

Scientists say July was hottest month ever

16th August, 2021



We hear about climate change pretty much every day now. We see pictures of floods, fires and heatwaves on TV news. Scientists have just announced that July was the hottest month ever recorded. The scientists are from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in the USA. A spokesperson from NOAA said: "July is typically the world's warmest month of the year, but July 2021 outdid itself as the hottest July and hottest month ever." NOAA said Earth's land and ocean surface temperature in July was 0.93 degree Celsius higher than the 20th-century average of 15.8 degrees Celsius. The Northern Hemisphere was 1.54 degrees Celsius hotter than average.

The NOAA spokesperson said this new record was worrying. He said: "In this case, first place is the worst place to be." The announcement from NOAA comes a week after a 4,000-page report on climate change from the United Nations. Its report is from the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). It clearly stated that humans had changed the climate. It wrote: "It is [clear] that human influence has warmed the atmosphere, ocean and land." A total of 234 scientists from 66 countries worked on the report. It warns that extreme weather will continue to get worse. It says "every region" will experience "multiple changes" in weather, like sweltering heat and flooding.

Sources: npr.org / weather.com / huffpost.com

Writing

We must all change the way we live to stop climate change increasing. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

climate change / floods / fires / heatwaves / hottest / ocean / temperature / average / record / announcement / report / humans / influence / ocean / land / extreme / heat

True / False

- 1) The article said we see floods on TV almost every day. T / F
- 2) The agency NOAA is from the USA. T / F
- 3) Earth's land and ocean surface temperature was 0.93 degree higher. T / F
- 4) The Southern Hemisphere was 1.54 degrees hotter than average. T / F
- 5) A NOAA spokesperson wasn't worried about the new record. T / F
- 6) The UN published a 5,000-page report on climate change. T / F
- 7) A total of 66 scientists helped to write a climate change report. T / F
- 8) The UN report said many regions would experience sweltering heat. T / F

Synonym Match

(The words in **bold** are from the news article.)

- | | |
|-----------------------|------------------|
| 1. pretty much | a. area |
| 2. announced | b. usually |
| 3. typically | c. boiling |
| 4. outdid | d. normal |
| 5. average | e. made it known |
| 6. worrying | f. severe |
| 7. influence | g. disturbing |
| 8. extreme | h. almost |
| 9. region | i. effect |
| 10. sweltering | j. exceeded |

Discussion – Student A

- a) What do you think of hot weather?
- b) Do you prefer hot or cold weather?
- c) What are the best things to do when it's hot?
- d) How is the weather changing in your country?
- e) How worried are you that July was the hottest weather?
- f) What do you think is causing climate change?
- g) How has climate change affected your life?
- h) What do you do in a heatwave?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. pretty | a. world's warmest month |
| 2. pictures of floods, fires | b. continue to get worse |
| 3. July is typically the | c. hotter than average |
| 4. Earth's land and ocean | d. the atmosphere |
| 5. 1.54 degrees Celsius | e. heat |
| 6. first place is the | f. and heatwaves |
| 7. human influence has warmed | g. changes in weather |
| 8. extreme weather will | h. surface temperature |
| 9. experience multiple | i. worst place to be |
| 10. sweltering | j. much every day |

Discussion – Student B

- What do you think about what you read?
- Why do many people say climate change is not happening?
- What can you do to reduce the effects of climate change?
- What does your country need to do about climate change?
- How has human influence warmed the atmosphere?
- How worried are you about extreme weather?
- What extreme weather events have you seen on the news?
- What questions would you like to ask the meteorologists?

Spelling

- We see pictures of sldoof
- fires and aetawshve
- the hottest month ever dedorecr
- July is tpilyyca the world's warmest month
- land and ocean surface eueptrrteam
- the 20th-erntuyc average
- The ennnuemnctao from NOAA
- human elnueifcn
- warmed the repoamtseh
- xmereet weather
- every rnigoe will experience multiple changes
- weegrnstli heat

Answers – Synonym Match

1. h	2. e	3. b	4. j	5. d
6. g	7. i	8. f	9. a	10. c

Role Play

Role A – Heatwave

You think a heatwave is the worst weather event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): torrential rain, freezing cold or giant hailstones.

Role B – Torrential Rain

You think torrential rain is the worst weather event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): heatwave, freezing cold or giant hailstones.

Role C – Freezing Cold

You think freezing cold is the worst weather event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): torrential rain, heatwave or giant hailstones.

Role D – Giant Hailstones

You think giant hailstones is the worst weather event. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them why their events aren't as bad. Also, tell the others which is the least worrying of these (and why): torrential rain, freezing cold or heatwave.

Speaking – Weather

Rank these with your partner. Put the worst weather at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| • Hurricane | • Heatwave |
| • Giant hailstones | • Torrential rain |
| • Heavy snow | • Blizzard |
| • Tornadoes | • Freezing cold |

Answers – True False

1 T	2 T	3 T	4 F	5 F	6 F	7 F	8 T
-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----	-----

Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.