

Geography: Environmental problems and solutions

1 Complete the text about environmental problems and their causes with the words in the boxes.

Environmental problems:
drought flooding hurricanes

Causes:
global warming pollution fossil fuels

The world is getting hotter, and we call this process ¹_____. It is making a lot of environmental problems worse. Here are some examples:

- ²_____ occurs when water rises above the level of land. Global warming is melting ice in the north and south poles, and our sea levels are rising.
- However, global warming also stops rain from falling in other areas. When there is no rain for a long time and an area doesn't have enough water, we call this a ³_____.
- There are also ⁴_____ to worry about: a combination of very high winds and storms. Although there is a recognized season for this, usually around August, some experts think that global warming has made these weather conditions worse.

Global warming happens when there is an increase of gases in the air. These toxic gases occur when we burn ⁵_____ for energy. The gases are poisoning our planet and causing ⁶_____. We need to do something about it.

2 Match the renewable materials 1–5 and fossil fuels 6–9 with their definitions a–e and f–i.

Renewable materials (materials or fuel you can grow or use again)

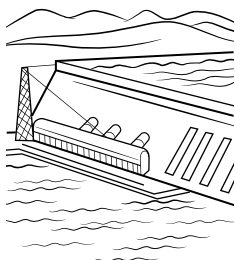
- | | |
|-------------|--|
| 1 biodiesel | a This comes from rocks. It is hard but you can melt it and make it into different shapes. |
| 2 cotton | b This fuel is made from plants and is better for the environment than petrol or diesel. |
| 3 metal | c You can drink this and wash in it. |
| 4 water | d This material comes from trees (in sustainable forests). |
| 5 wood | e This is a plant that you can use for making clothes, for example. |

Fossil fuels (poisonous fuel you can only use once)

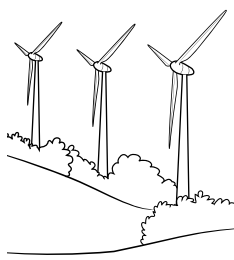
- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 6 crude oil | f This fuel is hard and black. You burn it to produce heat. |
| 7 coal | g When this black liquid fuel first comes from under the ground, it has this name before it is refined. |
| 8 diesel | h This fuel comes from under the ground or sea but you can't see or feel it. |
| 9 natural gas | i When oil is refined, it can become this. You use it in lorries and cars and for heating some homes. |

3 Write the kind of renewable energy. Use the words in the box.

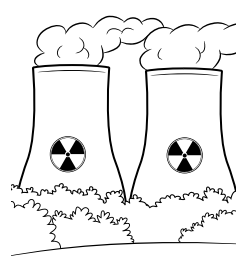
geothermal power hydropower nuclear power solar power wind power



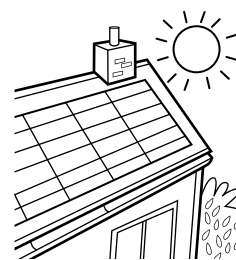
1 _____



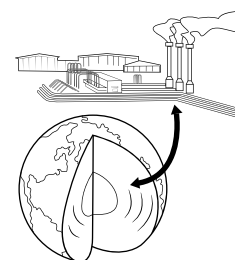
2 _____



3 _____



4 _____



5 _____

- 4** Read the text on the right. What is the main factor involved in the two environmental problems: pollution, water or hurricanes?
- 5** Read the text again. Then answer the questions.
- 1 Give two reasons why flooding has always been a problem for Bangladesh.

 - 2 How is global warming making the problem of flooding worse for Bangladesh?

 - 3 Which problem does global warming make worse in Africa?

 - 4 What is an important industry for Africans?

 - 5 How does drought affect farming?

 - 6 What are some countries using instead of fossil fuels?

- 6** The different forms of renewable energy can help us to protect our planet. Find one form of renewable energy or material near your home. Research it on the internet and answer these questions.
- 1 What is it?
 - 2 Where is it?
 - 3 How much energy does it produce?
 - 4 How much did it cost to build?
 - 5 Are there any environmental issues with it, for example, is it ugly or noisy? Did people have to lose their homes?

Global warming: its effects and how to stop them

Global warming is affecting people all over the world, but two countries are suffering from its effects more than others.

Bangladesh is a country with a huge population and every inch of land matters. But the country is losing its land to flooding. Bangladesh lies at the mouths of major rivers that come from the Himalayas and some areas are only a few metres above sea level. Flooding has always been a problem there, but global warming makes things worse. Sea levels are rising and by 2050, scientists think the country will lose 17% of its land to water, making 30 million people homeless.



In Africa, a continent with a history of drought, global warming is adding to the problem. Many Africans survive from farming, so what they need most are land and water. Even small changes caused by global warming make it difficult to grow plants. As a result, their animals die and people don't have enough to eat. In Ethiopia, experts believe that global warming has left two million young children without enough food.



It's clear that the world must act quickly. In recent years countries have begun to use fewer fossil fuels and are turning to renewable resources for energy such as hydropower, wind power or solar energy. We use wood from sustainable forests, which can regrow quickly, and biodiesel may one day replace normal diesel for vehicles. Each country must do these things – the changes we make can help people like those in Bangladesh and Ethiopia.