

1. Air masses	large bodies of air (many thousands of km ² in area) that form over polar or tropical source regions such as North Africa	19. Volcanic activity	the escape of molten rock, ash and gases from an opening in the Earth's surface (or when there is evidence that it is imminent)
2. Climate change	long-term changes in temperature and precipitation		
3. Deforestation	the chopping down and removal of trees to clear an area of forest		
4. Ecosystem	a community of plants and animals that interact with each other and their physical environment		
5. Enhanced greenhouse effect	The increased greenhouse effect resulting from human action (emission of greenhouse gases) and leading to global warming		
6. Extinction	the permanent loss of something, generally used with reference to species of plants or animals, when there are no living examples left		
7. Geological climate events	climate changes that result from major geological events such as volcanic eruptions		
8. Global warming	a trend in whereby global temperatures rise over time, linked in modern times with the human production of greenhouse gases		
9. Greenhouse gases	those gases in the atmosphere that absorb outgoing radiation, hence increasing the temperature of the atmosphere		
10. Ice age	a period in the Earth's past when the polar ice caps were much larger than today		
11. Little Ice Age	a period of slight global cooling that lasted from around the mid-fifteenth century to the mid-nineteenth century		
12. Megafauna	very large mammals, such as those that lived during the last Ice Age		
13. Natural Causes	those processes and forces that are not controlled by humans		
14. Orbital changes	changes in the the pathway of the Earth around the Sun and in its axial geometry		
15. Orographic rainfall	precipitation formed when an air mass rises above a relief obstacle (mountains) leading to cooling and the condensation of water vapour		
16. Quaternary period	the most recent major geological period of Earth's history, consisting of the Pleistocene and the Holocene		
17. Solar output	the energy emitted by the Sun		
18. Thermal growing season	the number of months of the year when it is warm enough for the crops to grow (6C or above)		