

Forests and Climate Change

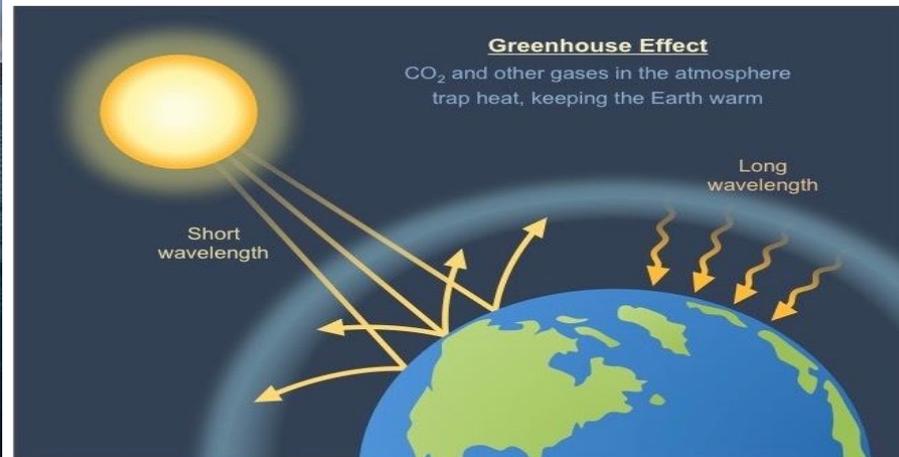
What you need to prepare yourself for
the future

What is Climate Change?

Climate Change, also known as Global Warming, means a change in climate over a period of time.

Every year, the Earth gets a little bit hotter. CO₂ is the smoke you see come from cars and factories, and that goes into the atmosphere above the oxygen. It traps the heat inside the atmosphere like the biggest invisible blanket you've ever seen!

Unfortunately, this is bad. Ice melts, and animals like Polar Bears or penguins that depend on it will go extinct. It also increases the sea level, making the beaches you went to underwater in 10 years!



How do we help climate change?

Climate change is big and takes a long time. It won't be fixed by one person or in 1 week. We all might have different interests, but this planet is our home. And we are responsible for hurting it. So, where to start?

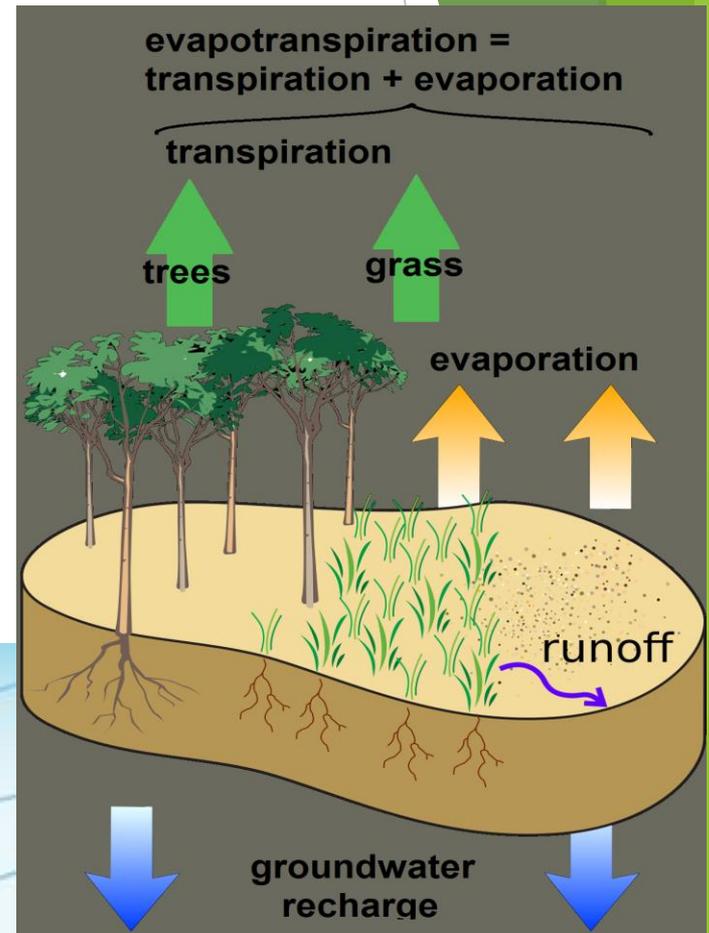
- A. Turn off your electronics when you're not using them. House lights,
- B. Music players and the TV aren't helping anyone if no one is there, right?
- B. If possible, walk to home or school or ride a bike. If it's too far, buses or trains are better than cars.
- C. Plant some trees. Do you have a potted tree? You can slide the dirt out with the sapling and plant a tree to grow big and strong. Every tree can absorb 21 kg of CO₂ every year, and 1 ton once it's 40 years old!



The superpowers of trees!

Trees are the essential roots of life. They provide oxygen, stabilize soil, provide food and are homes to many animals. But what can a forest provide?

1. They keep Earth cool by providing shade and overall reduce temperature.
2. They keep water that it takes fresh.
3. Large forests influence the water cycle. Without trees, islands and land alike become deserts.
4. Trees reduce erosion from wind and water. Water and wind move things, and over a long period it can shape entire landscapes!



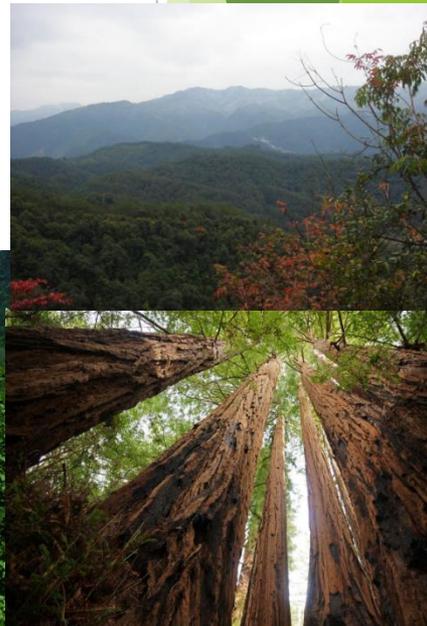
Timber!

Every single country on Earth has chopped trees, it is a cornerstone for civilization building blocks and has kept us warm with fires. Nowadays that need is a lot less, but a lot of trees are being cut down faster than being regrown, illegally or legally.

- 46% of all trees since the beginning of civilization have been cut down.
- Brazil, The Philippines, Indonesia and Australia are the most deforested countries.

The most amount of trees in a country are in:

1. Russia - 7,762,602 km²; 45.40% of the countries' land in forest
2. Brazil - 4,776,980 km²; 56.10%
3. Canada - 3,101,340 km²; 31.06%
4. the USA - 3,030,890 km²; 30.84%
5. China - 1,821,000 km²; 18.21%



Bulgarian Beauty

Bulgaria is one of the most biodiverse countries in Europe, with hills, rivers, lakes, mountains, grasslands and more roses than you can possibly imagine! But there's more than what meets the eye.

Bulgaria houses an extremely wide variety of animals and plants alike due to its geographical location. You can find exotic animals anywhere from the sly fox, watchful owls, powerful brown bears and the Eurasian lynx. Some of the oldest trees in the world are also here, kept in many national protected parks.



Bulgaria's current situation

Since 1990, Bulgaria has increased their amount of trees by 20%. With over 3000 species of plants, 9% of their plants are considered “endemic”, meaning they don't exist in any other country.

Bulgaria adopted the Kyoto Protocol and reached the protocols' objective of reducing carbon emissions by 30%. She's had a few bad moments sometimes but otherwise Bulgaria is considered a “modest performer” and is steadily improving.



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