

Climate Change

Geography KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER



Greta Thunberg

Greta Thunberg (born 3 January 2003) is a Swedish environmental activist who is known for challenging world leaders to take immediate action for climate change mitigation. In August 2018, at age 15, she started spending her Fridays outside the Swedish Parliament to call for stronger action on climate change.

ESSENTIAL CLIMATE CHANGE VOCABULARY	
climate change	The long-term changes in global temperatures and other characteristics of the atmosphere
greenhouse gases	Gases in the earth's atmosphere that trap heat.
climate	The average weather conditions over a long period of time.
oxygen	One of the main elements that make up the air that many living things breathe.
micro-beads	Very small pieces of material, often used in cosmetics.
hazard	A danger or risk.
pollution	The presence of a harmful substance in an environment.
pollutant	A substance that pollutes something.
toxic	Poisonous or harmful.
pollute	To contaminate something with harmful substances.
contaminant	A polluting or poisonous substance.
consumption	Using up a resource.
landfill	The disposal of waste material by burying it.
debris	Scattered pieces of rubbish or remains
deforestation	The cutting down and clearing of forests.
equator	A 'line' around the earth dividing it into northern and southern hemispheres.
ecosystem	A community or group of living organisms that live in a specific environment.
habitat	The natural home or environment of an animal, place or other organisms.

Greenhouse effect

The greenhouse effect is a process that occurs when gases in Earth's atmosphere trap the Sun's heat. This process makes Earth much warmer than it would be without an atmosphere. The greenhouse effect is one of the things that makes Earth a comfortable place to live.

Global warming

Due to greenhouse gases becoming trapped in the Earth's atmosphere, the planet is slowly warming up. This means that the polar ice caps are beginning to melt as the regions become warmer. The animals living in these places rely on the ice cover and cold/warm seasons in order to survive. Polar bears tend to be more active in the winter when there is more ice. As the warm seasons become longer, the polar bears must survive for longer with less food.



Deforestation

Causes of Deforestation

- Commercial farming – selling crops for profit.
- Logging – cutting down trees for wood.
- Population – land being cleared for houses.
- Roads - farmers, loggers and miners need access to build roads.
- Mineral extraction - removal of minerals like gold from the earth.

Effects of Deforestation

Negative:

- Fewer plant and animal species.
- Loss of habitats for animals.
- Loss of sources of medicine.
- Soil erosion which can lead to flooding.
- Global warming and rising sea levels.

Positive:

- Selling land raises money for local people.
- Jobs are created in different areas.

Fun fact!

The Amazon is often known as the 'Lungs of the Planet'.



Plastic Pollution

Causes

As plastic is cheap and easy to make, it is bought, used and thrown away in a huge quantity. Because plastic is made to last, it is very durable which means that it takes a very long time to decompose. Before decomposing, it breaks into tiny pieces which ends up in our water. This pollutes the water and harms animals living in it.

Ending Plastic Pollution

To help end plastic pollution, it is important to remember to reduce, reuse and recycle:

- **reduce** (use less plastic)
Use alternatives (such as bamboo) if possible, to avoid buying single-use plastics. Instead of plastic straws, you can buy metal ones that can then be used again.
- **reuse** (use existing products instead of single-use plastic)
If you already have plastic items, reuse them several times instead of throwing them away. If you have plastic toys you no longer use, give them to a charity shop instead of throwing them away.
- **recycle** (instead of using landfill).
Before buying plastic, check for the recycling symbol and then recycle it instead of throwing it away. This should be a last resort, as it still has a negative impact on the environment.

