

Global Warming

What are the causes and effects of global warming?

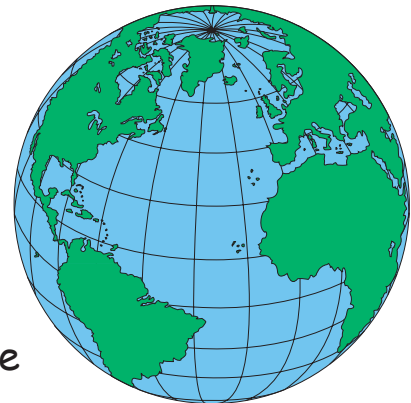
Renewable Robbie had heard about global warming on the TV. He wants to know how burning fossil fuels like coal, oil and gas leads to global warming. He finds out a lot about global warming. Have you ever seen a greenhouse?

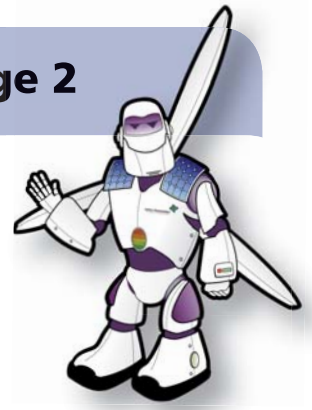


Greenhouses are used to grow plants even in the winter! When it is cold outside, it stays warm in the greenhouse. This is because the glass panels in a greenhouse trap heat from the sun. They let light in but keep heat from escaping. This allows the

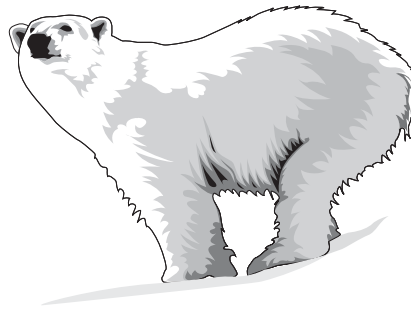
greenhouse to stay warm which keeps plants warm enough to live in the winter!

Gases in the air like carbon dioxide work like the glass in a greenhouse. They keep the planet warm which is needed for the earth to survive. The problem is that because people are burning more and more fossil fuels, there is more pollution and too much carbon dioxide in the air which means the world is getting warmer and warmer! Even a little bit of extra warming may have disastrous effects on Earth!





As the earth gets warmer, the ice at the north and south poles will melt. Some of it is already melting fast! Antarctica is losing ice. Ice in the Arctic Sea is melting and other seas like the North Sea are warming up too! This is bad for animals that live in the North and South Poles, like penguins, polar bears and seals. It also means fish who live in colder waters need to swim up north to find colder water. This will have an effect on fishing and seabirds!



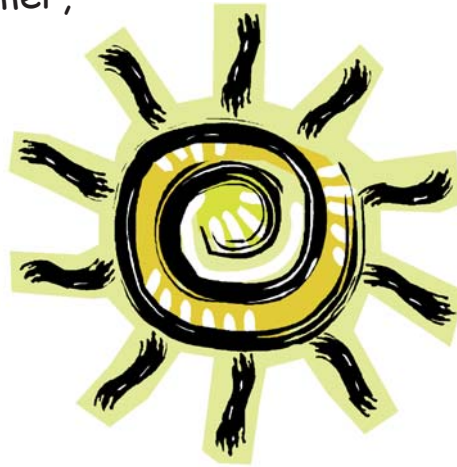
As the ice melts, it means there is more sea and less land which will bring a lot of problems:

- There will be more flooding. Have you seen pictures of floods on the TV? Floods can destroy buildings, plants, animals and even people can die. A lot of homes could be lost as the sea could wash over them.
- As the earth gets warmer, the weather will become more violent. Rain will become heavier so storms will become more powerful especially in places like South America, Philippine Islands and Bangladesh.





- In Alaska in the north west of America, there is more water in the sea which means homes have been washed away and people have had to move and build houses away from the coast. They have also had to give up fishing.
- As the earth gets warmer, hot and dry countries will become even hotter and drier! This brings a lot of problems like trees and plants dying which makes it very difficult to grow food. This will cause droughts, long periods of hot, dry weather where plants, animals and even humans could starve.



Renewable Robbie loves animals like penguins and polar bears and feels very sad that they might lose their homes or even die. He also feels very unhappy that some places will flood more while other places won't have enough water. This is all worrying Renewable Robbie.

Test your knowledge on global warming by completing the Activity Sheet with Renewable Robbie!

