

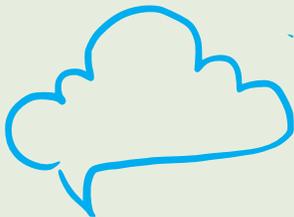


UNDERSTANDING CLIMATE CHANGE MYTHS

Misunderstandings about climate change are very common, and it can be hard to know what's true. Here are some basics to help kids tell fact from fiction.

WHAT IS A CLIMATE CHANGE MYTH?

A climate change myth sounds true but isn't based on real facts or science. It can be confusing, incorrect, missing important information, or repeated so often that people think it's true.



WHERE DO MYTHS COME FROM?

They can come from:

- People misunderstanding information
- Old information that is no longer correct
- Rumors shared on social media
- Guessing instead of checking facts

HOW CAN WE KNOW IF SOMETHING IS TRUE?

Ask these questions:

- 1. Who said this?** Is it a scientist, teacher, or trusted organization?
- 2. Is there evidence?** Are there facts, measurements, or research?
- 3. Can we find it in more than one trusted place?** If lots of scientists agree, it is more likely to be true.
- 4. Is it science or opinion?** Science uses evidence and testing. Opinions are just personal views.
- 5. Is it trying to scare us?** Myths often use big feelings instead of facts.

WHERE CAN WE FIND RELIABLE INFORMATION?

Scientists who study Earth and climate

Teachers, librarians and trusted adults

Science museums

Organizations like Environment and Climate Change Canada

COMMON CLIMATE CHANGE MYTHS



“This winter was colder than last winter, so climate change isn’t real.”

Why people say this: Cold weather can make it feel like the Earth isn’t warming.

The truth: Weather is short-term and climate is long-term patterns. Scientists look at decades of data and see that the Earth is getting warmer overall.

“Climate change is just a natural cycle.”

Why people say this: Earth’s climate has changed before.

The truth: Today’s warming is happening much faster than normal cycles. Extra greenhouse gases started accumulating in the atmosphere right after the Industrial Revolution. That’s when we started burning fossil fuels as a new source of energy.

In Canada, scientists at Environment and Climate Change Canada study temperature patterns over long periods of time. They have measurements and evidence to show that these changes are taking place.

“We can’t do anything about climate change”

Why people say this: Climate change feels really big, so it feels like there is nothing we can do.

The truth: We can help! For example,

- Scientists are creating cleaner energy.
- Cities are planting more trees.
- Countries are making rules to reduce pollution.
- Making changes in our everyday life, like conserving energy and recycling.
- Becoming an [Earth Ranger!](#)

WHEN MANY PEOPLE ACT TOGETHER, IT ADDS UP TO BIG CHANGE!

