



Evidence of Climate Change

How do we know that the climate has changed?

SUMMARY

This clip looks at two main pieces of evidence for climate change; the effects of temperature on tree ring widths over the shorter term and ice cores as evidence of longer term fluctuations. It finishes by suggesting that continental drift has a part to play over the longest time scale.

Check you know the keywords

climate change, tree rings, ice cores, continental drift, plate tectonics, glaciation

Watch the video and answer the questions

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/1490.flv>

- 1) What plant can we use to find out about climate change?
- 2) How long does it take for one tree ring to grow?
- 3) What happens during warmer years?
- 4) As we go back in time over 20 years, what can we learn about the temperature?
- 5) In the North and South Poles, scientists drill for ice.
They look at ice layers: how long does it take for one ice layer to form?
- 6) What information is in each layer of ice?
- 7) Has the climate changed, or has the land moved? How far back in time do we have to go?
- 8) What happened to the land masses over time?
- 9) What has there always been over the history of the earth?



Check your answers

- 1) What plant can we use to find out about climate change?
Trees
- 2) How long does it take for one tree ring to grow?
One single year
- 3) What happens during warmer years?
Trees grow more, their rings are wider
- 4) As we go back in time over 20 years, what can we learn about the temperature?
The rings get narrower, because the climate was cooler.
- 5) In the North and South Poles, scientists drill for ice. They look at ice layers: how long does it take for one ice layer to form?
One year (annual growth)
- 6) What information is in each layer of ice?
About the climate in a particular year.
- 7) Has the climate changed, or has the land moved?
How far back in time do we have to go? 4.5 billion years
- 8) What happened to the land masses over time?
They drifted and moved until they formed the continents.
- 9) What has there always been over the history of the earth?
There has always been climate change and land movement.