

Climate Change



What this topic covers

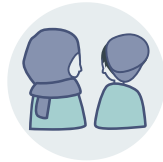
Many people call climate change the greatest challenge of our generation. The United Nations, where leaders and scientists from all countries around the world come together, has told us that unless people in every country take serious action on climate change within the next ten years, then sadly it will significantly worsen the risks of drought, floods, extreme heat and poverty for hundreds of millions of people. In this learning module, you will take a deeper look at climate change and reflect on this important global issue that effects us all.

By the end of this topic you will have prepared for dialogue with your peers by:



Critical Thinking

Investigating what climate change is and analysing what causes it.



Global Communication

Identifying personal stories in your own community to share with your peers.



Active Listening

Practicing empathy by making connections with people's stories and experiences of climate change.



Asking Questions

Constructing questions for deeper knowledge and understanding during dialogue about climate change.

This module takes on average around 20 to 30 minutes to complete

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What is climate change?



Watch this video to learn about what causes climate change and what its effects are on the world.

Environment and Climate Change Canada - What is Climate Change? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QIQ-MEZgRGY>



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What is climate change?



Is this statement true or false?

When learning and talking about climate change, it is helpful to know some of the facts. Read the statements below and select the category it belongs to. Is it true or false?

Changes in the earth's climate is a new phenomena



True

False

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Stories of impact



Human actions such as cutting down forests, increased farming and burning greenhouse gas emitting fuels to power cities, homes, factories and cars are all causing the Earth's climate to become warmer. This is slowly affecting the temperature, climate and extreme weather events all around the world. This also affects the world's population in different ways. As you read these stories from Africa, Asia, and the Americas, choose one to use for your next task!

Aziz's Story - Africa

Image source - <https://pixabay.com/photos/india-desert-barren-land-2720262/>

How does climate change affect us?
(Photo Pixabay)

Aziz lives in the Sahel region of Africa, where his parents work as farmers. However, there have now been three years of very little rain and it is becoming difficult to grow crops. He is worried that they will not be able to grow and sell enough produce to pay for food and water.

The past five years have been the five hottest ever recorded in human history, and scientists believe the principal reason for this is the rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions produced by human activities. Africa is warming disproportionately fast compared to other regions. This can lead to consecutive years of drought, leading to food and water shortages, wildfires and even conflict.



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Shalini's story - India

<https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Traficjmdelhi.jpg>

How does climate change affect us?
(Photo Wikimedia)

Shalini lives in Mumbai India, and every day she walks two miles to go to school. Her neighbourhood is becoming busier every year, and the road she walks along to go to school has many more cars, making the pollution very bad. Also, the last two summers have had record-breaking hot temperatures. Together this makes it hard to breathe, making her tired and struggle to concentrate in school.

Burning fossil fuels not only produces greenhouse gasses that warm the planet, but also other pollutants that can harm health or affect food and water supplies. Scientists estimate that up to 9 million deaths each year are associated with air pollution. Often it is the poorest, who cannot afford to move to cleaner areas, who are most affected.



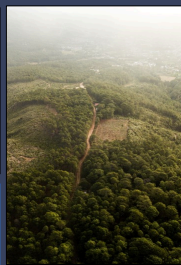
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Davi's story - Brazil

Image source - <https://pixabay.com/photos/young-native-amazon-2896605/>

Davi lives in the Amazon rainforest, where his family has lived for hundreds of generations. Their culture is closely connected with the forest and all the wildlife within it. However, recently a road was built through the area, and now much of the forest is being cut down, making it hard to maintain their lifestyle.

Brazil lost 4 million hectares of forest cover in 2017 alone. Democratic Republic of Congo and Indonesia both lost 1 million. This deforestation not only causes emissions, it also takes away trees that usually help to reduce emissions and threatens natural wildlife and the cultures of those who live in the forest. 50% of all species are deemed at risk of extinction, while those who try to stop deforestation are often harassed or even attacked.



How does climate change affect us?
(Photo by Esteban Bertels on Unsplash)



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Léonie's story - United States

Image source - <https://pixabay.com/photos/new-orleans-louisiana-81669/>

How does climate change affect us?
(Photo Pixabay)

Léonie lives on the coast in the Southern USA. She loves her home but sadly last year it was damaged during a storm. She has been helping her parents to fix the house, but the seasonal floods which used to reach the end of her garden are now sometimes reaching their front door, meaning they have to do the work again.

Depending on an area's landscape, the heat from a warmer climate can also cause extreme weather events such as hurricanes, which have become more frequent in recent years. The warming is also melting ice in the polar regions causing sea levels to slowly rise. Both of these factors mean an ever-increasing risk of flooding, especially for those who live in coastal regions or on small islands.



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*Case studies are fictitious and do not represent any person.

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Stories of impact



What if this was your story?

Imagine you are Aziz, Shalini, Davi or Léonie. Choose one of the stories to talk about as if it were your own. In the box below describe how you feel about the effects of climate change on your local environment, explain what you would want others to know about your situation and changes you would like to see in the near future.

Enter your thoughts here...

Continue


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Action for Climate Change



Read the following infographic about some of the latest actions proposed in 2023 by world leaders, climate experts and activists at COP28 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.



ACTIONS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE AT COP28



WHAT IS COP28?

COP stands for 'Conference of the Parties.'


It's an annual summit organized by the United Nations, bringing together countries from all over the world to make decisions that will secure the future of our planet.

The latest one, which took place in Dubai, United Arab Emirates, in 2023, was the 28th annual summit.

WHO WAS THERE?

A total of approximately 85,000 participants attended COP 28, including representatives from almost 200 countries including:

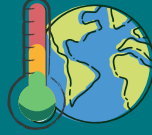
- Heads of state
- Climate experts
- Climate activists/campaigners
- Cultural leaders
- Leaders of international corporations



FOUR KEY ACTIONS FROM COP28


THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

The global stocktake is a process for countries and stakeholders to collectively assess progress towards meeting the goals of the Paris Climate Change Agreement, specifically actions to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius and to transition away from fossil fuels.




COLLABORATION

COP28 provided a platform for collaboration among governments, businesses, and civil society to share practical climate solutions. Their focus was on preventing global warming, strengthening food and health systems, and reducing pollution from agriculture and methane gases.




ENTRUSTING YOUNG MINDS

At COP28, a series of events aimed to foster meaningful dialogue between young delegates and policymakers, prioritizing the active involvement of young people in the climate conversation, took place particularly on the Youth, Children, Education, and Skills Day.




LOSS AND DAMAGE FUND

The Loss and Damage Fund, with a budget of \$792 million, is designed to make a meaningful impact in supporting countries vulnerable to the impacts of extreme weather events such as droughts, floods, and rising seas.



Adapted from:

- United Nations Climate Change (2023) About COP 28. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/conferences/un-climate-change-conference-united-arab-emirates-nov/dec-2023/about-cop-28#Who-can-attend-COP-28>
- COP28 UAE (2023) Youth, Children, Education and Skills. Available at: <https://www.cop28.com/en/youth-children-education-and-skills>

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Action for Climate Change



Who needs to be involved in dialogue about climate change for there to be a positive impact in the next decade?

Select the checkbox next to each group of people that you think should be involved in a dialogue about climate change to make a change.

Political leaders of the wealthiest nations

☐

Political leaders from economically developing nations

☒

Young people from all backgrounds

☐

Citizens from all regions

☐

Businesses and corporations

☐

Scientists and institutions

☐

Educators and schools

☐

Community leaders

☐

Celebrities and influencers

☐

Media and journalists

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Dialogue for change



Now more than ever, it is important that the world collaborates to make a change for planet Earth. Watch this video from Amnesty International to learn about how young people come together to solve this global issue.

The Teenager Inspiring Others to Act on the Climate Crisis

Source: Amnesty International - The Teenager Inspiring Others to Act on the Climate Crisis - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Zdl8_fWAl2k

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Dialogue for change



What do you want to know?

Think about three questions you would like to ask your global peers about their experiences with Climate Change and the actions they will take.

- Write your questions down in the space below so that you can ask them in when you talk with your peers in the dialogue space.
- You might want to think about exploring what they have noticed about the local environment, their hopes and fears for the future or how they feel about what they are experiencing and witnessing.

Enter your thoughts here...

Continue

Well done!



You completed

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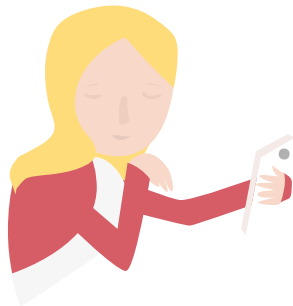
Congratulations!

You have completed the learning module for climate change by investigating some of the facts, thinking critically about how this issue impacts both local and global communities, and constructing difficult questions to ask your peers in a dialogue. By practicing these skills, you are becoming a global citizen who is able to investigate the world's problems and cooperate with people from all over the globe.

You are now ready to enter the dialogue space to practise the core skills and talk about this important topic. When you have earned 30 XP in the space, you can then book into a live video conference to dialogue with your peers!

Enjoying the Ultimate Dialogue Adventure? Invite your friends to join you!

[Invite via email](#) - [Invite via WhatsApp](#)



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You have earned the learning badge about Climate Change!