

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Date \_\_\_\_\_

## Global Warming

Comment [LAH1]: More Interesting title

No one knows for sure why the dinosaurs disappeared, but many theories suggest that a change in environment may have played a significant role. What do dinosaurs have in common with global warming? As a result of global warming our climate is also changing, and if we do not heed the warning of scientists, we too, could become extinct. According to a new report released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Paris, scientists have agreed that global warming is very likely caused by human activity, particularly the burning of fossil fuel. Global warming occurs when the gasses from the burning of fossil fuels causes the gasses that are released to become trapped resulting in the greenhouse effect. If the greenhouse effect becomes stronger, it could make the Earth warmer than usual.” If the earth becomes even slightly warmer than normal it may cause problems for humans, sea life and the animal kingdom.

Comment [LAH2]: Where does quote begin?

Ironically, global warming, enhanced by human activity, is causing serious problems for people around the world. One of the problems caused by global warming is the melting of the Polar Ice Cap and glaciers. When the ice melts it flows into the seas causing them to rise. Over the last 100 years the seas have risen 6-8 inches worldwide. When the seas heat up they take up more space and they overflow their banks. This can cause serious flooding of homes, eroding shoreline and destruction of crops. The warming of the sea water also causes storms to become more severe. The increasing number of hurricanes is blamed by some on the warmer waters which fuel the storms. The heat waves that have affected the world of late can also be traced to a warming earth. Thousands of people around the world have died from the unusually hot weather. Last, but not least, droughts have become more common around the world because of global warming. The increased droughts around the world threaten our food source because people in some parts of the world may not have enough to eat because they cannot grow the crops they need.

Comment [LAH3]: Does warm water take up more space than cold water?

The warming water also affects sea life. Coral, which is vital to sea life, can become bleached out which causes it to die off. It is important to note that coral reefs harbor more than 25% of all known marine life. Other marine life may be affected when their habitat becomes not fit to live in and their food source disappears. According to a study conducted by Stanford’s Institute for International Studies, polar bears, walrus and seals are finding their usual homes are no longer comfortable places to live as the Arctic sea ice melts. The warmer waters are affecting their food supply, breeding and nesting habits and in some cases causing them to die off. If something is not done soon these delicate ecosystems will be altered forever.

Comment [LAH4]: Do not use contractions.

Scientists have examined about 1,200 animals of various species and have found that these animals have shown temperature-related changes consistent with global warming. This is causing many species of animals and birds migrating northward to avoid the warmer weather, and as a result, they are running into human barriers, or other serious difficulties. When the cold-hardy arctic fox moved northward, to escape the warmer weather, it ran into larger more aggressive animals that it couldn't compete with. Equally important, some mammals are breaking hibernation sooner which can also cause serious problems.

In all, global warming is already having a devastating effect on the animal kingdom. We now know that humans are disrupting and increasing the natural warming of the earth by the burning of fossil fuels. It is going to be the responsibility of all countries around the world, to do their part. Global warming has been blamed on everything from the melting of the polar ice caps to the increase in devastating storms, the loss of coral to the changing migration habits of the animal kingdom. According the IPCC report, even if people stopped burning the fossil fuels today, which are responsible for global warming, the effects would not go away in our lifetime. Therefore, if we do not want to go the way of the dinosaurs, it is going to be the responsibility of all of us, to do our part, to slow down the warming of our planet.