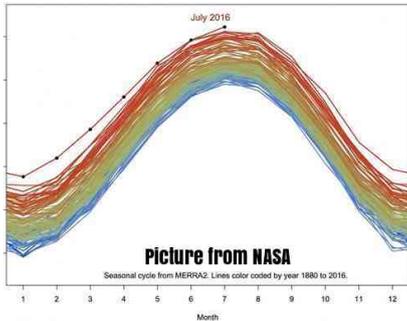


## July was hottest month in recorded history

19th August, 2016



It's official – July was the hottest month on Earth since scientists started recording the planet's temperatures. Data from America's National Aeronautics and Space

Administration (NASA) reveal that last month, the Earth hit its hottest temperatures since records began 136 years ago. NASA spokesman Gavin Schmidt tweeted: "July 2016 was absolutely the hottest month since the instrumental records began." It beat the previous hottest July in 2011 by 0.11 degrees Celsius, which scientists say is a substantial amount. According to NASA, July was the tenth straight month of record-breaking temperatures. It looks like the year 2016 might now become the hottest year on record.

The science website gizmodo.com stated that July could be the hottest month since prehistoric times. It said: "In all likelihood, it was the hottest month since the last interglacial period ended 125,000 years ago." Meteorology expert professor Jason Furtado said: "It's a little alarming to me that we're going through these records like nothing this year." The news organization Climate Central reported that the record temperatures of the past few years have been caused by the burning of fossil fuels and the occurrence of the El Niño weather phenomenon. However, Australian politician Malcolm Roberts recently rubbished climate change as a conspiracy theory and accused NASA of corrupting climate change data.

Sources: *WashingtonPost* / *gizmodo.com* / *NatureWorldNews*

## Writing

If we stop using fossil fuels, climate change will go away. Discuss.

## Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

official / planet / temperature / NASA / records / hottest / July / record / month / 2016 / science / website / prehistoric / period / fossil fuels / climate change / conspiracy theory

## True / False

- The figures for July's record temperatures came from NASA. T / F
- Scientists began recording Earth's temperatures 136 years ago. T / F
- July 2016 was 0.11°C hotter than July 2011. T / F
- The year 2016 is now the hottest year on record. T / F
- A science website said Earth was much hotter in prehistoric times. T / F
- A meteorology expert said he was alarmed by the record temperature. T / F
- A news organization said El Niño was not responsible for the record. T / F
- An Australian politician said climate change was responsible for the record. T / F

## Synonym Match

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. recording   | a. ancient      |
| 2. data        | b. considerable |
| 3. absolutely  | c. event        |
| 4. substantial | d. probability  |
| 5. straight    | e. figures      |
| 6. prehistoric | f. specialist   |
| 7. likelihood  | g. successive   |
| 8. expert      | h. documenting  |
| 9. phenomenon  | i. falsifying   |
| 10. corrupting | j. no doubt     |

## Discussion – Student A

- What's your favourite temperature and why?
- How worried are you by climate change?
- What is the cause of climate change?
- What do you think about what you read?
- What does it mean for Earth that temperatures are rising?
- What do you do to cope with high temperatures?
- Is this story newsworthy if records only go back 136 years?
- How has the weather changed in your country?

## Phrase Match

- |  |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| 1. since scientists started                  | a. month             |
| 2. It beat the previous hottest July in 2011 | b. theory            |
| 3. a substantial                             | c. on record         |
| 4. the tenth straight                        | d. prehistoric times |
| 5. the hottest year                          | e. fossil fuels      |
| 6. the hottest month since                   | f. by 0.11 degrees   |
| 7. the last interglacial period ended        | g. phenomenon        |
| 8. the burning of                            | h. recording         |
| 9. the El Niño weather                       | i. 125,000 years ago |
| 10. a conspiracy                             | j. amount            |

## Discussion – Student B

- How alarming do you think climate change is?
- What is your country doing about climate change?
- What do you think a meteorologist does every day?
- How can we reduce our use of fossil fuels?
- What do you know about El Niño?
- Could climate change be a conspiracy theory?
- What proof is there that climate change is created by humans?
- What questions would you like to ask the meteorologists?

## Spelling

- It's lficaioif
- blloaeuyts the hottest month
- since the suatnneirltm records began
- 0.11 sdegeer Celsius
- a tnsautlbasi amount
- record-breaking erprtuaetmse
- the hottest month since pirseiohtrc times
- In all oldilokihe
- the burning of lsfios fuels
- the El Niño weather hnnopmoeen
- a nsacoyrpic theory
- accused NASA of optgnurirc climate change data

### Answers – Synonym Match

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

## Role Play

### Role A – Solar energy

You think solar is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): nuclear, wind or oil.

### Role B – Nuclear energy

You think nuclear is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): solar, wind or oil.

### Role C – Wind farms

You think wind is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): nuclear, solar or oil.

### Role D – oil

You think oil is the best form of energy. Tell the others three reasons why. Tell them things that are wrong with their forms. Also, tell the others which is the worst of these (and why): nuclear, wind or solar.

## Speaking – Energy

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

- |            |                    |
|------------|--------------------|
| • solar    | • oil              |
| • coal     | • wind farms       |
| • nuclear  | • hydroelectricity |
| • biofuels | • wave power       |

### Answers – True False

a	T	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	F
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.