
How is Climate Change Impacting Hurricanes?

Segment Length: 3:22 minutes; 4:35 minutes

Videos:

“How Climate Change Makes Hurricanes Worse”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_0TCrGtTEQM

“Hurricanes NOT Caused by ‘Manmade Climate Change’”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h7_yMuy2ip4

Guide:

The questions below will help students achieve a better understanding of the arguments made on either side of a contentious topic. Because these questions often touch upon statements made briefly in the videos, we recommend reading the questions before watching each video.

Students are encouraged to take notes during the videos, and it may be helpful for students to break into groups, each taking responsibility for only a few questions, before coming together for discussion.

Analysis Questions:

1. The first video, from Vox, implores viewers to cut carbon emissions because trying to minimize the damage of climate change isn't enough. Based on John Stossel's comments in the second video, do you think he would agree?
2. In response to Al Gore's claims, John Stossel says sea levels have only risen by about one inch since Al Gore predicted a 20 foot rise in sea level. What does the Vox video say that could be used to argue against Stossel's comment?
3. According to the Vox video, how could warming of the planet cause more rainfall?
4. John Stossel points out that there is no trend in the number of tropical storms affecting the U.S. while global temperatures have risen. Based on the information in the Vox video, how might one respond to Stossel?
5. The Vox video says we are hurting ourselves with carbon emissions. How could cutting our carbon emissions hurt us, according to what Roy Spencer tells John Stossel?
6. John Stossel and Roy Spencer agree that it is better to concern ourselves with the victims of poverty today rather than the victims of the climate in the future. Why do they present this as a choice? Why can't we do both? What does limiting fossil fuel use have to do with poverty?
7. The John Stossel video tells us that poverty kills, even in America. How do you suppose poverty could have such an effect?

8. In the Vox video we hear that climate change is real and manmade. Does John Stossel believe the climate is changing? Does he think humans are affecting the climate and causing the earth to warm?
9. Climate models project a decrease in the number of global hurricanes, Vox reports. Why, then, does Vox still think we should worry?
10. What effects on hurricanes could ocean warmth have, according to Vox's video?