

Name _____

Ice Chain Answer Key

Answers will vary. Strong responses should include:

1. Rising global temperatures are the main cause of increased melting.
2. Melted ice adds water to the oceans, causing sea levels to rise worldwide.
3. Animals may lose breeding grounds, resting areas, or safe places to live.
4. Changes in water temperature and salinity can shift where fish and krill live, affecting food webs.
5. Antarctica influences global climate, ocean circulation, and weather, so ice loss helps scientists understand worldwide environmental changes.

Teacher's Guide

Purpose: Supports Grades 7 to 12 in analyzing how causes and effects connect in environmental processes, specifically ice sheet loss and its global consequences.

Differentiation Tips

- Offer a cause and effect clue list for students who need more structure.
- Allow oral discussion or brainstorming before writing.
- Encourage advanced learners to add an example of a long term impact such as coastal flooding or altered currents.

Engagement Ideas

- Begin with a short video clip or image showing ice shelf collapse to spark interest.
- Ask students what they think happens when land based ice melts compared to sea ice.
- Facilitate a brief class debate on which effect of melting ice is the most serious.