

# Shifting Shape

The earth is changing shape because of global warming.

For more than 200 years Earth has been getting warmer. Lately it seems to be happening more quickly. Since 1998 we have had the eight warmest years on record. What we are experiencing is called global warming.

Scientists believe this warming is partly due to the fossil fuels we are burning. Materials like coal and oil clog our air when they are burned. They increase the amount of greenhouse gases in our atmosphere. These greenhouse gases keep heat from escaping into space. We need some greenhouse gases to keep Earth's surface warm enough to sustain life. But higher amounts of these gases cause Earth's temperature to rise.



Deforestation is also adding to global warming. We are cutting down many trees. Trees remove carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the air. With fewer trees on Earth, more carbon dioxide is left to trap heat in the air.

This global warming is taking a toll on our planet. As Earth is warming, the glaciers are melting. In fact, so much of the ice has melted that more water is flowing into the oceans than normal. Some scientists think this has caused the planet to change its shape. It is now wider than it was before 1995. The earth is getting fatter!



The underlined words are in the wrong sentences. Write the correct word on each blank.

1. A rise in Earth's temperature is called atmosphere. \_\_\_\_\_
2. Stratosphere become trapped in our atmosphere. \_\_\_\_\_
3. The deforestation includes the layers of air surrounding our planet. \_\_\_\_\_
4. When many trees are cut down, it is called stratosphere. \_\_\_\_\_
5. The outermost layer of the atmosphere is called the troposphere. \_\_\_\_\_
6. The global warming is directly below the thermosphere but above the troposphere. \_\_\_\_\_
7. The Ozone Layer is found in the greenhouse gases. \_\_\_\_\_
8. The thermosphere is where greenhouse gases become trapped in the atmosphere. \_\_\_\_\_