

A Transcript of Earth Today **Answers**

Q1: Find and copy three ways that the Earth is changing according to scientists.

Accept any three of the following answers:

- **Sea levels are rising.**
- **Polar ice caps are reducing in size.**
- **Weather inland is becoming more erratic / extreme.**
- **There has been an increase in flooding.**
- **There has been an increase in hurricanes.**
- **There has been an increase in tornadoes.**
- **Insects are being born sooner.**
- **Flowers are blooming earlier.**
- **Birds are laying their eggs sooner.**
- **Birds are migrating sooner.**
- **Some animals have stopped hibernating.**

Q2: How does Patricia feel about the way that the Earth is changing? Use evidence from the text to support your answer.

Accept answers which state that Patricia does not like the way that the Earth is changing and incorporate the evidence 'unfortunately, it isn't for the better'.

Q3: Which two words show that Patricia knows a lot about the planet Earth and its environment?

Accept the words 'specialist' and 'expert' only.

Q4: By how many degrees Celsius do scientists predict that the Earth's temperature could rise by the year 2100?

Accept the answer 'five (degrees Celsius)' only.

Q5: Why do you think that Patricia compares excess greenhouse gases in the atmosphere as like 'a thick duvet on the hottest summer day'?

Accept answers which discuss that this analogy makes it easier for viewers / readers / Brooke to understand the concept in terms they are familiar with / have experienced from themselves, e.g.

- **By describing it in this way, it helps people to understand it better because it is compared to something they have experienced.**

Q6: Why doesn't Brooke think that the Earth's predicted rise in temperature is a bad thing?

Accept answers which discuss the following themes:

- She does not understand its severity / consequences.
- She does not understand the impact of a global temperature rise.
- She has experienced 5 degrees hotter than England and does not think that this is bad.

Q7: 'Imagine what that would do to the little ice we have left in our polar regions!'

What effect does this sentence have on the reader?

Accept answers which discuss the fact that the reader is encouraged to think for themselves about the consequences / impact of the temperature rise, such as:

- Writing in this way makes the reader think for themselves and imagine the changes.
- The sentence emphasises that we already have 'little' ice left and makes the reader consider the impact of the changes.

Q8: Describe how both Brooke and Patricia feel about the change in the Earth's temperature at this point of the transcript.

Accept answers which discuss the feelings of both participants about the Earth's temperature, in line with the following themes:

Brooke:

- feels as though it isn't necessarily a bad thing.
- doesn't understand the severity so isn't really bothered.
- compares the weather to that in Spain and doesn't feel that it is 'too bad'.

Patricia:

- feels passionately about how severe the changes will be.
- tries to impart the seriousness of the temperature change to Brooke.
- feels desperately that it is serious and damaging.

Q9: Why doesn't Brooke initially think that the melting of the polar ice caps will affect her?

Accept answers which discuss that Brooke does not think it will affect her because she lives in England and does not live in the Polar Regions, such as:

- Brooke thinks that the polar ice caps are far away from her so their melting will not affect her life.
- She thinks that because she lives in England she will be fine so she is not bothered about the polar ice caps melting.

Q10: Which word in the text means that something has vanished from existence and will never return?

Accept the answer 'extinct' only.

Q11: Why does Brooke suddenly start taking global warming seriously?

Accept answers which discuss that Brooke only starts to take global warming seriously when she realises that it affects her and the things she likes, such as:

- **Brooke suddenly starts taking it seriously when she realises that her house might become flooded.**
- **She starts to take it seriously because things she likes will be affected, such as her home and animals she likes.**
- **She realises her lifestyle will be affected and does not want that to happen.**

Q12: Summarise what you have learned about global warming from this transcript in 30 words or less.

Accept any reasonable recap of global warming, which includes many of the key aspects covered in this text, in thirty words or less, such as:

'Global warming is when the Earth's temperature rises too much because excess greenhouse gases will not let the sun's heat escape the Earth's atmosphere.'