

COP26

What is COP26?

COP 26 is a global conference on climate change. The United Nations organise it. The event will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from the 1st to the 12th of November, 2021. COP 26 was delayed by one year because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The history of COP 26

At the end of the 1980s, scientists began to warn people that the climate was changing. In 1992 an event called the Earth Summit was held in Brazil. One hundred fifty-four countries signed a United Nations agreement to work together against climate change.

The name COP stands for "Conference of the Parties". In this case, "parties" means the countries that signed that first agreement. The very first COP (COP 1) was held in Berlin, Germany, in 1995. The event has happened every year since, except for 2020, in different countries around the world.

Why is COP 26 important?

To answer this question, we have to look back to COP 21, which was held in Paris, France, in 2015. At that event, a document called The Paris Accord was worked out. This document is an agreement between countries to stop climate change. Its goal is to prevent temperatures from rising too high. Every five years, the countries that have signed the agreement have to show what they have done and will do.

What will be discussed at COP 26?

Inside the conference, people from 197 states will discuss their plans to tackle climate change together. They will talk about:

- Stopping burning coal.
- Cutting down less forest.
- Speeding up the rollout of electric cars.
- Helping people to use renewable energy, like solar or wind power.



They will also talk about how to protect the environment from damage, and repair the damage that has already been done. About 30,000 people are expected to travel to Glasgow to take part in the conference.

Some people think that the conference should be held online, rather than face to face, because of the pandemic. Others also say that thousands of people flying to Scotland will cause unnecessary emissions. On the other hand, some argue that not all countries have good internet access, so people should attend in person to make sure their voices are heard.



What are greenhouse gases?

The Earth's atmosphere is made up of a mixture of gases. Some of these gases keep the Earth warm. Without these "greenhouse gases" (including carbon dioxide and methane), the planet would be too cold for life. However, human activity, such as burning coal to make electricity, has given off growing amounts of these gases. As a result, the atmosphere has heated up, like a greenhouse on a sunny day. This warming upsets the world's weather systems, which can cause extreme weather. Ice at the poles can melt, leading to rising sea levels.



The emblem of the United Nations.

What is the United Nations?

The United Nations is a group of countries that have agreed to work together to improve people's lives and promote peace. It was founded after the Second World War by 51 countries. Today, nearly every country is a member.

COP 26

Questions

1. In which country will COP 26 be held?

- France
- Brazil
- Scotland

2. Why wasn't there a COP conference in 2020?

- It was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- They don't happen every year.
- They forgot.

3. What is the missing word in this name: _____ of the Parties?

- Climate
- Conference
- Change

4. In which city was the first COP held?

- Berlin
- Glasgow
- London

5. What is a document?

- A written record
- A doctor's note
- A promise

6. What kind of word is 'protect'?

- A noun
- A verb
- An adjective

7. Which of these is a reason given in the text for holding the conference online?

- More people can attend.
- The COVID-19 pandemic.
- There isn't enough space in Glasgow.

8. What are the gases that cause the Earth's atmosphere to heat up called?

- Glasshouse gases
- Glasgow gases
- Greenhouse gases

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Answers

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- France
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1. Which country will COP 26 be held in?

2. Why wasn't there a COP conference in 2020?

3. Complete the missing word in this name: _____ of the Parties.

4. What is a document?

5. What kind of word is 'protect'?

A noun

A verb

An adjective

6. Give one reason, from the text, why some people think that the conference should be held online.

7. What are the gases that cause the Earth's atmosphere to heat up called?

8. Number these events in chronological order. The first one has been done for you.

COP 26 held in Glasgow.	
United Nations founded.	1
COP 1 held in Berlin.	

9. Draw lines to match each word or phrase to its definition.

atmosphere

conference

improve

renewable
energy

Power from sources that will not run out.

The gases around Earth.

Meeting to talk about an issue.

Make better.

10. Using information from the text, use a tick to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
COP 26 will be held in Paris.		
There are 51 members of the United Nations today.		
Burning coal causes greenhouse gas emissions.		

COP 26

Answers

1. Which country will COP 26 be held in?

Scotland

2. Why wasn't there a COP conference in 2020?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. Complete the missing word in this name: _____ **Conference** _____ of the Parties.

4. What is a document?

Something that is written down.

5. What kind of word is 'protect'?

A noun

A verb

An adjective

6. Give one reason, from the text, why some people think that the conference should be held online.

The pandemic OR flying will cause emissions.

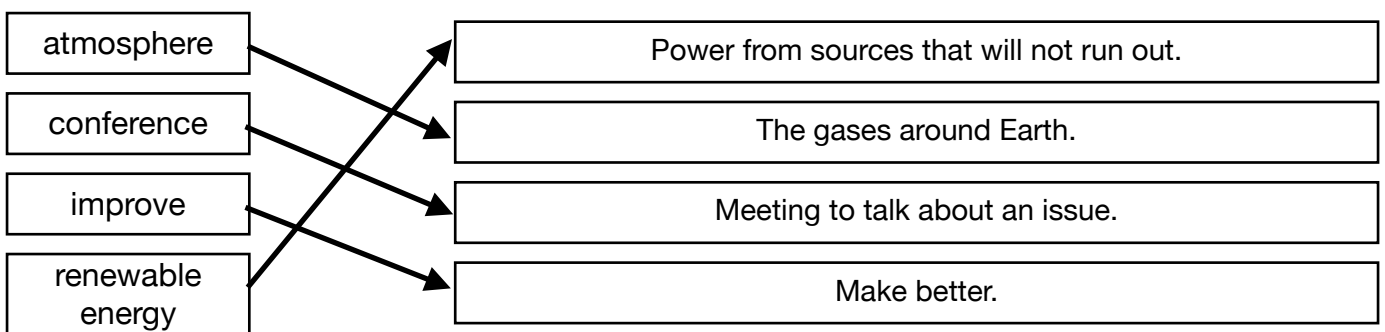
7. What are the gases that cause the Earth's atmosphere to heat up called?

Greenhouse gases.

8. Number these events in chronological order. The first one has been done for you.

COP 26 held in Glasgow.	3
United Nations founded.	1
COP 1 held in Berlin.	2

9. Draw lines to match each word or phrase to its definition.



10. Using information from the text, use a tick to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
COP 26 will be held in Paris.		✓
There are 51 members of the United Nations today.		✓
Burning coal causes greenhouse gas emissions.	✓	

COP26

What is COP26?

COP26 is a global conference on climate change organised by the United Nations. The event will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from the 1st to the 12th November 2021. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the conference was delayed by one year.

The Path to COP 26

At the end of the 1980s, scientists had begun to warn that the climate was changing. As a result, the United Nations developed The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), a way for countries to work together to address the challenges of climate change. 154 states signed the convention at the 1992 Earth Summit, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The name COP stands for Conference of the Parties. In this case, "parties" means the countries that have agreed to the UNFCCC. The very first COP (COP 1) was held in Berlin, Germany, in 1995. The event has occurred every year since, except for 2020, in venues all around the world.

Why is COP 26 important?

To answer this question, we have to look back to COP 21, held in Paris, France, in 2015. At that event, The Paris Agreement, also known as the Paris Accord, was negotiated. This document is an agreement between countries to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions. Its goal is to prevent temperatures from rising more than 2°C above the mean temperature before 1900. The hope is that this can be kept down to 1.5 °C, as a rise of 2 degrees is likely to cause significant problems. Every five years, the countries that have signed the agreement have to show what they have done and will do to meet the terms of the Paris Agreement.

What will be discussed at COP 26?

Inside the conference, negotiators from the 197 states that are parties to the UNFCCC will discuss their plans and ambitions to tackle climate change together.

There is expected to be a focus on plans to:

- Phase out the use of coal.
- Slow the rate of deforestation.
- Accelerate the rollout of electric vehicles.
- Promote the use of renewable energies.

The delegates will also consider how to protect the environment from damage, and repair the damage that has already been done.

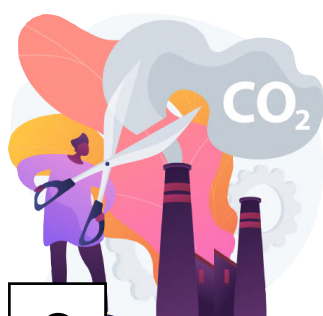
Outside, it is likely that climate change campaigners will gather to call for urgent action on climate change. All told, around 30,000 people are expected to travel to Glasgow to take part in the conference. Some people think that the conference should be held virtually, rather than face to face, because of the pandemic. Others also consider that thousands of people flying to Scotland to take part will cause unnecessary emissions. On the other hand, some argue that not all countries have reliable internet access, so delegates should attend in person to make sure that their voices are heard on this globally important issue.



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What is the United Nations?

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2

What are greenhouse gases?

The Earth's atmosphere is made up of a mixture of gases. Some of these gases are important in keeping the Earth warm. Without these "greenhouse gases" (including carbon dioxide and methane), the planet could not sustain life. However, in recent years human activity, such as burning coal to make electricity, and animal farming, have emitted increasing amounts of these gases. This has caused the atmosphere to heat up, like a greenhouse on a sunny day. This warming disrupts the world's weather systems, causing extreme weather, and melts ice at the poles, leading to rising sea levels.



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1. In which country will COP 26 be held?

- France
- Brazil
- Scotland

2. Why wasn't there a COP conference in 2020?

- It was postponed because of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- They don't happen every year.
- No one could decide where to have it.

3. What does the 'C' in COP stand for?

- Climate
- Conference
- Convention

4. What is the meaning of the word 'venues'?

- Places
- Countries
- Languages

5. In which city was the first COP held?

- Berlin
- Glasgow
- London

6. What kind of word is 'accelerate'?

- A verb
- An adjective
- An adverb

7. Tick the **two** reasons, given in the text, why some people think that the conference should be held online:

- The COVID-19 pandemic.
- Glasgow doesn't have enough room for 30,000 people.
- Emissions from people flying to the conference.

8. Which of these is NOT a greenhouse gas?

- Methane
- Carbon dioxide
- Oxygen

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4. What is the meaning of the word 'venues'?

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- A noun
- A verb
- An adjective
- An adverb

6. Give two reasons, from the text, why some people think that the conference should be held online.

7. Name two greenhouse gases mentioned in the text.

8. Number these events in chronological order. The first one has been done for you.

Paris Accord negotiated.	
COP 26 held in Glasgow.	
United Nations founded.	1
COP 1 held in Berlin.	
UNFCCC signed at Earth Summit.	

9. Draw lines to match each word or phrase to its definition.

atmosphere	Help to encourage.
emissions	The gases around Earth.
significant	Substances that have been released.
promote	Substantial.

10. Using information from the text, use a tick to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
COP 26 will be held in Paris.		
The conference is expected to discuss ways to reduce the rate of deforestation.		
There are 51 members of the United Nations today.		
Burning coal causes greenhouse gas emissions.		

COP 26

Answers

1. Which country will COP 26 be held in?

Scotland

2. Why wasn't there a COP conference in 2020?

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

3. What does COP stand for?

Conference of the Parties

4. What is the meaning of the word 'venues'?

Places, or any other suitable definition.

5. What kind of word is 'accelerate'?

- A noun
 A verb
 An adjective
 An adverb

6. Give two reasons, from the text, why some people think that the conference should be held online.

The pandemic AND emissions from flights to Glasgow.

7. Name two greenhouse gases mentioned in the text.

Carbon dioxide and methane.

8. Number these events in chronological order. The first one has been done for you.

Paris Accord negotiated.	4
COP 26 held in Glasgow.	5
United Nations founded.	1
COP 1 held in Berlin.	3
UNFCCC signed at Earth Summit.	2

9. Draw lines to match each word or phrase to its definition.

atmosphere	→	Help to encourage.
emissions	→	The gases around Earth.
significant	→	Substances that have been released.
promote	→	Substantial.

10. Using information from the text, use a tick to show whether each statement is true or false.

	True	False
COP 26 will be held in Paris.		✓
The conference is expected to discuss ways to reduce the rate of deforestation.	✓	
There are 51 members of the United Nations today.		✓
Burning coal causes greenhouse gas emissions.	✓	