

Recycling and Conservation Global Warming

Every year, the average temperature of the Earth's surface gets a little bit warmer. This **gradual**¹ trend is called global warming. Warmer weather may sound nice, but global warming is something to be very concerned about.

Scientists are worried that continued warmer temperatures could damage the environment in many devastating ways. Rising temperatures might cause plants and animals to become **extinct**.² They could melt enough polar ice to cause the levels of the sea to rise. Weather patterns could also change. There might be more droughts or serious storms with flooding. In some areas, human diseases could spread.

What is causing global warming? Humans are mostly to blame. Pollution from factories and cars add **toxic**³ gases to the air. These gases rise to the Earth's atmosphere. As the sun's rays warm the Earth, the gases work much like the glass in a greenhouse. They help trap the heat in the atmosphere and make the Earth grow warmer. That is why they are nicknamed "greenhouse gases."

It is our responsibility to take care of our planet. Global warming is a serious problem with serious consequences. If we want future generations to enjoy their time on Earth, we must act now!

¹ **gradual:** changing by slight degrees

² **extinct:** no longer existing

³ **toxic:** poisonous

Name: _____ Date: _____

1. Which of the following is *not* a possible effect of global warming?
 - a. weather patterns changing
 - b. plants and animals becoming extinct
 - c. more polar ice
 - d. human diseases spreading

2. How does the author organize the information in this passage?
 - a. The author describes global warming and its effects, or consequences.
 - b. The author describes a problem and possible solutions.
 - c. The author provides evidence to support two different opinions.
 - d. The author lists events in chronological order, moving from those that happened first to those that happened last.

3. Read this sentence: “Warmer weather may sound nice, but global warming is something to be very concerned about.”

The author suggests that people may not

 - a. understand how serious colder weather is
 - b. take global warming seriously
 - c. care about warmer weather
 - d. think warmer weather sounds nice

4. From the description of greenhouse gases, it can be concluded that a greenhouse is
 - a. the Earth
 - b. a glass structure
 - c. a colored home
 - d. a type of gas

5. The statement that “humans are mostly to blame” suggests that
 - a. humans have been blamed for global warming
 - b. humans have not been blamed for global warming
 - c. humans are mostly responsible for global warming
 - d. there are many factors that cause global warming

6. This passage is mostly about

- a. the solutions to global warming
- b. the different types of global warming
- c. the reasons why global warming is not a serious problem
- d. the causes and effects of global warming

7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Scientists worry that global warming could damage the environment _____ causing plants to become extinct.

- a. without
- b. by
- c. either
- d. whether

8. Read this statement: “Global warming has lasting, serious effects.” What evidence from the text best supports this statement?

9. Summarize who or what could be affected by global warming.

10. Read this sentence: “If we want future generations to enjoy their time on Earth, we must act now!”

Based on the author’s description of what causes global warming, what could people do to “act now”?

Teacher Guide & Answers

Passage Reading Level: Lexile 770

Featured Text Structure: Cause/Effect – the writer presents the reason an event happened and its results

Passage Summary: In “Recycling & Conservation – Global Warming,” the author describes the causes and effects of global warming. The author also provides evidence to suggest that humans are the cause of this problem and argues that they need to find a solution.

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 - a. weather patterns changing
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 - c. **more polar ice**
 - d. human diseases spreading

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- the solutions to global warming
 - the different types of global warming
 - the reasons why global warming is not a serious problem
 - the causes and effects of global warming**
7. Choose the answer that best completes the sentence below.

Scientists worry that global warming could damage the environment _____ causing plants to become extinct.

- without
 - by**
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 - whether
8. Read this statement: “Global warming has lasting, serious effects.” What evidence from the text best supports this statement?

Suggested answer: Students can refer to evidence from paragraph 2 to support their answers. Rising temperatures might cause plants and animals to become extinct. It could melt enough polar ice to cause the levels of the sea to rise. Weather patterns could also change, resulting in more droughts or serious storms with flooding. In some places, human diseases could also spread.

9. Summarize who or what could be affected by global warming.

Suggested answer: First, people could be affected by global warming because weather patterns could change, droughts and serious storms could occur, and human diseases could spread. Animals and plants could also be affected because they could become extinct. Lastly, the environment could be affected because polar ice could melt and cause the levels of the sea to rise.

10. Read this sentence: “If we want future generations to enjoy their time on Earth, we must act now!”

Based on the author's description of what causes global warming, what could people do to "act now"?

Suggested answer: The author states that humans are mostly to blame for global warming through factory and car pollution, which add toxic gases to the air. To "act now," businesses could try to build factories that create less pollution, while everyday people could start using cars that do not pollute or pollute less.