



Our changing world

Are all changes for the better?

Key Knowledge Facts

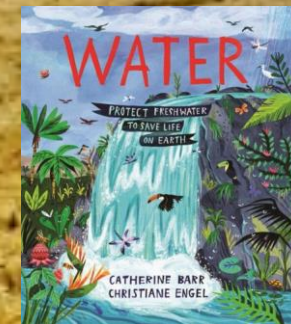
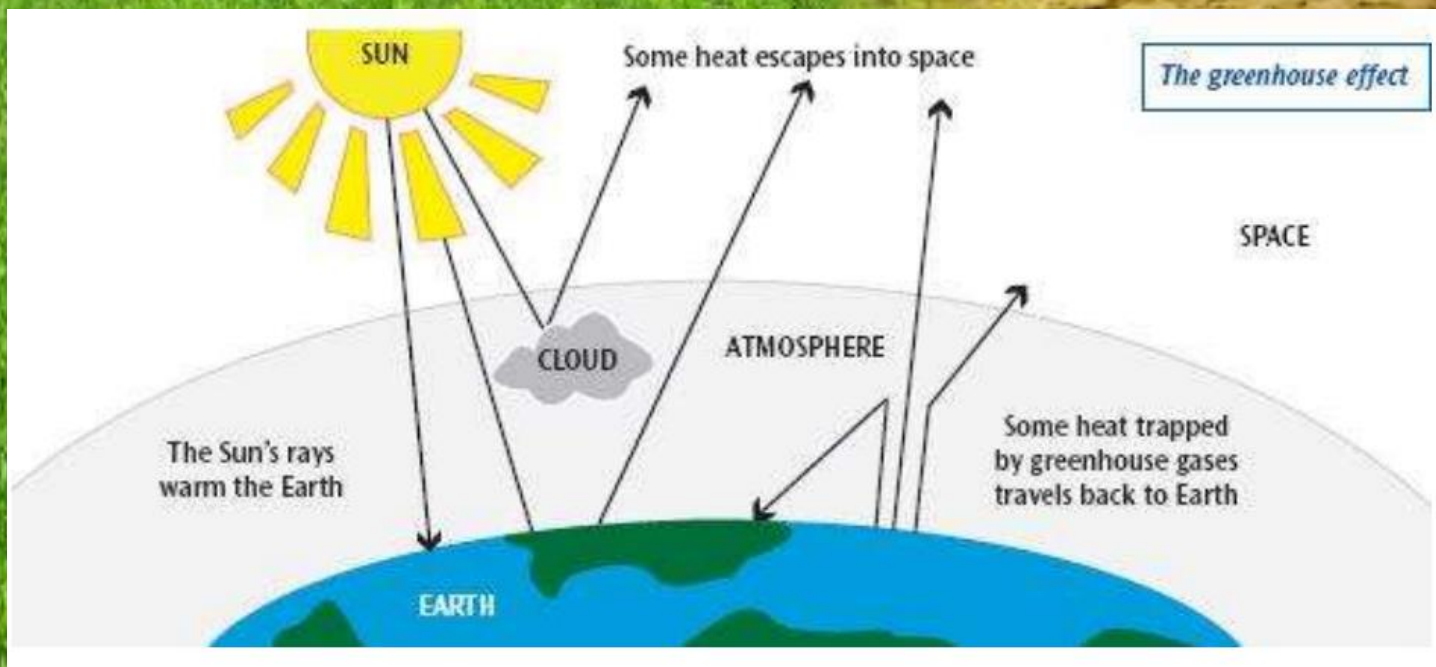
The average temperature of the earth is rising, a process called global warming. Global warming is causing changes to normal weather conditions in places all over the world. As a result it is having serious effects on people's lives.

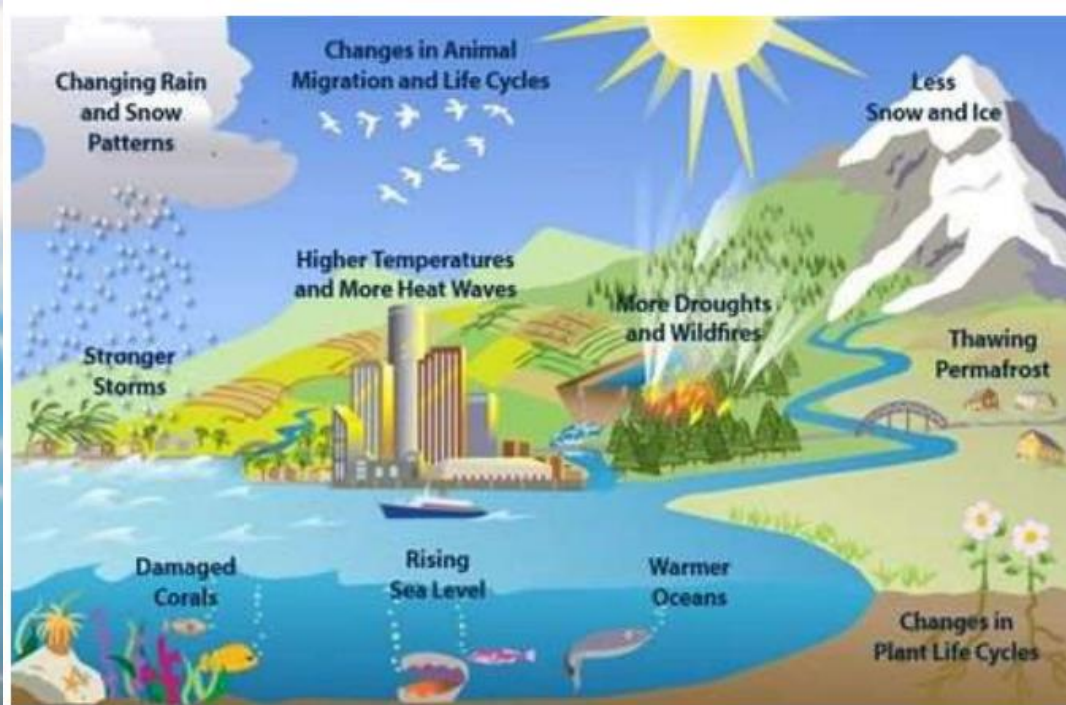
Each year the amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is increasing and this is contributing to causing global warming. Carbon dioxide is referred to as a greenhouse gas because, along with other gases such as methane, it stops heat bouncing back into space from the Earth's surface.

Global warming is causing things to happen: ice sheets, sea ice and glaciers around the North Pole and South Pole and in high mountain ranges are thawing; there are more extreme weather events around the world such as long heat waves and droughts in some places and short intense storms with very heavy rainfall and flooding elsewhere; sea levels are rising.

The main reason that the amount of carbon dioxide is increasing is that 85 per cent of all the energy consumed in the world comes from burning fossil fuels, in particular petroleum (oil), gas and coal. Because fossil fuels are made of the dead remains of plants and animals that lived millions of years ago, they contain a lot of carbon dioxide, which is released into the atmosphere when burnt.

There is lots being done to try and help stop the effects of global warming and to help us live more sustainably.





What Is Being Done To Combat Climate Change?

Some important changes have already been taking place around the world. These include:



Building wind farms, solar farms and other



Stopping the manufacture of petrol



Introducing electric vehicles.

Many people think that this is not happening quickly enough to make a difference and more action is needed

Vocabulary	Definition
atmosphere	The mixture of gases that surrounds the Earth.
carbon dioxide	It is a gas at room temperature. It is made of one carbon and two oxygen atoms. People and animals release carbon dioxide when they breathe.
climate change	Significant change in the Earth's climate over time is called climate change.
fossil fuels	A natural fuel such as coal or gas formed from the remains of organisms that lived long ago.
global warming	The gradual increase in the overall temperature of the earth's atmosphere.
greenhouse effect	Warming of the earth caused by the trapping of the sun's energy by greenhouse gases.
greenhouse gas	Gases in the air that trap energy from the sun e.g. carbon dioxide and methane.
methane	Methane is gas that is found in small quantities in Earth's atmosphere.
sustainable	When a natural resource is sustainable, it doesn't become used up or destroyed.