

Chapter 35 Vocabulary

Essential Question: How might global warming affect the environment in the world's coldest places?

1. global warming: the gradual increase in the temperature of Earth's surface over time. This warming may be the result of natural causes. It may also be caused by human activities.
2. climate: the pattern of weather over a long period of time
3. greenhouse effect: the process by which gases in the atmosphere trap heat from the sun and keep it close to Earth's surface. This trapped heat may contribute to global warming.
4. atmosphere: the layer of air that surrounds Earth
5. greenhouse gas: any gas, such as carbon dioxide, that helps trap heat in Earth's atmosphere, contributing to the greenhouse effect
6. glaciers: a large mass of ice found near Earth's poles (continental glacier) or in a high, cold mountain valley (alpine glacier)
7. solar energy: energy from the sun that can be converted into heat or electricity
8. precipitation: moisture that falls from the sky as rain, snow, sleet, or hail
9. biome: a very large ecosystem such as a desert, forest, wetlands, or grassland; home to a community of plants and animals
10. ecosystem: a community of all the living things in an area and the environment in which they live
11. ice streams: a fast-moving section of a continental glacier
12. ice cap: a climate or a climate zone that is very cold all year with permanent ice and snow; also a permanent, dome shaped covering of ice over a large area; also a vegetation zone that is too cold to support plant life

13. ice shelf: a large, floating sheet of ice that is attached to the coast. Ice shelves can extend out to sea for hundreds of miles.
14. fossil fuel: any fuel, such as petroleum, coal, and natural gas that is made from the remains of prehistoric plants and animals
15. Industrial Revolution: the huge social and economic change in Europe and the United States that was produced by the shift from hand tools to machines in the 18th and 19th centuries
16. icebergs: a large mass of ice floating in the ocean
17. census: a count of a population