**Media analysis assignment: Examples of trend detection in the environmental sciences.**

The websites listed below are major sources of information about trends in our environment.

- National Snow and Ice Data Center Trend Mapping:
  http://nsidc.org/data/seaice_index/

- The Sea Around Us. Trend monitoring for global fisheries:
  http://www.seaaroundus.org/data/

- EcoWest.org: Interactive dashboards for keeping track of environmental trends in the American West.  http://www.ecowest.org/

- Environmental Protection Agency Air Quality Trends for the United States:
  http://www.epa.gov/airtrends/index.html

**The assignment:**

Spend about 15 minutes exploring different visualizations of environmental trends at one of the websites listed above and answer the following questions based on what you find at the site:

Which site did you visit?

What types of trends in our environment are displayed on the site? What properties of the atmosphere, land, or ocean are they tracking?

Does the site provide any tools to determine if there are changes over time? If so, what are they?

Find a graph on the site that displays how an environmental measurement changes over time, and paste the graph below:

What do the axes of the graph represent?

Does there seem to be a trend in the data over time? How can you tell?