



Climate change: Advantages and disadvantages

Climate change is affecting all countries, but in different ways. Do you think it could ever be a positive change?

Your task

Look at the evidence for the UK and Argentina. Can you find some advantages and disadvantages for climate change in these countries?

UK

Wildlife

Toads, frogs and newts are spawning early. Spawning has occurred nine to 10 days earlier over a 17-year period.

Birds are shifting northward. Over a 20-year period, many birds have extended the northern margins of their ranges by about 12 miles (19km).

Flowers

The average first flowering date of 385 British plant species has advanced by four-and-a-half days in the past decade. In the 1990s, 16% of species flowered earlier than ever before, with an average advance of 15 days.

Temperature in England

Wednesday 19th July 2006 was England's hottest July day ever. A temperature of 36.5°C was recorded in Wisley, Surrey.

In 2001, central England had the warmest October in the 343 years of weather records. Four of the five warmest years on record occurred in the last decade.

Cold days have been in decline, while hot days have been on the increase since 1772. 1995 brought 26 days above 20°C versus an average of four days per year since 1772.

Argentina

Rainfall

Buenos Aires had its heaviest rain in 100 years in May 2000. 13.5 inches (34.2cm) of rain fell in five days. This was more than four times the average monthly rainfall.

Nearly eight million acres (3.2 million hectares) of land in the Pampas region was flooded in 2001 after three months of high rainfall. Average annual precipitation in the humid Pampas region increased by 35% in the last half of the 20th century.

Flowers

The populations of two native Antarctic flowering plants increased rapidly between 1964 and 1990. The Antarctic pearlwort population increased five-fold while the Antarctic hairgrass increased 25-fold.

The increases are attributed to warmer summer temperatures and/or a longer growing season.

Temperature in Argentina

3.7 million acres of forest (1.5 million hectares) burned in the La Pampa province, due to fires caused by record high temperatures and persistent drought. The annual average temperature in Argentina has increased by nearly 1°C over the last century.