
ProTalk
Discussion Files
afaq
Language Center
C1. Polar ice caps are melting
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# Goals

- Can read a complex text about global warming and understand the meaning of technical vocabulary in context.
- Can explain why the polar ice caps are melting and discuss other consequences of climate change in detail.



According to scientists the temperature of Earth is **rising**.

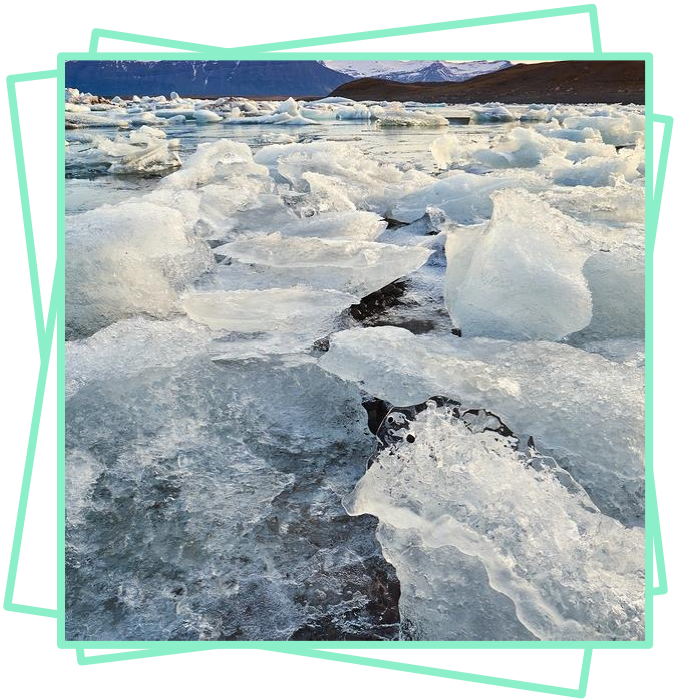
As **global warming intensifies**, the **polar ice caps** are melting at an alarming rate!

What does this mean for the **future** of our planet?

# Polar ice caps

What are the polar ice caps?

Why are they so important? Tell your teacher.



# Consequences

**Can you think of any potential consequences of melting polar ice caps?**



# Describe what you see

**What do you see in each of the photographs?**

**What could the link be with melting ice caps? Talk to the teacher.**










Natural environment?

Local communities affected?

## greenhouse gases

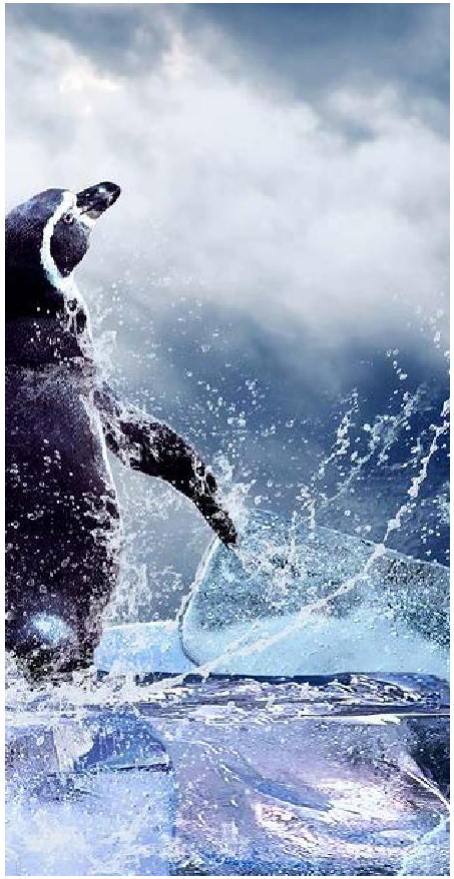
Gases that absorb or emit radiation, causing the greenhouse effect and contributing to global warming.



One side effect of industrialisation has been the regrettable output of **greenhouse gases** into the atmosphere.

**Read the text and summarize it.**

# Polar ice caps are melting



Among the **myriad** consequences and effects of **global warming**, the melting of the polar ice caps are one of the most frightening. The polar regions of the Arctic are particularly **vulnerable** to the rising temperatures brought on by climate change. Studies indicate that Arctic temperatures are rising at twice the rate they are elsewhere. Driven by CO2 and **greenhouse gases** in the atmosphere as a result of human industrial emissions, Greenland and other landmasses in the Arctic have become the front line of global warming.

**Read the text and summarize it.**

# Polar ice caps are melting

No doubt the consequences to the natural environment and **indigenous** communities of the Arctic will be grave. The Inuit people have already reported large-scale disruptions to their hunting and community lives brought on by faster melting ice. Heartbreaking footage of **emaciated** and weak polar bears, struggling to feed themselves and their cubs reflect the brutal effect ice melt has on Arctic wildlife. On the global stage, the associated rise in the sea level may swallow entire communities and throw the rest of human society into a dire **predicament**.



## New vocabulary: Discuss the meanings with your teacher and use each in a sentence.

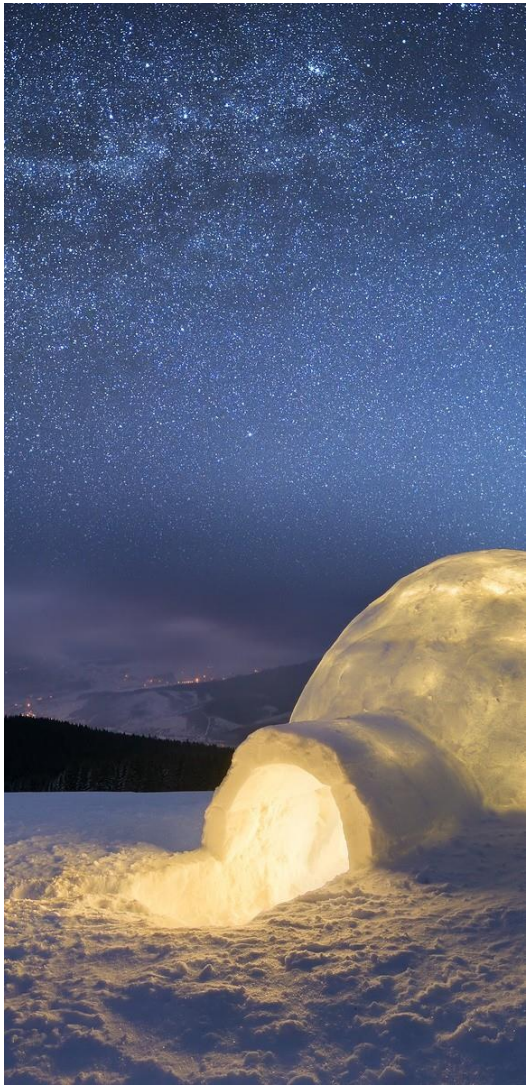
| | |
|---|---|
| **myriad** | There are **myriad** ways to bake a cake, my dear! |
| **indigenous** | They were fascinated by the **indigenous** architecture. |
| **predicament** | Your reckless behaviour has put you in quite a **predicament**. |
| **emaciated** | They emerged from the cave, weak and **emaciated** with hunger. |

# Explain

"The Inuit people have already reported large-scale disruptions to their hunting and community lives brought on by faster melting ice."

1. Talk to your teacher about the **complications** and **effects** of warming and ice melt on the lives of indigenous communities.

2. What are some strategies to help ensure their survival?



# Rising sea levels

**Assess the validity of each statement below. Discuss each point of view with the teacher.**

Coastal communities should begin to prepare for a rise in the sea level, or risk being swept away by the encroaching push of the ocean.

Water runoff from melted glaciers and sea ice will dramatically alter the delicate balance of marine ecosystems, causing unpredictable and potentially catastrophic shifts in the global climate.

As the sea levels continue to rise, island nations will be wiped off the map, causing an unprecedented refugee and humanitarian crisis.

# Debate

**Global warming is still a disputed concept, despite support from scientific bodies around the world. Where do you stand? Pick one of the positions below and debate with the teacher.**

**Spend some time thinking through your position and points of argument:**

- All countries should work together as per the Paris Agreement to lower the rate of warming.
- Global warming is generated by human activity, but it is overblown and exaggerated by the media.
- Global warming is a modern myth – why sacrifice economic growth and development for something that hasn't been proven?



# Discuss

**How might changing ocean temperature and currents affect the marine ecosystem?**





# humanitarian

**Humanitarian** can be used to describe anything devoted to the promotion of human welfare.



He dreamed of working for a **humanitarian** aid organisation.

# Humanitarian organisations

**Describe the role of some humanitarian organisations you are aware of.**

**Use the pictures to help with your ideas.**

**What makes their work humanitarian?**




**Red Cross**



**Refugee support**



**Aid**




**Fair trade**

# Tell the teacher

Can you think of any other organisations or behaviours which could be described as **humanitarian**?

# Talk to the teacher

**Talk about the opportunities presented to each country in the Arctic region. What is more likely as the ice continues to melt? Cooperation, or confrontation?**

Access to offshore oil reserves.

What to do about their displaced population?



**Norway**



**Iceland**

Economic opportunities present themselves, but the melt has the potential to cause more volcanic eruptions.

The retreating ice presents many economic opportunities for raw materials. Could this cause environmental damage?



**Canada**



**Russia**

New trade routes in the Arctic ocean present many opportunities but also presents many potential rivalries.

# Talk to the teacher

**You are a world renowned climate scientist. The Russian government has hired you to help them plan for projected ice melts in the Arctic. What advice will you give them to make the most of their position? What problems will they have to consider in the future?**

Melting ice caps could create new opportunities for economic growth, but will also create humanitarian and environmental disasters. How best to plan for this?

Responsibility for indigenous communities displaced by melting ice

New routes for shipping and trade

New sources of offshore resources

Activity P. 11 1C, 2D, 3A, 4B

Activity P. 12 1A, 2B, 3B, 4B

# Categorise

**List all of the potential outcomes of melting polar ice caps discussed in today's lesson.**

| Positive outcomes | Negative outcomes |
| --- | --- |
| | |

# Presentation

Earth in 100 years

Prepare a two-minute presentation about a prediction for the world in 100 years. What do you think will be the consequences of continual global warming and melting of the ice caps? Use vocabulary from the lesson.

Include several reasons to support your point of view.

Give your presentation to the class. Answer questions and get feedback.

greenhouse gases

myriad

global warming

ecosystem

predicament

displacement