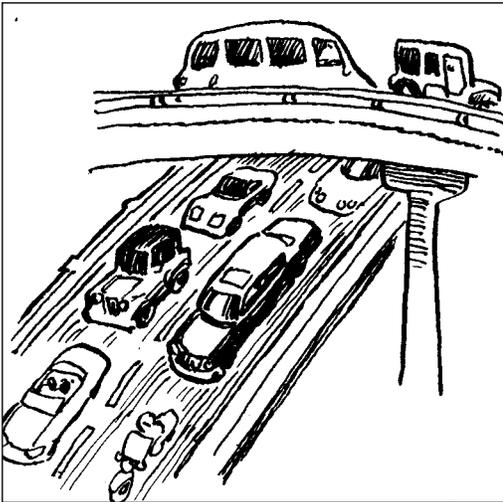


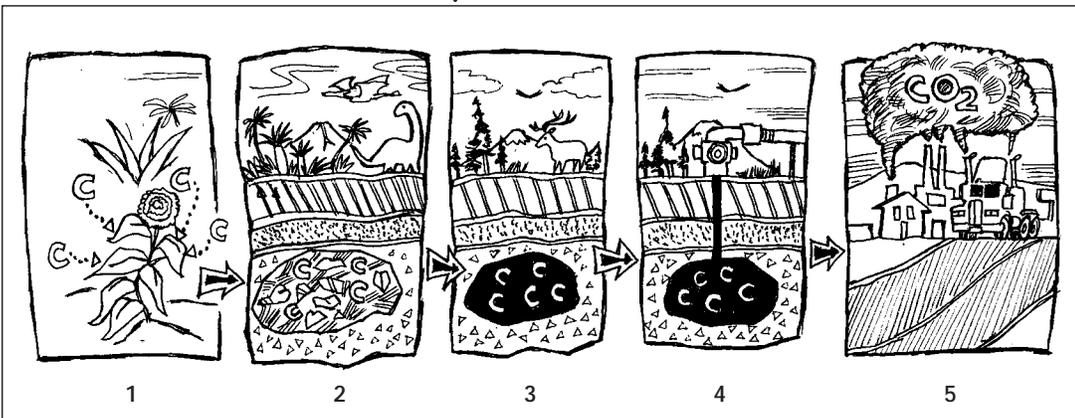
# Can We Change the Climate?



It may seem hard to believe that people can actually change the earth's climate. But scientists think that human activities that emit greenhouse gases into the air already are making our planet warmer.

It all began with the Industrial Revolution (In DUS tree uhl Reh voh LOO shuhn). The Industrial Revolution was a time when people began using machines to make life easier. It started more than 200 years ago and changed the way humans live. Before the Industrial Revolution, most people lived on farms. But when people built factories and better machines, cities grew around the new factories.

At the same time, the need for energy to run the machines increased. Some energy, like the energy you need to do your homework, comes from the food you eat. But other energy, like the energy that makes cars run, comes from fuels like coal and oil. Burning these fuels releases greenhouse gases.



- (1) Plants remove carbon dioxide from the air.
- (2) When the plants died, they were buried in the earth.
- (3) After millions of years, their remains turned into coal and oil.
- (4) People mine the earth for coal and oil, which are called "fossil fuels."
- (5) When people burn fossil fuels, they send carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases into the air.

## When Do You Send Greenhouse Gases into the Air?

Whenever you ...

- Watch TV
- Turn on a light
- Turn on your stereo
- Use hot water
- Use the air conditioner
- Use a hair dryer
- Use a washer or dryer
- Microwave a meal
- Ride in a car

... you are helping to send greenhouse gas into the air. To perform many of these functions, you need to use electricity. Electricity comes from power plants. Most power plants use coal and oil to make electricity. Burning coal and oil produces greenhouse gases.

## Other things can send greenhouse gases into the air, too:

Trash in landfills produces a greenhouse gas called methane (MEH thayne). Coal mines and cows also can produce methane.

Cars send greenhouse gases into the air.

To make the products that we buy, factories send greenhouse gases into the air, too.

