

# Year 6 – Our Changing World

We are learning about our world. It is important that we know about climate change and the effects it is having on the world's weather including natural disasters.

## What do I already know that will help me with this topic?

- In Year 3, during your science topics, you learnt how plastics are polluting our oceans.
- In Year 4, you learnt about food chains and different climates.
- Throughout school, you have learnt about countries in the United Kingdom and Europe.

## What is climate change?

The earth's climate has seen many changes in its 4.55 billion years. Now many people believe that we must act fast to avert climate catastrophe.

Climate change (or global warming), is the process of our planet heating up. It describes a change in the average weather conditions — such as temperature and rainfall — in a region over a long period of time.

It is important that we understand how the climate is changing, so that we can prepare for the future. Studying the climate helps us predict how much rain the next winter might bring, or how far sea levels will rise due to warmer sea temperatures.



## Find out more.



<https://www.natgeokids.com/uk/>

Search for volcanoes and climate change.

[https://www.ducksters.com/science/earth\\_science/](https://www.ducksters.com/science/earth_science/)

Click on the topic you want to find out more about. Read the information and then take the 10 question quiz to find out what you have learnt.



<https://climatekids.nasa.gov/how-to-help/>



Find out what you can do to help combat climate change. There's lots of great ideas here and a few games to play at the bottom of the page.

## Vocabulary

**Biome:** a large naturally occurring community of plants and animals occupying a major habitat, e.g. forest.

**Climate:** the weather conditions prevailing in an area in general or over a long period.

**Continent:** any of the world's main continuous expanses of land (Europe, Asia, Africa, North and South America, Australia, Antarctica).

**Earthquake:** a sudden violent shaking of the ground, typically causing great destruction, as a result of movements within the earth's crust or volcanic action.

**Magma:** hot fluid material below or within the earth's crust from which lava and other igneous rock is formed on cooling.

**Meander:** follow a winding course.

**Plate tectonics:** the theory that Earth's outer shell is divided into large slabs of solid rock, called "plates," that glide over Earth's mantle, the rocky inner layer above Earth's core.

**River source:** the place where a river begins

**Volcano:** a mountain or hill, typically a cone shape, having a crater or vent through which lava, rock fragments, hot vapour, and gas are or have been erupted from the earth's crust.