

Текст 1b

1. Прочитайте текст:

Scientists learned long ago that the earth's climate has powerfully shaped the history of the human species — biologically, culturally and geographically. But only in the last few decades has research revealed that humans can be a powerful influence on the climate as well.

A growing body of scientific evidence indicates that since 1950, the world's climate has been warming, primarily as a result of emissions from unfettered burning of fossil fuels and the razing of tropical forests. Such activity adds to the atmosphere's invisible blanket of carbon dioxide and other heat-trapping "greenhouse" gases. Recent research has shown that methane is a close second to carbon dioxide in impact on the atmosphere.

Despite the scientific consensus on these basic conclusions, enormously important details remain murky. That reality has been seized upon by some groups and scientists disputing the overall consensus and opposing changes in energy policies.

Fast-growing emerging economic powerhouses, led by China and India, still oppose taking on mandatory obligations to curb their emissions. They say they will do what they can to rein in growth in emissions — as long as their economies do not suffer. The world's poorest countries, in the meantime, are seeking payments to help make them less vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, given that the buildup in climate-warming gases so far has come mainly from richer nations. Such aid has been promised since the 1992 treaty and a fund was set up under the Kyoto Protocol. But while tens of billions of dollars are said to be needed, only millions have flowed so far.

2. Ответьте на следующие вопросы к тексту, избегая цитирования текста:

1/ What is the topic discussed in the given text?

2/ What groups of countries, mentioned in the text, oppose changes in energy policies and why?

3/ What is the common argument adduced by the poorest countries to prove their attitude to the problem of climate change?

3. Выразите ваше мнение по следующему вопросу. Напишите 200 – 250 слов, избегая цитирования текста:

Humans can be a powerful influence on the earth's climate.