GEOGRAPHY / KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER

YEAR 3/4

How is climate change affecting the world?

THE BIG IDEAS

Weather:
What it is like outside today.

Climate:
Usual weather over many years.

Global warming:
Earth's average temperature rising.

Climate change:
Long-term changes in weather patterns.

WHY IS EARTH WARMING?

1. People burn coal, oil and gas.
2. This releases carbon dioxide (CO_2).
3. Extra greenhouse gases trap more heat.
4. Earth warms and climates change.

WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS?

- Droughts and failed crops
- Heatwaves and dangerous bushfires
- Melting glaciers and ice sheets
- Rising seas and greater flood risk

PLACES WE STUDY

THE GAMBIA | West Africa
Banjul and Njar: unreliable rain causes drought and crop failures.

VICTORIA | Australia
Kinglake: hotter, drier weather increases the risk of bushfires.

STARCROSS | Devon, England
The Exe Estuary: rising seas and storms increase flood risk.

GREENLAND | Arctic region
Warming melts the ice sheet; people have different views.

KEY VOCABULARY

Drought:	A long time with very little rain.
Fossil fuels:	Coal, oil and gas used for energy.
Greenhouse gas:	A gas that traps heat in the atmosphere.
Carbon dioxide:	A greenhouse gas released when fuels burn.
Renewable energy:	Energy from sources such as sun and wind.
Flood defence:	A structure that helps protect against floods.
Resilience:	Being prepared and able to cope with difficulties.

HOW CAN WE HELP?

- Save electricity by switching things off.
- Walk, cycle or share journeys when possible.
- Use renewable energy such as solar and wind.

CHECK YOUR KNOWLEDGE

1. What is the difference between weather and climate?
2. Why does burning fossil fuels cause warming?
3. How is each of the four places affected?