

Climate quiz questions



You can ask all these questions, choose your favourites, or add your own!

1. Where was the highest (hottest) ever air temperature on Earth recorded?

- a) Furnace Creek, California, USA
- b) Flaming Mountains, China
- c) Scorching Bay, New Zealand

A. Furnace Creek in Death Valley, California, USA. The hottest air temperature ever recorded was 56.7°C (134 °F) on July 10, 1913. Global warming is increasing average temperatures around the world, but this sweltering record is still unbroken after a century.

2. Carbon Dioxide (CO₂) is one of a group of gases which trap heat from the sun and keep the Earth warm – like an invisible duvet. What do we call this group of gases?

- a) Greenhouse gases
- b) Garage gases
- c) Bedroom gases

A. Greenhouse gases. If we produce too much CO₂, for example by burning oil and coal, the Earth will get too warm.

3. What's the difference between weather and climate?

- a) Weather is what we have in the UK, climate is what they have abroad
- b) Weather is what it's like at a specific time, climate is the average over many years
- c) Weather is cold and rainy, climate is hot and dry

B. Weather is what it's like on a particular day or time – rainy, hot or windy for example. Climate is the average weather conditions over a long period of time (30 years or more). In the UK, we have a mild climate – but sometimes we have very cold or very hot weather. Climate change means the average weather is changing.

4. In 2015, world leaders came together in Paris to agree to tackle global warming. Together they said they would try to limit the warming of the Earth to... how much?

- a) 10 degrees
- b) 5 degrees
- c) 1.5 degrees

C. World leaders agreed that they would aim to keep the global temperature rise to below 1.5°C; it doesn't sound like a big increase in temperature, but it will have a very big impact on the health of our planet. The Paris Agreement 'aims to strengthen the global response to tackling climate change by limiting global temperature rise this century to well below 2°C above pre-industrial levels - and to pursue efforts to limit this rise to 1.5°C.'

5. When was the rainiest winter on record in Britain?

- a) 2013/4
- b) 2017/8
- c) 1996/7

A. The winter of 2013/4 was the wettest in the UK since records began in 1910, with 517mm of rain between December 1 and February 24. That's half a metre of rain! It was also 1.5 degrees warmer than average.

6. As the world gets warmer, sea levels are rising. This means low-lying cities and countries could be flooded. Which is the lowest country in the world?

- a) The Netherlands
- b) Australia
- c) The Maldives

C. The Maldives. The Maldives is a country in the Indian Ocean made up of over 1,000 small coral islands. It's a very popular holiday destination but the Maldives' highest natural point sits less than 2.5 metres (8 feet) above sea level, so if the sea keeps rising, many of the islands would disappear back into the ocean

7. In 2005, a powerful hurricane caused huge flooding and damage to the American city of New Orleans. What was the hurricane's name?

- a) Katie
- b) Katrina
- c) Kitty

B. Katrina. Hurricane Katrina was one of the most devastating hurricanes in US history, resulting in the flooding of a major city. Global warming is increasing the frequency and strength of tropical storms like Katrina.

8. Many glaciers (big rivers of ice in mountain areas) are melting as a result of global warming - just like if you leave an ice cube tray out of the freezer. Where is the world's biggest glacier?

- a) Iceland
- b) Antarctica
- c) The Himalayas

B. Antarctica. The largest glacier in the world is the Lambert-Fisher Glacier in Antarctica, according to the United States Geological Survey. It is 400 kilometers (250 miles) long, and up to 100 kilometres (60 miles) wide.

9. As the world warms up, the oceans are getting warmer too - which is bad news for sea creatures who like it cooler. How much of the world's surface is covered by ocean?

- a) 50%
- b) 70%
- c) 97%

B. 70% of the Earth's surface is covered by ocean, but it contains about 97% of all the water on Earth. Warmer sea temperatures cause big problems for many sea creatures, like coral and krill, affecting food chains and therefore larger animals such as whales, seals and penguins.

10. The UK government has said it will make Britain 'carbon-neutral'. That means we won't add any more carbon dioxide to the atmosphere and contribute further to global warming. By what year have they said we'll do it?

- a) 2030
- b) 2050
- c) 2100

B. 2050. In 2019, the government committed the UK to being carbon-neutral by 2050. How old will you be then?

11. Why are trees important in tackling climate change?

- a) Trees absorb carbon dioxide, which helps fight global warming
- b) Trees provide us with wood, which we can burn to keep warm
- c) Trees provide shade, so we can stay cool under them

A. Trees naturally absorb carbon dioxide from the air during photosynthesis so every tree we plant helps towards becoming carbon neutral! Forests are so important for the health of our whole planet so we must protect them.

12. Which farmyard animal releases so much gas in its burps and farts that it's heating up the planet?

- a) Pigs
- b) Chickens
- c) Cows

C. Cows. Cows farmed for milk and beef release the greenhouse gas methane when they burp or fart. There are over a billion cows on the planet, so that's a lot of gas – which plays a part in warming up the planet.

