



How Humans Change Earth and Feel the Effects

KS3 Ages 11-14 🕒 3 min read

How We Change Our World

Every single day, humans change the **environment** around us. We build cities where forests once stood. We farm huge fields of crops. We dig up resources like coal and oil from deep underground. We create factories that manufacture everything from clothes to computers. These changes happen because we need places to live, food to eat, and things to use.

The biggest changes happen in how we use **land** and **water**. When we clear forests to build towns, we remove the homes of plants and animals. When we use rivers to power our cities, we change how water flows naturally. When we mine for metals and minerals, we dig massive holes in the ground and create waste.

Think of it like rearranging your bedroom furniture—it changes how the room feels and how you move around in it, but on a much, much bigger scale.

The Problems It Creates

These environmental changes cause real problems for humans too. When we burn coal and oil for **energy**, we release gases that trap heat in our atmosphere, causing **climate change**. This makes weather more extreme—bigger storms, worse droughts, and rising sea levels that flood coastal towns.

Pollution from factories and cars dirties the air we breathe and the water we drink. When we use too much water for farms and cities, rivers dry up and wildlife struggles to survive. When we create **plastic** and other waste, it doesn't disappear—it breaks into tiny pieces called **microplastics** that end up in our food and bodies.

Think of it like dropping rubbish in your own bedroom—eventually you run out of clean space and the mess bothers you too.

How It Affects Us

The changes we make to the environment come back to hurt us. People in flood-prone areas lose their homes. Farmers struggle when droughts destroy their crops. People get sick from breathing polluted air. Animals go **extinct** because we've destroyed their habitats, which breaks the **food chain** that keeps nature balanced.

The good news? We're learning to make better choices. Renewable **energy** from sun and wind doesn't pollute. Protecting forests and oceans helps them recover. Recycling and using less plastic reduces waste. When we understand how connected we are to nature, we can build a healthier future for everyone.