

# Climate-Change Text Set

Rising temperatures. Intense droughts. Melting ice caps. Climate change and its effect on the planet are in the news quite often. This text set explores the theme of climate change by looking at its causes and at its impact around the world. It also presents different ways that people are choosing to combat climate change.

## Essential Questions

1. What is climate change?
2. What causes climate change?
3. How is climate change affecting the planet and its people, animals, and resources?
4. What can people do to combat climate change?

## Informational Paired Text

Below is a set of TIME for Kids articles that can be used to discuss the theme of climate change.

1. **“United Youth”** (October 18, 2019) Youth activists got a chance to make their voices heard at the first-ever U.N. Youth Climate Summit..
2. **“The Future of Food?”** (August 8, 2019) Environmental changes caused by people could reduce the world’s food supply.
3. **“Planting Seeds”** (July 30, 2019) In an effort to reverse the effects of climate change, millions of people in Ethiopia have planted more than 350 million trees in 12 hours.
4. **“Climate in Court”** (April 13, 2018) A group of kids is fighting for laws to protect the planet.
5. **“What is Global Warming?”** (August 30, 2018) *TFK* explains what global warming is, what causes it, and what its effects are.
6. **“Disaster’s Cost”** (January 19, 2018) Extreme weather events, often resulting from climate change, can cause billions of dollars in damages.

## Optional Extensions

### 1. Activity

Direct the class to go to [timeforkids.com](http://timeforkids.com). On the site, students should search for more articles about climate change. (They can do this by typing “climate change” into the site’s search bar.) Have students look through the list of articles that discuss the subject. Then have them pick one article that they would have chosen to feature as part of this text set. Ask students to write down the title, author, and date of the article. Ask them to explain why they would have chosen that article to be part of the text set. What did they learn from the article? Why do they believe that it’s important for other students to read that article as well?

### 2. Writing Assignment

In “Climate in Court,” students will read about the young people who are fighting climate change by suing the federal government. Have students imagine that they, too, are bringing a case to court. Have them research how a particular issue caused by climate change is affecting or will be affecting their lives. Once students choose an issue, they should write a persuasive argument to convince the court to take action on this topic. Students’ speeches should include scientific evidence to support their claims, including a proposed solution to the problem. When students complete their argument, have them present it to the class.

