
The Effects of Climate Change?

Link:

<https://stosselintheclassroom.org/both-sides-effects-of-climate-change/>

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. What are the opposing ideas in these two videos?
2. John Stossel said that "climate changes." What did he mean by this?
3. In the NBC News video, Chase Cain said that "you could clearly see the signs of climate change" in Alaska's icefields. What signs was he referring to?
4. In the Stossel TV video, Linnea Lueken said, "A lot of the time when you are looking at these very alarming images, it seems like, 'Where did the ice go? There's no ice.'" What was her explanation for those images?
5. In the NBC News video, what did Mauri Pelto say was the tipping point in the Arctic?
6. The Stossel TV video showed a graph of total arctic ice over the past few decades. What was your reaction to this graph?
7. In the NBC News video, what reason was given for the possible starvation of polar bears?
8. The Stossel TV video showed that the polar bear population has increased. Were you surprised to learn this? Why/Why not?
9. Chase Cain described the "albedo effect." What is the albedo effect? How is it relevant to climate change?
10. Linnea Lueken said that CO₂ "helps fertilize plants for faster and better growth," and that the Earth has "significantly greened over the past couple of decades." Were you aware of this before watching this video? Do you think the media has sufficiently covered the Earth's greening? Why/Why not?
11. Chase Cain said that in the last 40 years, the Arctic has warmed by 6°F. Did that surprise you? Is it more or less than you would have guessed? Why?

12. John Stossel said: "Alarmist media and environmental groups...keep prediction doom, and when they're wrong, they just move on to the next scare." Do you agree with this statement? Why/Why not?
13. Are you concerned about climate change? Why/Why not?
14. Have you seen stories about climate change in the media? If so, what was your impression of those stories? Were they "alarmist," as John Stossel said? Were they informative?
15. Did these two videos share any common ground? Were there any points on which they agreed? If so, what were they?
16. Should one of the arguments we heard carry more weight than the other? If so, which one? Why?
17. Did you have an opinion on this topic before watching these videos? If so, what was it? Has your opinion changed? If so, how? What did you learn from these videos that affects your views on this topic?
18. What else would you like to learn about this topic?
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