

Ecology Ice Age Worksheet 3-2-06

log on to the following website to answer the following questions regarding ice ages and the current state of our atmospheric temperature:

<http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/ice/chill.html>

1. Explain what an ice age is.
2. What 3 conditions exist on earth during these ice ages?
3. When was the Pre-Cambrian period and how long between ice ages during this period?
4. When was the Cenozoic Period and what does the evidence from this period indicate about ocean temperatures and ice sheets?
5. Describe how long ago this ocean cooling occurred.
6. Describe the most recent ice age related activity on earth.
7. Describe the climatic period we are in right now.
8. When was the most recent "ice age at its peak?"
9. What 5 factors are believe to be most responsible for ice ages?
10. What was the climate like on the earth 52+ million years ago?
11. What was the climate like in the central US?
12. What were the polar regions like?
13. Give 2 examples of how warm it was on earth during this period.
14. What is this warm period called?
15. What then happened between 32 and 50 million years ago?
16. What happened to the water temperature of the ocean near Antarctica?
17. What then happened between 20 and 36 million years ago?
18. What happened to the mean annual temperature in North America during this period.
19. What then happened around 7 million years ago?
20. What then happened between 5 and 6 million years ago?
21. Give the 2 most recent times when the earth got a break from these big chills.
22. Give 2 examples of how warm it was during this last warm period around 4 million years ago.
23. Describe our current climatic conditions.
24. Give 3 examples of the result of the cooling period we are currently in.
25. To what do most paleontologists believe has caused these most recent changes?
26. Geologically speaking what can cause temperature changes of this magnitude?
27. Give the four main actions in the Wilson cycles.
28. What happens to continents and oceans during these cycles?