

In Focus 2 - Speed Reading Unit 7

Understanding Global Warming

Global warming is a big problem today. Everyone needs to understand what it means. Our Earth is getting warmer. The temperature of the Earth's surface has increased by about one degree Celsius over the last 100 years. This change seems small, but it can have big effects on our world.

Why is the Earth getting warmer? Many experts say that human activities are the main reason. We use oil, and gas to make energy. This energy gives us energy for our homes and our cars. But when we use these, we also make gases. These gases go up into the air and make a kind of cover around the Earth. The cover holds heat from the sun. This is called the greenhouse effect. It is natural and usually good because it keeps our world warm enough for us to live. Without this cover of gas, we would freeze. But now, the cover is getting bigger and bigger because of all the gases we are adding. So, the Earth is getting too warm.

What happens when the Earth gets warmer? A lot of things can happen. Ice in the far north and south is changing into water. This means that sea levels are rising. Some places might be under the sea because of this. Weather can change too. Some places might get more rain. Other places might get less. This can make it hard for people to grow food. Animals and plants might find it hard to live as well. Some could even become extinct.

We can see the effects of global warming all around us. Summers are getting hotter. Storms are becoming stronger and causing more damage. In some places, people see the sea coming closer to their homes. Farmers find it harder to know the weather, which makes planning what to grow difficult.

But we can do things to help stop global warming. People are finding new ways to make energy without using oil and gas. We call these green energy. They come from the sun, wind, and water. Using these can help reduce the cover of gases around our Earth. We can also save energy. Turning off lights when we do not need them or using less water are small things that make a difference. People are also trying to use cars less. Walking or using buses and trains helps reduce the gases we put into the air. Governments and companies are working on this problem too. They make rules to control how much gas can be put into the air. They also put money into new technologies to make energy and products without causing damage to the environment.

It is important to understand that global warming affects everyone. It does not matter where you live. The whole world needs to work together to fix this problem. By learning about global warming, we can start to make changes in our own lives. We can also tell others about it. The more people know, the more they can help.

When you have finished, write your time in the box.

Now, go to the next page and answer the questions. **Do NOT look back at the text.**

Now, let's test your understanding of the text with some questions.

1. What is one main reason for global warming?
 - A) Planting more trees
 - B) Human activities
 - C) Animals in the wild
 - D) The moon's effect on Earth

2. What are gases produced by humans compared to?
 - A) Changing weather
 - B) Human activities
 - C) Rising sea levels
 - D) A cover

3. What is an effect of the thicker cover of gases around Earth?
 - A) The Earth becomes warmer.
 - B) The Earth stays the same temperature.
 - C) The Earth becomes cool.
 - D) The Earth moves closer to the sun.

4. What happens when ice in the north and south changes to water?
 - A) Animals will become extinct.
 - B) Many cities will be under the sea.
 - C) It will get colder on Earth.
 - D) Sea levels will rise.

5. How does global warming affect people and animals?
 - A. It benefits all life on Earth
 - B. It has no effect
 - C. It can lead to difficulty in living and possible extinction
 - D. It creates new animal species

6. What effect does global warming have on weather?
 - A) It becomes more predictable.
 - B) It changes everywhere.
 - C) Everywhere becomes warmer.
 - D) It can lead to more extreme weather.

7. Why is it harder for farmers because of global warming?
 - A) They have too much rain.
 - B) They can't know the weather.
 - C) There are too many plants.
 - D) It is always cold.

8. What are the sources of renewable energy mentioned in the text?
 - A) Sun, wind, and water
 - B) Oil and gas
 - C) Nuclear power plants
 - D) Batteries

9. How can people help reduce global warming?
 - A) By taking the train
 - B) By walking instead of driving
 - C) By using green energy
 - D) All of the above

10. What can governments do to fight global warming?

- A) Ignore the problem.
- B) Control the gases released into the air.
- C) Burn more fossil fuels.
- D) Reduce public transportation.