

## Lesson: Why Worry About Climate Change?



### **Lesson Objectives:**

1. Students will be able to describe the process of global warming and its impact on life on earth.
2. Students will be able to describe the causes of climate change and its effect on weather, environment, and human health.

### **Materials Needed For Lesson:**

- A computer with Internet access
- *H.1.Why Worry about Climate Change?*

### **Lesson Time:**

45 minutes

### **Teacher Preparation:**

1. Prepare copies of *H.1.Why Worry about Climate Change?*
2. Ensure access to computers with an Internet connection.

## Lesson Activator

### **Teacher Directions:**

1. Open with a discussion on “What is a greenhouse?”
2. Ask students if they have ever been in one, what one looks like, or if they know its purpose.
3. If needed, provide the following definition (Merriam-Webster.com) - *A structure enclosed (as by glass) and used for the cultivation or protection of plants.*

(Teacher Note) If students do not have any experience with a greenhouse, you may want to show the beginning of the Newton’s Apple episode at

<http://www.newtonsapple.tv/video.php?id=1662>.

## Lesson Activity

### Teacher Directions:

1. Have students work individually or in small groups.
2. Distribute *H.1.Why Worry about Climate Change?* to students.
3. After students have received the handouts, carefully read aloud to students the directions to the assignment.

**Optional Lesson Extension/Homework:** Have students write an exit card listing three ways in which humans negatively contribute to climate change and three ways in which we can positively impact climate change.

## H.1. Why Worry about Climate Change?

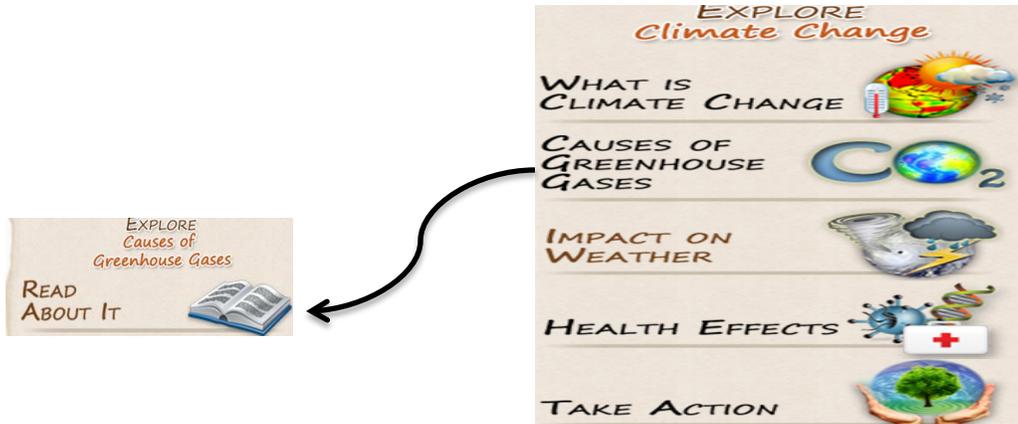
### Directions:

Using the Internet, follow the instructions below to answer the questions in the handout.

1. Access the following link: <http://kidsenvirohealth.nlm.nih.gov/>
2. Click on the tab to access the topic: **Climate Change**.

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Environmental Health Student Portal. At the top left is the National Library of Medicine logo. The main title is "ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH STUDENT PORTAL" with the subtitle "Connecting Middle School Students to Environmental Health Information". Below the title is a navigation menu with links for "TOPICS", "FOR TEACHERS", "HOMEWORK HELP", "EXPERIMENTS", "CAREERS", and "NEWS". A search bar is located on the right side of the menu. On the left side, there are four topic tabs: "Air Pollution", "Chemicals", "Climate Change", and "Water Pollution". A large blue arrow points to the "Climate Change" tab. The "Climate Change" tab is highlighted with a blue background and a red border. Below the tabs is a section titled "What is Environmental Health?" with a definition and a "LEARN MORE" button. On the right side, there is a photo of a person working in a lab, with a caption "< 1 2 3 4 > Chemicals in Water". Below the photo are four icons representing "EXPERIMENTS AND PROJECTS", "HOMEWORK HELP", "CAREERS IN ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SCIENCE", and "In the NEWS For TEACHERS".

3. Once you have accessed the page use the links found here under **Explore Climate Change** to access **Causes of Greenhouse Gases**. Then click the **Read About It** option to answer the questions below.



## Questions

1. What is the greenhouse effect?
2. Why is the greenhouse effect important to life on Earth?
3. What is a greenhouse gas (give examples)?

