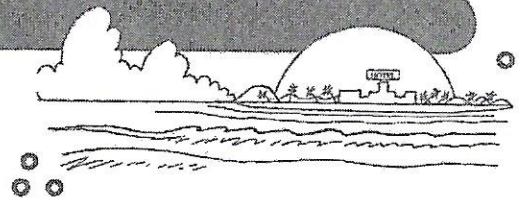


Rising Water Levels

- Answer the questions immediately after reading each paragraph.



Everywhere on Earth millions of people live near rivers or the ocean. They may be in danger if the sea level rises too much. This is a real danger. When the ocean water heats up, the water expands and the level rises. Climate change is causing the oceans to heat up. The sea level is rising especially in tropical areas. People living on low fertile ground that can be flooded will be in danger.

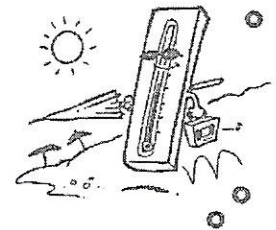
- ① Who will be the first victims if the sea level rises too much?

The victims will be people who live near rivers or the ocean.

- ② True or false? Climate change does not affect rising sea levels.

False! Climate change does affect rising sea levels as climate change is causing oceans to heat up. When the ocean heats up, the water expands and the level rises.

A large number of people live in flood regions in Egypt, Bangladesh and the Maldives. If the water level rises even as little as 30 centimetres, it would be catastrophic for these people. Also, scientists think that by the year 2050 thirty-six coral islands will disappear under the waves. Another thing that causes sea levels to rise is littoral erosion, which is erosion of the seashore. Erosion takes place when the seashore is worn away and transformed by the water's movement and climate conditions.

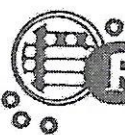


- ③ What is another cause of rising sea levels besides climate change?

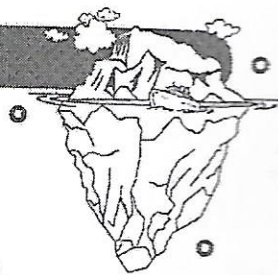
Another thing that causes sea levels to rise is littoral erosion... the erosion of the seashore.

- ④ What will be submerged by waves by 2050?

Thirty-six coral islands will be submerged by the year 2050.



Rising Water Levels (continued)



Scientists know that the Scandinavian ice cap has been melting slowly for several thousand years. That melted water created the Baltic Sea. Closer to us, in the Canadian North, glaciers have also been melting. At the South Pole, the Antarctic ice cap has been doing the same thing for over 7000 years. Global warming is accelerating this melting. Specialists say that if all the polar ice caps melt completely, the water will rise over 30 metres and will destroy places like the Netherlands.

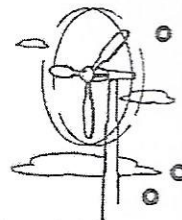
5 Use your dictionary to find the definition of "ice cap".

A glacier forming on an extensive area of relatively level land and flowing outward from its center.

6 Why are melting glaciers more worrisome today than 1000 years ago?

It is more worrisome today because global warming is accelerating this melting. If all the polar ice caps melt completely, ^{rising} water will destroy places like the Netherlands.

To prevent the water level from rising too much, ecologists and other experts suggest that every country (especially the rich countries) limit their production of CO₂, slowing down climate change. One way to do that is to use energy sources that produce less CO₂ and pollute less, like hydraulic energy from waterfalls, waves and tides. Other sources of energy include wind energy produced by wind turbines, nuclear energy and solar energy, which is very promising.



7 Who suggests that every country limit its CO₂ production?

It is ecologists and other experts who are suggesting this.

8 Name two forms of energy that you think pollute less and that we should use. Explain.

Two types of energy that pollute less are
1. hydraulic energy from waterfalls and waves and
2. Solar energy which is heat from the sun