



Debunking Climate Myths worksheet

In today's media environment, there are still many conflicting messages on the climate crisis. While these claims may sound logical, they can actually be misleading or inaccurate. In this video, we will challenge commonly repeated myths and provide scientific facts about climate change.

Myth #1: Earth's climate has always been changing, this is no different.

Fact: The Earth's climate is changing. Scientists are confident that Earth's recent warming is primarily due to human activity. 21 of the 22 warmest years on record have occurred since 2000. In 2021 alone, the Earth's climate rose by 1.1 degrees Celsius—this degree of change would normally take 20 years!

Myth #2: Carbon dioxide levels are tiny; they can't make a difference.

Fact: Human activity has created a shift in the balance of CO₂ in the atmosphere. The levels of carbon dioxide have increased by 11 percent in the last 20 years. This level of CO₂ that is being produced hasn't existed in the atmosphere for 800,000 years and has resulted in a 48% increase in 150 years!

Myth #3: Global warming isn't real since there is still cold weather in parts of the world.

Fact: Global warming is causing Earth's surface temperature to increase. This rising temperature has made extreme weather events (like heatwaves and droughts) more likely and more severe.

Global warming, or climate change, refers to the broad temperature shift across the entire Earth's surface over the course of years and decades. Weather is the short-term, sometimes abrupt day-to-day variation in any given location.

Myth #4: Scientists disagree on the cause of climate change.

Fact: 90% to 100% of publishing climate scientists agree that humans are the main cause of our warming climate. Additionally, most of the leading scientific organizations have issued public statements supporting this position.

Myth #5: Renewable energy is unaffordable.

Fact: Solar power and onshore wind are the cheapest ways of generating electricity. This means that the energy that they produce is cheaper than using nuclear, gas, and fossil fuels.



Myth #6: Animals will adapt to climate change.

Fact: Given the speed of climate change, some plants, animals, and birds will not be able to adapt quickly enough to keep up with their changing environments. Species that are not able to adapt will become extinct and disrupt the balance of our ecosystem and, in some cases, food supply.

Myth #7: Only one or two countries are responsible for climate change.

Fact: Climate change is a global issue and all of us have a responsibility to take care of our planet. While global warming is mostly fueled by developed nations, it will disproportionately affect those from developing countries. Environmental policies and pledges to enact change around the globe are two of the most important strategies we can employ.

The Congo, South Africa, and Zimbabwe have pledged to lower their emissions by the year 2030, while Djibouti and Kenya have created environmental policies to lower emissions by 2030.

Myth #8: There's nothing we can do about climate change.

Fact: There's a lot we can still do to prevent further climate change. The solution is simple: we need to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. There are a lot of small ways that we can make a big difference.

Some of the ways that you can reduce your carbon footprint at home are:

- Use energy efficient light bulbs
- Turn off electrical appliances when not in use
- Plant a native garden
- Use non-toxic household products
- Get your community involved by planning a YALILearns event.

For more information about climate myths and the truth behind them, visit our website, yali.state.gov/climate for more details.

Sources:

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