

ARE HUMANS RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

Global warming (or climate change) poses a very real threat to the world's ecosystem and to human life. Some doubt its existence and others believe that human activity is responsible for global increase in temperature and related weather phenomena. This debate takes it for granted that global warming exists but asks to what extent humans create or hasten those conditions.

ACTIVITY 0. You can enter in these two websites to introduce yourself to the debate of climate change.

INTRODUCTION (Prezi presentation)

<https://prezi.com/tddeteafw3gx/are-humans-responsible-for-climate-change/>

Physical and human causes of climate change: read the revision part and take the test.

<https://www.bbc.com/bitesize/guides/z3bbb9q/revision/1>

ACTIVITY 1. First of all, answer these questions:

- Are humans responsible for causing climate change?
- Regardless of whether we are responsible or not, do we have a responsibility to stop it?
- How do we balance environmental concerns with economic limitations?
- What are the ethical implications of climate change on human life?
- What does the future of climate change look like for humans?

ACTIVITY 2. Secondly, consider these ideas in order to support your position firmly. Try to create arguments to support these ideas and develop them more precisely:

IF WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE...

No, there is no proof that humans have affected the climate. The notion that humans have affected climate change on the planet is a claim with no real evidence. I think that there are many people who are trying to politicise the subject of the climate. Even though I do not believe there is a problem with climate change, I still think people should do their best to take care of the planet.

It is doubtful. There really is so very little that we understand about the climate and it is impossible to model for all of the variables. The climate change hypothesis also utilizes a very limited set of data and in some cases completely ignores parts of it that don't fit the hypothesis. That is not to say that we don't contribute. It's unthinkable that we don't contribute in some way, as does every living thing on Earth. Humans have only existed in an Ice Age, which we are currently still in, so we know the planet has been and can be a lot warmer naturally. But we don't know all of the reasons why or how and it is arrogant to claim that one knows for a fact what science actually hasn't established.

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IF WE ARE RESPONSIBLE...

Humans have changed the world but not just for the better. So, climate change is when the climate changes. But it has got out of hand. Ice caps are melting and animals are suffering. The gases causing climate change come from us, humans. Our lifestyle contributes to the emission of these gases. Scientists know about the ice age, not about the melting time! They have analyzed the past knowing it was only natural. But the present and future of global warming is from us. We need to take action, the world is changing because of our actions. NOW EVERYTHING IS IN OUR HANDS!

We are partly responsible. Yes, humans are responsible for some of the climate changes in the world. With our technology and processes going on consistently it is not hard to see that we have caused a lot of changes in the climate. I do not believe that we are the only ones to blame for climate change, but we have our hand in the pot.

Yes, humans are responsible for climate change today. Humans make all kinds of pollutants which do nothing but contribute to negative climate change. Until humans realize they are responsible for climate change they will do nothing about it and the Earth will continue to get worse and worse until it is basically unlivable.

I believe the Earth has natural warming and cooling cycles that we are not able to influence. Given the timing of the last ice age I would have to guess we are in a warming period and that will continue for many years to come. With that said, I think the pollution and greenhouse gases that we have released will make the warming period more difficult for us than it should be.

Yes, humans are responsible for today's climate change, which is affecting our environment. By failing to responsibly care for the resources we have been given, and by over-using materials such as spray cans, we have damaged our world and caused changes in our climate. Other activities such as cloud seeding may have far-reaching outcomes that we do not even realize yet.

ACTIVITY 3. Visit these websites. You will read arguments in favour and against the human causes for climate change.

- You can use them for the debate.
- You should think and write rebuttals to your opponents' arguments (they can use some of them in the debate too). Therefore, you must be prepared to be able to answer any kind of argument against your positions.

Arguing that humans cause / do not cause Global Warming

<https://www.reusethisbag.com/articles/global-warming-debate/>

https://en.wikiversity.org/wiki/Are_humans_the_main_cause_of_global_warming%3F

Top Pro and Con Arguments

<https://climatechange.procon.org/>



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ACTIVITY 4. Read these articles. You can use these data, examples and information to support your position in the debate.

WE ARE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- The climate is changing, but not just because of humans: https://www.nbcnews.com/think/opinion/climate-changing-not-just-because-humans-here-s-why-matters-ncna824271- Nature, not humans, could be cause of up to half of Arctic sea ice loss, study claims: https://www.independent.co.uk/environment/arctic-sea-loss-ice-melting-nature-not-humans-responsible-up-to-half-study-claims-a7627616.html
WE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR CLIMATE CHANGE
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- 10 Human Causes of Global Warming: https://www.reusethisbag.com/articles/10-human-causes-of-global-warming/- How Do We Know that Humans Are the Major Cause of Global Warming? https://www.ucsusa.org/global-warming/science-and-impacts/science/human-contribution-to-gw-faq.html#.XCj5xGhKjIU- Why scientists think 100% of global warming is due to humans: https://www.carbonbrief.org/analysis-why-scientists-think-100-of-global-warming-is-due-to-humans- Are human activities causing climate change?: https://www.science.org.au/learning/general-audience/science-booklets-0/science-climate-change/3-are-human-activities-causing

ACTIVITY 5. DEBATE. Now you have enough information and arguments to defend a position in a debate. It is advisable that you first read annexes 1 ([rules of the debate](#)), 2 ([assessment sheet](#)) and 3 (examples of good and bad arguments or [fallacies](#)).

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