

Asynchronous Activity 2
October 6, 2020

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First, Antarctic ice is harvested by drilling a fairly deep hole in the ice sheet. The ice core is then separated into somewhat shorter segments, and is transported onto lab benches. The cores are then melted with a very hot wire wrapped around inside a gas chamber, and suctioned into a canister. Mass spectrometry is performed on the gas in the canister corresponding to the segment, and the ratio of oxygen isotopes in the gas is calculated. This is somewhat correlated with the average atmospheric temperature when air bubbles are trapped in the ice. It is known that the deeper the air bubbles, the older the air trapped inside. The average air temperature versus time over the centuries is then graphed.