



What is the Greenhouse Effect?

Name: _____

The greenhouse effect is the rise in temperature that the Earth experiences because certain gases (*such as carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane*) in the atmosphere trap energy from the sun.

Task:

Work in pairs or small groups to create your own 'greenhouse effect'.

- What you need:
- Two glasses (*same size*)
- Cold water
- A large zip-lock bag (large enough to stand one of the glasses in)
- Two thermometers

Constructing the greenhouse:

Step 1:

Pour equal amounts of cold water into each glass.

Step 2:

One person holds a zip-lock bag open while another person puts one glass of water into it and then seals the bag.

Step 3:

Put both glasses in direct sunlight.

Step 4:

Wait for two to three hours.

Step 5:

Take the temperature of the water in both glasses (*using a different thermometer for each glass*). Be careful when taking the temperature (*do not touch the glass; it will be hot!*)