

All About Climate Change



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Photo: Dave Olsen

What is this buzz about climate change? Climate change is the global increase in earth's temperature and the effects this has on the earth. In the last 100 years earth's temperature has warmed by 1 degree Fahrenheit and might increase even more by 4-6 degrees in the future.



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This worries many people because climate change can hurt people, animals (like the ones pictured in this book), plants, trees and many other living things. It can cause some places on earth to get too warm or even too cold, very bad weather patterns, and living things to get sick.

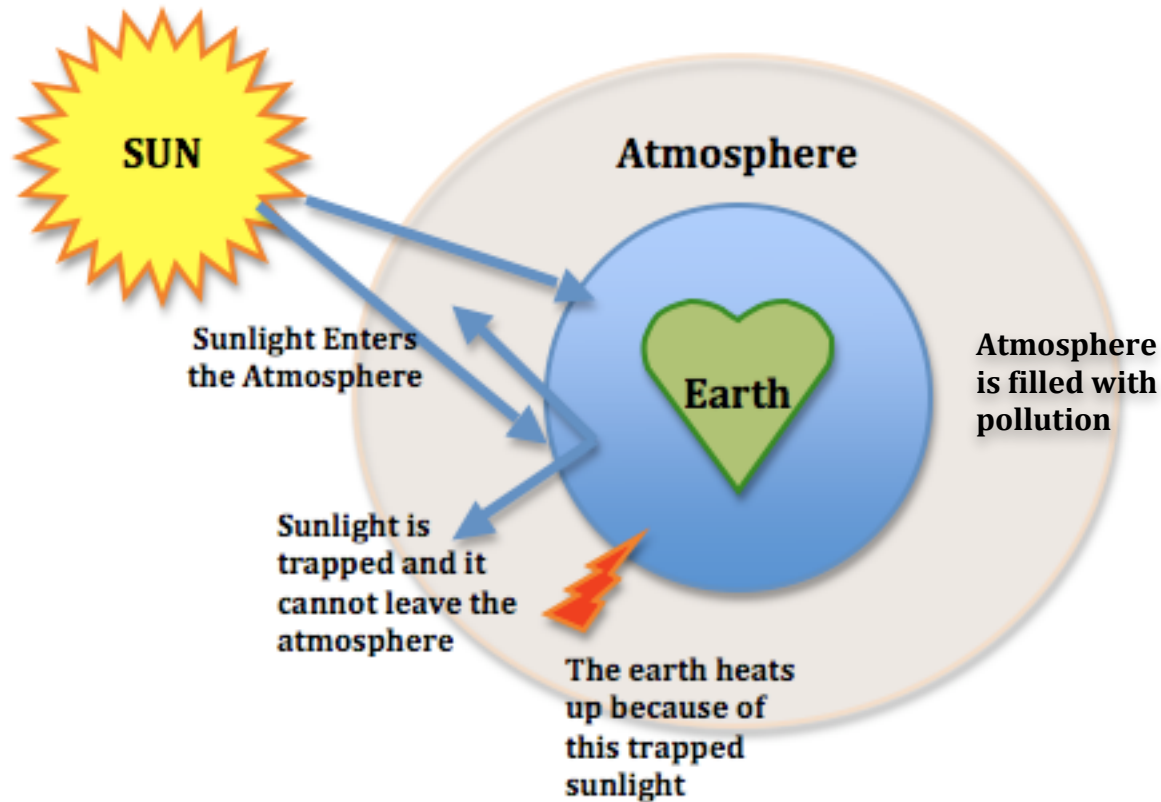


Photo: EcoBuddies Interactive Ltd.

So, how does climate change happen? Normally, sunlight enters the earth's atmosphere, bounces off the earth, and then is absorbed back into space.

But because of **pollution** something else is happening called the **greenhouse effect** where the earth's atmosphere is filling up with pollution and trapping the sunlight from leaving into space. All of this trapped sunlight in the atmosphere raises the earth's temperature and causes climate change.



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Two of the main causes of pollution are the burning of fossil fuels and deforestation. **Fossil fuels** are materials like coal, oil, and natural gas that people use to run machines like microwaves, cars, and airplanes. When we use these machines fossil fuels burn and this makes pollution. **Deforestation** causes pollution to build up because trees naturally remove carbon dioxide, a major type of pollution, from the air and when trees are cut down they cannot do this anymore.



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So, what can you do? Practice your 3 Rs- Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle! By reducing the amount of machines you use like tvs, computers, and cars (all of these use fossil fuels), you help our planet! Reusing and recycling also help the earth because these actions keep trees from being cut down to make paper, cardboard, and building materials. Additionally, by reusing and recycling things, you keep items from going into garbage dumps. This is good because garbage dumps emit gases that create climate change.



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Remember, you have the power to keep the earth cool!

Words to Remember

Pollution: Something that is harmful to an environment

Greenhouse Effect: When gases in the earth's atmosphere trap sunlight and heat up the earth.

Fossil Fuels: Materials we use to make energy for machines, like coal and oil.

Deforestation: Cutting down lots of trees.

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