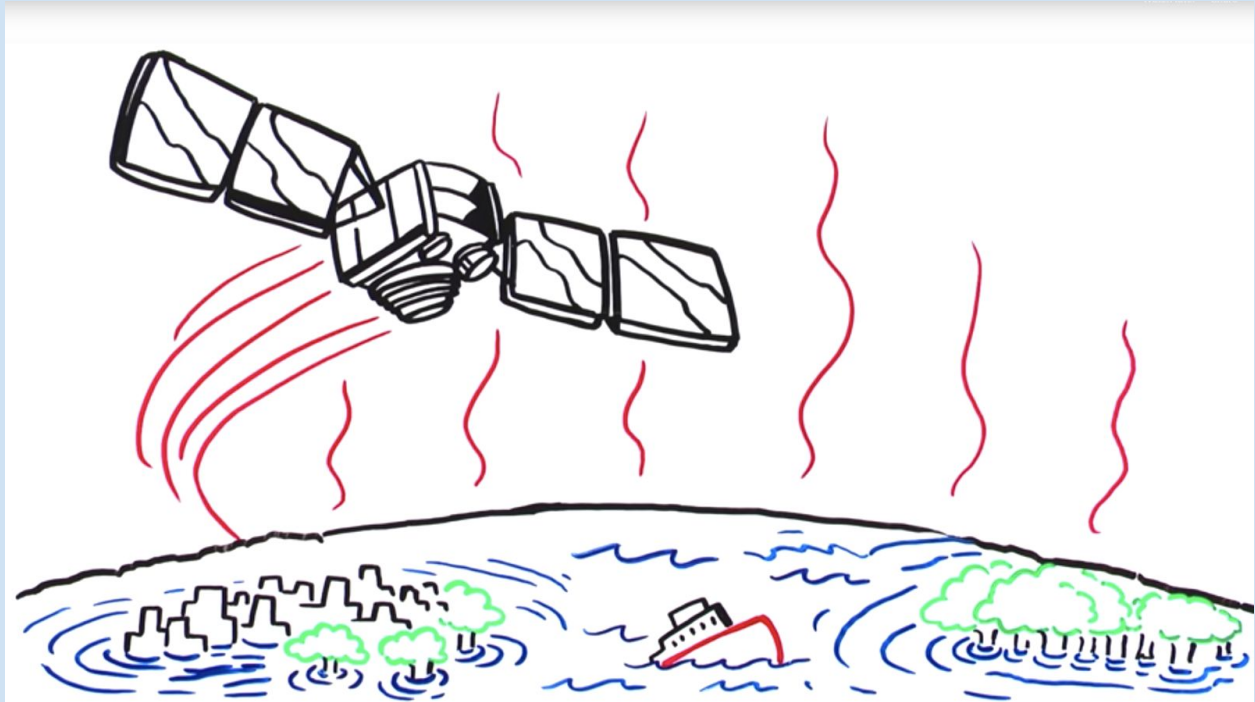


## NASA's Earth Minute: Sea Level Rise



NASA has observed the earth getting warmer... and the sea level getting higher. What's the connection?

Just like mercury in a thermometer, water expands when it's heated. And Earth's ocean is taking in more than 90% of the heat from global warming.

That's a lot.

Warmer temperatures also cause a lot of the ice to melt, and it ends up in the ocean.

A child born today can expect the ocean to rise between 1 and 4 feet in their lifetime.

In the United States alone, nearly 5 million people live within 4 feet of the local high tide level. That could mean increased flooding from storm surges. And as the ocean rises, its salt water can mix with our rivers and ground water... which is where many people get fresh water for drinking and farming.

So there's no question that sea level is rising. NASA can measure it from space. But what are we going to do about it?

Some communities are taking steps to adapt... and others are working to address the cause: global warming. It's a big challenge, but, hey, we better be up for it.

Because, right now, good old Earth is the only planet we've got!