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Polar icecaps are melting

SPEAKING

LEVEL
Advanced

NUMBER
C1_3016S_EN

LANGUAGE
English

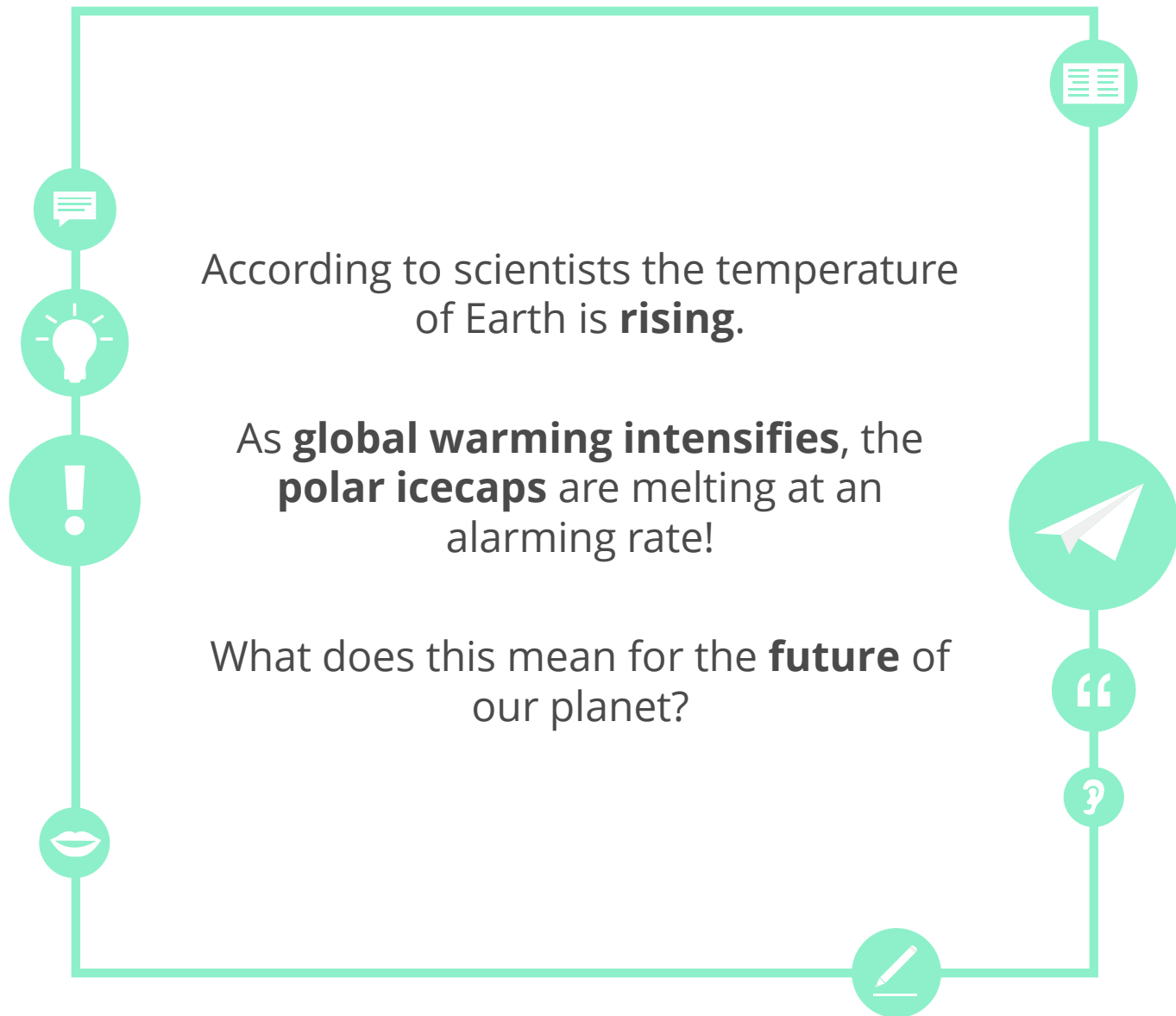




Goals

- Can read a complex text about global warming and understand the meaning of technical vocabulary in context.
- Can explain why the polar icecaps are melting and discuss other consequences of climate change in detail.







Polar icecaps

What are the polar icecaps?

Why are they so important? Tell your teacher.





Consequences

Can you think of any potential consequences of melting polar icecaps?





Describe what you see

What do you see in each of the photographs?

What could the link be with melting icecaps? Talk to the teacher.



Natural
environment?



Local
communities
affected?

greenhouse gases

Gases that absorb or emit radiation, causing the greenhouse effect and contributing to global warming.



One side effect of industrialisation has been the regrettable output of **greenhouse gases** into the atmosphere.



Polar icecaps are melting



Among the **myriad** consequences and effects of **global warming**, the melting of the polar icecaps are one of the most frightening. The polar regions of the Arctic are particularly **vulnerable** to the rising temperatures brought on by climate change. Studies indicate that Arctic temperatures are rising at twice the rate they are elsewhere. Driven by CO2 and **greenhouse gases** in the atmosphere as a result of human industrial emissions, Greenland and other landmasses in the Arctic have become the front line of global warming.



Polar icecaps are melting

No doubt the consequences to the natural environment and **indigenous** communities of the Arctic will be grave. The Inuit people have already reported large-scale disruptions to their hunting and community lives brought on by faster melting ice. Heartbreaking footage of **emaciated** and weak polar bears, struggling to feed themselves and their cubs reflect the brutal effect ice melt has on Arctic wildlife. On the global stage, the associated rise in the sea level may swallow entire communities and throw the rest of human society into a dire **predicament**.





New words

myriad

There are **myriad** ways to bake a cake, my dear!

indigenous

They were fascinated by the **indigenous** architecture.

predicament

Your reckless behaviour has put you in quite a **predicament**.

emaciated

They emerged from the cave, weak and **emaciated** with hunger.



Answer the questions

1. The polar regions in the Arctic are particularly _____ to rising temperatures.

a. vapid

b. risky

c. vulnerable

d. various

2. Studies indicate the temperature is rising at _____ the rate in the Arctic as it is elsewhere.

a. half

b. 50% of

c. thrice

d. twice

3. Industrial _____ are the driving force of CO₂ and greenhouse gases in the atmosphere.

a. emissions

b. emulsifiers

c. emojis

d. horizons

4. Rising sea levels have the potential to _____ entire communities.

a. stereotype

b. swallow

c. solder

d. saw



Answer the questions

1. The _____ for indigenous communities and the natural environment look to be grave.

- a. consequences b. commiserations c. caricatures d. considerations

2. Footage of polar bears, weak and _____ has widened public awareness of their plight.

- a. embargo b. emaciated c. evaporated d. entrenched

3. Inuit hunters and fisherman have reported widespread _____ to their community lives.

- a. dislocation b. disruption c. direction d. dissemination

4. Large scale results could be catastrophic, throwing human society into a great _____.

- a. paragon b. predicament c. party d. paranormal



Explain

“The Inuit people have already reported large-scale disruptions to their hunting and community lives brought on by faster melting ice.”

1. Talk to your teacher about the **complications** and **effects** of warming and ice melt on the lives of indigenous communities.
2. What are some strategies to help ensure their survival?





Rising sea levels

Assess the validity of each statement below. Discuss each point of view with the teacher.

Coastal communities should begin to prepare for a rise in the sea level, or risk being swept away by the encroaching push of the ocean.

Water runoff from melted glaciers and sea ice will dramatically alter the delicate balance of marine ecosystems, causing unpredictable and potentially catastrophic shifts in the global climate.

As the sea levels continue to rise, island nations will be wiped off the map, causing an unprecedented refugee and humanitarian crisis.



Debate

Global warming is still a disputed concept, despite support from scientific bodies around the world. Where do you stand? Pick one of the positions below and debate with the teacher.

Spend some time thinking through your position and points of argument:

- All countries should work together as per the Paris Agreement to lower the rate of warming.
- Global warming is generated by human activity, but it is overblown and exaggerated by the media.
- Global warming is a modern myth – why sacrifice economic growth and development for something that hasn't been proven?





Get ready to listen



The next few slides will focus on training your listening comprehension



True or false?

	TRUE	FALSE
1. Studies show the rate of ice melt is increasing, triggering a rise in sea levels.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. Glaciers will be suitable for agriculture and farming in the future.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. Fresh water from melted icecaps can dramatically alter the ocean's fragile marine ecosystem.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. New economic opportunities will emerge as the Arctic ocean is cleared of sea ice.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. The majority of the Arctic glaciers have not yet receded.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. Greenland is losing 5000 square kilometres of ice each year.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>



Vocabulary: check the meanings with your teacher

ecosystem

detrimental

permafrost

atmosphere

dramatic

to recede

barren

to scramble

deluge



Discuss

How might changing ocean temperature and currents affect the marine ecosystem?



humanitarian

Humanitarian can be used to describe anything devoted to the promotion of human welfare.



He dreamed of working for a **humanitarian** aid organisation.



Humanitarian organisations

Describe the role of some humanitarian organisations you are aware of.

Use the pictures to help with your ideas.

What makes their work humanitarian?



Red Cross



Refugee support



Aid



Fair trade



Tell the teacher

Can you think of any other
organisations or behaviours which
could be described as
humanitarian?



Talk to the teacher

Talk about the opportunities presented to each country in the Arctic region. What is more likely as the ice continues to melt? Cooperation, or confrontation?

Access to offshore oil reserves.
What to do about their displaced population?



Norway

The retreating ice presents many economic opportunities for raw materials.
Could this cause environmental damage?



Canada



Iceland

Economic opportunities present themselves, but the melt has the potential to cause more volcanic eruptions.



Russia

New trade routes in the Arctic ocean present many opportunities but also presents many potential rivalries.



Talk to the teacher

You are a world-renowned climate scientist. The Russian government has hired you to help them plan for projected ice melts in the Arctic. What advice will you give them to make the most of their position? What problems will they have to consider in the future?

Melting icecaps could create new opportunities for economic growth, but will also create humanitarian and environmental disasters. How best to plan for this?

Responsibility for indigenous communities displaced by melting ice

New routes for shipping and trade

New sources of offshore resources



Reflect on the lesson

Take a moment to review any new **vocabulary, phrases, language structures** or **grammar points** you have come across for the first time in this lesson.

Review them with your teacher one more time to make sure you don't forget!





Transcription

Comprehensive studies show the rate of icecap melt is accelerating and triggering a rise in sea levels. Fresh water from the melted caps flows into the sea, altering ocean temperature, currents, and affecting the marine **ecosystem** dramatically. Other scientists fear the **detritmental** effects of methane and carbon-dioxide stored in **permafrost** which, if released, could result in **dramatic** and severe warming of the **atmosphere**. Maps produced by German researchers show that Antarctica and Greenland are each losing ice at the rate of 500 cubic kilometres a year. Almost all of the Arctic glaciers have **receded** and snow cover has shrunk. Other models predict that the Arctic Ocean may be free of ice before the end of this century.

As the glaciers retreat there will also be opportunity. Large expanses of the Arctic, hitherto frozen and **barren**, would become suitable for agriculture. A range of other minerals and materials will become available with the drawing back of the ice such as oil, gas and gold. The **scramble** for resources and profit could also be a source of fresh conflict between regional powers. With the Arctic Ocean clear of sea ice, new routes for shipping and trade will emerge. However the process plays out, the **deluge** of environmental change caused by the erosion of Arctic coastline will have dramatic consequences for the natural world and human society.

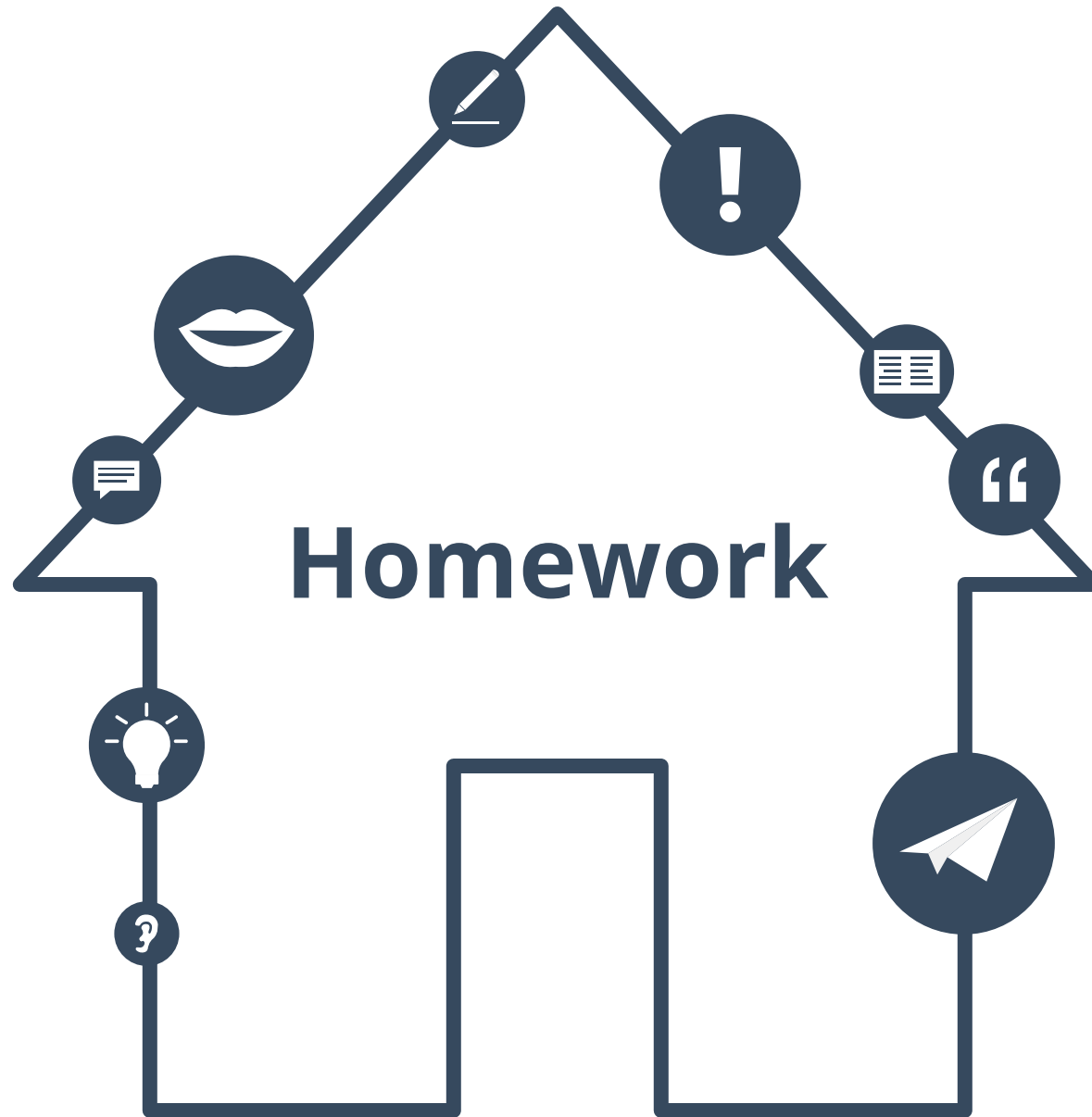


Answer key

Activity P. 17 1T, 2F 3T, 4T, 5F, 6F

Activity P. 12 1A, 2B, 3B, 4B

Activity P. 11 1C, 2D, 3A, 4B





Categorise

List all of the potential outcomes of melting polar icecaps discussed in today's lesson.

Positive outcomes

Negative outcomes

A 2x2 grid of colored squares. The top-left square is light blue and contains the text 'greenhouse gases'. The top-right square is light yellow and contains the text 'myriad'. The bottom-left square is light yellow and contains the text 'global warming'. The bottom-right square is light blue and contains the text 'ecosystem'. The grid is separated by thin white lines. The words are in a simple, black, sans-serif font. The squares have a slightly distressed or torn-edge appearance at the bottom.

greenhouse gases	myriad
global warming	ecosystem
predicament	displacement

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