



Topic Overview

Faculty/Subject: Geography

Year Group: 9

Topic: Climate Crisis

What BIG IDEAS will you cover in this topic?

What climate change is and how it works –

understanding the science behind global warming and the greenhouse effect.

What evidence shows the climate is changing today –

using data such as temperature records, ice cores and extreme weather trends.

What causes climate change – comparing natural factors

with human activities like burning fossil fuels and deforestation.

How climate change affects people and places – looking

at impacts in the UK, rising sea levels and what life could be like at 50°C.

How we can respond to the climate crisis – considering mitigation (reducing causes) and adaptation (living with the effects).

What important prior knowledge will you use from

your prior learning?

Students will draw on their knowledge from year 7 when we studied glaciation in the UK when covering how temperatures have changed over time. They will also be able to link this topic to their studies on extreme weather, tropical storms and droughts.

Where does this topic fit into the curriculum plan

for this subject?

This is the third topic which students in year 9 will study. It

What other key concepts, knowledge and skills will you learn in this topic?

Climate science basics: understanding atmospheric processes and energy balance.

Human–environment interaction: exploring how people affect the environment and how the environment affects people.

Decision-making and evaluation: judging which solutions are most effective, realistic or fair.

Geographical skills: reading climate graphs, interpreting case studies and understanding global patterns.

Extended writing skills: practising structured, evidence-based responses for the assessment.

Assessment:

How and when will you be assessed on this topic? What will the success criteria be?

Students will complete a longer answer piece of writing which will be based on what they have covered in a previous lesson. They will then receive written feedback on this which they can use to improve.

Students will also be assessed by an end of topic assessment covering the various aspects of the lessons

outlined below. There will be a variety of knowledge based questions, longer answer written questions and skills based questions using maps and graphs.

is the second physical geography topic.

What is the key vocabulary that you will need to

know in this topic?

Climate / Weather

Climate change

Global warming

Greenhouse effect

Greenhouse gases (CO₂, methane, nitrous oxide)

Enhanced greenhouse effect

Fossil fuels

Deforestation

Mitigation

Adaptation

Sea-level rise

Extreme weather

Carbon capture

Renewable energy

Sustainability

What is the structure of learning/ lessons in this topic?

1. What is climate change?
2. Climate change through time
3. Greenhouse effect
4. Evidence for climate change
5. Natural and Human Causes
6. UK Effects
7. Rising sea levels
8. Life at 50°C
9. Life at 50°C
10. Solutions - Carbon capture
11. Small scale solutions
12. Adaptation - Living with climate change
13. Assessment
14. DIRT