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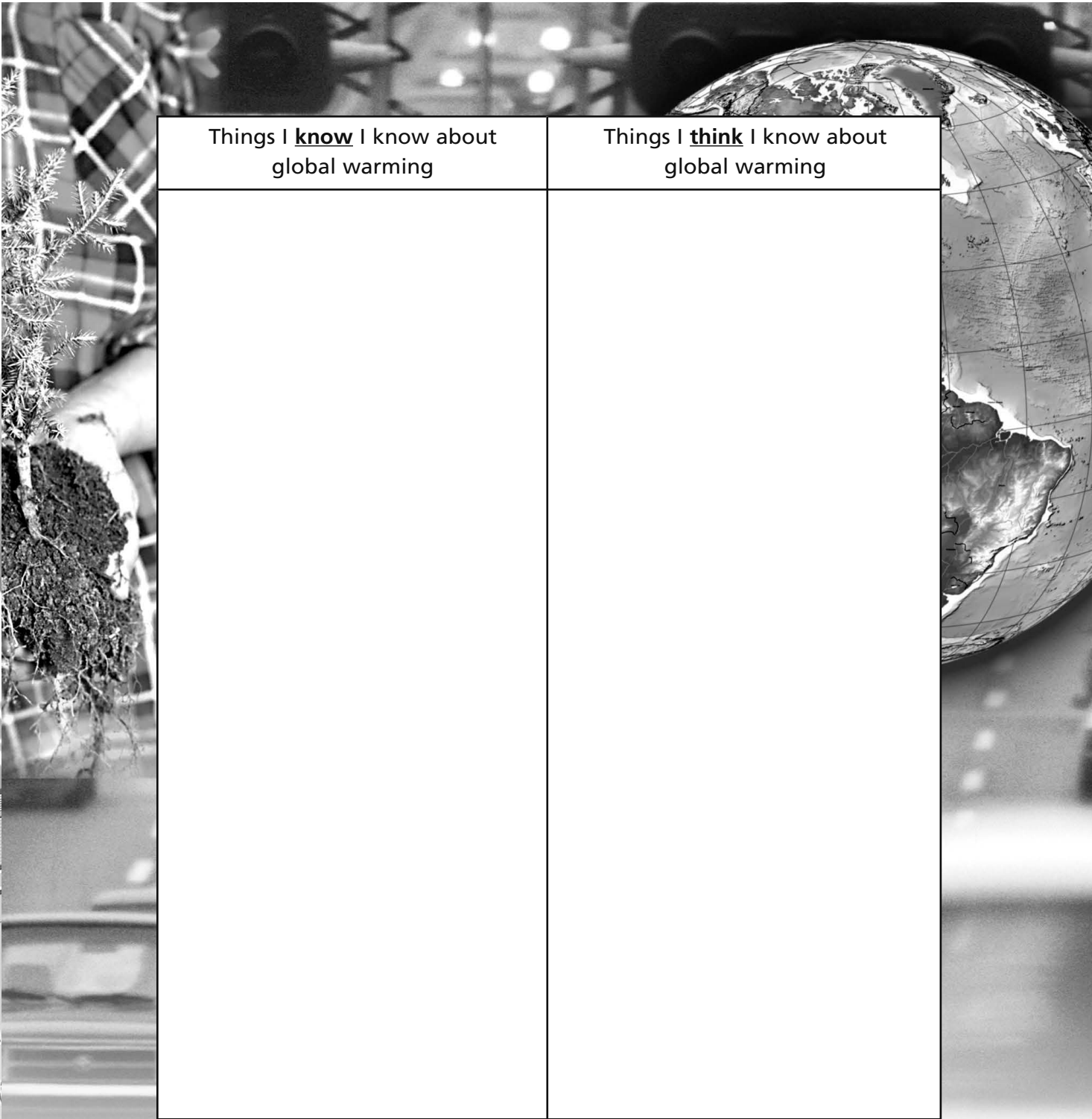
Global Warming

- Web Page

Heads Up

Reliable Web sites provide a wealth of information on thousands of topics. In order to interact with the text and understand what you're reading, you must be able to determine what's important and restate that information in your own words. This is known as *summarizing*. To practice this strategy, you will be *summarizing* a Web page about global warming. To help you prepare for what you are going to read, complete the chart on page 43.





Things I know I know about global warming	Things I think I know about global warming

The chart should help activate your prior knowledge as you prepare to read. Use the Think-Along Questions to help focus your understanding while you read. Also, as you read, circle or highlight any words you don't know.

Global Warming

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- 1 Earth has warmed by about 1°F over the past 100 years. But why? And how? Well, scientists are not exactly sure. The Earth could be getting warmer on its own, but many of the world's leading climate scientists think that things people are doing are helping to make the Earth warmer.

Greenhouse Effect, Climate Change, and Global Warming

- 2 **The Greenhouse Effect:** Scientists are sure about the greenhouse effect. They know that greenhouse gases make the Earth warmer by trapping energy in the atmosphere.
- 3 **Climate Change:** Climate is the long-term average of a region's weather events lumped together. For example, it's possible that a winter day in Buffalo, New York, could be sunny and mild, but the average weather—the climate—tells us that Buffalo's winters will mainly be cold and include snow and rain. Climate change represents a change in these long-term weather patterns. They can become warmer or colder. Annual amounts of rainfall or snowfall can increase or decrease.

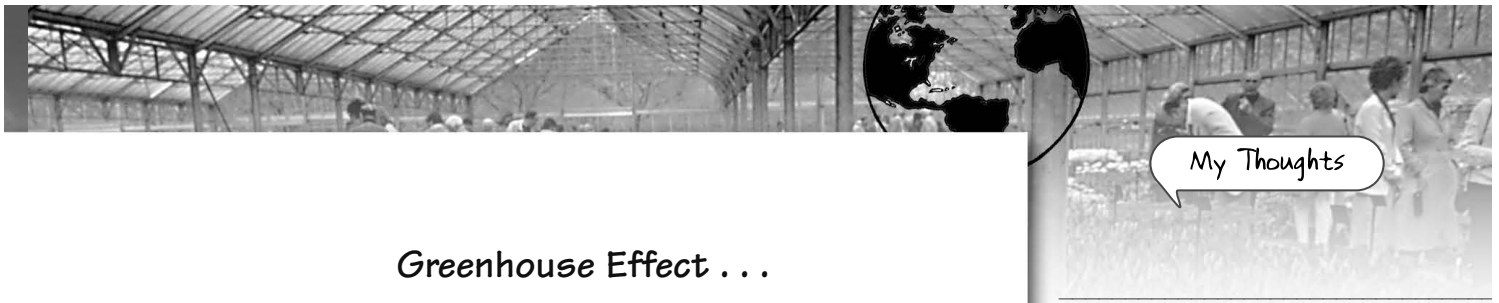
How would you describe the climate where you live?

- 4 **Global Warming:** Global warming refers to an average increase in the Earth's temperature, which in turn causes changes in climate. A warmer Earth may lead to changes in rainfall patterns, a rise in sea level, and a wide range of impacts on plants, wildlife, and humans.

How could a warmer climate on Earth affect wildlife and humans?

When scientists talk about the issue of climate change, their concern is about global warming caused by human activities.





Greenhouse Effect . . .

- 5 The greenhouse effect is the rise in temperature that the Earth experiences because certain gases in the atmosphere (water vapor, carbon dioxide, nitrous oxide, and methane, for example) trap energy from the sun. Without these gases, heat would escape back into space and Earth's average temperature would be about 60°F colder. Because of how they warm our world, these gases are referred to as greenhouse gases.
- 6 Have you ever seen a greenhouse? Most greenhouses look like a small glass house. Greenhouses are used to grow plants, especially in the winter. Greenhouses work by trapping heat from the sun. The glass panels of the greenhouse let in light but keep heat from escaping. This causes the greenhouse to heat up, much like the inside of a car parked in sunlight, and keeps the plants warm enough to live in the winter.
- 7 The Earth's atmosphere is all around us. It is the air that we breathe. Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere behave much like the glass panes in a greenhouse. Sunlight enters the Earth's atmosphere, passing through the blanket of greenhouse gases. As it reaches the Earth's surface, land, water, and **biosphere** absorb the sunlight's energy. Once absorbed, this energy is sent back into the atmosphere. Some of the energy passes back into space, but much of it remains trapped in the atmosphere by the greenhouse gases, causing our world to heat up.
- 8 The greenhouse effect is important. Without the greenhouse effect, the Earth would not be warm enough for humans to live. But if the greenhouse effect becomes stronger, it could make the Earth warmer than usual. Even a little extra warming may cause problems for humans, plants, and animals.

Explain the greenhouse effect in your own words.

continued





My Thoughts

Lined writing area for 'My Thoughts'.

Global Warming continued

We Can Make a Difference!

9 Global warming may be a big problem, but there are many little things we can do to make a difference. If we try, most of us can do our part to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that we put into the atmosphere. Many greenhouse gases come from things we do every day. As we have learned, these greenhouse gases trap energy in the atmosphere and make the Earth warmer.

Predict how you can help reduce global warming.

10 Driving a car or using electricity is not wrong. We just have to be smart about it. Some people use less energy by carpooling. For example, four people can ride together in one car instead of driving four cars to work. Here are some additional ways you can help make the planet a better place!

Read

11 Learning about the environment is very important. There are many good books that will help you learn. To get started, ask a teacher or a librarian for some suggestions.

Save Electricity

12 Whenever we use electricity, we help put greenhouse gases into the air. By turning off lights, the television, and the computer when you are through with them, you can help a lot.

Bike, Bus, and Walk

13 You can save energy by sometimes taking the bus, riding a bike, or walking.

Talk to Your Family and Friends

14 Talk with your family and friends about global warming. Let them know what you've learned.



My Thoughts

Plant Trees

- 15 Planting trees is fun and a great way to reduce greenhouse gases. Trees absorb carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, from the air.

Recycle

- 16 Recycle cans, bottles, plastic bags, and newspapers. When you recycle, you send less trash to the landfill and you help save natural resources, like trees, oil, and elements such as aluminum.

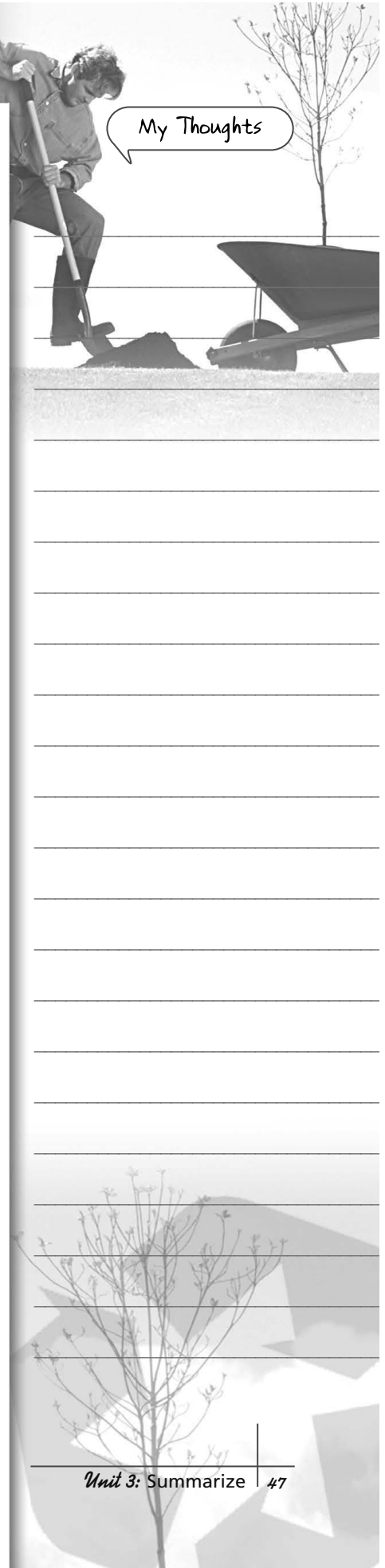
When You Buy, Buy Cool Stuff

- 17 There are lots of ways we can improve the environment. One of the ways to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases that we put into the air is to buy products that don't use as much energy. By conserving energy, we help reduce global warming and make the Earth a better place. Some products—like certain cars and stereos—are made specially to save energy.

Some Things to Think About

- 18 Did you know that you can help the environment if you buy recyclable products instead of nonrecyclable ones? Look for the recycle mark—three arrows that make a triangle—on the package.
- 19 Recyclable products are usually made out of things that already have been used. It usually takes less energy to make recycled products than to make new ones. The less energy we use, the better.

continued





My Thoughts

Lined writing area for student thoughts.

Global Warming continued

Solar Energy

20 Imagine that it's a hot summer day. You put a scoop of ice cream on the sidewalk, and it melts. Why? Well, you probably know that the sun causes the ice cream to melt. But you may not know that the sun produces solar energy. Solar energy is a fancy way of saying "energy that comes from the sun." Solar energy can be used to heat homes, buildings, water, and to make electricity. Today, more than 200,000 houses in the United States take advantage of the sun's energy.

Cars

21 Cars are an important part of life for most people. But cars also cause pollution and release a lot of greenhouse gases into the air. Fortunately, there are some cars that are better for the environment. These cars can travel longer on a smaller amount of gasoline. They don't pollute as much, either. Using these kinds of cars can help reduce the amount of greenhouse gases in the air.

Which of these things do you already do, and which could you do?



Make Sense of Words

As you have learned, there are many strategies for determining a word's meaning. Some vocabulary words are best decoded and understood when you break the word into smaller parts. When you understand a *base word* and either *prefixes* or *suffixes* added to the word, you can often determine its meaning. Complete the following chart for the word **biosphere**, found in paragraph 7. You may need to use a dictionary.

bio- means	biosphere	
sphere means		
biosphere means	Illustration of a biosphere	Sentence using biosphere

How did breaking the word down enhance your understanding of what it means?

Now look back at the other words you marked in the text. Can you use this vocabulary strategy to help you figure out the meanings of those words?

Read with Understanding Which sentence from the “Global Warming” Web page is *not* an important detail and would most likely not be included in a *summary* of the Web page?

- ① Earth has warmed by about 1°F over the past 100 years.
- ② Annual amounts of rainfall or snowfall can increase or decrease.
- ③ Greenhouse gases in the atmosphere behave much like the glass panes in a greenhouse.
- ④ There are many ways we can improve the environment.



Understand by Seeing It

When you *summarize* what you have read, you select the most important information from the text. Summarizing is not retelling every detail of the story or text. It is condensing all of the information by selecting the main idea and the details that are important. Complete the problem-solution organizer below to help you focus the information you have learned from the Web page and prepare to write a summary.

Problem:

Why is it a problem?

Possible solutions:

Summary statement for the solution you would recommend:

Write to Learn Using the information from the graphic organizer on page 51, write a *summary* of the material as if you were sharing this key information with a committee in Congress studying global warming. Their time is limited, so your summary must be clear and concise.
