



Women and Climate Change Reading Comprehension

We all experience the world differently, and to solve climate change we must consider everyone's point of view. Empowering women is fundamental to building a better future – in terms of both **society and the environment**.

In this activity, students should read the text about women and climate change before answering the comprehension questions. Each student should be provided with a copy of the handout. Following the activity, we recommend having a discussion with your class about what they learned from the reading, what they found most interesting, and what this topic means to them.

Answer key

1. Why does land that is farmed by women produce fewer crops on average than land farmed by men?

Women can struggle to access the same opportunities and resources as men do. There may also be fewer land rights for women than for men, and women may hold more domestic responsibilities that take up more of their time.

2. How is gender equality related to food security and to our climate?

In low- and middle-income countries, on average, 43% of agricultural workers are women. If the productivity levels of almost half of all farmers in these countries are suboptimal, then gender inequality poses an indirect threat to food security.

3. What are some ways in which we can close the agricultural productivity gap?

Providing women with equal access to tools and information, and making sure women have land rights could help reduce the gender gap in agricultural productivity. Reducing the time women have to spend on domestic responsibilities, such as by building local wells, could also help.

4. Why do some women have less time on their hands than men?

Women are traditionally responsible for domestic labour, which can involve caring for children and the elderly, maintaining the home, and preparing food. This can take away a lot of their free time.



5. How could family planning reduce global emissions of greenhouse gases?

Family planning means that women can decide when and if they want to have children. Women who practice family planning tend to have fewer children, which can reduce global emissions as fewer people are consuming resources and energy.

6. What percentage of politicians are women? Why is this percentage so low?

24.5% of politicians are women. This is lower because women face many barriers to political inclusion such as: financial constraints, threats of violence, unfair laws or cultural customs, time spent on unpaid care duties, lack of education and gender stereotypes.

7. What are some ways in which women leaders can benefit the climate and environment?

Companies with women directors are more likely to report their greenhouse gas emissions and countries with more women in parliament are more likely to support environmental treaties.

We welcome feedback and would be delighted to hear your thoughts on this activity. Feel free to send an email to schools@climatescience.org and we'll be sure to get back to you soon :)