



Why We Must Care About Climate Change Today

KS3 Ages 11-14 🕒 3 min read

What Is Climate Change?

Climate change is when Earth's weather patterns shift over time because our **atmosphere** (the air around us) is getting warmer. This happens mainly because burning **fossil fuels** like coal, oil, and gas releases invisible gases — especially **carbon dioxide** — that trap heat like a blanket around the planet.

Think of it like a greenhouse: sunlight comes in through the glass roof, but heat gets trapped inside and can't escape. Earth's atmosphere is doing the same thing.

Why Should We Care?

Climate change affects almost everything we care about. **Rising temperatures** melt ice caps and glaciers, which raises sea levels and threatens coastal towns where millions of people live. Extreme weather — fiercer storms, longer droughts, and worse floods — destroys homes and crops. Animals lose their habitats, and many species face **extinction**.

It also harms our health. Warmer air creates more pollution, triggers allergies, and spreads diseases. When harvests fail because of drought or flooding, people go hungry. Poor communities often suffer most, even though they've done the least to cause the problem.

Think of it like leaving the tap running in a bathtub: the water level keeps rising, and soon it overflows onto the floor. We need to turn off the tap before it's too late.

What Can We Do?

The good news is that we can all help. Using less energy, walking or cycling instead of driving, eating less meat, and buying less plastic are simple steps. Supporting companies that care about the environment and voting for leaders who take **climate action** seriously sends a powerful message.

Young people like you will inherit this planet, so it's fair that you understand what's happening and feel empowered to make a difference. Every choice counts.

The Bottom Line

Climate change is real, it's serious, and it's already happening. But we can still change our future if we act now — together.