

Historical sources

More recent climate change can be seen in:

- old photos, drawings and paintings
- written records
- recorded dates of regular events (for example, harvests, arrival of migrating birds).

These records are not very accurate.

Human causes of climate change

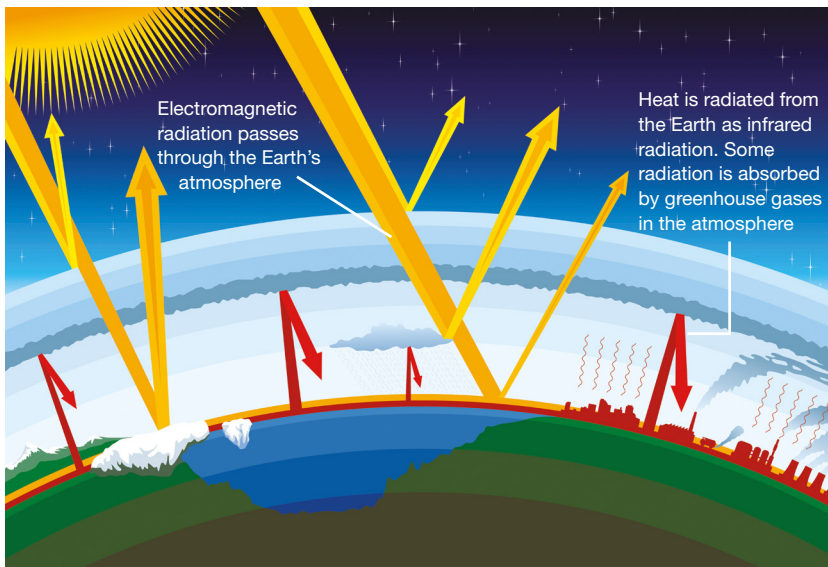


Figure 4 The greenhouse effect

Greenhouse gases include carbon dioxide (CO₂) and methane. People adding more and more greenhouse gases to the atmosphere has led to the **enhanced greenhouse effect**. Most scientists believe this is the cause of recent global warming.

Fossil fuels

- Burning fossil fuels releases carbon dioxide into the atmosphere.
- **Fossil fuels** are used in transport, industry and power stations.
- As population increases and people are becoming wealthier, more energy is used, which means more fossil fuels are burnt.

Agriculture

- Produces large amounts of methane, especially cattle and rice farming.
- As population increases, more food is required, especially in Asia where rice is a main part of the diet.

Deforestation

- Deforestation means there are fewer trees to take in carbon dioxide.
- Forests are carbon stores. When they are burned to clear an area, the carbon dioxide that has been stored is released.



SNAP IT!

Draw your own diagram of the **greenhouse effect**. Snap an image of it and use it to remind yourself of how it works. Can you explain how it affects the climate?

DO IT!

Plan an answer to a question that asks you about how humans have contributed to climate change.



NAIL IT!

Human and natural causes

Make sure that you understand the difference between **human** and **natural** causes of climate change.