

## Climate Change

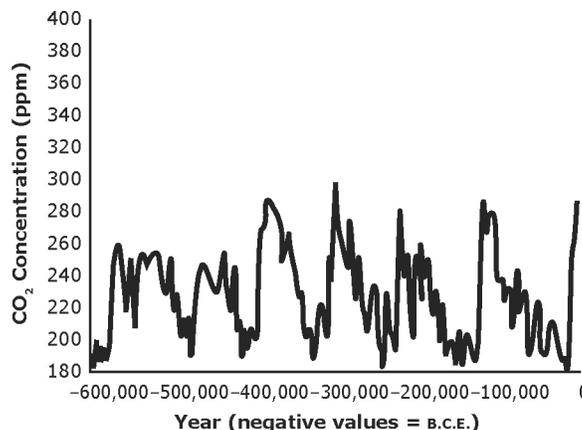
The graphs give information about the amount of carbon dioxide gas in the atmosphere over three different time frames.

Carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) is produced by many sources, including the burning of fossil fuels, and is thought to be one of the causes of global climate change.

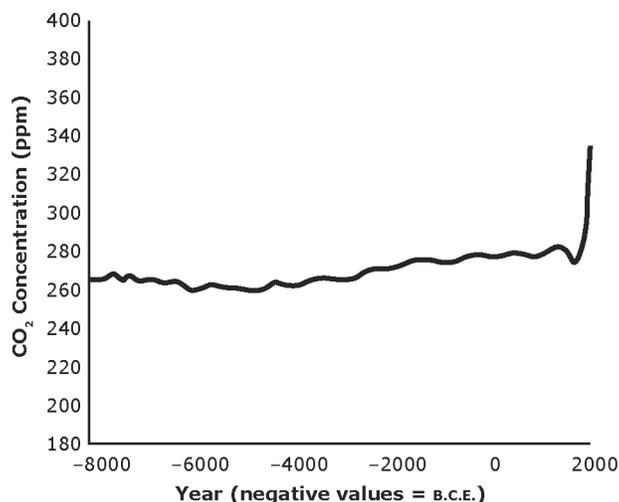
You be the journalist. Choose the graphs to use for a newspaper article on climate change and CO<sub>2</sub> levels in the atmosphere. The article will run in a school newspaper. Before you write the article, you need to do #1 to #4.

1. Which graph would you use if the point of the article was to show extreme changes in CO<sub>2</sub> concentration? Justify your choice.
2. Which graph would you use if the point of the article was to show how the level of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased and decreased over long periods of time? Justify your choice.
3. Which graph would you use if the point of the article was to show how the level of CO<sub>2</sub> has increased recently? Justify your choice.
4. Consider the first two graphs. Describe how each graph might be misinterpreted. What are some of the incorrect conclusions that could be drawn from the trends in the graphs?
5. Now, write the article.

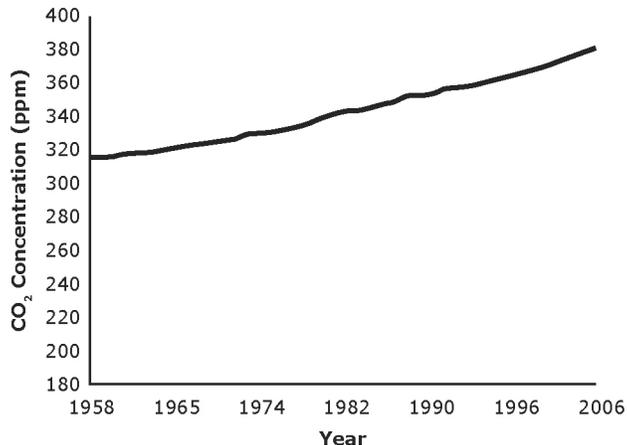
CO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations 647 428 B.C.E. to 337 B.C.E.



CO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations 8947 B.C.E. to A.D. 1975



CO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations A.D. 1959 to A.D. 2006



Source of graphs:

[http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/recentac\\_majorghg.html#fig1](http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/science/recentac_majorghg.html#fig1)