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**BBC World Service**

**The story**

At this moment in time, the world has warmed about one degree Celsius above the pre-industrial level. This new analysis says that temperatures would have risen much faster if it weren't for the oceans, forests and lands absorbing vast amounts of CO<sub>2</sub> from human activities.

However, as temperatures continue upwards, the scientists say that these natural systems can flip from soaking up carbon to spewing out huge quantities into the atmosphere. That could cause a domino effect, where permafrost thaws, forests die back and ice sheets crumble – leading to a world with four to five degrees of warming with towering seas inundating coastlines.

**Vocabulary**

**tipping point**

time after which events can't be stopped

- Employee anger over pay has reached a tipping point. Workers will now strike.
- His latest affair was a tipping point in their marriage. She left the next day.

**ominous**

implying something bad will happen

- Dan's car started making ominous noises, so he took it to a mechanic.
- I had an ominous dream about the party. I don't think we should go.

**domino effect**

situation where one event causes a series of consecutive events

- Some warn that A.I. will have a domino effect on jobs.
- Bad intelligence caused a domino effect of military mistakes.

**Language challenge**

What do we call a building which is constructed of glass and used to grow plants?

- a) greenhouse
- b) seedhouse
- c) planthouse

**Answer**

a) greenhouse