

Key Stage 1: Geography

Lesson Plan 5: Is it Hot in Here?

Global warming is a very serious issue. It means the planet is getting warmer. That doesn't just mean we'll have warmer summers, it means that there will be a lot of changes to our planet ... and that could mean trouble.

Fact 1: 'Global warming' is the phrase we use meaning that the Earth's temperature is rising.

Fact 2: A warmer Earth may lead to changes in how and where it rains, a rise in sea levels, and big changes for plants, wildlife and humans.

Fact 3: Ice covers three per cent of the planet. If the Earth's temperature rises, the ice melts. If the ice melts, it becomes part of the sea. If more water enters the seas and oceans, they will rise. If the seas rise, lots of land will be lost under the sea.

Fact 4: Over the next 100 years, temperatures could rise by over 2 degrees and the seas could rise by 1 metre. This means that 90 million people (more than the number who live in Britain) could have their homes flooded every year.

Fact 5: The Earth's temperature changes naturally, but scientists are worried because humans are making the situation worse.

Fact 6: Whenever we watch TV, turn on a light, take a ride in a car, play a video game, listen to the stereo or use any electricity, we are adding to global warming in a very small way.

Fact 7: One way of adding to global warming that is much worse is by cutting down the Earth's forests. People do this for the wood and also so they can raise cattle for meat where the forest once stood.

Fact 8: Cows produce a gas called 'methane', which adds greatly to the problem of global warming. There are now billions of cows on the planet that humans have bred for their meat.

Fact 9: Humans produce a lot of waste – just take a look at your rubbish bin at home. If that waste is buried, it produces methane, just like the cows, which also adds to global warming.

Fact 10: Ways to reduce global warming include: saving electricity, using a bicycle instead of taking the car, growing plants for food instead of raising animals, planting trees and recycling your waste.

Questions

1. What exactly is 'global warming'?
2. What will happen to the oceans as the planet gets warmer?
3. What will happen to parts of some countries if this happens?
4. List three reasons why the planet is getting warmer.
5. In what ways do some types of farming add to the problem?
6. What can we do about the problem?
7. Draw a diagram to show what will happen to the planet if the ice at the Arctic and Antarctic melt. (See Fact 4).