

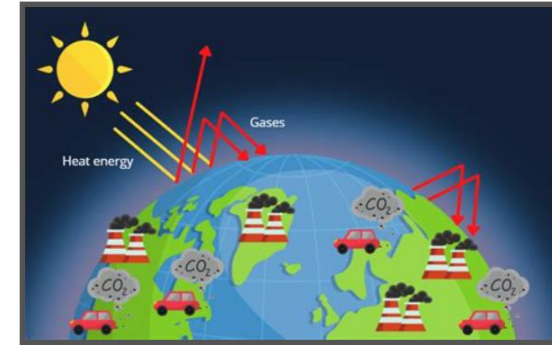
Vocabulary

climate	the general weather conditions and patterns of a particular place over a long time
weather	the conditions in the atmosphere (air) on a particular day e.g. rainy
climate change / global warming	the long-term shifts in the earth's average temperature and weather patterns
atmosphere	the layer of gases that surrounds the Earth.
greenhouse gases	gas such as carbon dioxide, methane and water vapour that cause the greenhouse effect
greenhouse effect	when greenhouse gases act like a blanket trapping heat from the sun
fossil fuels	natural fuel which comes from the ground such as coal, oil and natural gas
carbon footprint	the amount of greenhouse gases released into the atmosphere by human actions such as using electricity, using transport, heating homes and producing food.
sustainability	finding ways to meet needs without harming the environment.



The atmosphere surrounds the Earth like a blanket. It is very important because it protects us from the Sun's harmful rays, keeps the Earth warm and provides the air we need to breathe.

When too many greenhouse gases are present, the atmosphere traps too much of the sun's heat energy, warming up the Earth and causing climate change.



We can help combat climate change by reducing our carbon footprint. This could be by walking instead of taking the car, using renewable energy sources, reducing the amount of plastic we use and recycling.



Key knowledge

Earth is a comfortable place for living things. It's just the right temperature for plants and animals – including humans – to thrive.

The greenhouse effect is a natural way that the Earth stays warm. It is surrounded by a layer of gases called an atmosphere that act rather like a blanket. The sun shines through the atmosphere warming the Earth's surface and the atmosphere traps that heat energy so that Earth stays warm.

However, some human activity, such as burning fossil fuels for energy, driving petrol/diesel cars, using electricity and farming are producing too many greenhouse gases into the atmosphere. This means that more heat is being kept in the Earth's atmosphere, causing the Earth's average temperature to rise.