



Climate Change

What is climate change?

- Climate change is the changing weather and rising temperature of the Earth.
- On its website, NASA says it's "likely to be the result of human activity".

Illustration: Chinstrap penguins.

Chinstrap Penguin Numbers Decreasing

Climate change has been in the news a lot recently. Now, a team of scientists say it's affecting chinstrap penguins.

The team went to Antarctica. They used drones to count the chinstraps. They say there are fewer of them than 50 years ago.

In 1971, there were 122,550 penguins. In January 2020, there were 52,786.

So why are there fewer penguins? Professor Heather Lynch says the evidence "points to climate change."

Climate change is the changing weather and rising temperature of the Earth.

The team think it's made the seas warmer. They think there are fewer **krill** because the water is warmer.

Chinstrap penguins feed on krill. If there are fewer krill, there's less food for the chinstraps.

Some people want governments to take action. Greenpeace, a nature group, want governments to make safe places for the penguins. These special places are called

sanctuaries, where penguins are protected.

Young people are also **urging** governments to take action. **Greta Thunberg** started Friday for Future.

She has inspired many young people to skip school on a Friday to demand action.

The BBC are making a **documentary** about her meeting world leaders. The show will tell people how they can take action.

Glossary

krill	A small sea creature that looks like a shrimp.
sanctuaries	Places where animals are protected from humans.
urging	To demand that someone takes action straight away.
documentary	A factual programme that looks at a certain topic is shown on television or radio.

Questions

1. Where did the scientists count the chinstrap penguins?

- Australia
- Antarctica
- Argentina
- New Zealand

2. Compare and contrast the number of chinstrap penguins in 1971 and 2020.

3. 'Climate change is the changing weather and rising temperature of the Earth.'
Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'rising'.

- decreasing
- getting up
- increasing
- waking up

4. 'If there are fewer krill, there's less food for the chinstraps.'
This suggests that...

- there could be fewer chinstrap penguins because they have less food.
- krill aren't that important for chinstrap penguins
- polar bears will eat the chinstrap penguins.
- scientists need to count the number of krill.

5. Do you think young people were right to miss school to protest against climate change?
Explain your answer.

6. What is the most important information in this story?

Answers

- Where did the scientists count the chinstrap penguins?
 - Australia
 - Antarctica**
 - Argentina
 - New Zealand
- Compare and contrast the number of chinstrap penguins in 1971 and 2020.
In 1971, there were 122,550 penguins. In January 2020, there were 52,786.
- 'Climate change is the changing weather and rising temperature of the Earth.'
Tick the word that is closest in meaning to 'rising'.
 - decreasing
 - getting up
 - increasing**
 - waking up
- 'If there are fewer krill, there's less food for the chinstraps.'
This suggests that...
 - there could be fewer chinstrap penguins because they have less food.**
 - krill aren't that important for chinstrap penguins
 - polar bears will eat the chinstrap penguins.
 - scientists need to count the number of krill.
- Do you think young people were right to miss school to protest against climate change?
Explain your answer.
Accept any reasonable answer that refers to the story, e.g. I don't think young people should have skipped school because learning is really important.
- What is the most important information in this story?
Accept any reasonable answer that refers to the story, e.g. A team of scientists say climate change could be making the number of chinstrap penguins to go down.