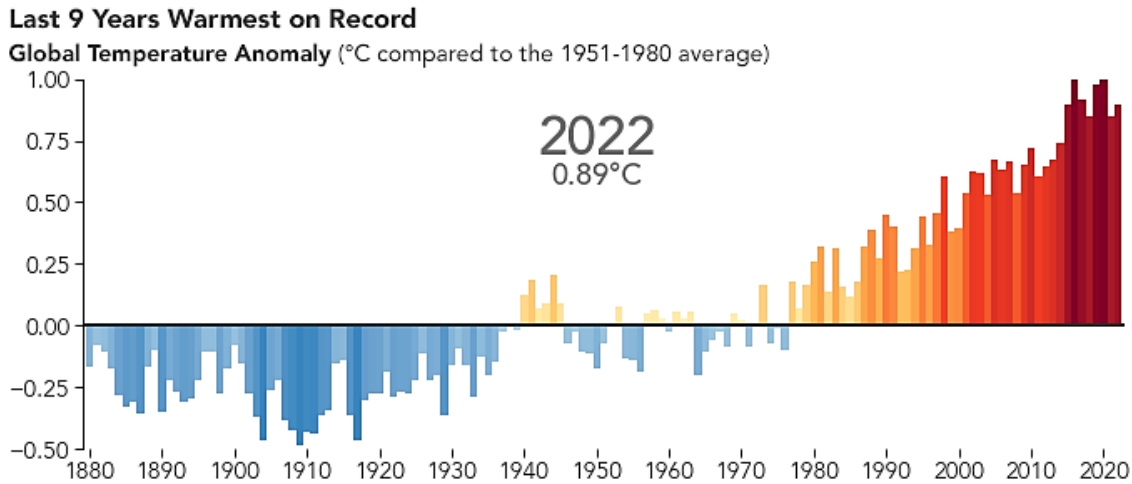


## Climate change – reading comprehension

**Climate** is the **average weather in a place over many years**. **Climate change** is a **shift in those average conditions**. The rapid climate change we are now seeing is caused by humans using oil, gas and coal for their homes, factories and transport. When these fossil fuels burn, they release **greenhouse gases** – mostly carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). These gases trap the Sun's heat and cause the planet's temperature to rise. The world is now about 1.1°C warmer than it was in the 19th Century – and the amount of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere has risen by 50%.



*Graph adopted from: <https://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/world-of-change/global-temperatures>*

Temperature rises must slow down if we want to avoid the worst consequences of climate change, according to climate scientists. They say global warming needs to be kept to 1.5°C by 2100.

With further warming, some regions could become uninhabitable, as farmland turns into desert. East Africa is currently facing its fifth season of failed rains, which has put up to 22 million people at risk of severe hunger. **Extreme temperatures** can also increase the risk of wildfires – as seen in Europe in summer. Hotter temperatures also mean that previously frozen ground will melt in places like Siberia, releasing greenhouse gases trapped for centuries into the atmosphere, further worsening climate change. In other regions, **extreme rainfall** causes flooding, as seen recently in China, Pakistan and Nigeria. Other times, flooding can be caused by rising sea levels.

Major **changes** need to come from governments and businesses, but scientists say some small changes in our lives can limit **our impact on the climate**:

- take fewer flights
- live car-free or use an electric car
- reduce consumption of meat and dairy products
- reduce your energy use
- buy energy efficient products, such as washing machines, when they need replacing
- improve your home insulation
- switch from a gas heating system to an electric heat pump

*Adopted from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/science-environment-24021772>*

**Read the text and answer the following tasks:**

**1) Explain what is the climate change.**

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**2) Give examples of climate change.**

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**3) Look at the graph and write the years:**

**a) that were the warmest on the record:** .....

**b) that show the first rise in the temperature:** .....

**4) What is the threat imposed by melting glaciers?**

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**5) Look at the graph. Name the historical events that were the first to cause significant change in temperature.**

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**6) Write four examples of decreasing our impact on the climate.**

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**7) Which of the options for limiting our impact on the climate do you follow?**

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**8) From now on, by how many degrees Celsius can the temperature rise to not cause any further changes in the global warming? .....**