



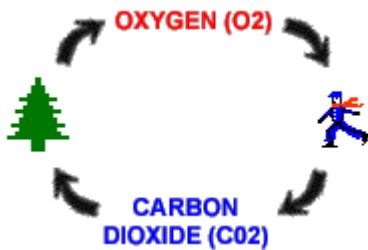
THE GLOBAL WARMING TEST

○ Question 7:

Carbon dioxide from coal-fired power plants damages forests.

- True
 False

You are correct!



Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is the principal gas that trees and other plants need to survive, just like oxygen (O₂) is the principal gas that humans and other animals require. Trees absorb CO₂ and release O₂-- animals inhale O₂ and exhale CO₂. See how nice this all works!

Earth's first, primitive forests made their prolific debut 300 million years ago during the ***Carboniferous Period***. Before then, the atmosphere held far more CO₂ but concentrations declined throughout the Carboniferous Period as plants flourished.

During the Carboniferous Period the atmosphere became greatly depleted of CO₂ (declining from about 2500 ppm to 350 ppm) so that by the end of the Carboniferous the CO₂-impoverished atmosphere was less favorable to plant life and plant growth slowed dramatically. Today, CO₂ concentrations are barely at 380 ppm (0.038% of our atmosphere) and most of that comes from entirely natural sources.

Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is not to be confused with its poisonous evil cousin **carbon monoxide (CO)**, which can kill humans and animals in just a few minutes. Life as we know it could not exist without carbon dioxide in our atmosphere.

Recent studies indicate CO₂ enrichment of 1.5 times the present amount in the

atmosphere increases photosynthesis by 45%.

Did you know ...



Carbon dioxide is invisible. The puffs of clouds you see from coal-fired power plants are just that-- clouds. Powerplants use steam to drive the turbines which generate electricity. Steam must be cooled and condensed to water to reuse it to make more steam.

The fat, curvy towers that look like they are belching white smoke are really only emitting pure water vapor. They are in effect making clouds.

The actual exhaust emissions come from the smokestack, which is the tall skinny tower. Because modern technology makes it possible to remove much of the fly ash and sulfur before releasing smokestack gases to the air, smokestack emissions today are often almost *invisible*.



Question 8

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