



**YEAR 3**

### **Friday 22nd November**

#### **Homework Tasks (Year 3):**

- **Reading Comprehension** : Please complete – and mark - the ‘What is Climate Change?’ tasks on the next pages of this document and record your responses in your homework jotter book.

*Please place your homework books in the homework box by **Wednesday 27th November***

- **Spelling:** A spelling test, on **Autumn Term 2 -Week 3 green words** will take place next **Thursday** (see the separate spelling sheet for this term – it is split into weeks and you will be instructed which week we are currently learning).
- **Times Tables:** Please complete - and mark- Autumn Term: Workout 9 p18-19 of your CGP 10-minute weekly workout book and your weekly test on the **3x and 10x** table will be next **Friday**.
- **Reading:** Please read for 45mins throughout the week.

## What Is Climate Change?

### What does 'climate' mean?

The climate is the weather patterns in a place over a long period of time. It can include temperatures and how much rain or sun there is. Different parts of the world have different climates. Some are hot and dry. Others are hot and wet. Different climates mean that different plants or animals live there.

### So is the climate really changing?

The climate has changed a lot over the life of the planet. For example, there have been ice ages when the Earth was much colder. Then there have also been times when the planet has been warmer. What is different now is that the climate changes are being caused by humans. The Earth is heating up because of gases released by human activity. This is called global warming.

### What causes global warming?

It is caused by greenhouse gases. They got that name because they act a bit like a greenhouse. Greenhouses get very warm when sun shines on them. The heat from the sun comes in but becomes trapped by the glass. The same is happening on Earth. The greenhouse gases in our atmosphere trap the heat from the sun.

### Where do greenhouse gases come from?

Carbon dioxide is one greenhouse gas. You produce it every time you breathe out! So do all animals. Meanwhile, plants need carbon dioxide to help them grow. However, carbon dioxide is also released when we burn fossil fuels. Fossil fuels like coal or gas are burned to create energy. We use it to power our factories, heat our homes and drive our transport. We are burning so many fossil fuels that there is now too much carbon



dioxide in our atmosphere. To make matters worse, we're cutting down trees. That means fewer trees to suck carbon dioxide from the air. Methane is another greenhouse gas. One source of methane is cows. Large cattle farms around the world release a lot of harmful methane.

## Why does Climate Change matter?

A warming planet has many worrying effects. One problem is that the polar ice caps are melting. This is disastrous to the animals living in these places. They lose their habitat. It also causes sea levels to rise around the world. Some islands are already beginning to be swallowed by the sea. Coastlines are changing too. People are losing their homes. Another effect is that extreme weather events are becoming more common. Floods, droughts, heatwaves and storms can all be caused by climate change. They can be devastating to people and animals. As well as these big weather events, there are many smaller effects. We may not notice them until its too late. Small changes in temperature can disrupt a food chain and affect many species as well as us.

### RETRIEVAL FOCUS

1. True or false: Earth is hotter now than it has ever been before.
2. What two greenhouse gases are named in the text.
3. Why do we burn fossil fuels?
4. What animal produces methane?
5. Give one example of extreme weather caused by climate change.

### VIPERS QUESTIONS

**S**

What is causing sea levels to rise?

**E**

What does the writer mean by saying that islands are 'swallowed by the sea'?

**V**

What does disrupt mean?

**E**

What words does the writer choose to convince us that climate change is a problem?

**I**

Using the text, suggest one thing that could be done to help slow down climate change.

# Answers

Answers - Stage 3 - What Is Climate Change:

1. False
2. Carbon dioxide and methane
3. To create energy; to power our homes, factories and transport.
4. Cows
5. Floods, droughts, heatwaves or storms

S: The ice caps are melting because the planet is getting warmer.

E: The sea level rises so they disappear underwater.

V: Disturb something, stop it working properly

E: worrying, disastrous, devastating,

I: Various answers linked to the information in the text. Eg. Plant trees/stop cutting down trees, burn less fossil fuel, eat less beef/fewer cattle farms.