if you don't need them. Companies have been spending a lot of money to produce items that use little energy.

We also need to use more alternative energy, like sunlight, wind power or wave power. Car companies have started to produce a new type of cars known as hybrids. It works like an electric car but also has a small petrol engine.

I- PART ONE FROM THE TEXT

- 1- Why is global warming increasing these days?
- 2- How a greenhouse works?
- 3- What does the atmosphere do to the earth?
- 4- How can the use of energy affect the earth?
- 5- Name another cause of the global warming.
- 6- What are the possible effects of global warming?
- 7- Suggest some solutions to reduce global warming.

II- PART TWO

- 1- Match the words on the left with the meanings on the right.

Words	Meanings
1- Mountain glacier	a) a period of time during which the weather is much hotter than usual.
2- Polar ice cap	b) a long period of time during which no rain falls.
3- Heatwave	c) a huge mass of ice which moves very slowly down a mountain valley.

4- Drought	d) when an area near the sea is covered by large amounts of seawater.
5- Rising sea levels	e) change in general weather conditions and patterns.
6- Coastal flooding	f) a thick layer of ice and snow that permanently covers an area of land in the areas around the North and South Poles.
7- Climate change	g) when a species of plant or animal dies out, i.e. no longer has any living members
8- Extinction	h) when the average level of the seas get higher with respect to the land.

2- Use the words in the word box to complete the sentences below.

- Releases	-greenhouse
-Absorb	-fossil fuels .
-Global warming	- greenhouse gases

-refers to the gradual rise in the earth's temperature as a result of human activities.
-is a glass building used to grow plants. It keeps the plants warm and protects them from bad weather.
- When too many are released into the air, they trap the sun's heat and cause the earth to get warmer.
- Fuels like coal and oil, formed from the remains of decayed plants and animals, are called.....
- Burning fuel carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- Plants and trees carbon dioxide from the air.