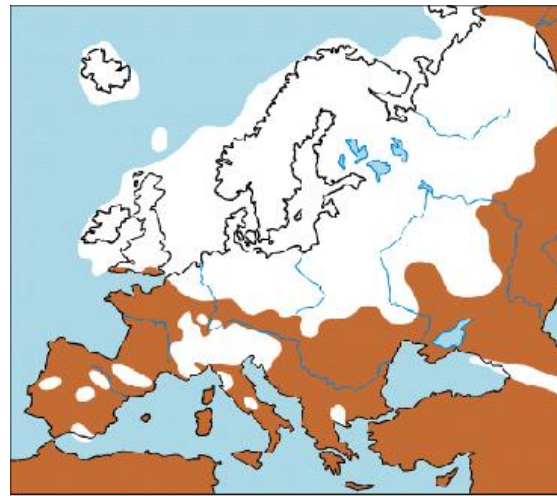


Climate change in history

The climate is often changing for a number of reasons and here are some examples of climate changes in history.

Ice Age

20,000 years ago, large parts of Europe were covered with ice and this was called the Ice Age. The ice spread out from mountainous areas and covered large parts of the land and sea. The ice was up to 4 km thick in places and stopped all wildlife from growing.



Areas covered with glacial ice during the Pleistocene

Little ice age

From 1350 - 1850, the temperatures were notably cooler all over the world. **Frozen rivers** - In winter, the river Thames froze enough for there to be a fair held on the frozen ice. Horses and carriages could ride up and down the frozen river. Here you can see the frost fair on the River Thames in London.

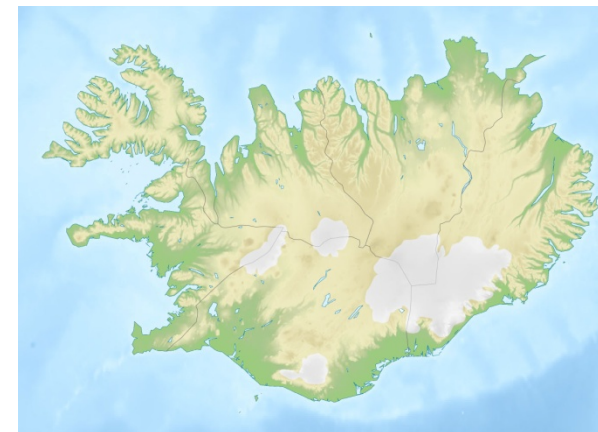


Frozen seas - Rivers were not the only things to freeze; whole seas froze over too during winter. In 1658, the Swedish army managed to surprise and beat the Danish army by marching over the frozen sea between the two countries. The ice was so thick that they were able to take 9,000 horses with them.



Famines - The cold weather led the crops to fail sometimes leading to devastating famines in France in 1693, Norway in 1695 and Sweden in 1696. It is estimated that 10% of the population died as a result of the crop failures. **Change in crops** - The cold weather meant that the crops grown also had to be changed. In China, oranges no longer grew as it was too cold. And in Britain, wine was no longer produced.

Closed harbours - For some countries, the cold winters caused great difficulties. For example, in



Iceland, the sea froze all around the country. This meant that no boats could get in or out. This was before the planes were invented and

so the country was truly cut off from the rest of the world. The population halved during the little ice age.

Your task:

We want you to imagine that the world heats up in the future. What problems can you think of that might occur? Will there be wars? Or famines or droughts? And how will this affect the people. Complete a mind map like the one below which illustrates how the world would be affected by a warmer planet.

