**Causes and Effects of Climate Change by National Geographic**

Human activities from pollution to overpopulation are driving up the Earth’s ____________ and fundamentally changing the world around us.

The main cause is a phenomenon known as the ____________ ____________. Gases in the atmosphere such as water vapor, ____________ ____________, methane, nitrous oxide, and chlorofluorocarbons let the Sun’s light in but keeps some of the ____________ from escaping like the glass walls of a greenhouse. The ____________ greenhouse gases in the atmosphere, the ____________ heat gets trapped, strengthening the greenhouse effect and ____________ the Earth’s temperature.

Human activities, like the burning of ____________ ____________, have ____________ the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere by more than a third since the Industrial Revolution. The rapid ____________ in greenhouse gases in the atmosphere has ____________ the planet at an alarming rate. While Earth’s climate has fluctuated in the past, atmospheric carbon dioxide hasn’t reached today’s levels in hundreds of thousands of years.

Climate change has consequences for our oceans, our weather, our food sources, and our health.

- **OCEANS:** Ice sheets such as Greenland and Antarctica are ____________. The extra water that was once held in glaciers causes sea levels to ____________ and spills out of the oceans, ____________ coastal regions.

- **WEATHER:** Warmer temperatures also make weather more ____________. This means not only more ____________ major storms, floods, and heavy snowfall, but also longer and more frequent ____________.

- **FOOD:** Growing crops becomes more difficult. The areas where plants and animals can live shift, and water supplies are ____________.
• **HEALTH**: Climate change can directly affect people’s physical health. In urban areas, the warmer atmosphere creates an environment that traps and increases the amount of _____________. This is because smog contains _____________ particles, which increase rapidly at higher temperatures. Exposure to higher levels of smog can cause health ____________ such as asthma, heart disease, and lung cancer.

While the rapid rate of climate change is caused by humans, ______________ are also the ones who can combat it. If we work to ______________ fossil fuels with ______________ energy sources like solar and wind, which don’t produce greenhouse gas emissions, we might still be able to ______________ some of the worst effects of climate change.