

Name: _____

Date: _____



Climate change is one of the most important issues of our time. It has become not only a scientific study, but also a political issue, the subject of Hollywood films, and a constant source of debate.

For our final Geography/ Science unit, we will explore the subject of climate change and will learn how to sort the biases and misconceptions from the real facts. We will learn about the science behind climate change and heat and will create media advertisements to present the science of climate change to our peers.

Before we begin...

"I had this idea, the most powerful issue of our time, was the interaction of humans and nature." - James Balog

Climate change is one of the biggest issues we as a society face, and many scientists believe we have now gone too far over the brink to preserve our planet in its current state. However, many politicians have argued that climate change (or, as is used to be called, "global warming") is a made-up issue.

What do you believe about climate change? Use the mind map below to brainstorm your ideas.

What do I know
about it?

Do I believe it?

**My thoughts on climate
change before the unit**

What can we do about
it?

The Film: Chasing Ice

Chasing Ice (2012) is a documentary about a National Geographic-sponsored expedition to the Arctic. Photographer James Balog and the Extreme Ice Survey team use time-lapse photography to capture a record of the world's changing glaciers. In effect, Chasing Ice shows the story of climate change: In the striking time-lapse photos, the past, present, and future of the Arctic flashes on the screen.

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During the Film:

- 1) What inspired James Balog to do the Extreme Ice Survey?
- 2) Where does he go to survey the ice?
- 3) What is it called when glaciers break off into the ocean?
- 4) When he first went back to find the glacier he had taken a picture of six months earlier, what did he find? What was his reaction?
- 5) Write down five ideas for discussion, including questions:
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Discussion Questions (answer on a separate piece of paper):

- 1) Balog says, "We are really in the midst of geologic change." What does he mean? What is the role of humanity in these changes?
- 2) Scientists predict that sea levels could rise as much as 1 to 3 feet due to climate change. Coastal regions and island nations are considering the resettlement of many people, and many more have already been displaced by flooding and storms. Some experts estimate that as many as 150 to 300 million more people will become "climate refugees." How will this change the way we live?