**Climate Change and Cars Worksheet**

Do gas-powered and electric cars affect our climate?

Together, we are going to find out:

* What is the greenhouse effect?
* What is the carbon cycle?
* How does transportation affect the greenhouse effect?

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| **1. What is the Greenhouse Effect?** |
| **Instructions:** After watching the video “[What is the Greenhouse Effect](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SN5-DnOHQmE&t=1s)?” answer following questions.   * Describe the **greenhouse effect** in your own words. * Why is the greenhouse effect **important to life** on Earth? * How do **human activities impact** the greenhouse effect? * What else did you learn from the video? |

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| **2. Carbon Dioxide (CO2) on Earth** |
| **Carbon dioxide**, also called **CO2**, is a type of gas naturally found on Earth. Take a few minutes to look over the Carbon Cycle image below. What do you notice?    After watching “What is the Carbon Cycle?” video, answer the following questions.   * Where is **CO2** released into the atmosphere? * How does **CO2** move from the atmosphere through Earth? |
| **Let’s review!**   * **CO2** comes from natural sources…(respiration of animals and humans, decay of dead plants & animals, etc.) * **CO2** also comes from human sources…(burning of fossil fuels for energy in cars, power plants, etc.) * **CO2** moves through Earth’s atmosphere (air), hydrosphere (water), biosphere (living things), and geosphere (land). |

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| **3. How are humans increasing CO2 levels in the atmosphere?** |
| Look over the graph below showing the amount of **CO2** in the atmosphere.     * What **patterns** do you notice in the graph? |
| * Look at the image above. What category of human activities contributes the **most** to the **extra CO2** in the atmosphere? |

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| **4. Carbon *emissions* (exhaust) from cars.** |
| After watching the video “What if Carbon Left Your Tailpipe as Solid Chunks?” think-pair-share the following questions as a class:   * What do they show coming out of the car’s tailpipe in the video? * How many car “turds” does an average car dump per year? Per mile? How is that shown in the video? |
| **Class Reflection:** Share your thoughts on the following questions as a class:   * How do you get to school? Do you take the bus? Do your parents drop you in their car? Do you walk? Do you carpool with a friend? * Which form of transportation do you think is cleaner? * Which form of transportation do you think is less clean? * Are there cars out there that do not have exhaust or (or “turds” like the car in the video)? |