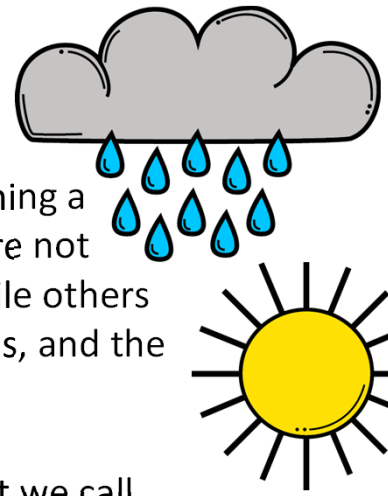


# Climate Change



People everywhere have been noticing that weather is becoming a bit of a puzzle. The summers are getting hotter, the winters are not as cold, and some places get more rain than they used to, while others got less. This puzzled not only the people, but also the animals, and the plants. They all wondered, “What’s happening on Earth?”

This change in the usual, predictable weather patterns is what we call climate change. It’s like when you expect a sunny day but get a rainy one instead, except it happens over many years. Climate change is caused by things we do, like driving cars that puff out smoke, or factories that release gases into the air. These gases are like a blanket around our planet; they trap heat and make the Earth warmer.

In the animal kingdom, the polar bears in the north and the penguins in the south noticed the ice melting. They needed the ice to live, hunt, and play. But as the Earth got warmer, their icy homes started to shrink. The animals had to travel farther to find food, and they found it harder to raise their little ones.

The trees and flowers felt the change too. Some flowers started to bloom earlier than usual, and some trees found it hard to grow in the heat. The bees, who loved to buzz from flower to flower, found that their schedules were all mixed up because the flowers weren’t blooming at the right time.

People saw these changes as well. They noticed that some years were much hotter than others, and storms seemed to be stronger and more frequent. In some places, the sea levels rose, which meant less land for people to live on. Farmers found it tricky to grow their crops because the weather was so unpredictable.

But there’s hope! People all over the world are working together to solve this puzzle. They’re finding new ways to travel without pollution, like riding bikes or using electric cars. They’re making energy from the sun and the wind, which doesn’t create that heat-trapping blanket. And they’re planting more trees, which help take the gases out of the air.

1. Read the passage and underline any word or sentence you struggled with.
2. Answer the questions on the following page.

Answer according to the reading passage:

**1. What is climate change?**

- a. a puzzle game
- b. a change in usual weather patterns over many years
- c. a different weather forecast

**2. What causes climate change?**

- a. weather forecasters
- b. playing sports
- c. releasing gases into the air

**3. Why did the bees' schedules get mixed up?**

- a. flowers bloomed at the wrong time
- b. trees stopped growing
- c. flowers didn't pollinate

**4. How are people trying to solve climate change?**

- a. being less active
- b. planting more trees
- c. using plastic wisely

**5. What role does everyone have in taking care of our planet?**

- a. learn about climate change
- b. stop worrying about climate change
- c. move out of the cities

# Climate Change

## Open Response Questions

### Open Response Questions for Thinking Skills:

1. Inferring
  2. Making Connections
  3. Summarizing
  4. Visualizing
- 
1. How might Earth be different if everyone ignored the problem of climate change?
  2. How can we help to fight climate change?
  3. Write 5 statements about climate change.
  4. Describe what climate change may look like in 100 years.
- 
- Why is it important to help stop pollution?
  - Use your imagination and write about an invention that supports fighting climate change?
  - How do you think animals adapt to climate change?
  - If you were a leader in charge of making a difference, what would you do?
  - What 3 concerns might people have about climate change?