

Subject	Geography
Unit/Topic	Year 9 – Climate Change

Key vocabulary	Definition
Carbon Dioxide	A greenhouse gas created by the burning of fossil fuels and in cement production.
Coral bleaching	The loss of colourful algae from coral reefs due to rising sea water temperatures.
Deforestation	When trees and plants are cut down. Can contribute to global warming.
Drought	Lower than average rainfall over a given time period.
Enhanced greenhouse effect	Additional greenhouse gases added to the atmosphere through Human activities which then adds to the warming effect.
Flooding	When areas of land become submerged under water. Can be coastal or river.
Fossil fuels	Coal, Oil and Gas.
Glacial period	Periods of time where Earth's climate has been cooler and have generally lasted for around 100,000 years.
Global Warming	The sharp rise in global temperatures over the last century. A type of climate change.
Ice Cores	Long cylinders of ice. Bubbles of gas trapped in the ice can be analysed to determine what the temperature was in history.
Interglacial period	Warmer periods of time which have typically lasted 10,000 years.
Methane	A Greenhouse gas created by livestock, rice paddies and landfill sites.
Milankovitch Cycles	Variations in the way the Earth moves around the sun (stretch, tilt and wobble).
Natural Greenhouse effect	Essential for keeping our planet habitable. Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere trap heat therefore insulating the planet.

Quaternary period	The most recent Geological time period spanning from 2.6 million years ago to the present day.
Sea level rise	An environmental impact of rising temperatures. This causes ice stored on land to melt and will be added to the sea, causing the level to rise.
Species extinction	When the population of an animal or plant species becomes 0.
Sunspots	Cooler areas of the Sun's surface visible as dark patches. They increase the sun's output of energy.
Volcanic Activity	Can alter global climate by ash particles blocking and reflecting sun's rays back out to space and cooling the planet.

