



The greenhouse effect investigation

Our planet is constantly affected by different forces and factors – many of which are caused by humans. We often hear about something called "the greenhouse effect"... but what is it? The greenhouse effect is when our planet heats up due to harmful gases collecting in our atmosphere.

This simple investigation will show you how it happens!

You will need two thermometers and a clear, plastic bag – a sandwich bag that you can seal is ideal.

- 1) Place one thermometer in the plastic bag and seal it.
- 2) Take a temperature reading from both and record in the table below.
- 3) Place both thermometers on a sunny windowsill where the sunlight will fall equally on both of them. Leave them there for 5 minutes and then record their temperature. Record both temperatures again after 10 and then 15 minutes.
- 4) Next, place both thermometers out of the sunlight in a cool place and continue to record the temperature from both thermometers. What do you notice?

Time	Temperature of thermometer 1	Temperature of thermometer 2
0 minutes		
5 minutes in sun		
10 minutes in sun		
15 minutes in sun		
5 minutes in shade		
10 minutes in shade		
15 minutes in shade		

What patterns did you notice? What do you think the bag represents?

Can you turn your results into a graph? Which would be best – a line graph or a bar chart?