

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.