

Read the following passage then answer the questions.

The effects of Global Warming in Southern Asia

Extreme weather conditions have now become a global problem. From polar ice caps melting in Antarctica to unbearable heat waves in Southern Asia the world is experiencing climate changes live never before. India especially has been hit by opposite ends of the weather spectrum.

India is an extremely large country, therefore it is of no surprise that different areas may experience varying temperatures, due to differing distances to the equator. However recent data has shown that the 7th biggest country in the world has been hit harder than most countries in the world.

On one end of the spectrum the Indian district of Andhra Pradesh state was severely hit by an unbearable heatwave in mid-May 2002, killing over 1,000 people. It was reported that even in areas where there was shade available the temperature was still as high as 124°. Unfortunately in these situations it is always the poor that suffer, among those that perished were: farm laborers, rickshaw drivers and elderly citizens. Such extreme heat also brought many other consequences such as: drought in the regions affected by the temperature rise, therefore the casualties mentioned above only indicates a proportion of those that were seriously affected.

However, as mentioned previously India's past has not only been plagued by heat waves, it has also experienced severely cold temperatures which have led to many fatalities. During January 2003 the same areas that had previously experienced severe heat were hit with the opposite, severely cold temperatures that once again took many lives, over 1,800 people in total.

Professor J.Srinivasan believes that such weather conditions are caused by changing weather conditions all over the globe, his research has indicated that over the past two decades the trend of heat waves and cold waves has risen and the only indicator that makes scientific sense would be global warming.

Therefore many people in India and around the world believe it is important to look after our Earth and to do our part in preventing the affects that global warming is having on our planet. Such acts as: using both water and energy efficiently and reducing the use of fuel powered vehicles all have a part in making our world a safer place for everyone.

Source: The Encyclopedia of Global Warming Science and Technology (Book)

Multiple Choice Questions

Circle the correct letter A, B, C or D

1. Extreme weather effects...
 - A. Only Europe
 - B. Only Asia
 - C. Only Africa
 - D. The world

2. India is a very country
 - A. fun
 - B. large
 - C. small
 - D. boring

3. Professor J.Srinivassan, is
 - A. A police officer
 - B. A lawyer
 - C. A professor
 - D. A member of the public

Answer the following questions by circling true or false for the correct answer.

4. India is located in North Africa.

True

False

5. The drought was caused by cold weather.

True

False

6. In mid-May 2002 the temperature reached over 120°

True

False

7. Using a car less often will help with global warming

True

False

8. In mid-May 2002 the temperature reached over 120°

True

False

9. Using a car less often will help with global warming

True

False

In the past 10 years we have seen many places get destroyed due to extreme weather conditions. Research one place, which has been affected by extreme weather conditions, the below steps will guide you to complete your task.

Step 1

- Research one extreme weather disaster that has happened in the last 10 years.

Step 2a

- Answer the basic 5 questions; what, where, when, why, and how.

2b

- Was there any way to know beforehand that this might happen?

2c

- What happened to the area and the people right after the disasters, in other words, what were the casualties?

2d

- What did the survivors do to help? what did the government do to help? and what did outsiders do to help (people or other governments)?

2e

- What can be done in the future to prevent such a disaster?

Step 3

- Write a report about the above and include 1-2 diagrams to help illustrate information in your research.

Answer Key

1. Any reasonable answer, for example, Africa because they suffer from drought due to rising temperatures.
2. Any reasonable answer, for example, yes because it has an effect on all of us and will continue having an effect on following generations too.
3. D – India is a very large country
4. B - The area is turning to a nuclear future
5. C - A professor
6. False
7. False
8. True
9. True
10. Any reasonable answers, such as providing temporary shelter and emergency water supply.