

Background

Farming is perhaps the most important industry across the world. For example, globally about 700 million hectares are used to grow our food. But there are two significant problems for global farming in the 21st century that we need to keep in mind as we understand more and more about environmental issues.

- Farming has changed a lot over the years as it develops in order to produce the food we need, and some of these changes have been disastrous for the environment.
- Climate change has made farming more difficult in some locations.

1. In your pairs, discuss these two questions. Make notes in the space below the questions.

1. How can farming damage the environment? Think about animals, chemicals and cutting down trees, for example.
2. How does climate change make farming difficult? Think about water and temperatures.

2. Vocabulary development

Match each word or expression below to the correct definition.

1. animal welfare	A. small animals, such as insects and worms.
2. antibiotics	B. many different kinds of plants and animals
3. biodiversity	C. pushed down by someone or something
4. bugs	D. animals are usually kept inside with very little space, so that they produce more meat or milk
5. endangered	E. the natural home environment of a plant or animal
6. factory farm	F. an animal or plant that may disappear, for natural or human reasons.
7. fertilisers	G. looking after animals properly
8. forced down	H. medicines used to manage infections
9. habitat	I. chemicals used to increase the productivity of plants or vegetables

