

6

WHAT WILL EARTH BE LIKE IN THE FUTURE?

Lake Wallace, Australia, after a long
period of dry weather in 2016



PREVIEW

A Use a dictionary. Write ↑ for words that mean “become larger.” Write ↓ for words that mean “become smaller.”

_____ increase	_____ fall
_____ rise	_____ shrink
_____ decrease	_____ expand

B 6.1 Guess. How will climate change affect Earth? Circle the correct answers. Then listen and check.

- 1 Temperatures will **fall** / rise.
- 2 Freshwater levels will **fall** / rise.
- 3 Wildfires will **increase** / decrease.
- 4 Deserts will **shrink** / expand.
- 5 Farmland will **shrink** / expand.
- 6 Food supplies will **increase** / decrease.

C Talk with a partner. What are some other possible effects of climate change?

I think ocean levels will rise in the future.

Yeah. And I think cities will ...

THE NATURAL WORLD

UNIT GOALS

- find out how climate change will affect us
- learn language for making predictions
- explore ways to fight climate change

LANGUAGE FOCUS

REAL ENGLISH Are you serious?

A **6.2** Listen and read. What will happen when farmlands shrink? Then repeat the conversation and replace the words in **bold**.

Stig: Do you think temperatures will **rise** a lot in the future? (**go up / increase**)

Nadine: Yes, I do. Climate change is a very serious problem.

Stig: Hmm. How will it affect us?

Nadine: Well, when it gets hotter, **farmlands will shrink. (freshwater levels will fall / deserts will expand)**

Stig: And what will happen when **farmlands shrink? (freshwater levels fall / deserts expand)**

Nadine: Do you really want to know?

Stig: Sure!

Nadine: **There'll be less food. (Food supplies will decrease / There won't be enough food)**


Stig: What? Are you serious? We have to stop climate change now!



B **6.3** Look at the chart. Circle the correct words to complete the sentences below.

MAKING PREDICTIONS (USING WILL, WON'T, MORE, FEWER, AND LESS)	
What will the future be like ?	It'll be hotter and drier. There'll be more wildfires. There'll be more pollution. There'll be fewer animals. There'll be less food.
Will there be a lot more people?	Yes, there will . There'll (definitely) be a lot more people. No, there won't . There (probably) won't be a lot more people.
Do you think food prices will increase ?	Yes, I do. I think they'll increase . No, I don't. I don't think they'll increase .

- 1 We use *fewer* before **countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable nouns**.
- 2 We use *less* before **countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable nouns**.
- 3 We use *more* before **countable / uncountable / countable and uncountable nouns**.

C  **6.4 Complete the passage.** Use *will* and the words from the box. Then listen and check.

be disappear hold go (not) be melt need rise

Climate change is a very real problem for the people of the Maldives. Scientists think it's likely that—sometime this century—the island nation ¹ _____ because of climate change. Ice ² _____, and ocean levels ³ _____. This ⁴ _____ a huge problem for the country. On average, its islands are only 1.3 meters above sea level. Because ocean levels rise a little bit every year, many people ⁵ _____ able to stay in their homes. No one knows where they ⁶ _____, but they ⁷ _____ to find a new place to live. To draw attention to their problem, the government held a meeting underwater. They joked that it's where they ⁸ _____ their meetings in the future.

D Complete the predictions. Use *more*, *fewer*, or *less*. Then discuss the predictions. Which do you think will happen? Which won't?


- 1 There will be more deserts and _____ drinking water in the future.
- 2 Gas-burning cars are becoming less popular. There will be _____ electric cars.
- 3 Deforestation will remain a problem. There will be _____ trees in our forests.
- 4 Land for agriculture will shrink. There will be _____ food for people to eat.
- 5 Space travel will become cheaper, so _____ people will travel to space.
- 6 There will be _____ environmental problems. Technology will help fix them.

E Turn to page 150. Are you an optimist or a pessimist? Take a survey to find out.



Maldives government officials prepare for an underwater meeting.

ON THIN ICE

- A**  **6.6** Paul Nicklen waited patiently on a sheet of Arctic ice. He was there to take pictures for *National Geographic*. Suddenly, he saw something move. It was a polar bear, swimming in the icy water toward a seal.
- B** Paul lay down on the ice to get a better photo. The bear jumped out of the water to catch the seal. Unfortunately, the ice **cracked**, and the bear fell back into the water. The polar bear couldn't get its meal and had to swim farther away to find food.
- C** The polar bear's story is unfortunately becoming more **familiar**. To understand why, you need to know a few things about the Arctic. First, it is mostly ocean. Second, a lot of this ocean is covered by ice. This ice is **vital** to the survival of many Arctic animals. Polar bears, for example, use the ice to hunt seals, their favorite meal. They stand on the ice floes and wait for them to come up for air.
- D** However, because of climate change, Arctic temperatures are rising and the ice is becoming thinner. This makes finding food more difficult for the bears. As the Arctic ice melts, polar bears have to swim farther to find thicker ice—sometimes more than 200 kilometers. Some polar bears cannot swim that far and, sadly, they **drown**.
- E** On his last trip, Paul saw three polar bear carcasses. Before climate change became a serious problem, a dead bear was a rare sight. Wildlife experts think that climate change will have a terrible effect on polar bears. In the future, polar ice will continue to shrink, and this will **endanger** them. Some scientists believe that 65 percent of the world's polar bears will disappear by 2050. In other words, these beautiful **creatures** are in danger of becoming extinct.