

How has the climate changed since the Little Ice Age?

The little ice age was between 1300 and 1500s

The climate of the world has always fluctuated between warmer and cooler periods but the warmer period we are experiencing now is unusual and it is agreed that humans are causing it.



What is the greenhouse effect?

-greenhouse gases; methane, carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide in our atmosphere trap the heat from the sun This keeps our planet warm enough to live on and protects us against harmful UV rays.

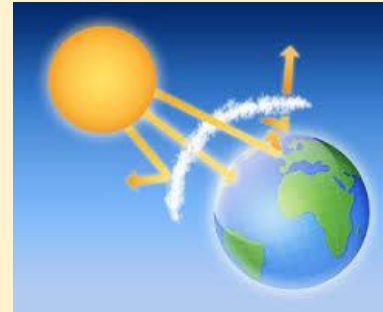
Other natural causes of climate change include:

- Volcanic activity (which causes volcanic winters – the ash blocks the sun)
- Sunspots (warmer areas of the sun causing heating)
- Orbital changes (the distance between the sun and the earth changing over thousands of years.)

The enhanced greenhouse effect

Humans are enhancing the number of greenhouse gases (carbon dioxide and methane) in the atmosphere due to human activities which include:

1. Burning fossil fuels
2. Transportation
3. Cattle farming
4. Deforestation



How is climate change affecting the UK?

- The UK is experiencing more extreme weather e.g. summer heatwaves.
- The UK's biodiversity is threatened
- Flood risk

Impacts of climate change on the Arctic

- Decreased biodiversity
- Negative feedback loops – dark surfaces absorb more heat
- Sea level rise due to ice melting
- Increased shipping and oil drilling due to ice melting means the economy in the region thrives.

Impact of climate change on the developing world

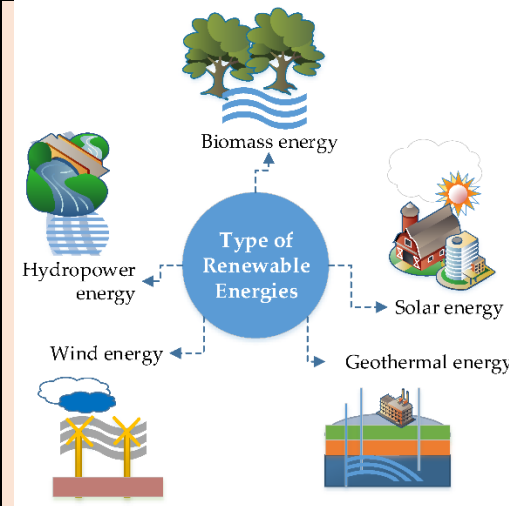
- The impacts are more severe e.g. lack of water

How can climate change be mitigated (reduced)?

Renewable energy, which is energy that will not run out such as solar, wind and wave power, do not release greenhouse gases when used and are cheap once they are set up.

What is cop26?

A meeting of world leaders and activist to create a consensus on how to address the challenges made by climate change. The aims are to prevent the climate from warming beyond 1.5'c..



Key words:

Little Ice Age, orbital variation, emissions, renewable and non-renewable energy, mitigate, ecological / carbon footprint, sea level rise, activism, net zero emissions, green electricity, climate change, challenge, anomaly, fluctuate, greenhouse effect, solar variation, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, greenhouse gases, enhanced, human activity, ozone layer, atmosphere, deforestation, bioenergy, geothermal, agriculture, deficit, insurance, non-native, hibernation, social, economic, environmental, evaluate, international agreement, global warming, Arctic Circle, sea ice, developing, food chain, Albedo effect, coastal erosion, energy production, contribute, bioenergy, geothermal, hydroelectric power.