

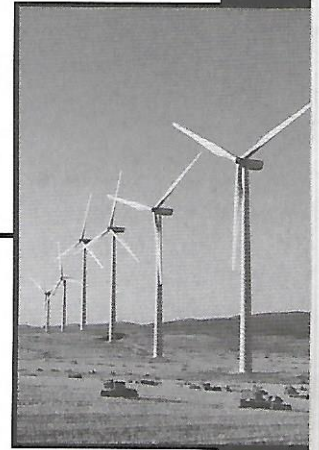
**1** What is climate change?

The Earth's weather is always changing. In the past, natural events caused these climatic changes but now scientists use the phrase 'climate change' to talk about changes which started with the growth of industry in the nineteenth century. The changes people are worried about now are the result of human behaviour – not natural changes in the atmosphere.

**2** We all know about the 2003 heatwave in central Europe and Hurricane Katrina which hit the USA in 2005. Scientists are studying these events and other evidence of climate change to predict our future weather. A very important part of their work is looking at the long-term effects of climate change on our environment. For example, water is extremely important for human life. Is rainfall going to increase? Or will there be more hot weather and less rain? Some people believe that water is so important that there will be wars about it in the future.



**3** There are a lot of things we can do to slow down climate change. Instead of using coal, oil and gas, we will need to get more of our energy from renewable sources such as the sun, wind and water. There are already land and sea wind farms in Europe and in the next ten years governments are going to build more. We can also be more environmentally-friendly in our own lives. For example, when you go to bed tonight, are you going to turn off the TV and computer or leave them on standby? This weekend, are you going to use public transport or drive your car? There are a lot of things we can do at home to help save energy and reduce pollution.



**4** Do you know about the Kyoto Protocol? The countries of the United Nations met in Kyoto, Japan in 1997 and agreed to try to control climate change. In 2005, the Protocol, or agreement, – became international law. The countries which signed the agreement are going to reduce their greenhouse gases by 5.2% before the end of 2012. The only two industrial countries that didn't sign the agreement are the USA, the world's biggest polluter, and Australia.

**READING**

**1** **7.1** Read the article quickly and choose the best title.

- a The weather in Europe
- b The world's changing climate
- c Climate and the international community

**2** Read the article carefully and match the headings A, B, C, D or E with the paragraphs. There is one extra heading.

- A Changing our behaviour
- B Climate change and the future
- C The importance of recycling
- D International action
- E What is climate change?

**3** Find the words in the article. They are underlined. Match them with the correct part of speech and definition.

	Part of speech	Definition
1 <u>heatwave</u>	noun	<i>continuing for a long period of time in the future</i>
2 <u>long-term</u>		<i>something that is replaced as it is used</i>
3 <u>slow down</u>	adjective	<i>a period of unusually hot weather</i>
4 <u>renewable</u>	verb	<i>ready to use when needed</i>
5 <u>standby</u>		<i>to have the power to change something</i>
6 <u>protocol</u>		<i>the rules for correct behaviour</i>
7 <u>control</u>		<i>to make something happen less quickly</i>

**4** Read the article again. Tick true and cross false.

According to the text:

- 1 in the past, the world's climate didn't change.
- 2 nowadays, all climate change is natural.
- 3 scientists don't know exactly what will happen to our weather in the future.
- 4 there will probably be wars about water.
- 5 there won't be any more wind farms in Europe.
- 6 it's a waste of time to save energy in your home.
- 7 the Kyoto Protocol was an agreement between Asian countries.
- 8 all the countries of the world are going to reduce their greenhouse gases.