



## What Is Climate Change?



*Essential Question: Why is there controversy about climate change?*

### Overview

The nations of the Earth are currently facing important issues regarding the human impact on the environment. Many scientists have found evidence that emissions of “greenhouse gases” into the atmosphere are leading to a global change in climate. Most predict that if we continue to emit these gases at current rates, we will face changes in temperature, precipitation, and sea level that could threaten life on this planet. Today, you will watch a video that introduces you to different viewpoints about climate change and what may be causing it.

### Materials

For the class:

- *Earth in the Hot Seat* DVD

### Procedure

Watch the video and answer the questions that follow.

### Introduction: Narrator’s Point of View

1. There are many different points of views, or opinions, in the debate about global climate change. What appears to be the point of view of this narrator?

### *Alaska*

1. What are the main signs that temperatures have been increasing in Alaska?
2. If global climate change is occurring, which parts of Earth are expected to be the most affected?
3. What are the consequences of increased temperatures in Alaska?
4. What evidence do scientists in the video present to support their argument that Alaska’s temperatures are or are not increasing?
5. What are the arguments for and against the idea that humans are causing temperatures to rise?
6. What is the main debate regarding the causes of the current warming trend?