

Climate change affects all life on our planet! It brings more extreme weather, and is causing the environment to change faster than it has in the past. Most animals can adapt when the changes happen slowly, but climate change is pushing them to the limit. Here are just a few of the animals feeling the impact:



1. Woodland Caribou

Woodland caribou spend the summer eating healthy plants. They try to get as much food as they can to survive the winter when it isn't as easy to find. Warmer weather means the healthy plants caribou eat are being replaced by less healthy ones and the plants that remain are often covered in ice instead of snow, so caribou cannot dig them up. This makes it harder for them to get enough to eat.



Photo: Jacob W. Frank

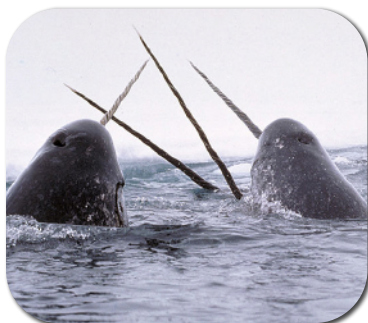
2. Collared Pika

Pikas live in the mountains of northern British Columbia, Yukon, Northwest Territories, and Alaska. They rely on snow to cover their nests and keep them warm through the winter. As climate change gets worse, it means there's less snow on the mountains. This leaves the pikas more exposed to cold temperatures and makes it harder for them to survive.



3. Vancouver Island Marmot

These marmots are specially adapted to living the Vancouver Island life. They aren't found anywhere else in the wild! In the summer, they try to eat as much as they can and then they dig snowy burrows to hibernate in over the winter. But, rising temperatures are leading to less snow for their burrows. It is also causing the lush meadows they rely on for food to dry out faster in the summer.



4. Narwhal

Narwhals are one of the few animals built to live in the coldest Arctic waters. As the waters warm up, however, new species will move into their habitat. This means more animals fighting for food and more predators. Melting ice has also made it easier for noisy boats to pass through these waters. These extra sounds make it harder for narwhals to talk to each other, navigate and hunt.



5. Polar bear

Sea ice is really important to polar bears who rely on it for hunting. They trek across the ice looking for holes and wait for seals to pop up for air. As temperatures in the Arctic rise and sea ice melts, polar bears need to swim more to reach their prey. This takes a lot more energy, which is hard to come by during the winter months when food is already limited.



6. Penguins

Penguins that live in Antarctica are facing big problems because of melting sea ice. They travel hundreds of kilometers across the ice to get to their breeding grounds. As the ice melts, this journey becomes harder because they need to find different routes or swim more. If females can't lay eggs in time, fewer new penguins are born, and this can shrink colonies for years to come.



7. Monarch Butterfly

Monarch butterflies have the longest migration of all insects in North America! They spend the summer in southern Canada and fly down to Mexico for the winter. As climate change gets worse, it is changing when these butterflies hibernate and reproduce. It is also causing their home in Mexico to become rainier and wetter, and if it is too wet out, their wings get too heavy and they can't fly.



8. Frogs

Spring is the perfect time for frogs to lay their eggs. The weather is warm enough and there's lots of food for tadpoles to eat. As climate change makes winter warmer, tadpoles are born earlier in the year when there is less food. This causes many of them to starve. Warmer weather is also causing shallow ponds to dry up, leaving fewer ponds for frogs to lay their eggs in.



9. Sea turtles

Sea turtles spend most of their lives cruising the seas. When it's time for them to lay eggs, they always swim all the way back to the beach where they hatched. With climate change causing sea levels to rise, their nesting spots are at risk. Just one higher-than-normal tide or big storm can flood turtle nests, suffocating the eggs or washing them away.



10. Koala

Koalas are native to Australia and only eat one thing: eucalyptus leaves. As more greenhouse gases go up into the air, these leaves become less nutritious. This means many koalas won't get the healthy food they need. Climate change also causes more droughts and forest fires, which can destroy the eucalyptus forests where koalas live.