

CLIMATE CHANGE HISTORY

Ritika Sen

Freelance Content Writer

Each and every living thing on this planet Earth experiences climatic change and its variations in its own way. The most easily predictable phenomena among the various climatic changes happening are the seasonal cycles, which are then reflected in people's clothing, food, outdoor activities, and agricultural practices. But in actuality, no two seasons are exactly similar in the same place. This year-to-year variation in climate somehow leads to variations in fuel prices, crop production, road maintenance budgets, and wildlife-related risks. These single-year, climatic changes can cause or give rise to fatal disasters like floods, heatwaves, and landslides.

The time period for which climate change will exist is not something that is decidable. Climate change may exist for longer periods, even for decades. Places facing climate change may experience drought, floods, famine, or other severe conditions, becoming a huge challenge for human activities. An example can be taken off a case of the Dust Bowl droughts in the mid-continent of North America in the 1930s.

Humans started to experience climate changes since the evolution of agriculture in their lives, roughly some 10,000 years ago. However, the scientific discovery of climate change began in the early 19th century, when ice ages and other natural changes in paleoclimate were first detected. The abrupt climate changes developed since the 1980s. The research was inspired by the discovery of the ice cords of Antarctica and Greenland of evidence for sudden changes in a regional and global climate of the past. For example, during the Younger Dryas event, a cautious increase in the release of freshwater to the North Atlantic Ocean led to the instantaneous shutdown of the thermohaline circulation in the Atlantic basin.

All the living beings on the planet have survived a huge number of climatic changes in the past, making humans an adaptable species. Quick climatic changes are really tough to cope with, as they come along with a lot of challenges like economic, ecological, agricultural, human health, and other disruptions for human society. Having knowledge of past climate transitions provides guidance for the natural variability and sensitivity of the Earth system.

