

In Focus 2 - Speed Reading Unit 8

Understanding Climate Change

An important problem that we face is climate change. Climate change means that weather patterns are changing. People have different ideas about climate change. Some people say it is a big problem. Other people call it a myth. A myth is a story that is not real or true.

Long ago, the Earth was colder, but then, people started to make things. They built factories, cars, and many other things. These things make gases that go into the air. The gases are like a cover. They keep the earth warm. This is what we call the greenhouse effect. It is not bad by itself. In fact, without it, the earth would be too cold for us. But now, we have too much of these gases because we use a lot of oil and gas. These are called fossil fuels. When we use them, they make the cover of gases bigger. This makes the earth warmer, and it leads to climate change.

The signs of climate change are all around. The ice in the north and the south is melting and the sea level is getting higher. The weather is getting more extreme. Some places are very hot. Other places get a lot of rain. This can cause damage to animals and plants. It can also cause damage to people.

People are trying to do things about climate change. They are making new rules. These rules are to help stop making so much gas. They are also making clean energies from the sun and wind. These do not make the bad gases. But changing is hard. Not everyone agrees on what to do. Some people do not think it is a big problem. They say that the Earth has always changed, and we do not need to worry. But many people say that we must do something now, and if we wait, it will be too late.

We have seen changes in the weather. We know that the gases we make are part of the reason. We can see the ice melting. We can see rainfall patterns changing. This tells us that climate change is real. It is not just a story. It is true that the Earth has changed before. But now, it is changing very fast. Experts tell us that this is because of people. We have changed the Earth with all the gases from our cars and factories. This is something new. It is not like the changes before.

We can all do something about climate change. We can use less energy. We can use clean energy. We can help make the air clean again. We can talk to other people about it. We can learn more about it. And we can ask our leaders to help. Climate change is a big challenge. But it is also a chance for us to make a better world that is clean and safe. It is important for the Earth, and it is important for us because it is our home.

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 climate change?
 - A) A new kind of weather
 - B) The earth getting cooler
 - C) Changes in weather patterns
 - D) A myth about weather

2. What is the greenhouse effect?
 - A) A type of house for plants
 - B) Only caused by the sun
 - C) A problem with no solution
 - D) A warming effect from gases in the air

3. What do we call the fuels like oil and gas?
 - A) Fossil fuels
 - B) Solar fuels
 - C) Clean fuels
 - D) Greenhouse fuels

4. What is one sign of climate change?
 - A) More factories
 - B) Colder temperatures
 - C) Less rain
 - D) Ice melting

5. Why is changing hard?
 - A) Because people have different opinions
 - B) Because the sun is too hot
 - C) Because ice can't melt
 - D) Because there is no problem

6. What do some people say about climate change?
 - A) It is happening fast.
 - B) It is not a big problem.
 - C) It can never be stopped.
 - D) It will make the earth bigger.

7. What have people changed the earth with?
 - A) Clean energy
 - B) Water
 - C) Gases from cars and factories
 - D) The sun

8. What is NOT mentioned as something we can do to help with climate change?
 - A) Using clean air
 - B) Talking about it
 - C) Learning about it
 - D) Talking to the government

9. What have many experts NOT said about climate change?
 - A) It is like previous changes.
 - B) The change is very fast.
 - C) It is caused by us.
 - D) It is something new.

10. What is important for us to make a better world?
 - A) To use as much energy as possible
 - B) To make the air dirtier
 - C) To make a world that is clean and safe
 - D) To keep everything the same