

## Climate Change Quiz

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- How much did average global temperatures rise over the 20<sup>th</sup> century?**
  - 2.0 degrees
  - 1.5 degrees
  - 1.0 degree
  - 5 degree
- Which country is the world leader in emitting the most greenhouse gases?**
  - The United Kingdom
  - India
  - The United States
  - China
- What approximate percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is caused by cutting down forests?**
  - 10-15 percent
  - 15-20 percent
  - 20-25 percent
  - 25-30 percent
- How many times can you recycle aluminum?**
  - 2 times
  - 5 times
  - 25 times
  - Forever
- Climate change is having a negative impact on which of the following natural phenomena?**
  - Coral bleaching
  - Hurricanes
  - Drought
  - All of the above
- How many human deaths per year does the World Health Organization attribute to climate change?**
  - 1,500
  - 15,000
  - 150,000
  - 1,500,000
- Scientists project that climate change will increase the spread of which of the following diseases?**
  - Lyme disease
  - Malaria
  - West Nile Virus
  - All of the above
- The Arctic Ocean could possibly be ice free in summer by what year?**
  - 2008
  - 2025
  - 2050
  - 2100
- How long does it take for CO<sub>2</sub> to disperse in the atmosphere?**
  - 1 year
  - 20 years
  - 50 years
  - 100 years
- How many species of plants and animals could be driven to extinction by the year 2050?**
  - 5,000
  - 25,000
  - 100,000
  - 1 million

Answers on next page



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[www.polarbearsinternational.org](http://www.polarbearsinternational.org)

**Sources:** 1. The Earth Institute and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC, 2001); 2. "Planet in Peril," 2007, and The International Energy Agency; 3. The Nature Conservancy; 4. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA); 5. *An Inconvenient Truth*, by Al Gore, 2006, and the Nature Conservancy; 6. The World Health Organization; 7. The Nature Conservancy; 8. The Arctic Climate Impact Assessment, 2004; 9. The Nature Conservancy; 10. The Nature Conservancy, and in "Feeling the Heat," by David Bjerklie, Time Magazine, March 26, 2006.

**1. How much did average global temperatures rise over the 20<sup>th</sup> century?**

**Answer:**

**C. 1.0 degree**

Scientists have data that shows that global near-surface temperatures have increased by approximately 1.08 degrees since the late 19<sup>th</sup> century. This might not sound like much, but this increase is enough to cause the melting of sea ice, the extinction of many organisms, and a dramatic shift in weather patterns. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) said in its 2007 report that the Earth's average temperatures could increase by 4 degrees by the year 2100.

**2. Which country is the world leader in emitting the most greenhouse gases?**

**Answer:**

**D. China**

The U.S. has consistently been at the top of the list of greenhouse gas emitters, but was passed up by China in 2006-2007. Their booming industrial sector pushed their carbon emissions so high that they are now #1.

**3. What approximate percentage of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions is caused by cutting down forests?**

**Answer:**

**C. 20-25 percent**

Because trees use carbon dioxide in photosynthesis, they have a critical role in helping to control climate change.

**4. How many times can you recycle aluminum?**

**Answer:**

**D. Forever**

Not only can aluminum be recycled indefinitely, using recycled aluminum to make new aluminum products uses only 5% of the energy to make the same amount of aluminum from raw ore.

**5. Climate change is having a negative impact on which of the following natural phenomena?**

**Answer:**

**D. All of the above**

Higher sea temperatures are killing the algae necessary to coral reefs. In addition, changing weather patterns are causing more serious storms and more severe droughts.

**6. How many human deaths per year does the World Health Organization attribute to climate change?**

**Answer:**

**C. 150,000**

According to the World Health Organization, the effects of climate change are responsible for 150,000 deaths around the world. These effects include extreme weather, drought, heat waves, decreased food production, and the increase of diseases. Scientists also predict that this number could increase to 300,000 in just 25 years.

**7. Scientists project that climate change will increase the spread of which of the following diseases?**

**Answer:**

**D. All of the above**

Rising temperatures and longer warm seasons allow mosquitoes and other hosts to survive at higher altitudes and have longer transmission periods.

**8. The Arctic Ocean could possibly be ice free in summer by what year?**

**Answer:**

**A. 2008**

The IPCC originally predicted that the summer ice in the Arctic Ocean could be absent by the year 2050. However, the Arctic ice cap is melting much faster than expected. In fact, satellite data shows that this summer of 2008 could be the first ice-free summer in the Arctic in recorded history. The National Snow and Ice Data Center says there is a 50% possibility that the summer ice will melt and be absent in 2008.

**9. How long does it take for CO<sub>2</sub> to disperse in the atmosphere?**

**Answer:**

**D. 100 years**

This just underscores how crucial it is for us to decrease our CO<sub>2</sub> emissions *now*.

**10. How many species of plants and animals could be driven to extinction by the year 2050?**

**Answer:**

**D. 1 million**

According to some experts, even more of Earth's species will be headed for extinction by 2050 if climate change continues at its current rate.