

Climate Change Jigsaw

Vocabulary: agriculture, atmosphere, avoid, cattle, century, climate, crops, consequences, consumption, decade, flight, flood, fossil fuels, global, grazing, imagine, livestock, manure, methane, potential, predicted, production, rainforest, raise, rely, responsible, shortages, transportation

Part A

The earth is warming because of two main activities: the burning of fossil fuels, which creates too much CO₂ in the atmosphere, and animal agriculture, which results in methane production. Methane has 21 times the global warming potential of CO₂.

Part B

We rely heavily on fossil fuels for everything from heating our homes to delivering our food from warmer climates. Transportation alone is responsible for about 13.5% of global warming. Imagine if you could not take a flight to your home country or buy bananas at the supermarket?

Part C

Animal agriculture is responsible for about 18% of global warming. Cows, for example, produce methane when they pass gas and from their manure. Trees, particularly in rainforests, are an important way the earth cools itself. Rainforest trees are being cut down to make grazing land for cattle and land to raise crops to feed cattle and other livestock.

Part D

Global warming is predicted to cause serious water shortages in North America. Sea levels will rise at least 1 meter this century. Some cities may be flooded. To avoid the worst consequences, we need to cut North American fossil fuel use by 96% over the next few decades and to reduce our meat consumption.

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Climate Change Questions:

1. What are two main activities that are responsible for climate change?
2. What percentage of global warming is caused by transportation?
3. What percentage of global warming is caused by animal agriculture?
4. Why are rainforests being cut down?
5. What is an important function of rainforests?
6. If we couldn't afford fossil fuels, what are a couple common things that we might not be able to do?
7. What may cause some cities in North America to flood?
8. What causes CO₂ in the atmosphere?
9. Which has more global warming potential—CO₂ or methane?
10. What is one source of methane in the environment?
11. How much do we need to cut down our use of fossil fuels in order to avoid the worst consequences?
12. Why should we eat less meat?

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Climate Change Cloze Passage:

The earth is warming because of two main activities: the burning of fossil fuels, which creates too much CO₂ in the _____(1), and animal _____(2), which results in methane _____(3). Methane has 21 times the global warming _____(4) of CO₂. We rely heavily on fossil fuels for everything from heating our homes to delivering our food from warmer _____(5). Transportation _____(6) is responsible for about 13.5% of global warming. _____(7) if you could not take a _____(8) to your home country or buy bananas at the supermarket? Animal agriculture is _____(9) for about 18% of global warming. Cows, for example, produce methane when they _____(10) gas and from their _____(11). Trees, _____(12) in rainforests, are an important way the earth cools _____(13). Rainforest trees are being cut down to make _____(14) land for cattle and land to raise _____(15) to feed cattle and other livestock. Global warming is _____(16) to cause serious water shortages in North America. Sea levels will rise at least 1 meter this century. Some cities may be _____(17). To avoid the worst _____(18), we need to cut North American fossil fuel _____(19) by 96% over the next few decades and reduce our meat _____(20).

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