

## Past 12 months break extreme heat records

11th July 2024



The world has experienced its hottest year since records began. A report from the Copernicus Climate Change Service said every month in the past 12 months broke temperature records. Every month was more than 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than

pre-industrial averages. The industrial period started in the mid-nineteenth century. This is when we started to burn fossil fuels on a large scale. Researcher Carlo Buontempo, director of Copernicus, said the results of the report show a "large and continuing shift" in climate change. He warned: "We are bound to see new records being broken as the climate continues to warm. This is inevitable, unless we stop putting greenhouse gases into the atmosphere and the oceans."

Extreme heat has hit countries across the planet this year. Scientists say we are at the beginning of an era that will see more heat-related disasters. In the past year, Earth was 1.64°C hotter than in pre-industrial times. Extreme temperatures are being seen all across California in the USA. In Death Valley, the mercury hit 53.9° Celsius earlier this week. Meanwhile, Las Vegas broke its all-time heat record. The temperature there reached a scorching 48.9°C. In the past year, countries have recorded extreme heat across all continents. This has caused wildfires, drought and death. In Saudi Arabia last month, over 1,000 people collapsed and died on a pilgrimage to Mecca. Climate scientist Aditi Mukherji said this showed Earth is in crisis.

Sources: [theguardian.com](https://theguardian.com) / [livescience.com](https://livescience.com) / [theconversation.com](https://theconversation.com)

### Writing

It is too late to control climate change. Discuss.

### Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

hottest year / temperature / industrial period / fossil fuels / climate change / oceans / planet / disasters / mercury / extreme heat / wildfires / drought / pilgrimage / crisis

### True / False

- 1) The world had its hottest year since 1836. T / F
- 2) Every month last year was 1.5 degrees higher than the year before. T / F
- 3) The industrial period started around 1850. T / F
- 4) A researcher said more climate records will be broken. T / F
- 5) The article says we are starting an age of heat-related disasters. T / F
- 6) The temperature last week in Death Valley, California was 53.9°C. T / F
- 7) Nearly 10,000 people died on a pilgrimage. T / F
- 8) A climate scientist said Earth is no longer in crisis. T / F

### Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- |                       |                      |
|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. <b>began</b>       | a. red-hot           |
| 2. <b>period</b>      | b. unavoidable       |
| 3. <b>shift</b>       | c. globe             |
| 4. <b>inevitable</b>  | d. age               |
| 5. <b>oceans</b>      | e. boiling           |
| 6. <b>planet</b>      | f. brought about     |
| 7. <b>disasters</b>   | g. started           |
| 8. <b>scorching</b>   | h. catastrophes      |
| 9. <b>caused</b>      | i. religious journey |
| 10. <b>pilgrimage</b> | j. change            |

### Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think about what you read?
- b) Has the weather changed a lot in your country?
- c) What heat-related disasters do you know of?
- d) What would life be like if it was 53.9° Celsius every day?
- e) Do you prefer scorching hot or freezing cold weather?
- f) What do you think Earth will be like in 2124?
- g) How much of a crisis is Earth in?
- h) What questions would you like to ask climate scientists?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                             |
|--|-----------------------------|
| 1. The world has experienced its hottest | a. being broken             |
| 2. 1.5 degrees Celsius warmer than       | b. to Mecca                 |
| 3. we started to burn fossil             | c. year since records began |
| 4. We are bound to see new records       | d. a scorching 48.9°C       |
| 5. putting greenhouse gases              | e. in crisis                |
| 6. Earth was 1.64°C hotter than          | f. fuels on a large scale   |
| 7. The temperature there reached         | g. into the atmosphere      |
| 8. This has caused wildfires, drought    | h. pre-industrial averages  |
| 9. on a pilgrimage                       | i. and death                |
| 10. this showed Earth is                 | j. in pre-industrial times  |

## Discussion – Student B

- What do you think of today's weather?
- What do you think of the heat?
- What do you think of the record extreme temperatures?
- How serious is a 1.5-degree rise in global temperatures?
- What do you think of fossil fuels?
- How has climate change affected you?
- How can we reduce the volume of greenhouse gas we create?
- What does a warmer climate do to oceans?

## Spelling

- broke tpremtaereu records
- warmer than pre-industrial eeargasv
- The industrial eodipr
- in the mid-nineteenth yentucr
- This is vibnileat
- the atmosphere and the oensac
- see more heat-related srtsidea
- the ryuemrc hit 53.9°
- extreme heat across all nnntcosite
- This has caused wildfires, rtuodhg and death
- on a aimlgerpgj to Mecca
- this showed Earth is in rcssii

### Answers – Synonym Match

1. g	2. d	3. j	4. b	5. a
6. c	7. h	8. e	9. f	10. i

## Role Play

### Role A – Hotter Weather

You think hotter weather is the worst effect of climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): stronger hurricanes, loss of species or not enough food.

### Role B – Stronger Hurricanes

You think stronger hurricanes is the worst effect of climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): hotter weather, loss of species or not enough food.

### Role C – Loss of Species

You think loss of species is the worst effect of climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): stronger hurricanes, hotter weather or not enough food.

### Role D – Not Enough Food

You think not enough food is the worst effect of climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): stronger hurricanes, loss of species or hotter weather.

## Speaking – Climate Change

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst effects of climate change at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- |                       |                   |
|-----------------------|-------------------|
| • Hotter weather      | • Loss of species |
| • Stronger hurricanes | • Not enough food |
| • More droughts       | • Migration       |
| • Rising oceans       | • Disease         |

### Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	T	5	T	6	T	7	F	8	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.