



Definitions in bold are for higher tier only

C9 Key Word Glossary

*** = Triple Only**

Acid rain: Rain that is acidic due to dissolved gases, such as sulfur dioxide, produced from the burning of fossil fuels.

Carbon footprint: The total amount of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases emitted over the full life cycle of a product.

Environmental implication: The effect that the activity has on the environment.

Fossil fuels: Natural fuels such as coal and gas, formed in the past from the remains of living organisms.

Global climate change: A long-term shift in global climate patterns. **Global dimming:** A gradual reduction in the amount of light reaching the Earth's surface. This can be caused by carbon particulates.

Greenhouse effect: The increase in the temperature of the Earth's atmosphere due to the greenhouse gases in the atmosphere trapping infra-red radiation from the surface.

Greenhouse gases: Greenhouse gases include water vapour, carbon dioxide and methane. Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere maintain temperatures on Earth high enough to support life.

Particulates: Particulates cause global dimming and health problems for humans. Carbon particulates (soot) are a product of incomplete combustion.

Photosynthesis: Oxygen was produced in the early atmosphere by photosynthesis of plants and algae. This simultaneously decreased the amount of carbon dioxide in the early atmosphere. Equation for photosynthesis: $6\text{CO}_2 + 6\text{H}_2\text{O} \rightarrow \text{C}_6\text{H}_{12}\text{O}_6 + 6\text{O}_2$.

Pollutants: A substance introduced into the environment that has undesired effects.