



The Thwaites **Glacier** is in Antarctica, and it is as big as Florida, USA. Last week, scientists warned that it could break into pieces, which would be a world disaster.

The Thwaites **Ice Shelf** supports the glacier, and scientists believe that it will break within 5 to 7 years. This means that the glacier will completely break in the future, too.

Scientists are not sure when exactly it will happen. It can take hundreds of years, but it can be much sooner. Scientists worry a lot because when it happens, the sea level will rise by about 60 centimeters on the whole planet.

In 2020, scientists learned that the water under the glacier was two degrees above zero. This warm water causes the glacier to **erode** faster, and that reason is why scientists are afraid of what will happen in the future. It is clear that the sea water temperature will rise in the future, too, and this can make the glacier erode even faster.

Difficult words: **glacier** (a large mass of snow which moves very slowly), **ice shelf** (a sheet of ice that sits on land), **erode** (to slowly destroy rock, land, or ice through water or wind).

**Discussion Questions****Topic Talk**

1. Define the following words: *glacier*, *ice shelf*, *erode*
2. Where can we find the Thwaites Glacier?
3. Why do scientists believe that the Thwaites Glacier will completely break in the future?
4. What would happen if the Thwaites Glacier break or melt?
5. What is causing the Thwaites Glacier to erode faster?

Express Your Thoughts

1. Can you imagine how huge the Thwaites Glacier is?
2. Have you ever thought about the worldwide effect if the Thwaites Glacier completely melts?
3. Do you believe climate change has something to do with the melting of the Thwaites?
4. Since the Thwaites Glacier is one of the largest glacier in Antarctica, do you think it could cause a cascade of glacial collapse?
5. And what could happen to the sea-level if the Thwaites were to break and weaken the surrounding glaciers?