

# Understanding Climate Change

COMPREHENSION • VOCABULARY • DISCUSSION

INTERACTIVE ONLINE TEST

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## Reading Passage

Read the passage carefully. Each paragraph is labelled with a letter for easy reference.

- A** Climate change is a significant issue that affects everyone on our planet. It refers to long-term changes in temperature, precipitation, and other atmospheric conditions. Over the past century, human activities, especially the burning of fossil fuels like coal, oil, and natural gas, have increased greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. This increase traps heat, leading to a rise in global temperatures. For example, in 2020, the Earth experienced some of the hottest temperatures recorded in history. This warming has serious consequences, such as melting ice caps, rising sea levels, and more extreme weather events. Many scientists believe that if we do not take action soon, these effects will worsen, impacting wildlife and human populations.
- B** To combat climate change, individuals and governments are encouraged to make changes. Simple actions like recycling, using energy-efficient appliances, and reducing car travel can make a difference. Additionally, many countries are investing in renewable energy sources like wind and solar power. For instance, in 2021, Germany produced about 50% of its electricity from renewable sources. By working together to reduce our carbon footprint, we can help create a healthier planet for future generations. It is essential for teenagers to learn about these issues, as they will play a crucial role in shaping the future.

## Vocabulary Glossary

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Key words and phrases from the passage. Study them before attempting the exercise below.

WORD / PHRASE	DEFINITION	EXAMPLE SENTENCE
<b>significant</b>	very important or large enough to notice	<i>Winning the award was a significant achievement for her.</i>
<b>precipitation</b>	water that falls from the sky as rain, snow, etc.	<i>The weather forecast predicts heavy precipitation tomorrow.</i>
<b>atmospheric</b>	related to the air around the Earth	<i>The atmospheric pressure is lower on top of mountains.</i>
<b>fossil fuels</b>	fuels like coal, oil, and gas from plants and animals that died millions of years ago	<i>Many cars still run on fossil fuels, like gasoline.</i>
<b>greenhouse gases</b>	gases that trap heat in the atmosphere, like carbon dioxide	<i>Carbon dioxide is one of the main greenhouse gases affecting our climate.</i>
<b>renewable</b>	able to be used and then replaced naturally	<i>Solar power is a renewable energy source.</i>
<b>carbon footprint</b>	the amount of carbon dioxide a person or group produces	<i>Using public transport can help reduce your carbon footprint.</i>
<b>crucial</b>	very important and necessary	<i>It is crucial to study for your exams to pass them.</i>

### Vocabulary Exercise — Fill in the Blank

Use one word or phrase from the glossary above to complete each sentence. Each item is used only once. Answers are on the final page.

1. The \_\_\_\_\_ gases in the atmosphere are causing the planet to warm.
2. Coal is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ that contributes to climate change.
3. It is \_\_\_\_\_ to reduce our use of plastic to help the environment.
4. Switching to \_\_\_\_\_ energy can help lower environmental damage.
5. Heavy \_\_\_\_\_ is expected during the storm this weekend.
6. Reducing our \_\_\_\_\_ footprint can help combat climate change.

## Comprehension Questions

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*These questions are different from the online practice test. Choose the best answer (A, B, C, or D). Answers and explanations are on the final page.*

### Question 1

**What is one action individuals can take to help combat climate change?**

- A. Burn more fossil fuels
- B. Recycle
- C. Use more plastic bags
- D. Drive more frequently

### Question 2

**What does the passage suggest is a result of rising global temperatures?**

- A. More peaceful weather
- B. Lower sea levels
- C. Melting ice caps
- D. Decreased wildlife impact

### Question 3

**Which country produced about 50% of its electricity from renewable sources in 2021?**

- A. Canada
- B. Germany
- C. Australia
- D. Brazil

### Question 4

**What is the main cause of the increase in greenhouse gases according to the passage?**

- A. Natural disasters
- B. Burning fossil fuels
- C. Deforestation
- D. Volcanic eruptions

## Discussion & Writing Prompts

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*Each prompt references a specific detail from the passage above. Use for classroom discussion or a short written response (150–200 words).*

1. The passage mentions that in 2021, Germany produced about 50% of its electricity from renewable sources. How do you think Germany achieved this, and can other countries follow this example?

2. The passage states that the Earth experienced some of the hottest temperatures recorded in 2020. What changes have you observed in your local climate over recent years, and do you think they are related?

3. According to the passage, simple actions like recycling can help combat climate change. What are some recycling practices in your community, and how effective do you think they are?

# Answer Key

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## COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Q1 B

Q2 C

Q3 B

Q4 B

## VOCABULARY EXERCISE

FIB1 greenhouse

FIB2 fossil fuels

FIB3 crucial

FIB4 renewable

FIB5 precipitation

FIB6 carbon

## Comprehension Question Explanations

Why the correct answer is right — and why each wrong option is incorrect.

### 1. What is one action individuals can take to help combat climate change?

✓ **B — Recycle** The passage suggests recycling as a way individuals can help combat climate change.

✗ **A — Burn more fossil fuels** *Burning more fossil fuels increases greenhouse gases.*

✗ **C — Use more plastic bags** *Using more plastic bags contributes to environmental waste.*

✗ **D — Drive more frequently** *Driving more frequently increases carbon emissions.*

### 2. What does the passage suggest is a result of rising global temperatures?

✓ **C — Melting ice caps** The passage states that rising temperatures lead to melting ice caps.

✗ **A — More peaceful weather** *The passage mentions more extreme weather, not peaceful.*

✗ **B — Lower sea levels** *Rising temperatures lead to rising sea levels, not lower.*

✗ **D — Decreased wildlife impact** *The passage indicates negative impacts on wildlife, not decreased.*

### 3. Which country produced about 50% of its electricity from renewable sources in 2021?

✓ **B — Germany** The passage states that Germany produced about 50% of its electricity from renewables in 2021.

✗ **A — Canada** *The passage does not mention Canada producing 50% of its energy from renewables.*

✗ **C — Australia** *The passage does not mention Australia producing 50% of its energy from renewables.*

✗ **D — Brazil** *The passage does not mention Brazil producing 50% of its energy from renewables.*

### 4. What is the main cause of the increase in greenhouse gases according to the passage?

✓ **B — Burning fossil fuels** The passage states that the burning of fossil fuels is a major cause of increased greenhouse gases.

✗ **A — Natural disasters** *Natural disasters are not mentioned as a main cause.*

✗ **C — Deforestation** *Deforestation is not highlighted as the main cause in the passage.*

✗ **D — Volcanic eruptions** *Volcanic eruptions are not mentioned as a cause in the passage.*

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