

Article strips

EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE EARTH (S1)

We know climate change is happening, and we know that it is caused by our actions.

The Earth's atmosphere is warming, faster than it probably ever has. In some cases weather patterns, climates and natural environments are changing quicker than wildlife or people can adapt.

So many of the world's biggest problems, from poverty to wildlife extinction, are made more difficult by climate change. But we can do something about it.

We have the knowledge and the technology to reduce our impact on the climate, and ease the pressures on the world's most vulnerable places, people and wildlife.

THE IMPACT OF THE CLIMATE CHANGE ON THE WILDLIFE (S2)

Global warming is likely to be the greatest cause of species extinctions this century. Recent studies claim that a 1.5°C temperature rise may put 20-30% of species at risk of extinction. If the planet warms by more than 2°C, most ecosystems will struggle.

Many of the world's threatened species live in areas that will be severely affected by climate change. And climate change is happening too quickly for many species to adapt.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND OCEANS (S3)

Increased water temperatures and higher carbon dioxide concentrations than normal, which make oceans more acidic, are already having an impact on oceans.

At a warming of 2°C virtually all coral reefs will be lost. It's not only a tragedy for wildlife: around half a billion people rely on fish from coral reefs as their main source of protein.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND FORESTS (S4)

Forests are vitally important as they absorb carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas responsible for global warming, and help regulate the world's climate. They're also home to countless plant and animal species.

Impacts of climate change vary in different kinds of forests. Sub-Arctic boreal forests are likely to be particularly badly affected, with tree lines gradually retreating north as temperatures rise. In tropical forests such as the Amazon, where there's abundant biodiversity, even modest levels of climate change can cause high levels of extinction.

When large areas of forest are destroyed it's disastrous for the local species and communities that rely on them. Dying trees emit their stores of carbon dioxide, adding to atmospheric greenhouse gases and producing global warming.

Adapted from *From Wwf website (link)*

Climate change effects – Reading comprehension

1) What causes climate change?

2) What is made more difficult by climate change?

3) How many species risk the extinction?

4) Why can't many species adapt?

5) On which natural environment has climate change more impact?

6) What are the consequences of the coral reefs loss?

7) What are the 2 reasons why forests are important for the environment and human beings?

8) What can climate change cause in tropical forests?

9) For whom is the destruction of rainforests so disastrous?

10) Why do dying trees contribute to global warming?
