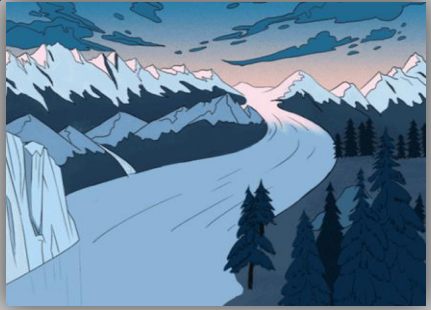


GLACIERS

VS

CLIMATE CHANGE



Glaciers are made from compressed ice. They are often shaped like rivers and flow very slowly down between mountains due to gravity.

Glaciers are found at the North and South poles and in highland mountain areas such as the European Alps.



The Mer de Glace is the largest glacier within the French Alps and the second largest in the European Alps. It covers an area of 30.4km² and is 11.5km long.



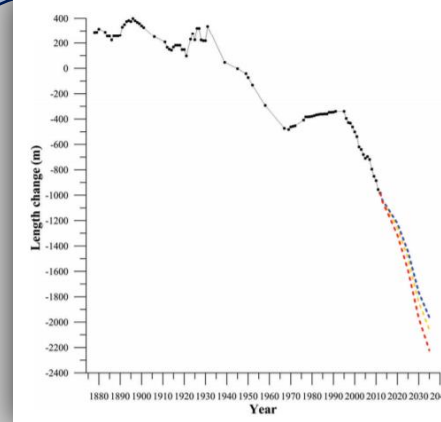
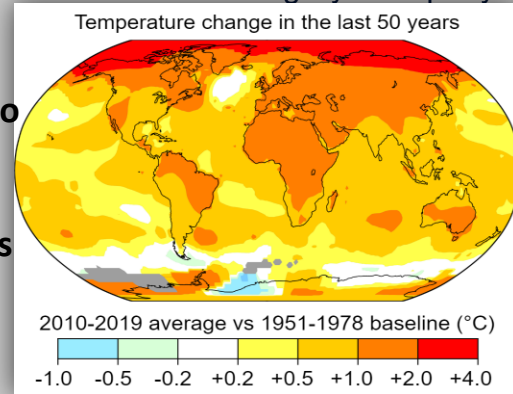
The Mer de Glace

The ice thickness has reduced by 166m

Glaciers are important for tourism. You can go walking on them and underneath them in ice caves, climb up them with ice axes or zoom across them in a snowmobile.



The Earth is getting warmer due to climate change and glaciers are disappearing as the ice is melting. Climate change is being caused by the burning of fossil fuels by humans. The length of the Mer de Glace glacier is estimated to be shrinking by 40m per year since 1995. **FACT:** This is equivalent to losing 4 double decker buses in length each year.



Climate change affects both thickness and length of the glacier and it is estimated to have a future loss of 50% in length by 2100.



Everyone can make a difference by using less energy to prevent climate change and save the glaciers. Even turning off light switches and unplugging phone chargers when not being used can help. Little changes can make a difference.

Melting glaciers add more water to the oceans which will make the sea level rise and cause more coastal storms. This will cause flooding in areas with low-lying land which will impact nature and many people's lives.



The rate of sea level rise has risen from about 2.5 mm per year in the 1990s to about 3.4 mm per year today.