

Temperatures are rising

When the season changes from winter to spring, it naturally gets warmer. But scientists who study the climate have found that the temperatures on Earth have been rising much too quickly over the past few centuries—this is mostly caused by the things we humans have been doing. The rising temperatures are changing the climate all over the world, and this is changing the weather.

Are weather and climate two different things? Yes, and as we learned, weather is something that can change every day. Climate is a region's typical weather measured over a long period of time—usually 30 years.

An example of climate change is when a dry region becomes wetter over many years. But how did the climate change we are facing today come about?

More and more people are living on the planet and everybody wants to stay warm, cook food, and use electricity! Starting about 200 years ago, we began burning lots of coal, oil, and gas to power things like factories and steam trains. Then came cars, airplanes, and heating for our homes.

We can stop global warming and climate change by reducing the greenhouse gases that are heating up the atmosphere. This is how it can be stopped:

Wind turbines and solar panels can generate clean energy from the wind and the Sun.

We can eat less meat and use less plastic.

We can cycle instead of driving a car.

All of this burning releases gases such as carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere. The gases trap heat and warm up the planet in the same way a greenhouse creates a warm atmosphere for its plants.