

Global warming will delay next ice age, say scientists

6th March 2025



Researchers say they know when the next ice age will come. Wikipedia says: "An ice age is a long period of reduction in the temperature of Earth's surface and atmosphere, resulting in the presence or expansion of continental and polar ice sheets, and alpine glaciers." The researchers are from Cardiff University in the UK. They predicted that the next ice age should arrive in 10,000 years from now. However, the scientists believe it could be delayed because of human activity. A member of the research team said climate change could delay the next ice age. She said global warming could make it "very unlikely" that the next freeze will arrive on time.

The scientists said melting glaciers in the North and South Poles will push back the next ice age. Lead researcher Professor Stephen Barker studied what caused past ice ages to happen. His team looked at nearly one million years of climate data. They found that there was a relationship between changes in the Earth's axis, global temperatures, and the size of Antarctica and the Arctic. When the amount of ice on the continental ice sheets was stable, ice ages happened at regular intervals. However, Professor Barker said less ice means a longer gap between ice ages. He added: "Earth's climate is an interconnected system of complex processes, all acting together to produce the changes we observe."

Sources:
newser.com / sciencealert.com / msn.com. / Wikipedia.org

Writing

We need to start preparing for the next age now. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

researchers / ice age / temperature / atmosphere / glaciers / human activity / freeze / North Pole / climate / Earth's axis / Antarctica / Earth / system / complex processes

True / False

- 1) Researchers are unsure when the next ice age will be. T / F
- 2) In an ice age, polar ice sheets decrease in size. T / F
- 3) Human activity could mean the next ice age is delayed. T / F
- 4) A researcher said an ice age could delay global warming. T / F
- 5) Melting glaciers in the North Pole will delay the next ice age. T / F
- 6) Scientists looked at a billion years of climate data. T / F
- 7) The amount of ice in the world affects the Earth's axis. T / F
- 8) More ice on Earth means longer gaps between ice ages. T / F

Synonym Match

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

- | | |
|---------------------|------------------|
| 1. come | a. increase |
| 2. reduction | b. frequent |
| 3. expansion | c. doubtful |
| 4. delay | d. facts |
| 5. unlikely | e. slow down |
| 6. caused | f. arrive |
| 7. data | g. see |
| 8. global | h. lowering |
| 9. regular | i. worldwide |
| 10. observe | j. brought about |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you know about ice ages?
- b) How would an ice age change Earth?
- c) Do you prefer freezing cold or boiling hot weather?
- d) What's the best temperature for your town to be?
- e) What do you think of temperatures today?
- f) What will the world be like in 10,000 years from now?
- g) What do you think of climate change?
- h) What can you do to help climate change?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. a long period of reduction | a. glaciers |
| 2. polar ice sheets, and alpine | b. the next ice age |
| 3. delayed because of human | c. of climate data |
| 4. climate change could delay | d. activity |
| 5. very unlikely that the next freeze | e. between ice ages |
| 6. melting | f. in the temperature |
| 7. in the North and South | g. intervals |
| 8. nearly one million years | h. will arrive on time |
| 9. ice ages happened at regular | i. Poles |
| 10. a longer gap | j. glaciers |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What do you know about the North and South Poles?
- How has Earth's climate changed over the past million years?
- What do you think of ice on the streets?
- How will humans survive an ice age?
- Could global warming prevent ice ages?
- Have you seen the movie 'Ice Age'?
- What questions would you like to ask the researchers?

Spelling

- reduction in the mtretereup
- Earth's surface and esrpmtahoe
- paolr ice sheets
- They epcteridd that
- edaly the next ice age
- make it very lnyleiuk
- melting licgsare
- one million years of tmielca data
- Earth's ixsa
- the nmuota of ice
- at regular tealrvsn
- interconnected system of complex pssreosec

Answers – Synonym Match

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

Role Play

Role A – Burning Fossil Fuels

You think burning fossil fuels is the worst thing for climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as damaging. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): deforestation, farming or overconsumption.

Role B – Deforestation

You think deforestation is the worst thing for climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as damaging. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): burning fossil fuels, farming or overconsumption.

Role C – Farming

You think farming is the worst thing for climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as damaging. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): deforestation, burning fossil fuels or overconsumption.

Role D – Overconsumption

You think overconsumption is the worst thing for climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their things aren't as damaging. Also, tell the others which is the least damaging of these (and why): deforestation, farming or burning fossil fuels.

Speaking – Global warming

Rank these with your partner. Put the things that most affect global warming at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------|
| • Burning fossil fuels | • Shipping |
| • Tourism | • Farming |
| • Deforestation | • Factories |
| • Overconsumption | • Cars |

Answers – True False

1	F	2	F	3	T	4	F	5	T	6	F	7	T	8	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.