

Climate Change and the Marine Environment

The Earth's climate is changing. Day to day, and season to season, our weather changes. When the long term weather patterns change over a number of years, this is called climate change. It's not always obvious or easy to see. Some examples are a change in temperature, rainfall or in the number of storms. Climate change affects all parts of the world, but in different ways. Our oceans are particularly sensitive to climate change. Humans burn fossil fuels to create energy, for example to heat their homes and fuel their cars. The burning of these fuels, as well as other things like volcanoes and cattle farming, release greenhouse gases such as Carbon Dioxide into the atmosphere. These greenhouse gases cause the Earth's atmosphere to trap heat. Oceans absorb some of this heat, and some of the gases, resulting in ice melting, sea levels rising and the water becoming more acidic.



Carry out a research project on **Climate Change and the Marine Environment**.

Ideas you could investigate:

- The causes of climate change.
- Examples of climate change.
- The impacts of climate change on the marine environment.
- Ways to reduce further impacts of climate change.

Resources:

<http://www.askaboutireland.ie/learning-zone/primary-students/5th--6th-class/5th--6th-class-environment/climate-change/>

<http://climatekids.nasa.gov/climate-change-evidence/>

<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/10502>

<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/11056>