

R5-C: Our Pacific neighbours

Name: _____

Read this to answer the questions

The world is getting warmer because of climate change. This is mostly caused by people burning fossil fuels (like coal, oil, and gas). Using these fuels puts carbon dioxide gas into the air. Carbon dioxide traps heat, like a big blanket. We call this “global warming” and “climate change”.



Why does this matter to the Pacific Islands?

Some tiny Pacific Island nations (like Tuvalu and Kiribati) are very flat. They are only a little bit higher than the ocean.

When the world gets warmer, sea levels rise.

For these islands, rising seas mean salt water can ruin their farms, flood their homes, and even make whole islands disappear under the water.

Australia is a big country that has used and sold a lot of these fossil fuels for a long time. Because of this, many Pacific Island people say Australia has to take responsibility for the people who are having problems because of rising sea levels.

The people of the Pacific call climate change their single greatest threat. They look at Australia—their big, wealthy neighbour—and ask us to stop making the problem worse and to help them fix the damage. International agreements say that rich countries that cause a lot of the warming should help smaller countries that are now in danger.

Questions

1. Which kind of resources cause global warming and climate change when they are used?

2. What is happening to the sea level because of global warming?

3. What problem is happening to island countries like Tuvalu and Kiribati?

4. What two things do the Pacific Island people want Australia to do?

5. Why should Australia help the Pacific Island people to solve this problem?
