

Global Warming

Throughout its long history, Earth has warmed and cooled time and again. Climate has changed when the planet received more or less sunlight due to subtle shifts in its orbit, as the atmosphere or surface changed, or when the Sun's energy varied. But in the past century, another force has started to influence Earth's climate: humanity.



Climate Q&A

When it comes to climate change, the questions people have are limitless. Some of these questions are scientific, some are economic, some are political, and some are moral. Some questions have answers today, and some won't be answerable for decades.

In this column, the Earth Observatory offer answers to some of the questions people ask us about the science of global warming and climate change. We have also included some questions and answers about climate science topics that people often misunderstand. All posts are written or reviewed by Earth and climate scientists.

We choose questions based on several factors, including how frequently we receive them, how relevant they are to NASA Earth science research, and how unique they are. We don't intend for this column to provide a comprehensive picture of climate science; for a complete review of global warming and climate change, please see [Global Warming Factsheet](#).

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/GlobalWarming/>

Q.1 What is Global Warming?

Q.2 How Does Today's Warming Compare to Past Climate Change?

Q.3 Why Do Scientists Think Current Warming Isn't Natural?

Q.4 How Much More Will Earth Warm?

Q.5 How Will Earth Respond to Warming Temperatures?