

The environment

1 a Match the meanings to the words. Use a dictionary to help you.

- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| 1 the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic <i>D</i> | a drought |
| 2 cutting down a forest <i>i</i> | b power stations |
| 3 harmful chemicals in the air or water <i>G</i> | c climate change |
| 4 coal, oil and gas <i>K</i> | d the ice caps |
| 5 carbon dioxide <i>F</i> | e rainforests |
| 6 when there is no rain for a long time <i>A</i> | f CO ₂ |
| 7 the tropical forests <i>E</i> | g pollution |
| 8 tropical storms <i>J</i> | h greenhouse gas |
| 9 gases that trap the sun's heat <i>H</i> | i deforestation |
| 10 these produce electricity <i>B</i> | j hurricanes |
| 11 the Earth is getting hotter <i>C</i> | k fossil fuels |

Climate change: its biggest cause

We hear a lot today about ¹CLIMATE CHANGE. Thousands of articles are written about it in newspapers and magazines; TV programmes are made about it.

²GREENHOUSE GASES, like ³CO₂ (carbon dioxide), are released into the atmosphere. The sun's heat is trapped by these gases and gradually the world is getting warmer.

Scientists believe that, as a result, ⁴THE ICE CAPS will melt, sea levels will rise and many islands and coasts will disappear under the water. We will also see more extreme weather, such as ⁵HURRICANES, heavy rain, high temperatures and ⁶DROUGHT.

A lot of greenhouse gases are produced when ⁷FOSSIL FUELS are burnt by ⁸POWER STATIONS, factories, cars and aeroplanes.

However, the biggest cause is ⁹DEFORESTATION. The world's forests – especially the tropical ¹⁰RAINFORESTS of South America, Africa and South-East Asia – are very important for the Earth's climate. But every year, over 200,000 square kilometres of forests are destroyed. That's an area the size of Britain.

- 1) Fossil fuels burnt by power stations, factories, cars, aeroplanes, deforestation
- 2) CO₂
- 3) Sea level will rise
extreme weather
- 4) hurricanes, heavy rain, high temperatures, drought
- 5) South America
Africa
South-East Asia
- 6) - for wood (buildings, furniture)
- for land