

Atmosphere

The layers of gases that surround the Earth. The important gases in the atmosphere are nitrogen, oxygen and carbon dioxide.



Vapour

Vapour is a cloud of liquid particles. Steam is water vapour.



Photosynthesis

A chemical process used by plants to make glucose and oxygen from carbon dioxide and water, using light energy. Oxygen is produced as a by-product of photosynthesis.

Fold

Fossil fuel

Natural, finite fuel formed from the remains of living organisms, eg oil, coal and natural gas.



Greenhouse effect

The retention of heat in the atmosphere caused by the build-up of greenhouse gases.



Climate change

Average weather conditions over longer periods and over large areas.

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Weather

The day-to-day condition of the atmosphere.



Climate change

The long-term alteration of weather patterns.



Acid rain

Rain that contains dissolved acidic gases such as nitrogen oxides and sulfur dioxide.

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Fuel

Material that is used to produce heat, like coal, oil or gas.



Pollutant

A toxic chemical or object that causes damage to the land, air or water.



Compounds

A substance formed by the chemical union of two or more elements.

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Smog

A type of air pollution that appears as a visible smoky fog which is very harmful to health.



Greenhouse gas

The gases responsible for global warming - carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide and CFCs (chlorofluorocarbons).



Global warming

The rise in the average temperature of the Earth's surface.

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