1.- Everyone knows that air pollution is bad. Global warming and climate change are the result of greenhouse gases in the air. Heart problems, high blood pressure and even cancer are often caused by pollution. That’s bad enough, but now scientists have discovered another problem: your brain is changed by dirty air, too.

2.- In a recent study, a group of mice was exposed to polluted air six hours a day, five days a week. The pollution was similar to the pollution from cars and factories. After ten months, the mice were tested. Their memory was affected by the dirty air, their ability to learn was changed and they showed signs of depression. So what about the millions of people living in big cities around the world? They are exposed to dirty air every day for 70 or 80 years. Are their brains affected in a similar way?

3.- Almost 1,000 adults were examined in a ten-year study. According to the results of the study, air pollution makes your brain smaller. This affects your ability to think and remember things. It makes your brain act “old” early.

4.- In a study of Boston schoolchildren, students from polluted areas didn’t do well in memory tests and IQ tests. Air pollution also caused attention problems and nervousness in children from New York.

5.- How can people living in these polluted areas protect themselves? They can wear special masks, buy special machines to clean the air in their homes – or move to cleaner areas. But a better solution is for us to remember: cleaning up our cities isn’t just about the paper and bottles littering our streets. To really make a change, we need to start at the beginning – with the air.

COMPLETE THE SENTENCES WITH THE INFORMATION THAT YOU READ

1. Climate change is caused by ………………………………………………………

2. The mice were put in an environment with ………………………………….

3. The scientists tested the mice after ……………………………………………

4. Air pollution affects people’s ability to …………………………………….…..

5. Air pollution affected students’ results in …………………………………..

ANSWER THE QUESTIONS

1. How were the mice affected by the dirty air?

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2. How many adults were there in the study?

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3. Where were the children in the studies from?

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4. What emotional effect did air pollution have on the children?

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5. What can people use for protection against dirty air?

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