

### Lesson 9: Global warming – is it real?

#### Group roles

##### **Group 1: ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP (GREENPEACE)**

You believe that the Kyoto agreement is essential for the future of this planet and the threat that Earth could be the next Venus is a reality. You believe that the government need to find ways to reduce CO<sub>2</sub> emissions as this is the major cause of climate change. You must use the data available to argue (make a conclusion) that you are correct and that there is no other explanation for the climate changes; that the government must be held accountable for this very 'real' problem.

##### **Group 2: MEMBER OF PUBLIC**

You are concerned by rising petrol prices and increased household energy bills. You don't truly understand the reasons behind the Kyoto agreement. You must use the data to present a balanced argument as to whether Earth is really going to become the next Venus and whether these increases are justified.

##### **Group 3: MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**

You are a member of the current Western government and believe that you are being unfairly penalised for your growing industrial economy. You have no problem with looking at alternative energy sources (reducing fossil fuel emissions) but believe that you are not a major contributor to climate change and in fact would argue that global warming does not exist and that the current and projected climate changes are a natural cycle of the Earth. You believe that the threat that Earth is the next Venus is unjustified. You must use the data available to argue (make a conclusion) that the Kyoto agreement is unfair to the industrialised Western world, especially when the Eastern world economy relies on its production of rice in paddy fields and is not necessarily being penalised equally for this.

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##### **Group 4: JOURNALIST OF A TABLOID NEWSPAPER**

You are a journalist for a big tabloid newspaper. You realise that sensational headlines sell and so would like to find the statistics to support the argument that Earth is indeed the next Venus.

##### **Group 5: DIRECTOR OF A LARGE OIL COMPANY**

You are a director of a large oil company. You believe that the rumour that Earth is the next Venus is unfounded and will cause your company to lose billions. You must use the data available to argue (make a conclusion) that you are correct and that global warming is a natural phenomena and reducing carbon dioxide emissions is not going to make a difference and that we should continue as we are.