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U2 Annotated Bibliography: Climate Change and Global Warming

Introduction

My research was based on one question. How has climate change, specifically global warming, affected our environment? This question is important to study and reflect on, mainly because it affects the place where we live and it's our home. Understanding the planet and what direction it's going in can help us understand what we need to do to make it better.

This topic has had my interest for some time now. Mainly due to the rise in tropical storms along the East Coast of the United States and throughout the Caribbean. I realized that there was a pattern. Every time I heard something new about the climate issue it would be followed by talks of a new storm making its way through places like Haiti, Puerto Rico, and Florida. This began with Hurricane Sandy in 2012, every year the storms got more frequent and a lot more devastating. Every storm made me afraid, and what was even scarier was that no one was doing anything about it. Not from my point of view at least. All I saw was arguments about money and greedy corporations. Of course, this is still the case, but now I am old enough to do my own research to examine the causes, effects, and possible solutions.

I expect to find how the environment has changed, regarding other sections of our world. This includes the animal kingdom and places within our own country. I also expect to find things about famous places around the world where things no longer exist or where things have depleted to a substantial degree. I'm hoping that this research will give me a better insight into what is being discussed at climate summits and other important world meetings about this issue.

Source Entries

Citation #1

"Global Warming Is Making Some Extreme Weather Events Worse." Nationalacademies.org, The National Academies of Science Engineering Medicine, 8 May 2019, www.nationalacademies.org/based-on-science/climate-change-global-warming-is-contributing-to-extreme-weather-events.

Summary

The article identifies the scientific fact and research done, showing that the earth has warmed. The article claims that the increasing warmth is the cause of the more extreme weather we have been seeing. The article claims that global warming can contribute to heatwaves, droughts, wildfires, and even heavy/more frequent rain and snowstorms. The warmer the

atmosphere becomes, the more likely for hurricanes to develop. Scientists have developed a new way to link specific weather events to a specific global climate change. Making it easier to see what issue is most heavily affecting what region.

Reflection

I agree with the text and appreciate its take on the matter. It isn't trying to persuade me into believing something rather than expounding on an already known fact. I think the work is interesting. Being able to determine how best to help a specific region by addressing its immediate climate problem. It would cut down on the time used in tracking sources and leave more time to think of solutions. I am curious about how they do it. What clues let them know what is affecting where specifically. I would have to do more research on this newly developed technology in order to answer my question and to understand this article better. If I could meet this author(s) I'd say that this research will help us get to a better place environmentally and hopefully slow down any major effects of global warming.

Quotation

"In addition, global warming causes sea level to rise, which increases the amount of seawater, along with more rainfall, that is pushed on to shore during coastal storms. That seawater, along with more rainfall, can result in destructive flooding. While global warming is likely making hurricanes more intense, scientists don't know yet if global warming is increasing the number of hurricanes each year."

- *The National Academies of Science, Engineering, Medicine*

Citation #2

Glick, Daniel. "Global Climate Change, Melting Glaciers." Environment, National Geographic, 3 May 2021, www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/article/big-thaw.

Summary

This article speaks about the experience the author had traveling with scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey Global Change Research Program. These scientists have been studying how the glaciers in a U.S. national park are melting for two decades. The article states that President Taft, who created Glacier National Park, created it with approx. 150 glaciers within its territory. Today, those numbers have gone down to less than 30, and the ones remaining have shrunk significantly. The article states that the warming of Earth is one of the major factors for the glaciers melting. The results from the survey conducted suggest the amount of melting that ordinarily happens in what is referred to as geological time is happening during the span of a human lifetime. The article mentions Mt. Kilimanjaro, whose snows were famous, have now melted down to 80 percent of what they used to be. The article goes on to give the effects of what has been proven to be human-caused global warming.

Reflection

I agree with the data presented in the article. I think that it's insightful in its approach. It's focusing on one area, mentioning how it has changed significantly over time. It breaks down how the place started and how the decline is reflective of other locations like it. The article also gives the reports of real-life experts that have devoted their careers to studying these happenings and how they could progress over time. I like that the author that was there not only took the testimony of who did the research but was also present and engaged one on one during the research. Getting hands-on experience is a sure way to assure credibility amongst readers.

Quotation

"Things that normally happen in geologic time are happening during the span of a human lifetime," says Fagre. "It's like watching the Statue of Liberty melt."

- *National Geographic*

Citation #3

"How Does Global Warming Affect Animals?" YouTube Uploaded by BBC Earth Unplugged July 15, 2015, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=btuI6UtlNE>

Summary

In this video, the effect on Animals due to Global Warming is discussed. The hosts first give a brief breakdown and explanation of what Global Warming is and how it ties into other natural planetary systems. He mentions how it's caused and who it is caused by. They explain how places around the globe are affected. They speak about the ice melting in Greenland which can displace polar bears who rely on the ice to get around during the winter. They explain how rising sea levels are displacing Bengal Tigers by flooding their territory and hunting grounds, thus greatly reducing their number to less than 500. They have begun to move into places where people reside, which is dangerous as they are known to kill humans and livestock. They also explain how mosquitoes can breed more due to the warmth and abundance of water from melting glaciers. This can spread diseases like Malaria easier and put people in danger. Finally, they mention how rising temperatures can often determine the sex of reptiles such as turtles.

Reflection

I like this video because it makes a clear statement by explaining the topic with context, cause, and effect. Then they utilize examples and evidence of real current issues which could easily become a bigger problem. It isn't sugarcoating but at the same time isn't trying to scare you. It's giving simple information for the benefit and awareness of everyone who feels to watch. There's no attacking or bashing, just relaying info. I feel like this creates more of a sense of awareness in someone who doesn't know much on the subject, rather than saying that it's a particular person's fault.

Quotation

“...and all the evidence points towards the fact that the increased temperature is actually coming from our activity from human activity that's what global warming is a relatively big jump in temperature over a relatively short period of time caused by human activity.”

- *BBC Earth Unplugged*

Conclusion

In my research I have found that our world has changed dramatically in a very short period of time. We covered how global warming has affected our weather and how we experience seasons. We covered glaciers and the alarming rate at which they are melting, and lastly the effects that this issue has had on the animal kingdom which can potentially begin to harm humans as well. What surprised me is that so much of this issue is out of plain sight for so many people. We have become so detached from our environment that we can't see the problems right in front of us. We can't see our glaciers melting or the sea level rising every day, so we ignore it. We can't see the Polar Bear struggling to get to its hunting ground, so we ignore it. We accept mosquitoes as part of everyday life, so we ignore them, but what happens when things are put directly in front of us? What do we do when it's time to take responsibility? These questions and this research are so important because future generations can hopefully fix the mess that the previous generations failed to sort out. The research can help stop the politicization around saving our planet. It can help scientists find ways of slowing or stopping climate changes like global warming altogether. The people who need to read this research are mainly right-wing politicians who are often associated with not supporting climate preserving initiatives like the Paris Climate Accords. Along with the big oil companies who continue to pour money into starting wars in countries simply to loot and steal oil.