

# An Education into Action Program: Climate Change A to Z

## The Kids Campaign to Cool Our Earth!



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Activities

from Kids for Saving Earth [kse@kidsforsavingearth.org](mailto:kse@kidsforsavingearth.org) . [www.kidsforsavingearth.org](http://www.kidsforsavingearth.org)

## Insects and Climate Change



All living things can be harmed by climate change. This means change in Earth's weather can even affect insects. When there is too much carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) from burning energy sources such as coal and gas, it gets captured in Earth's atmosphere and warms our planet.

Insects around us often bother us. We don't like them so we say, "Who cares?" Actually they are very important to the balance of nature and we need them. Some of them are beautiful creatures we all love like butterflies and bumble bees. As a result of global warming we have too many of some insects and too few of others.



### Bees and Butterflies

These insects are called pollinators. This means they carry pollen from one plant to another. When pollen from the first plant is left on the second plant, this process fertilizes it and allows it to make new seeds. We need seeds to grow many plants, including ones we eat like tomatoes, apples, oranges and also plants cows eat like alfalfa. Crops farmers plant on their land need to be pollinated.

We have fewer bees and butterflies these days for many reasons like pesticide use and disease. However, climate change is also causing trouble for bees and butterflies. Their habitats are changing, moving or disappearing. Also the warmer climate can over-heat certain insects.

### Mosquitos, Flies and Ticks and Other Insects

Scientists have found that warmer weather causes many insects to reproduce faster. Some of these insects can cause disease such as malaria, lyme and zika diseases. Other insects can damage crops that farmers plant or acres of forests. The more of these kinds of insects we have can mean more damage.



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## Let's Cool the Earth

There are lots of things kids can do to help slow global warming and control the insect problems our Earth is facing. Any way you can work to cool Earth will help protect habitat for insects like bees and butterflies. Anything you can do to limit carbon emissions or find ways to absorb carbon will help slow the spread of disease caused by insects. Climate change causes loss of habitat for many needed insects like butterflies, bees, and dragonflies.

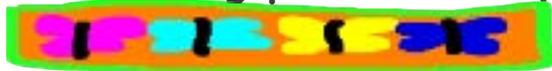


### Create Homes for Bees and Butterflies

So many of our bees and butterflies are losing their habitat. The more new habitat we can create, the more homes they will have and this will help cool the Earth.

Create a habitat for these important insects by creating a garden in your backyard or even on your balcony. Learn more about bees and how to protect them by checking out our KSE Honey Bee project. Write to the President that you worry about our precious insects and ask him to help stop global warming. Once your students have done this, award them with a Defender of the Planet award.

### Protecting our existing parks will help protect us from insect problems.

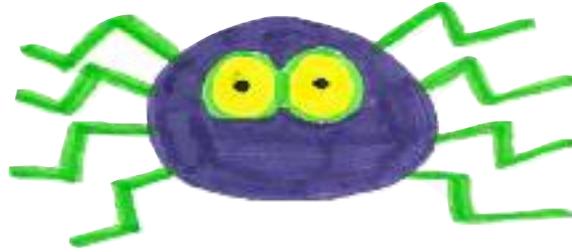
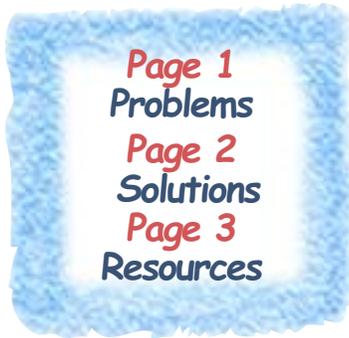


There are many public parks like city and national parks all over the world. Even more would be better.

More parks means more carbon dioxide is taken out of the air. As you know, the less carbon in the air, the less global warming. This protects our pollinating insects and reduces the numbers of insects which can harm us and our crops.

Check out Save our Parks to learn how you can protect our parks and slow climate change.





## Resources used in Health and Climate Change.



### Understanding Pollination

<http://www.neok12.com/Pollination.htm>

### Climate Change NRDC

<https://www.nrdc.org/stories/climate-change-bites>

### Global Warming and an increase in Lyme Disease

[http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case\\_studies/lyme\\_disease.html](http://serc.carleton.edu/NAGTWorkshops/health/case_studies/lyme_disease.html)

### Kid's Health and Global Warming

<http://www.momscleanairforce.org/climate-change-childrens-health-facts/>

### Kids Guide to Global Warming

<http://www.kidzworld.com/article/17859-the-kids-guide-to-global-warming#article-comment-box>

### Bumblebees and Climate Change

<http://www.kidsforsavingearth.org/programs.html>

### Climate Change and Dragonflies

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/global-warming-threat-to-native-dragonfly-species-813331.html>

### Increasing Insects and Crop Destruction

[http://www.ucsusa.org/global\\_warming/science\\_and\\_impacts/\\_impacts/Global-warming-insects.html#.VONhZblZ1dg](http://www.ucsusa.org/global_warming/science_and_impacts/_impacts/Global-warming-insects.html#.VONhZblZ1dg)

### Save Our Parks

<http://www.kidsforsavingearth.org/ecoactivities/saveourparks.pdf>