

Arctic Circle sees highest-ever temperatures

26th June, 2020



Meteorologists have observed another indication of global warming being in full swing. Temperatures in the Arctic Circle hit an all-time record on Saturday, with the mercury topping 38°C in the Siberian town of Verkhoyansk. The

town currently holds the Guinness World Record for the greatest temperature range on Earth. It fluctuates from a low of minus 68°C to a high of 37.3°C. The record heat is 18 degrees higher than the daily average for June. The Arctic Circle has been experiencing a heatwave for much of this year. Temperatures have averaged 10 degrees above normal. This is ringing alarm bells with climatologists, who say the Arctic Circle is warming at twice the rate of the global average.

Atmosphere scientist Professor Dann Mitchell expressed his concern on rising temperatures. He told the BBC: "Year-on-year temperature records are being broken around the world, but the Arctic is warming faster than anywhere else on Earth, so it is unsurprising to see records being broken in this region. We will see more of this in the near future." Professor Chris Rapley of University College London said: "This is a warning message from the Earth itself. We ignore it at our peril." Scientists say higher temperatures in Siberia could accelerate global warming. Melting Siberian permafrost is releasing alarming levels of the greenhouse gasses carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere.

Sources: bbc.com / thesun.co.uk / weforum.org

Writing

We will help the Earth and bring global warming under control. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

meteorologist / global warming / temperatures / record / Earth / heat / normal / scientist / the Arctic / region / message / peril / alarming / levels / greenhouse

True / False

- a) Meteorologists said there has been a swing towards Arctic temperatures. T / F
- b) Temperatures in an Arctic town hit a record 38 degrees Fahrenheit. T / F
- c) A town in Siberia holds the world record for temperature fluctuations. T / F
- d) A town in Siberia rang alarm bells in the streets because it was so hot. T / F
- e) A professor said records are being broken around the world day by day. T / F
- f) The article said Antarctica is warming faster than anywhere in the world. T / F
- g) A professor wasn't surprised that records were being broken. T / F
- h) The article said alarming levels of methane are entering the atmosphere. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------|
| 1. observed | a. span |
| 2. topping | b. risk |
| 3. range | c. exceeding |
| 4. fluctuates | d. undergoing |
| 5. experiencing | e. area |
| 6. expressed | f. noticed |
| 7. region | g. disregard |
| 8. ignore | h. worrying |
| 9. peril | i. varies |
| 10. alarming | j. conveyed |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do meteorologists do every day?
- b) How do you feel about global warming?
- c) What do you think of 38-degree temperatures?
- d) Do you prefer freezing cold or boiling hot temperatures?
- e) Has the weather in your country changed?
- f) What do you do in heatwaves?
- g) How worried are you about global warming?
- h) How does your lifestyle add to global warming?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|--|------------------------------|
| 1. global warming being in full | a. at our peril |
| 2. Temperatures in the Arctic Circle hit | b. much of this year |
| 3. It fluctuates from a | c. in the near future |
| 4. experiencing a heatwave for | d. are being broken |
| 5. This is ringing alarm | e. low of minus 68°C |
| 6. Year-on-year temperature records | f. anywhere else on Earth |
| 7. warming faster than | g. swing |
| 8. We will see more of this | h. bells with climatologists |
| 9. We ignore it | i. the greenhouse gasses |
| 10. releasing alarming levels of | j. an all-time record |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- What can you do to reduce your carbon footprint?
- What is the danger of a warming Arctic Circle?
- Do you think we will ignore the warning about global warming?
- What is the danger of permafrost melting?
- What warning message is the Earth telling us?
- What do you know about methane?
- What questions would you like to ask the meteorologists?

Spelling

- another ocniadniit of global warming
- with the rcremyu topping 38° Celcius
- It altsfetcuu from a low of minus 68°C
- higher than the daily aaervge for June
- experiencing a vawtheea
- ringing alarm bells with maiscoqtosllit
- rising eepesmttuarr
- niuspsnrurig to see records being broken
- We ignore it at our eripl
- aelccerate global warming
- Melting Siberian mrpfreoats
- carbon dioxide and aetmhn

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. c	3. a	4. i	5. d
6. j	7. e	8. g	9. b	10. h

Role Play

Role A – Use LED Lights

You think using LED lights is the best way to curb climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a vegetarian diet, buying used clothes or voting for green parties.

Role B – Vegetarian Diet

You think a vegetarian diet is the best way to curb climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): using LED lights, buying used clothes or voting for green parties.

Role C – Buy Used Clothes

You think buying used clothes is the best way to curb climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a vegetarian diet, using LED lights or voting for green parties.

Role D – Vote for Green Parties

You think voting for green parties is the best way to curb climate change. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them what is wrong with their ways. Also, tell the others which is the least effective of these (and why): a vegetarian diet, buying used clothes or using LED lights.

Speaking – Climate Change

Rank these with your partner. Put the best ways to curb climate change at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|
| • LED lights | • Recycle more |
| • Electric cars | • Buy used clothes |
| • Vegetarian diet | • Vote for green parties |
| • Cycle more | • Fly less |

Answers – True False

a	F	b	F	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	F	g	T	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.