

WHY ARE GLACIERS AND SEA ICE MELTING?

Since the early 1900s, many glaciers around the world have been rapidly melting. Human activities are at the root of this phenomenon. Specifically, since the industrial revolution, carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gas emissions have raised temperatures, even higher in the poles, and as a result, glaciers are rapidly melting, calving off into the sea and retreating on land.

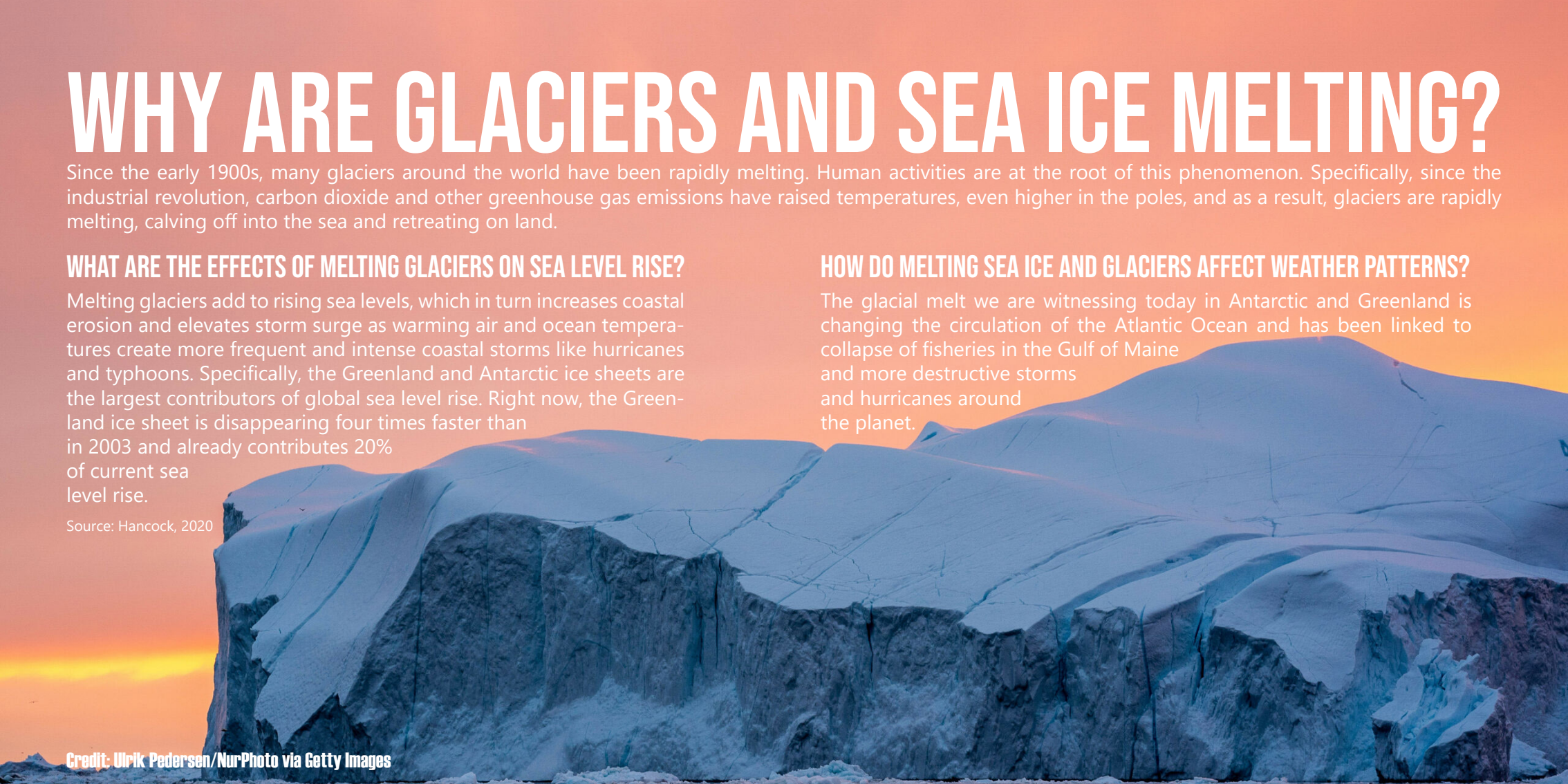
WHAT ARE THE EFFECTS OF MELTING GLACIERS ON SEA LEVEL RISE?

Melting glaciers add to rising sea levels, which in turn increases coastal erosion and elevates storm surge as warming air and ocean temperatures create more frequent and intense coastal storms like hurricanes and typhoons. Specifically, the Greenland and Antarctic ice sheets are the largest contributors of global sea level rise. Right now, the Greenland ice sheet is disappearing four times faster than in 2003 and already contributes 20% of current sea level rise.

Source: Hancock, 2020

HOW DO MELTING SEA ICE AND GLACIERS AFFECT WEATHER PATTERNS?

The glacial melt we are witnessing today in Antarctic and Greenland is changing the circulation of the Atlantic Ocean and has been linked to collapse of fisheries in the Gulf of Maine and more destructive storms and hurricanes around the planet.



TESLA MODEL 3

De Tesla Model 3 is een elektrische hatchback die sinds begin 2019 op de markt is. In 2020 is de Tesla Model 3 met een productie-aantal van 500.000 de meestverkochte elektrische auto tot dan toe ter wereld. De constructie van de Model 3 bestaat uit staal en aluminium. Volgens Tesla heeft de Model 3 een levensduur van 1,6 miljoen kilometer. De Model 3 heeft vier deuren, vijf zitplaatsen en voor- en achterin een kofferruimte. De Tesla Model 3 heeft geen instrumentarium. De gehele bediening gaat via een, in diagonaal, 38 cm groot touchscreen.

De Tesla Model 3 kan worden uitgerust met 'Autopilot'. Daarbij kan de Model 3 autonoom rijden. De Tesla is voorbereid op ADAS level 5. Daarvoor zorgen camera's, sensoren en radars. Bij slecht zicht worden de systemen uitgeschakeld. Middels updates wordt de techniek van de Model 3 telkens een beetje aangepast. Ook gedurende de levenscyclus van het model zijn tijdens de productie telkens verbeteringen doorgevoerd. Ook worden soms updates geleverd die tegen bijbetaling kunnen worden verkregen.



VERKOOPRECORDS NINTENDO SWITCH EN GAMES

Nintendo zou op weg zijn naar een nieuw record met de verkoop van zijn spelcomputer Switch en de bijbehorende games. Er wordt gerekend op een recordverkoop van 250 miljoen games, veel meer dan het verwachte aantal van 205 miljoen.

Afgelopen jaar deed het bedrijf al zeer goede zaken met de Switch-console en games voor de draagbare spelcomputer omdat mensen vanwege het thuiszitten in coronatijd naar vermaak zochten.

De verkoop van de Nintendo Switch zou komend boekjaar nog verder kunnen stijgen, na het grote succes afgelopen jaar. De verkoop van games zou door de komst van nieuwe titels moeten klimmen naar 250 miljoen stuks, zeggen ingewijden tegen Bloomberg.

Ook zou de verkoop van de Switch worden gestimuleerd door de introductie van een nieuw model met een groter oled-scherm, zeggen bronnen bij leveranciers van onderdelen.

Begin februari verhoogde Nintendo nog zijn prognoses voor de verkoop van de Switch en de goedkopere variant Switch Lite in het boekjaar tot eind maart. Het bedrijf zei toen te rekenen op een verkoop van ongeveer 26,5 miljoen exemplaren.

Bron: www.rtlnieuws.nl



 Starten

VIRTUAL REALITY

Virtual Reality (VR) is een computertechniek waarbij het lijkt alsof je in een andere werkelijkheid bent. Door een speciale VR-bril wordt de zichtbare werkelijkheid simpelweg vervangen door computergegenereerd beeld. De bril bevat namelijk een beeldscherm en sluit je zicht op de buitenwereld af. Doordat je ogen elk een eigen beeld zien, dat licht van elkaar verschilt, zie je diepte in de virtuele omgeving. Met andere woorden: je kijkt dan in 3D.

Een virtuele werkelijkheid kan lijken op de wereld zoals we die kennen, maar het kan ook een geheel fictieve omgeving zijn. Een realistische VR-ervaring is bijvoorbeeld een operatiekamer van een ziekenhuis waarin je een 'praktijkproef' uitvoert. Een fictieve VR-ervaring is bijvoorbeeld een computerspelletje met zombies.



Vaak hoor je bijpassend geluid door een hoofdtelefoon, maar andere zintuigen worden minder vaak aangesproken door de illusie. Een VR-ervaring wordt nog realistischer door bijvoorbeeld geuren en het voelen van wind. Doordat sensoren de bewegingen van je hoofd volgen, beweegt de VR-omgeving op dezelfde manier mee. Zo kun je rondkijken in de virtuele werkelijkheid. Geavanceerdere systemen herkennen het zelfs als je rondloopt of bukt. Ze nemen de bewegingen over in de virtuele werkelijkheid.

Met sommige VR-systemen kun je ook je handen zien en bijvoorbeeld virtuele dingen oppakken. Daarvoor hou je bijvoorbeeld een controller in je hand of trek je speciale handschoenen aan.

Bron: www.consumentenbond.nl

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The Psychology of Social Media

In today's cultural and technological climate, everyone uses some sort of social media. According to a monumental 2018 Pew Research Center study, 88% of respondents between the ages of 18 to 29 reported using some kind of social media. 78% of 30- to 49-year-olds said the same.

The number of reported users dips for the next age group but not as much as you may think. A stunning 64% of people between the ages of 50 and 64 use social media on a frequent basis. For a generation that didn't grow up with the internet or social media, this statistic is surprising and helps explain the prevalence of social media use in our culture.

With the pervasiveness of social media across all ages, more attention needs to be given to what it's doing to us as individual users. The endless stream of communication and connection provided by social media is changing the way we think and absorb information. As it is, people are currently developing social media habits that can simultaneously benefit and harm their mental health.

Because this trend of extended social media use will only continue, more researchers are joining the field to analyze and understand the psychology of social media in our constantly connected culture.



SIX REASONS WHY CRYPTOCURRENCY IS SO POPULAR

Cryptocurrency is something that has been a hot topic of discussion for many years now. Most people are aware of what cryptocurrency is and you might even buy Bitcoin now and then. Even so, you might not know much about why cryptocurrency is so popular at the moment. There are actually multiple reasons why cryptocurrency has become so relevant and you can explore seven of those reasons by reading the information below.

1. FEES ARE VERY LOW

One of the biggest reasons why cryptocurrency is popular around the world is that there are very few fees associated with using it. When you're using various other types of online payment options, you're often going to incur large fees.

2. NO ASSOCIATION WITH GOVERNMENTS

Another good reason why people place faith in cryptocurrencies is that these currencies aren't associated with world governments. This means that cryptocurrencies have the potential to remain stable even when there is turmoil in a specific country.

3. THERE IS POTENTIAL FOR PROFIT

Of course, the potential for profit is another huge reason why people get involved with cryptocurrencies. If you buy Bitcoin while it's at a low price, then you can potentially profit when that price rises. Lots of people who invested in cryptocurrencies before they got super hot wound up making huge profits.

4. IT'S EASIER TO USE CRYPTOCURRENCY

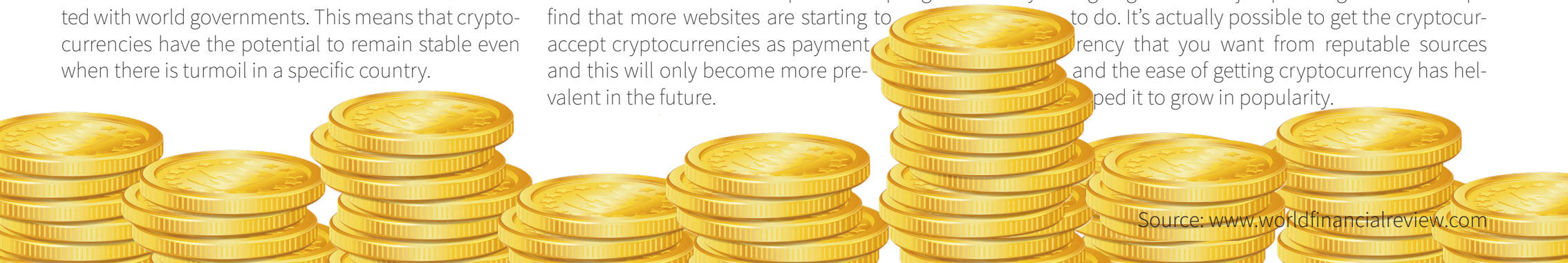
Using cryptocurrency is getting easier all the time, thanks to more online companies adopting it. You'll find that more websites are starting to accept cryptocurrencies as payment and this will only become more prevalent in the future.

5. OVERALL SECURITY IS IMPORTANT

Protecting your identity and your money is important, and you know how hard cybersecurity has become in modern times. Using cryptocurrency to pay for things online is actually a lot safer than many other traditional payment options.

6. IT'S EASY TO GET

Getting cryptocurrency isn't some difficult thing that you're going to have to jump through a lot of hoops to do. It's actually possible to get the cryptocurrency that you want from reputable sources and the ease of getting cryptocurrency has helped it to grow in popularity.





Will AI take over the world?

Will artificial intelligence one day surpass human thinking? The rapid progress of AI, coupled with our standard fear of machines, has raised concerns that its abilities will one day start to grow uncontrollably, eventually leading it to take over the world and wipe out humanity if it decides we are an obstacle to its goals. This moment is usually referred to as the “AI singularity”.

One argument against the possibility of such a supreme, unstoppable and indefinitely growing intelligence is that it would need, by definition, to be able to accurately predict the future. And quantum theory, one of modern science’s key ways of explaining the universe, says that predicting the future may not be possible because the universe is random. But what if we only think predicting the future is impossible because we aren’t intelligent enough to know otherwise?

Intelligence is a very complex and abstract concept without an agreed definition. However, there is common agreement about some of the components that make up every sort of known intelligence. One of those is the ability to solve problems, which requires the ability to plan by anticipating the future. To solve a problem, it is pivotal to understand the current conditions, predict how the environment will evolve, and to anticipate the outcome of the actions that will be applied.

Source: www.theconversation.com

NASA's SpaceX Crew-2 Astronauts Headed to International Space Station

Apr 23, 2021

NASA's SpaceX Crew-2 astronauts are in orbit following their early morning launch bound for the International Space Station for the second commercial crew rotation mission aboard the microgravity laboratory. The international crew of astronauts lifted off at 5:49 a.m. EDT Friday from Launch Complex 39A at NASA's Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

The SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket propelled the Crew Dragon spacecraft with NASA astronauts Shane Kimbrough and Megan McArthur, along with JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency) astronaut Akihiko Hoshide and ESA (European Space Agency) astronaut Thomas Pesquet, into orbit to begin a six-month science mission on the space station.

During Crew Dragon's flight, SpaceX will command the spacecraft from its mission control center in Hawthorne, California, and NASA teams will monitor space station operations throughout the flight from Mission Control Center at the agency's Johnson Space Center in Houston.

Source: www.nasa.gov



1. SWEAT POWERED SMARTWATCHES

Engineers at the University of Glasgow have developed a new type of flexible supercapacitor, which stores energy, replacing the electrolytes found in conventional batteries with sweat.

It can be fully charged with as little as 20 microlitres of fluid and is robust enough to survive 4,000 cycles of the types of flexes and bends it might encounter in use.

2. LIVING ROBOTS

Tiny hybrid robots made using stem cells from frog embryos could one day be used to swim around human bodies to specific areas requiring medicine, or to gather microplastic in the oceans.

"These are novel living machines," said Joshua Bongard, a computer scientist and robotics expert at the University of Vermont, who co-developed the millimetre-wide bots, known as xenobots.

FUTURE OF TECHNOLOGY

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Source: www.sciencefocus.com

3. ROBOTIC GUIDE DOGS

A student at Loughborough University has designed a "robotic guide dog" that will help support visually impaired people who are unable to house a real animal.

The product, designed by Anthony Camu, replicates the functions of a guide dog as well as programming quick and safe routes to destinations using real-time data.

4. CROWD-SOURCED ANTIBIOTICS

Swallowing seawater is part of surfing. But now the scientists behind a new initiative called Beach Bums want to swab the rectums of surfers, to see if this water contains the key to developing new antibiotics.

They're searching for antibiotic resistant bacteria known as superbugs: by studying the samples from the surfers, they hope to learn more about these potentially dangerous organisms in the hope of producing new drugs to combat them.