

Climate Change

A hand holding a small globe of the Earth against a background of a blue sky with clouds and a green field. The globe shows the Americas. The hand is positioned in the lower right, holding the globe which is centered in the frame. The background is a vibrant blue sky with scattered white clouds, and a lush green field is visible at the bottom.

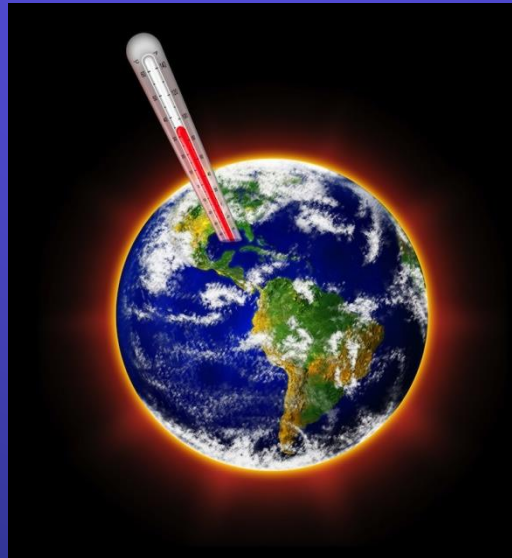
Climate Change and the Marine Environment

Sixth class

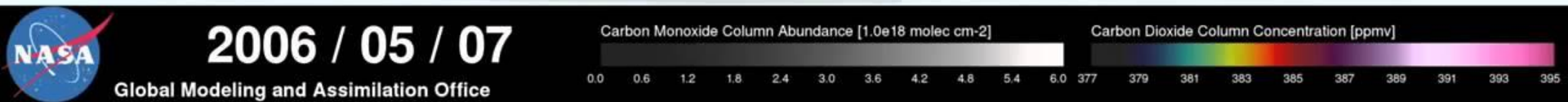
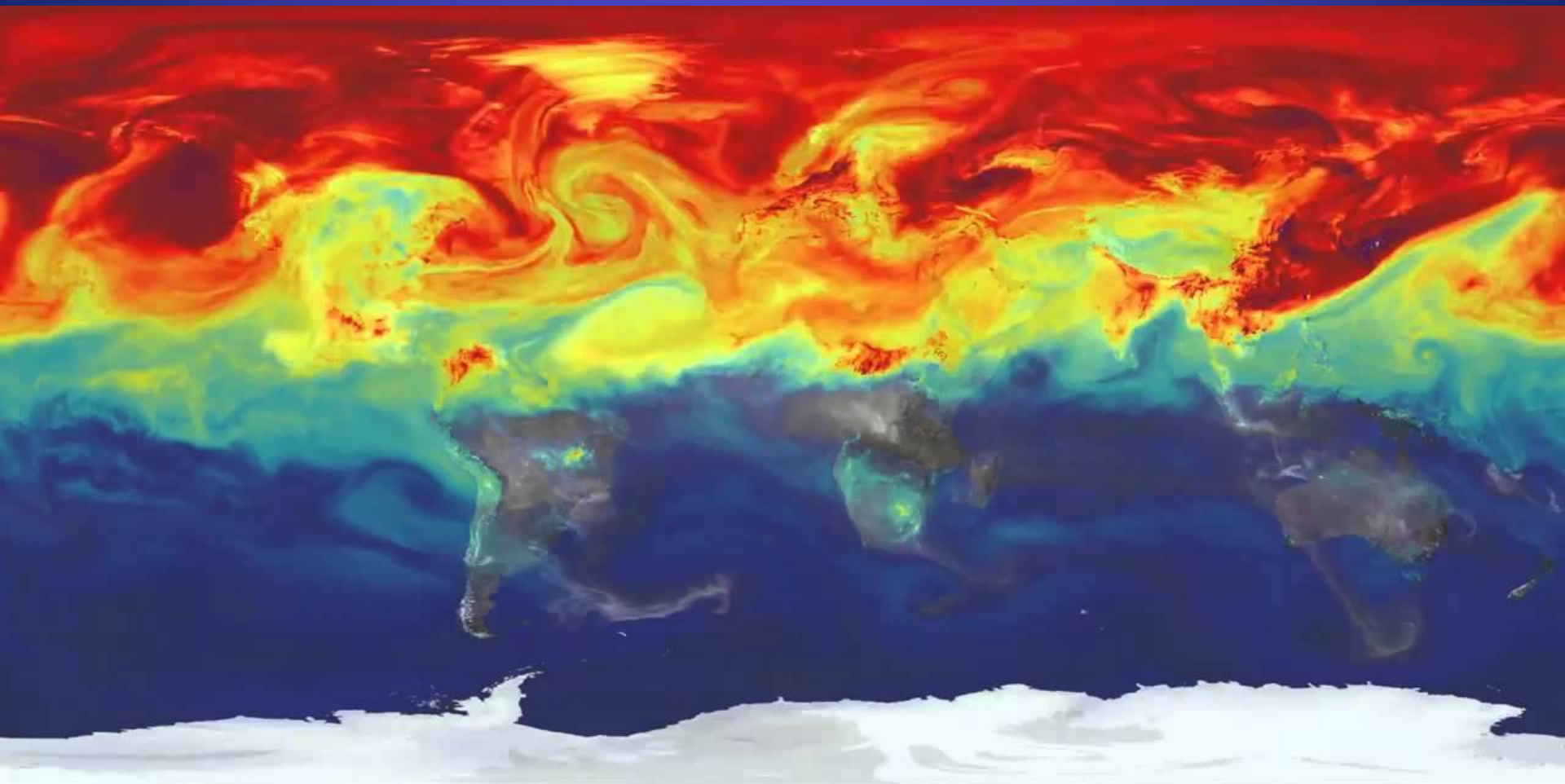
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Climate change is real

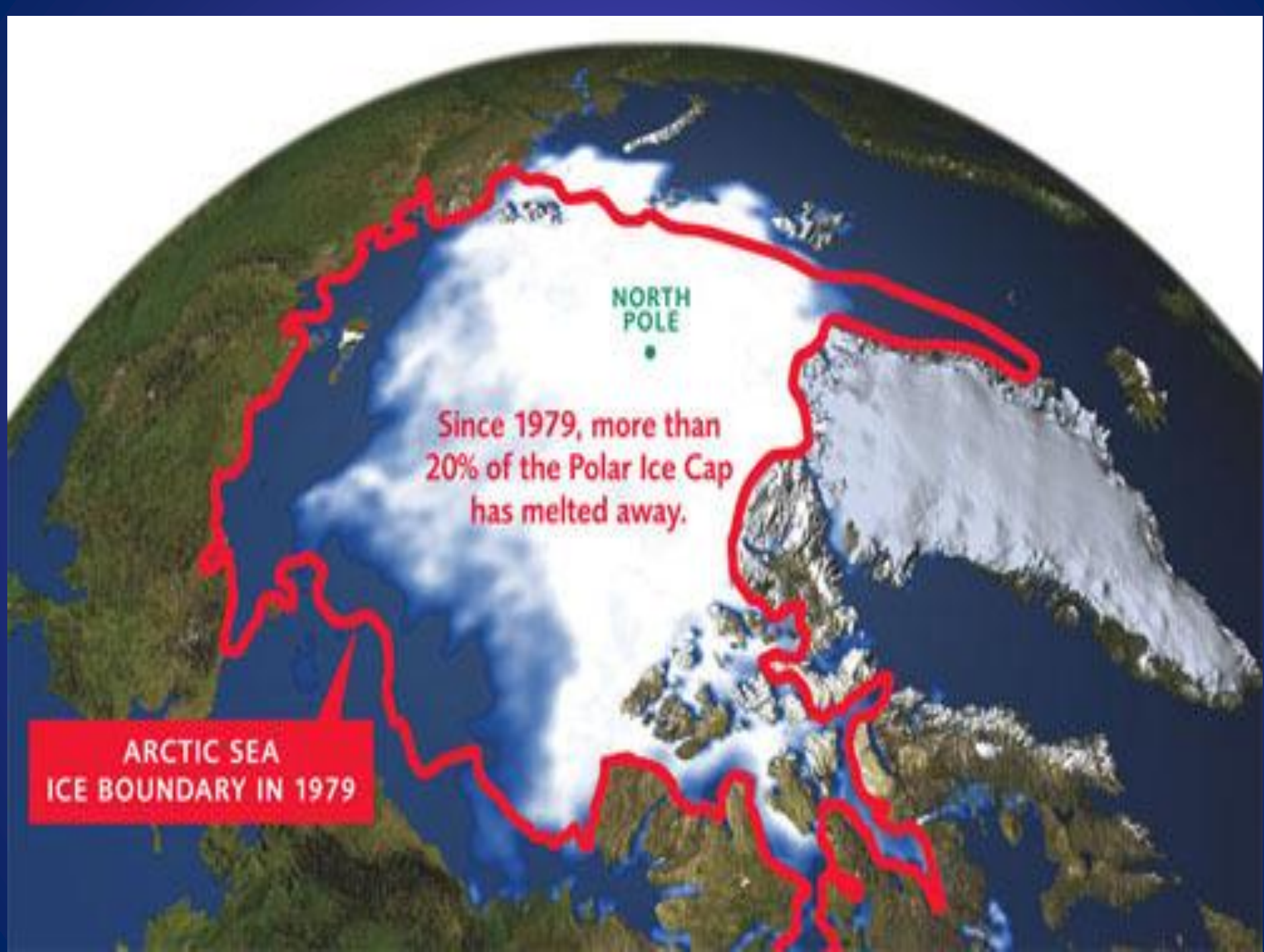
- The Earth's global climate is changing.
- The Planet Earth is warming up faster than ever before.
- The planet has warmed by an average of 1°C in the past century



What is making the Earth's climate warmer?







NORTH
POLE

Since 1979, more than
20% of the Polar Ice Cap
has melted away.

ARCTIC SEA
ICE BOUNDARY IN 1979





Impact on marines species

- Rising temperatures can directly affect the metabolism, life cycle, and behaviour of marine species.
- For many species, temperature serves as a cue for reproduction. Changes in sea temperature could affect successful breeding.
- The number of male and female offspring is determined by temperature for marine turtles, as well as some fish and copepods.





Oceans becoming more acidic

- The oceans absorb carbon dioxide released by human activities
- The increase in CO₂ means the oceans are becoming acidic.
- Fish, squid, and other gilled marine animals may find it harder to "breathe", as the dissolved oxygen essential for their life becomes difficult to extract in acidic water.
- Shellfish, crabs, lobsters, and corals may find it more difficult to build their calcium carbonate shells.
- In some areas, calcium carbonate shells may even start to dissolve.

Stormy weather

- Climate change is leading to more extreme and unpredictable weather.
- The more violent storms cause physical damage to coral reefs, other coastal ecosystems, and coastal communities.

Take action

- Be energy efficient
- Buy local
- Reduce, reuse , recycle
- Drive less, walk and cycle more and carpool
- Conserve water
- Plant a butterfly garden

