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**WRITE**

# CLIMATE CHANGE

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**Stimulus Cards To Build Writing Skills  
And Environmental Awareness**

ECO WRITE cards contain images, information and activities to increase awareness of global and environmental issues for students through writing in a variety of genres. The focus is on individual and small group work with discussion at whole class level, using the CD-ROM supplied in this pack to facilitate projection on a whiteboard.

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**What's the issue?**

- Global warming occurs as the surface of the Earth gets warmer.
- Carbon dioxide gas in the air traps the sun's rays near the surface of the Earth, making things warmer. This changes the climate.
- If global warming continues, seas will rise and the weather will change.

**What you need to know ...**

Global warming is the term used to describe what happens when there is an increase in the temperature of the Earth, leading to changes in the world's climate. This is caused by so-called 'greenhouse gases' such as carbon dioxide. Too much greenhouse gas creates a layer that allows less heat to escape into the atmosphere and so makes the world warmer. This in turn affects climates, amounts of rainfall, types of farming, weather conditions, melting ice caps and rising sea levels. Our fragile environment needs protection.

**Narrative**

1. Imagine the penguins in the picture are a part of a story for young children. Write the story. Explain what adventures they are having as the ice melts because of climate change. How will they escape? Think about the language that you will have to use for your audience.
2. The penguins are hunted by polar bears. Write a story in which the group of penguins in the picture outwit their bigger enemy. What do they do? Will you make the story serious or amusing?

**Let's plan it ...**

- Narrative writing tells a story or a part of a story.
- Plan the plot: what is going to happen?
- How will you introduce the story? Will it be exciting from the start or will it reach a climax?
- Stories normally take a problem, then find a solution (a resolution).
- How will you move from one part of the story to another?
- What settings will you use?
- What characters will be in the story?



**What's the issue?**

- World average temperatures have increased over the past 150 years.
- The amount of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere - the main greenhouse gas - has also increased. Carbon dioxide gas absorbs the sun's energy.
- We are burning more carbon-based fuels (oil, gas and coal) than ever before and also reducing forests, which are the natural absorbers of carbon dioxide.

**What you need to know ...**

Most greenhouse gas - mostly carbon dioxide - comes from homes, e.g. electricity use, heating and waste. Too much carbon dioxide from burning fossil fuels creates a layer in the atmosphere that allows less heat to escape. This makes the world warmer, so climate changes. Rainfall may be less. This influences what food we grow. Rising temperatures because of greenhouse gases are melting ice caps. This is resulting in rising sea levels. This is dangerous for many low-lying areas in the world.

**Report writing**

1. Imagine that you visit the power plant in the picture. Write a report for the local government about the greenhouse gases it is producing and what damage these could cause. What could be done to stop the damage from greenhouse gases when making power?
2. Write a report about the advantages of power plants from the point of view of someone who does not believe that greenhouse gases are making the climate change. How would you convince them otherwise?

**Let's plan it ...**

- In your introduction think about: who, what, when and where.
- Plan your paragraphs in the sequence of events that happened.
- Take one point at a time in each paragraph.
- At the end, think about what has happened/what may happen next.
- You will need to be accurate about names of people and places.
- Use the past tense and either the first or the third person.
- What words could you use that give a sense of passing time?
- Use quotations from others.



**What's the issue?**

- The sea level is rising. Millions of people are at risk. Some countries could disappear as low-lying land disappears under water.
- Climate change through global warming is the main cause. Warmth expands the sea and adds water from melting ice.
- Flood prevention schemes will be too costly.

**What you need to know ...**

The sea level has been rising at a rate of around 3.1 mm/year. Sea level rises due to expansion of the sea as it warms and from melting ice from the Arctic and glacial ice. The melting of the ice caps during the last ice age led to a 120 metre rise in sea level.

Over the next 100 years, sea level is unlikely to rise by more than 30cm - perhaps 1 metre at most. A sea-level rise of 40 cm in the Bay of Bengal would put 11 percent of the country's coastal land underwater, creating 7 to 10 million refugees.

**Newspaper reports**

1. The picture shows the scene after Hurricane Katrina in the USA. Find out about it. Write a newspaper article about the damage caused. Make a case that climate change and global warming are to blame. How can disasters like this be stopped in the future?
2. Write a newspaper article, using this picture as evidence, to make people all over the world aware of the dangers of rising sea-levels because of climate change. What evidence will you use? Where else is this happening in the world?

**Let's plan it ...**

- You will need a headline – summarise the subject.
- Decide if it is an informal or a formal article.
- In paragraph one, briefly describe the issue. You will need to interest the reader.
- In your next paragraphs, take one example at a time and write about it. Do your research!
- Interview people. Quote them as experts.
- Use past tense, the third person.
- Vary your sentence structure – you must interest your reader.