



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

Global Warming – How Bad Is It Really?

An activity of "Is Earth getting hotter?"

Global warming poses a grave danger to our planet. Yet, it is not taken seriously by many. **"Is Earth getting hotter?"** (page 10, *What's Up* June 2019) helps you understand the problem. Individually, read it carefully.

A. The table below describes some problems created by global warming. In the "Affected Areas" column, fill in the gaps with vowels, using the clues in the next column. Work in pairs.

	Affected Areas	Problems Created by Global Warming
1	_ x t r _ m _ w _ _ t h _ r c _ n d _ t _ _ n s	The patterns of wind that bring the monsoons in Asia and rain and snow around the world are changing. Hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and droughts are happening with much greater frequency and intensity around the world, causing damage worth billions of dollars to crops and property and inflicting untold suffering to millions.
2	r _ c _ d _ n g s n _ w c _ p s	Glaciers are the largest stores of fresh water. In the warmer seasons, these glaciers melt and feed some of the largest rivers in the world, which in turn provide fresh water for agriculture and human consumption to hundreds of millions of people. These glaciers are disappearing due to global warming.
3	r _ s _ n g s _ _ l _ v _ l s	About 10% of the Earth's land area is covered with glacial ice and the ice sheets of Greenland and Antarctica. This is more than the land areas of China and India combined. The Antarctic ice is over 4.2 km thick in some areas. Rising temperatures are causing large pieces of these ice sheets to break off into the sea, leading to rising sea levels. This is a threat to low-lying coastal cities like Singapore.
4	p _ l l _ n _ t _ _ n	Plants and their pollinators, such as bees, have evolved together. Flowering plants provide bees with nectar, while the bees disperse the plant's pollen. Due to global warming, the start and end of seasons have changed, causing the bees to be out of sync with flowering plants. Bees are dying in large numbers and large areas of crop go unfertilised. This may result in food shortages for people.
5	_ x t _ n c t _ _ n _ f s p _ c _ _ s	The melting of the Arctic ice due to global warming is greatly reducing the polar bears' natural habitat, causing their numbers to diminish. They may soon be no more. Other animals like the ringed seal, leatherback turtle, emperor penguin, clownfish, arctic fox, and the salmon are facing the same fate.

B. Reflect on the seriousness of global warming. What can you do as an individual to reduce its effects? Jot down your thoughts overleaf.