

Name _____

Unraveling Climate Change: Understanding the Earth's Changing Climate

Short Answer Key

1. Greenhouse gases are gases such as carbon dioxide (CO₂), methane (CH₄), and nitrous oxide (N₂O) that trap heat from the sun in Earth's atmosphere, leading to global warming and climate change.
2. Changes in precipitation patterns can affect ecosystems by causing droughts, floods, and wildfires, disrupting habitats and altering the distribution of plant and animal species.
3. One extreme weather event associated with climate change is hurricanes, which are becoming more frequent and intense due to rising sea surface temperatures.
4. Rising sea levels can impact coastal communities by causing coastal erosion, flooding, and saltwater intrusion into freshwater sources, threatening infrastructure, homes, and livelihoods.
5. Vulnerable populations affected by climate change include the elderly, children, low-income communities, and people living in developing countries.

