

5 Our environment

Grammar • passive voice: present • passive voice: different tenses

CD 3

A Climate change

Vocabulary

The environment


1 Match the meanings (1–11) to the words (a–k).
Use a dictionary to help you.

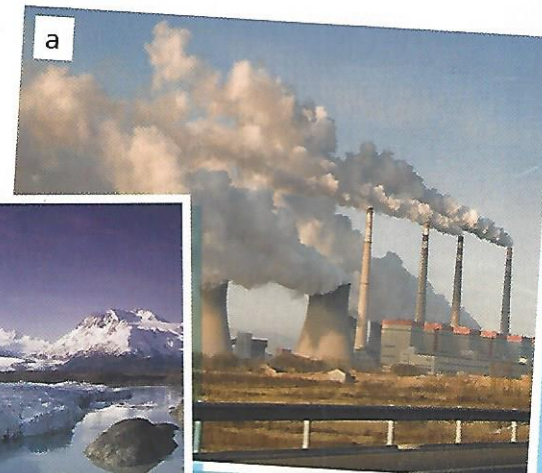
- | | |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1 the ice in the Arctic and Antarctic <i>d</i> | a drought |
| 2 cutting down a forest <i>i</i> | b power stations |
| 3 harmful chemicals in the air or water <i>g</i> | c global warming |
| 4 coal, oil and gas <i>k</i> | d the ice caps |
| 5 carbon dioxide <i>b</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 gases <i>h</i> |
| 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 |

Comprehension

2 a Which of the things in exercise 1 can you find in the pictures?

b Look quickly at the text. What is 'the biggest cause' of global warming? *deforestation*

c  Read and listen to the text. Complete the gaps with words a–k from exercise 1. Which word isn't used?



Global warming: its biggest cause

We hear a lot today about ¹ *global warming*. Every year thousands of articles are written about it in newspapers and magazines; films and TV programmes are made about it.

² *greenhouse gases*, like ³ *CO₂* (carbon dioxide), are released into the atmosphere. Heat from the Sun is trapped by these gases and gradually the world is getting warmer. Scientists believe that, as a result, ⁴ *the ice caps* will melt, sea levels will rise and many islands and coasts will disappear under the water. In addition, extreme weather, such as ⁵ *hurricanes*, heavy rain, high temperatures and ⁶ *drought* will become more common.

A lot of greenhouse gases are produced when ⁷ *fossil fuels* are burnt by ⁸ *power stations*, factories, cars and aeroplanes.

However, the biggest cause is ⁹ *deforestation*.

Every year over 200,000 square kilometres of the world's forests are destroyed. That's an area the size of Britain. In some cases, the trees

are cut down and the wood is used for buildings and furniture. However, in many cases, the land is wanted for farms and the trees are just burnt down. As a result, billions of tonnes of greenhouse gases are released into the atmosphere. 25% of all CO₂ is produced by deforestation. (Aeroplanes produce 3%.)

The world's forests – especially the ¹⁰ *rainforests* of South America, Africa and South-East Asia – are vital to the Earth's climate. Trees take in carbon dioxide from the atmosphere, so they help to control global temperatures. Most of the world's rain is produced by the forests, too.

The message is simple: if we want to save the planet, we must save the forests!

