

# <https://polar-ice.org/focus-areas/polar-data-stories/what-are-the-effects-of-a-warming-arctic/>

## What are the effects of a warming Arctic?

The Arctic is a unique ice-dependent ecosystem. But, what has happened as air temperatures have warmed over time? What does that mean for the ice, animals, and plants in the Arctic?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 End  
← Prev Next →

### 1) Looking at the environment and the biology in the Arctic

To understand what is happening in the Arctic, we need to look at the environment and at the biology.

Important parts of the Arctic environment are: air, ocean, and ice (white in map on right). One kind of ice is [sea ice](#). It is frozen ocean water that forms and melts with the seasons and is a crucial aspect of the Arctic environment. Much of Arctic sea ice actually never melts away in summer and survives year-round.

Animals and plants in the Arctic are mostly ice-dependent. For half of the year most of the Arctic is covered in [sea ice](#).

One way we can learn about what has happened to the environment over time is to look at data about the atmosphere and sea ice.

We can also look to see if any changes in the animals and plants of the Arctic have happened during the same time. This can help us better understand overall what has been happening in the Arctic over time.

So let's dive into some data!

Explore the Data Story as your students would while we wait to start the webinar...



The complex block contains four images arranged in a 2x2 grid. The top-left image shows a polar bear standing on a piece of ice next to a pool of water. The top-right image shows two ducks sitting on a piece of ice. The bottom-left image shows a walrus swimming in the water. The bottom-right image is a map of the Arctic region showing sea ice coverage in 1979, with the ice area shaded in white and the surrounding land and water in green and blue. Each image has a caption and photo credit below it.

Photo Credit: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center

Photo Credit: Andreas Weith

Summer Arctic Sea Ice Coverage (1979)

Photo Credit: NOS



# Data Stories Series - What are the effects of a warming Arctic?

Wednesday, February 7, 2017



# Icebreaker poll

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What was the best part of using polar data?

- The poles are awesome
- Connects students to the science
- Brings the poles to my classroom
- Data are cool (:))

# Thank you for joining us



**Dr. Matt Druckenmiller**  
Research Scientist II  
National Snow & Ice Data Center,  
Rutgers University



**Kristin Hunter-Thomson**  
Data Stories Series Coordinator  
Program Director, Teaching Instructor  
Rutgers University

# Tonight's agenda

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8:00 pm: Welcome and webinar logistics

8:10 pm: Getting to know Matt & his work

8:45 pm: Brainstorming how to bring this into our classrooms

8:55 pm: Next steps and evaluation

# What it is and what it isn't

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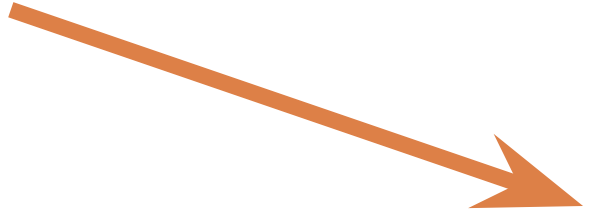
Chance to  
explore data  
from the polar  
regions

~~Fully developed  
Lesson/Unit Plan  
to teach the  
concepts~~

# Approach to this Data Story

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Data Source



Data Source



Data Source



Larger  
conclusion



Matt & his science...



# What are the effects of a warming Arctic?

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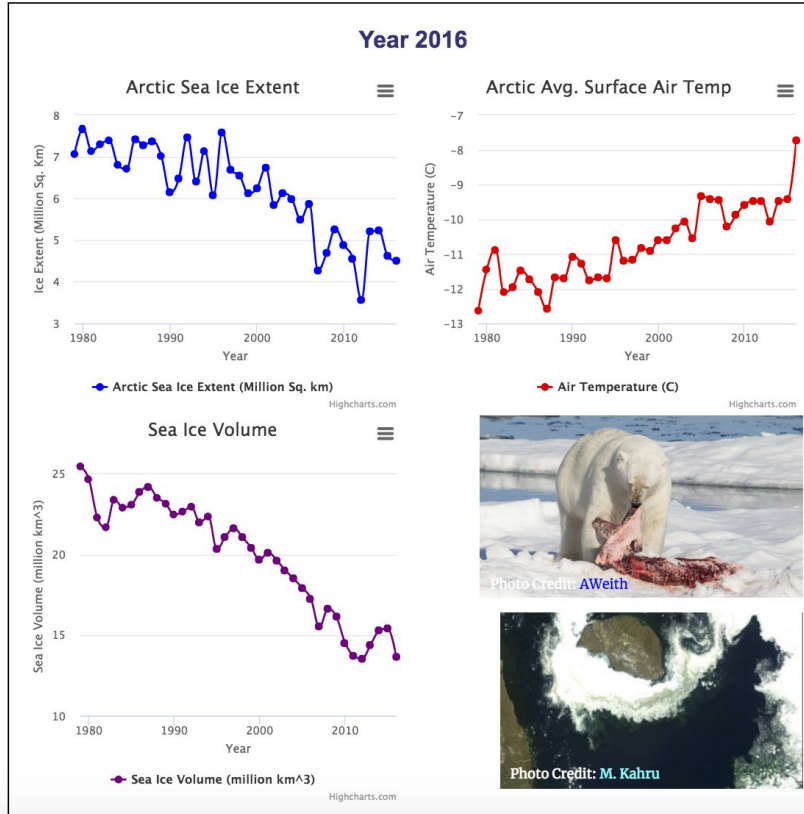
## 12) So what does this all mean for the Arctic ecosystem?

Look again through all of the data that we have been exploring. Are there overall patterns among the different variables? Do you think they are related to one another?

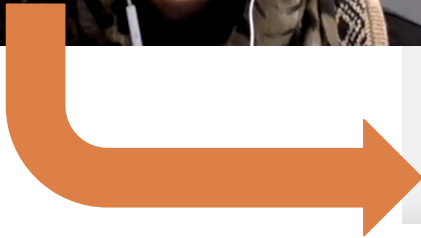
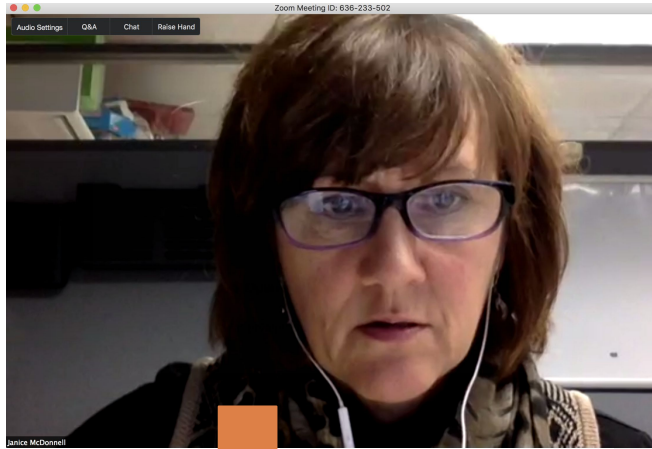
When using all of these data together, what conclusions can we make about what has been happening in the Arctic over time?

Interested in seeing how scientists think about how to talk to others about this? Explore the process of a [message box!](#)

To learn more about other things that are related to changes in sea ice (drivers), [check out here.](#)



# Promoting to Panelist



The host has promoted you to a panelist.

Rejoining...

Please click [Open zoom.us](#) if you see the system dialog.

If nothing prompts from browser, [download & run Zoom](#).

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3  
Participants

Mute Me Raise Hand

Chat

To: All panelists More

Type message here...

# Use in classroom poll

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What are some ways that we can envision bringing this into our classrooms?

- Use as “Do Now”
- Build into existing lesson/unit
- Assign as extra credit
- Other



# Let's get our kids doing this...

What are some ways that we can envision bringing this into our classrooms?

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So let's dive into some data!



# Polar Literacy Principles

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#2 - Ice is the dominant feature of the Polar Regions.

# 6 - The Poles are experiencing the effects of climate change at an accelerating rate.

# Next steps

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Open indefinitely

Recording of webinar posted by 2/8/18

“Answer recording” posted on 2/14/18

<https://polar-ice.org/focus-areas/polar-data-stories/>

# Resources provided

## What are the effects of a warming Arctic? (Feb 2018)

- [What are the effects of a warming Arctic?](#) – Link to Data Story
- Listen to Dr. Matt Druckenmiller interpret the data from this Data Story (follow along on page 7 of the Data Story) (coming 2/14/18)
- *Related Lessons:* (coming 2/9/18)
- *Related Datasets:*
  - [PIOMAS Arctic Sea Ice Volume data \(1979–2016\)](#)
  - [Reanalysis Air Temperatures data \(1948–2016\)](#): Comparing global mean with Arctic mean
- *Related Resources:*
  - [Polar Literacy Principle #2](#) – Ice is the dominant feature of the Polar Regions.
  - [Polar Literacy Principle #6](#) – The Poles are experiencing the effects of climate change at an accelerating rate.


## February 7, 2018 Webinar with Dr. Matt Druckenmiller – Resources (coming 2/9/18)

- Zoom Recording
- Audio Only
- Surround slidedeck
- Dr. Druckenmiller's slidedeck

<https://polar-ice.org/focus-areas/polar-data-stories/>



# Thank you for joining us!



**Wednesday, March 7th, 8-9pm (eastern)-  
“What should we do about the trees?”**