

MILLER/SPOOLMAN

# LIVING IN THE ENVIRONMENT

17<sup>TH</sup>



## Chapter 19

### Climate Control and Ozone Depletion

# Science Focus: Melting Ice in Greenland

- Largest island: 80% composed of glaciers
- 10% of the world's fresh water
- Glacial melting and movement accelerating
- Effect on sea level if melting continues
  - 1 meter rise by 2100

# *19-1 How Might the Earth's Temperature and Climate Change in the Future?*

- **Concept 19-1** *Considerable scientific evidence indicates that the earth's atmosphere is warming, because of a combination of natural effects and human activities, and that this warming is likely to lead to significant climate disruption during this century.*

# Weather and Climate Are Not the Same

- Weather is short-term changes
  - Temperature
  - Air pressure
  - Precipitation
  - Wind
- Climate is average conditions in a particular area over a long period of time
  - Temperature
  - Precipitation
  - Fluctuations are normal



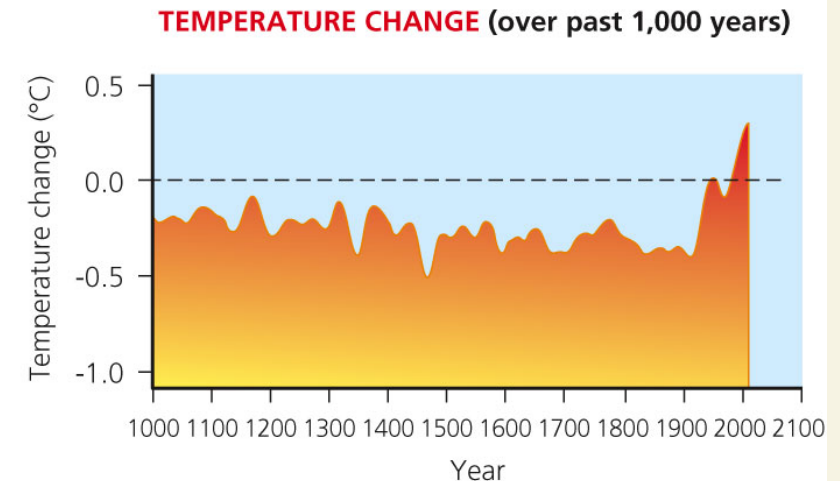
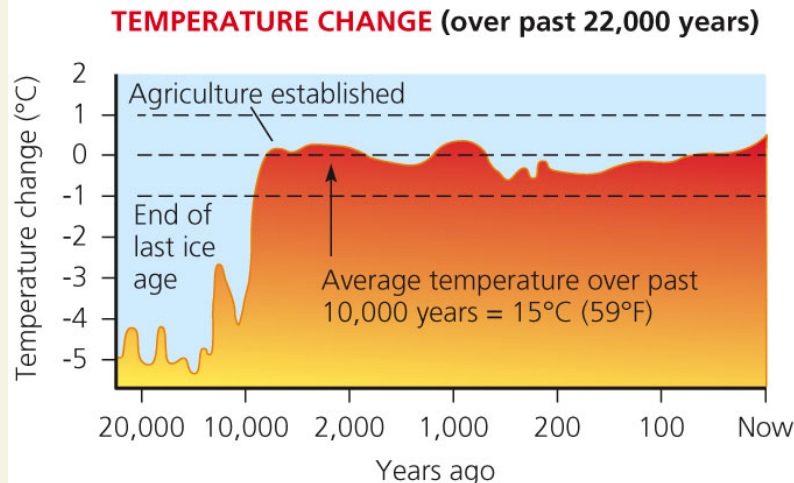
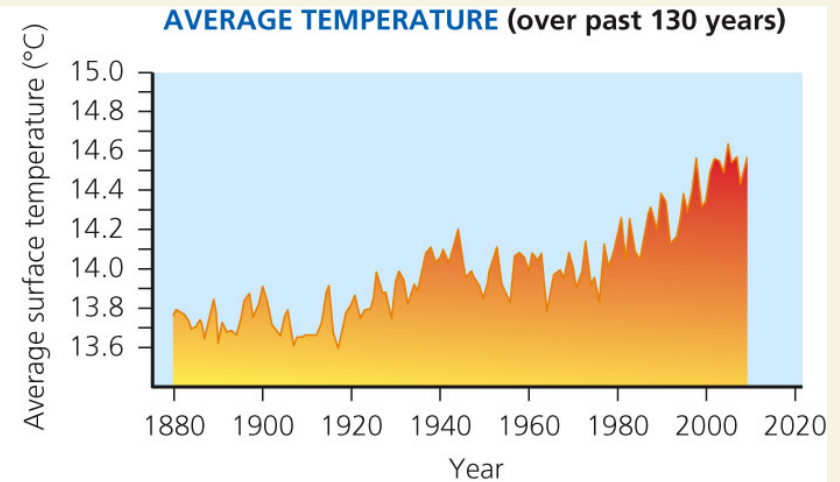
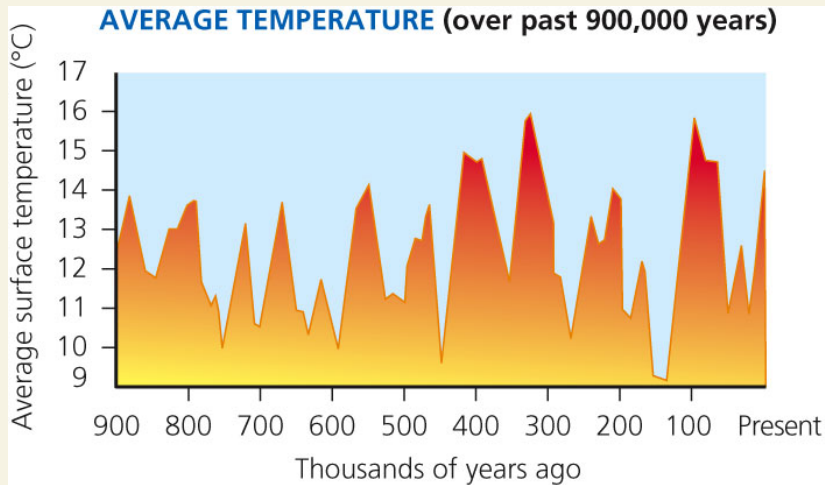
# Climate Change is Not New (1)

- Over the past 4.7 billion years the climate has been altered by
  - Volcanic emissions
  - Changes in solar input
  - Movement of the continents
  - Impacts by meteors
  - Changing global air and ocean circulation
- Over the past 900,000 years
  - Glacial and interglacial periods

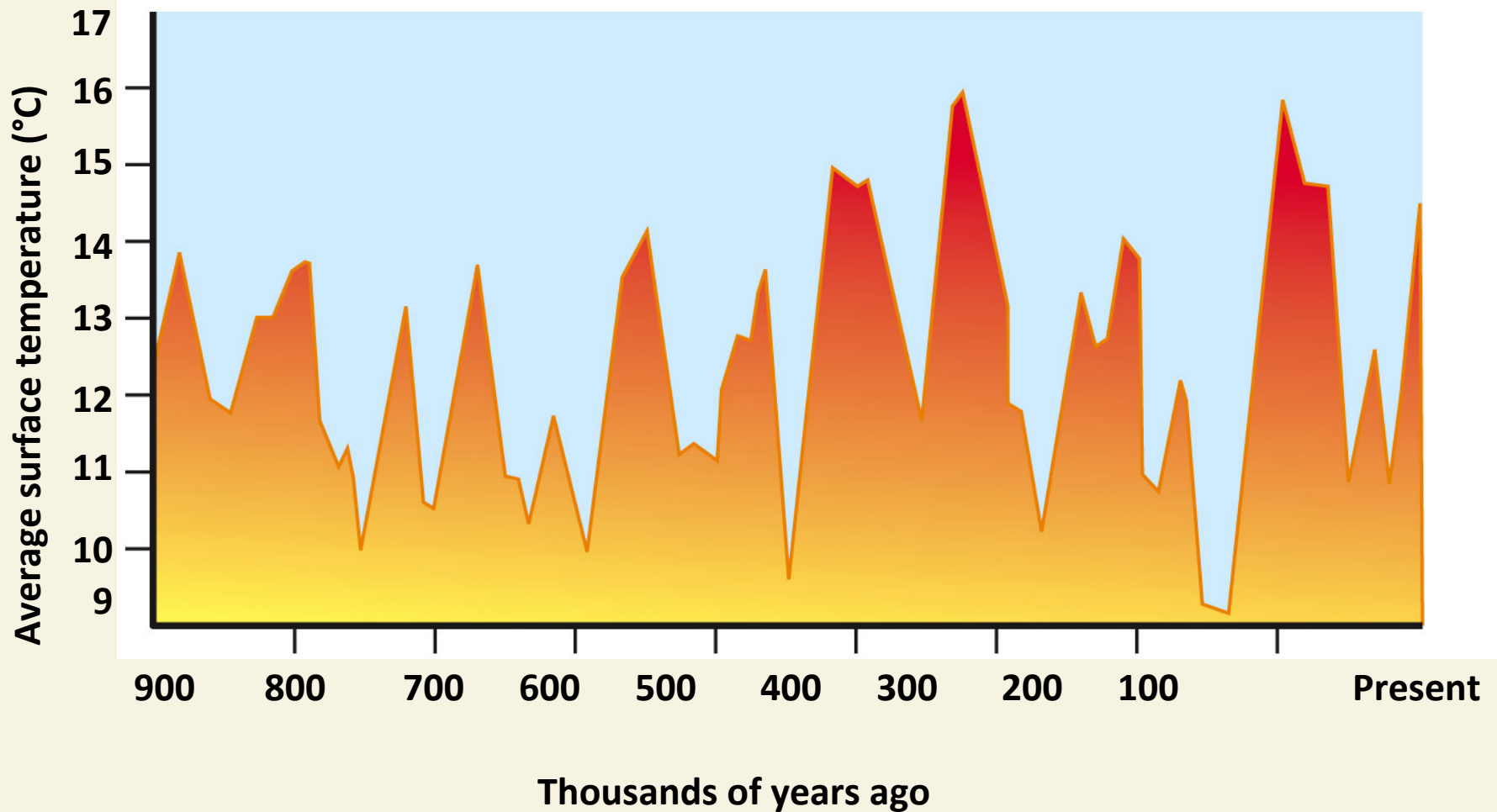
# Climate Change is Not New (2)

- Over the past 10,000 years
  - Interglacial period
- Over the past 1,000 years
  - Temperature stable
- Over the past 100 years
  - Temperature changes; methods of determination

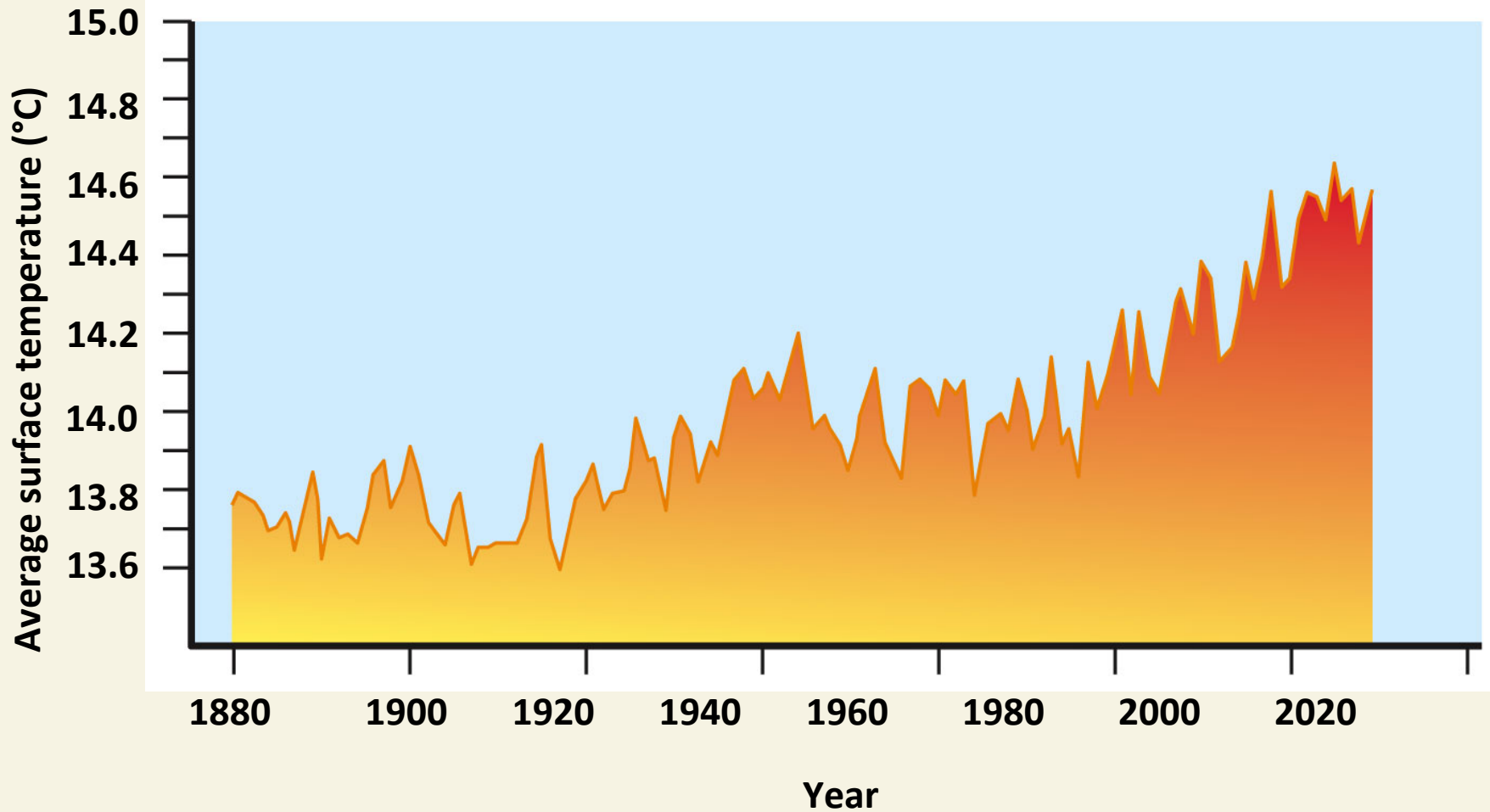
# Estimated Changes in the Average Global Temperature of the Atmosphere



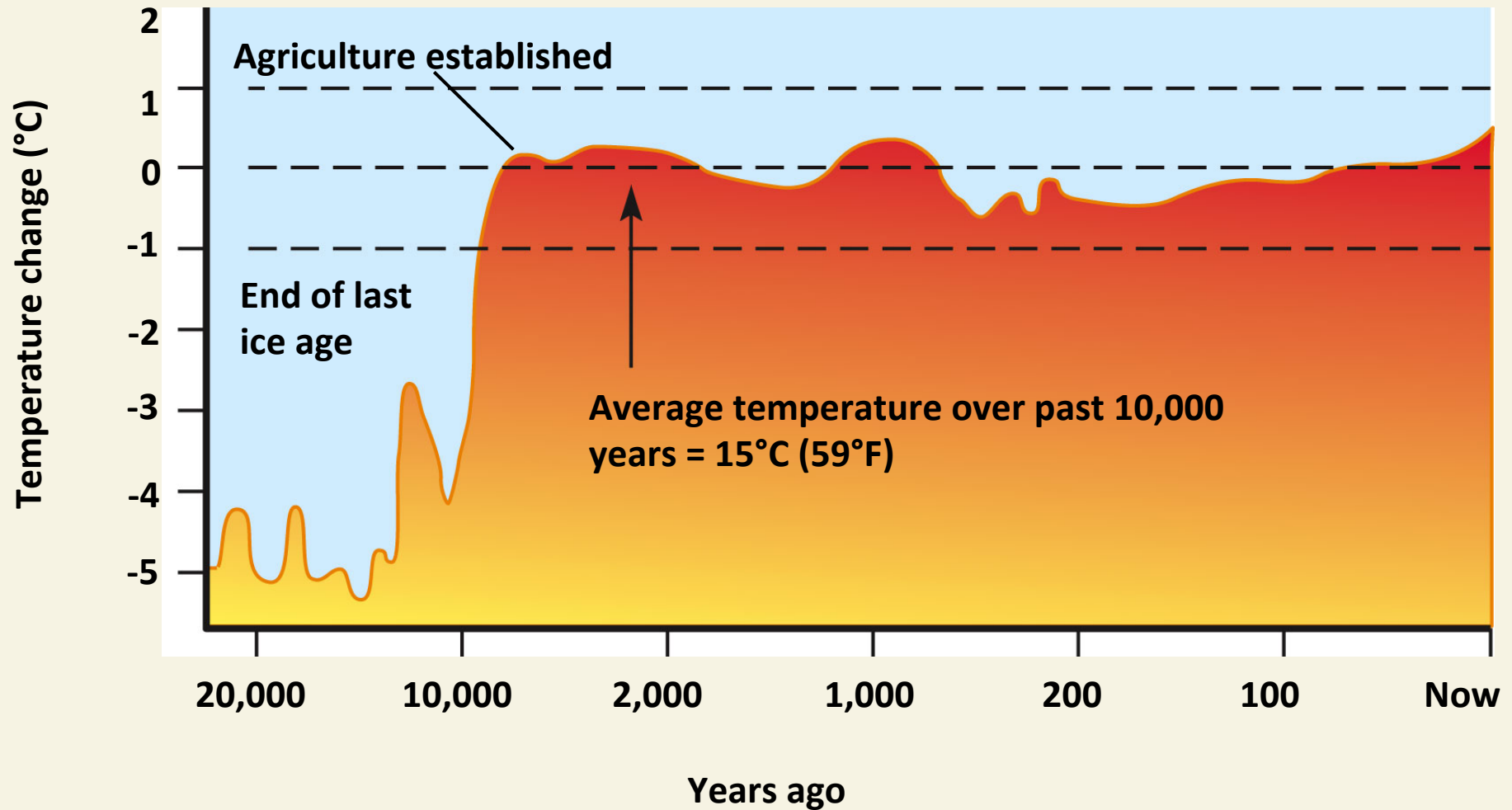
## AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (over past 900,000 years)



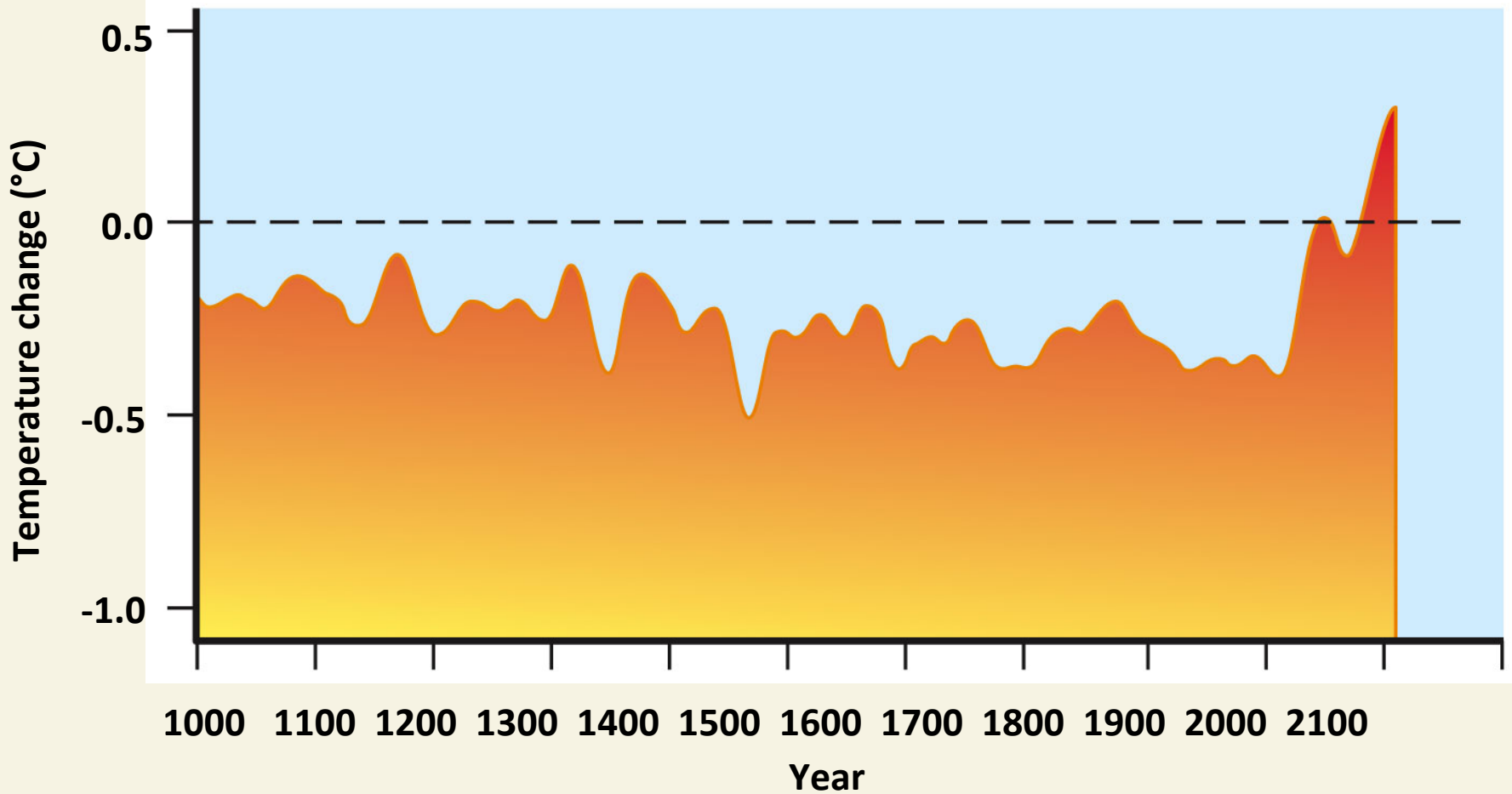
## AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (over past 130 years)



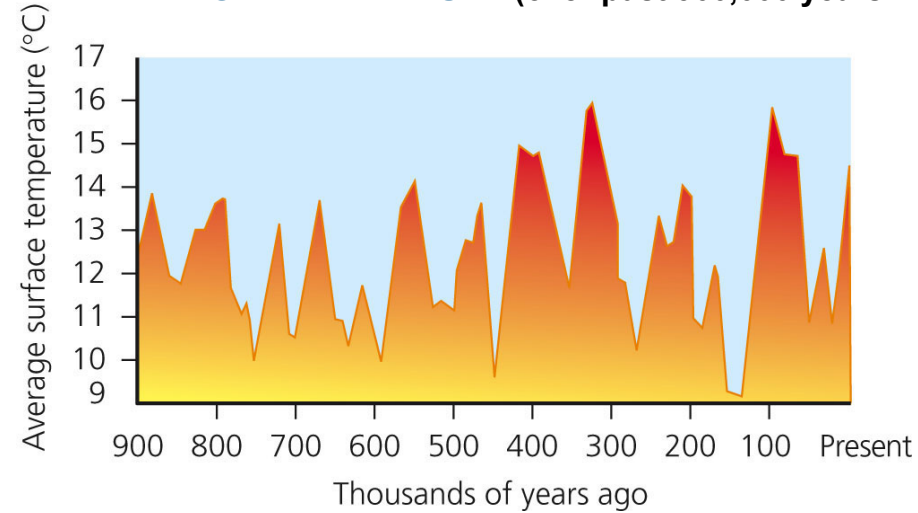
## TEMPERATURE CHANGE (over past 22,000 years)



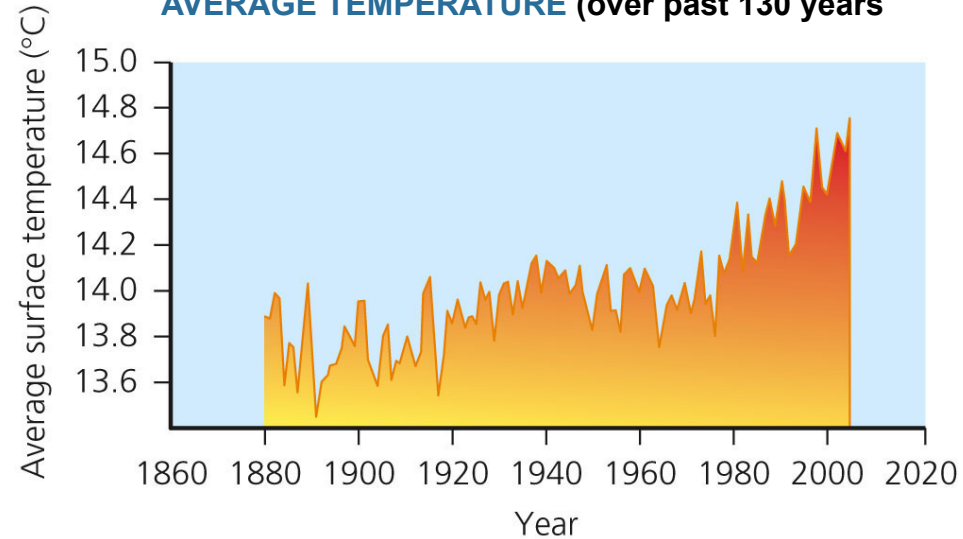
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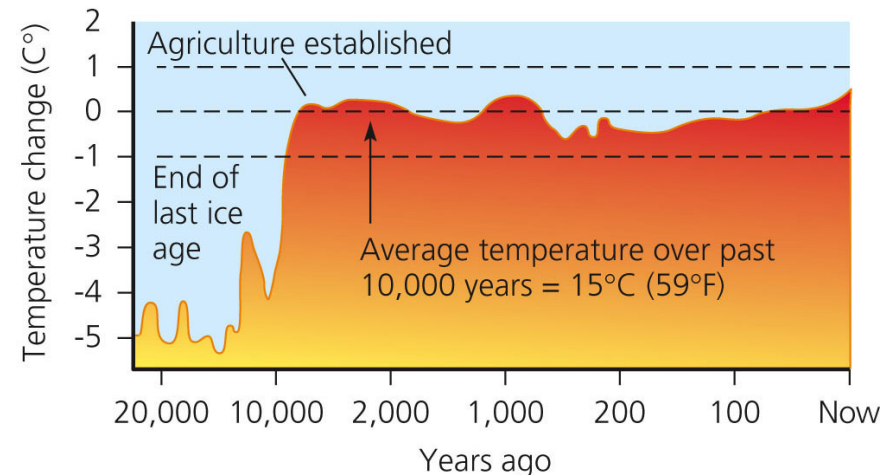
**AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (over past 900,000 years)**



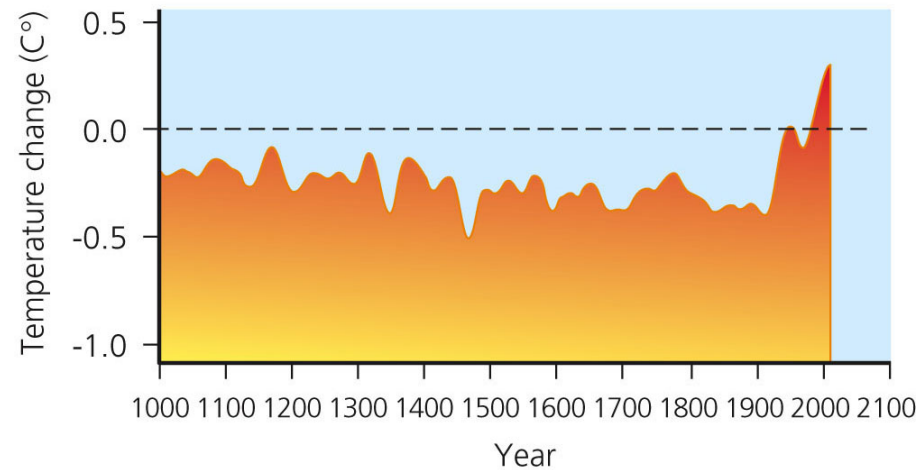
**AVERAGE TEMPERATURE (over past 130 years)**



**TEMPERATURE CHANGE (over past 22,000 years)**



**TEMPERATURE CHANGE (over past 1,000 years)**



**Stepped Art**



# Science: Ice Cores Are Extracted by Drilling Deep Holes in Ancient Glaciers



# Our Climate, Lives, and Economies Depend on the Natural Greenhouse Effect

- Greenhouse gases absorb heat radiated by the earth
  - The gases then emit infrared radiation that warms the atmosphere
- Without the natural greenhouse effect
  - Cold, uninhabitable earth

# Human Activities Emit Large Quantities of Greenhouses Gases

- Since the Industrial Revolution
  - CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O emissions higher
  - Main sources: agriculture, deforestation, and burning of fossil fuels
- Correlation of rising CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> with rising global temperatures

# Atmospheric Levels of CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub>, Global Temperatures, and Sea Levels

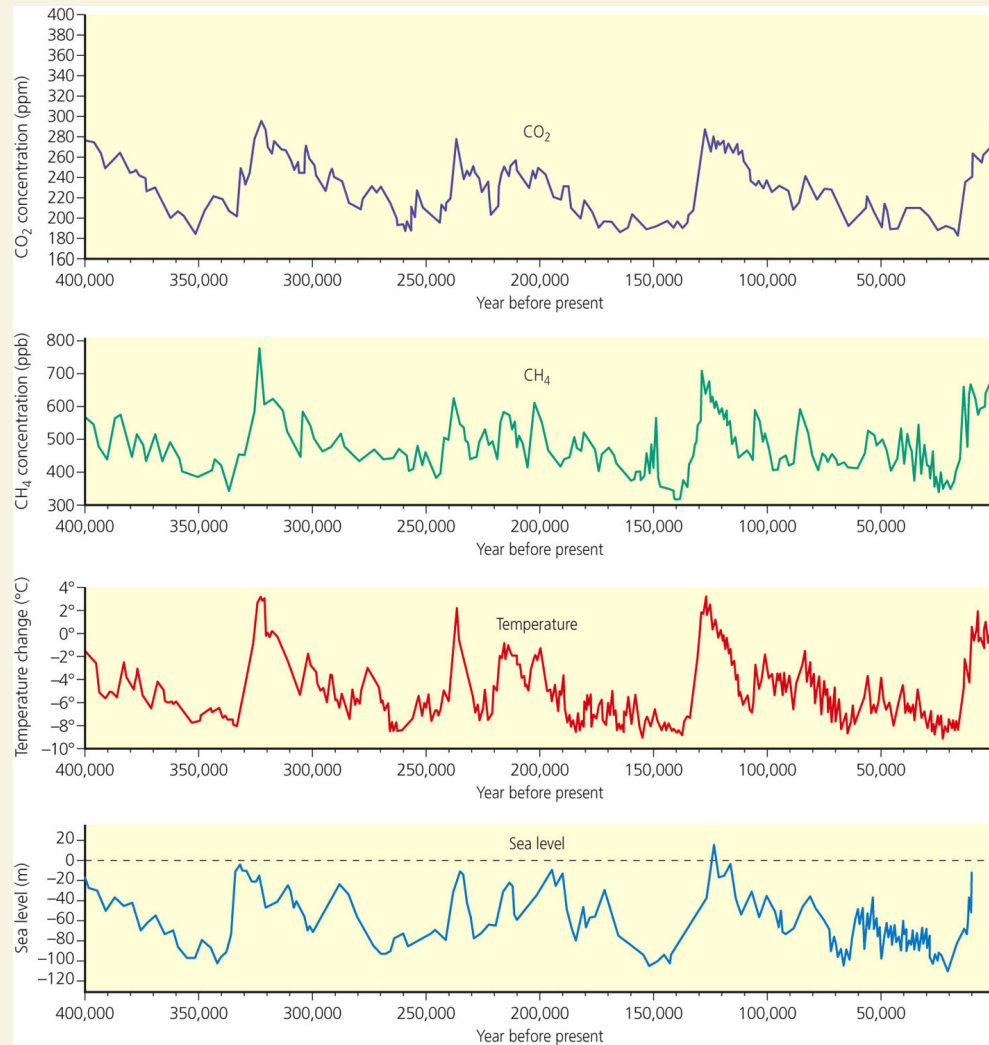


Fig. 19-4, p. 496

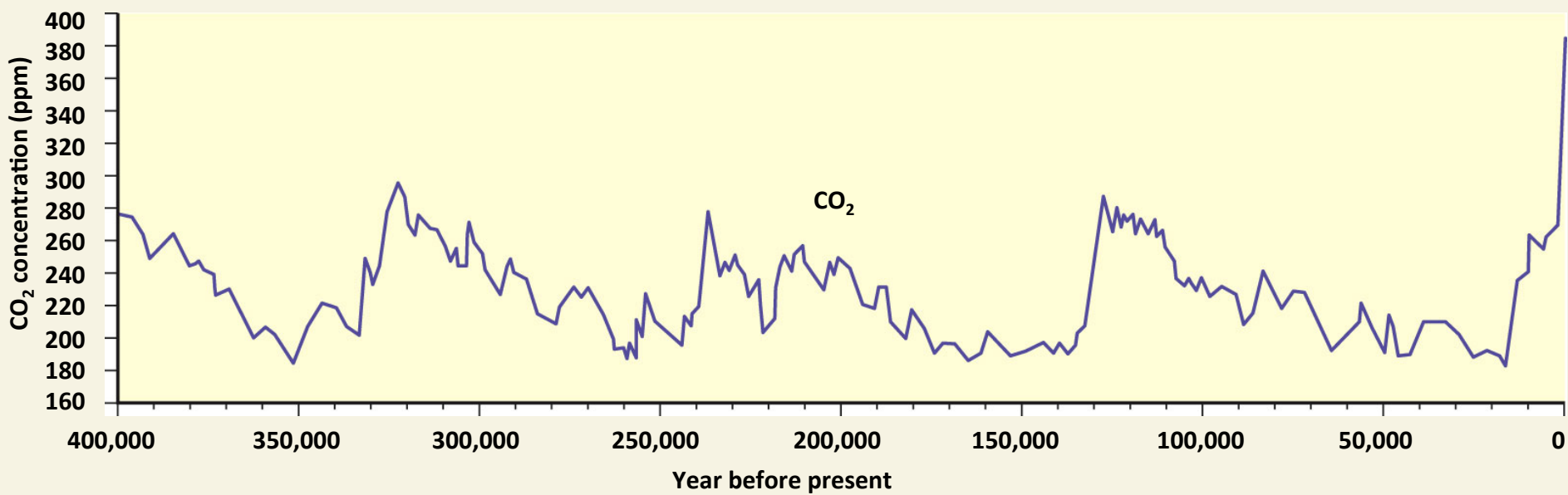
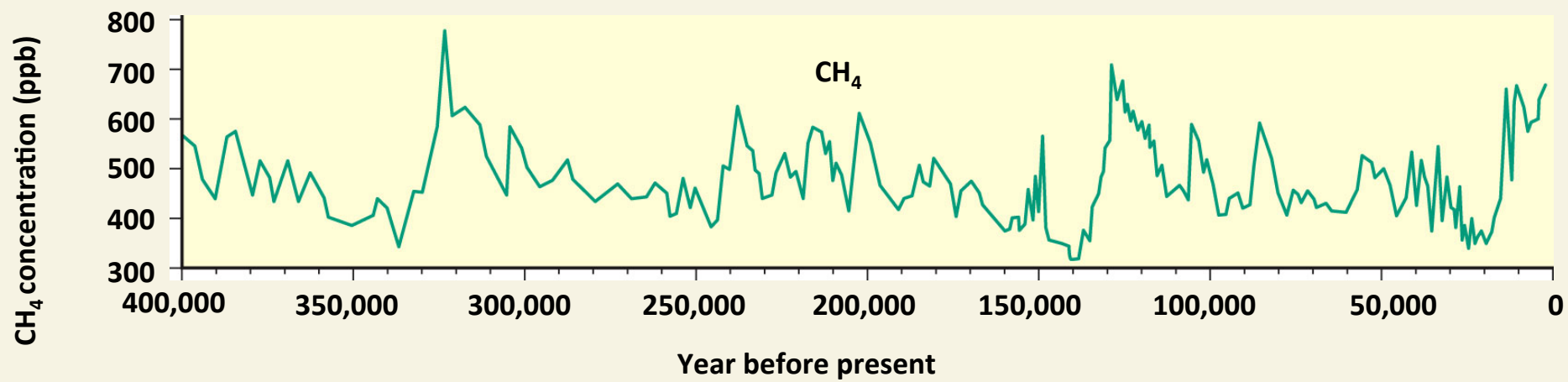


Fig. 19-4a, p. 496



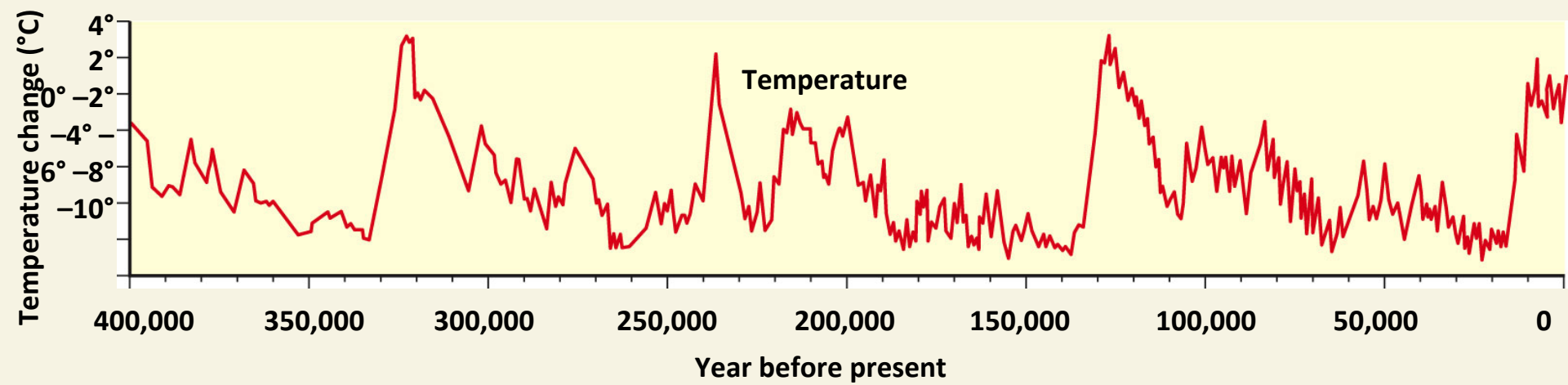
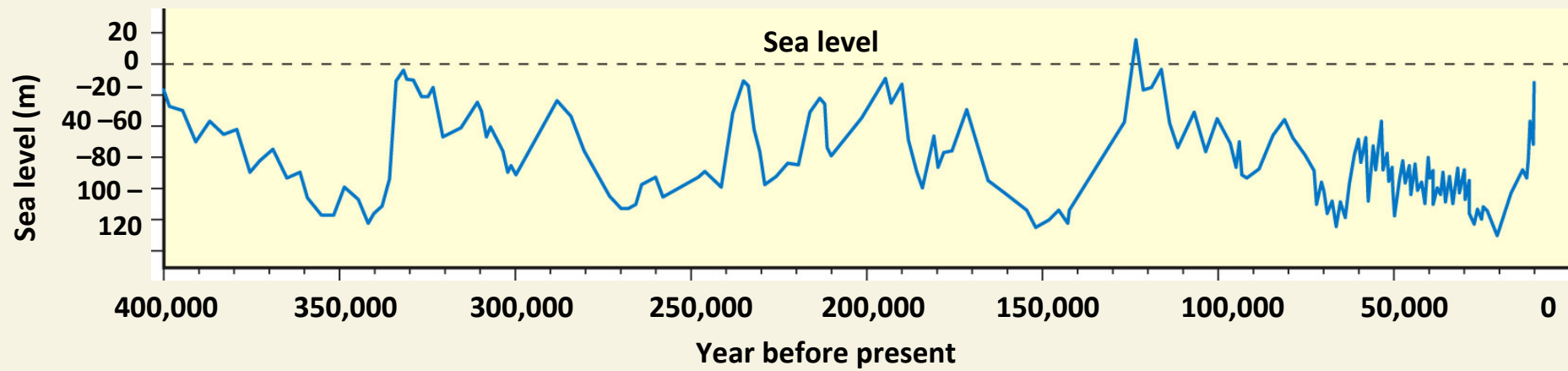


Fig. 19-4c, p. 496

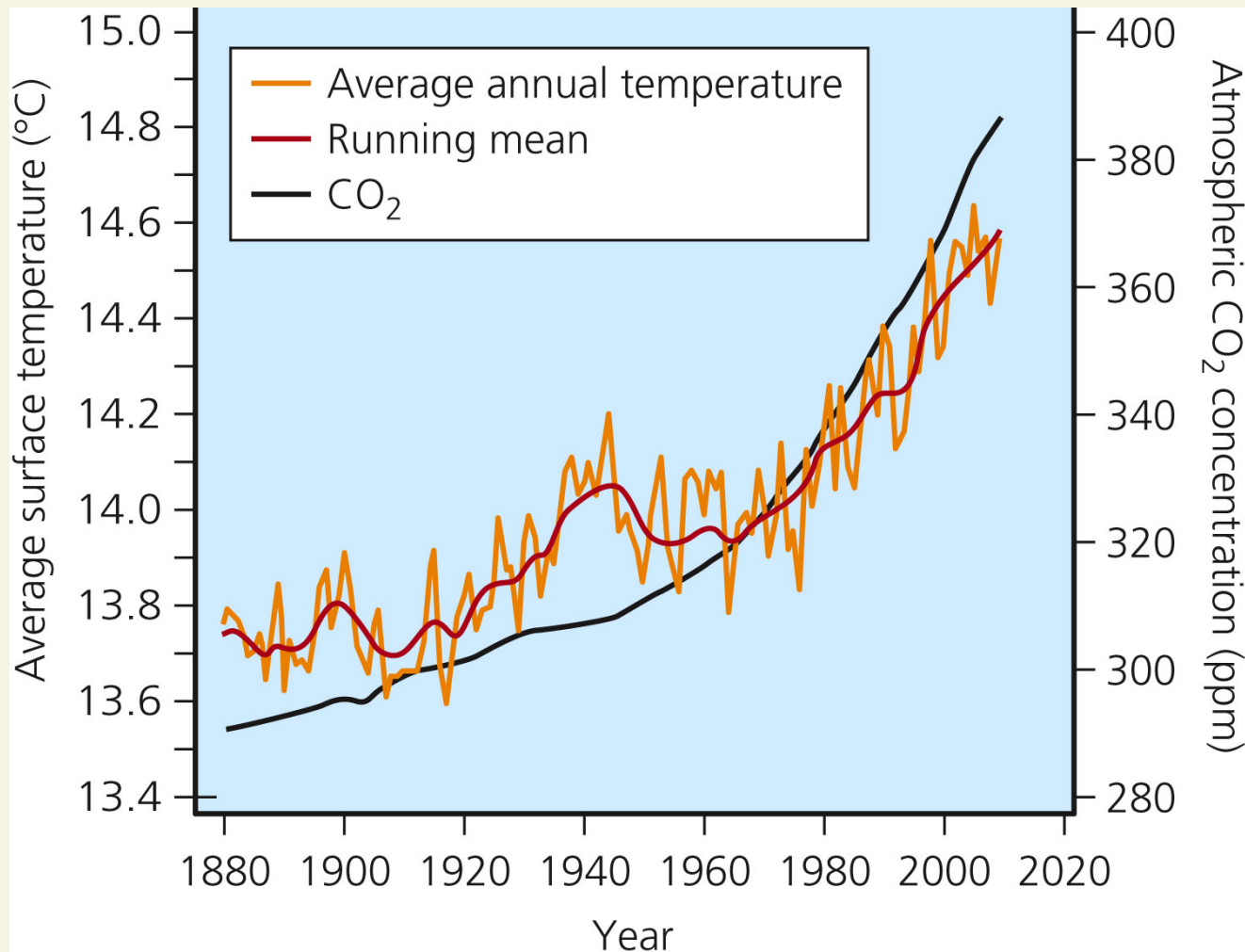








# Correlation of CO<sub>2</sub> and Temperature



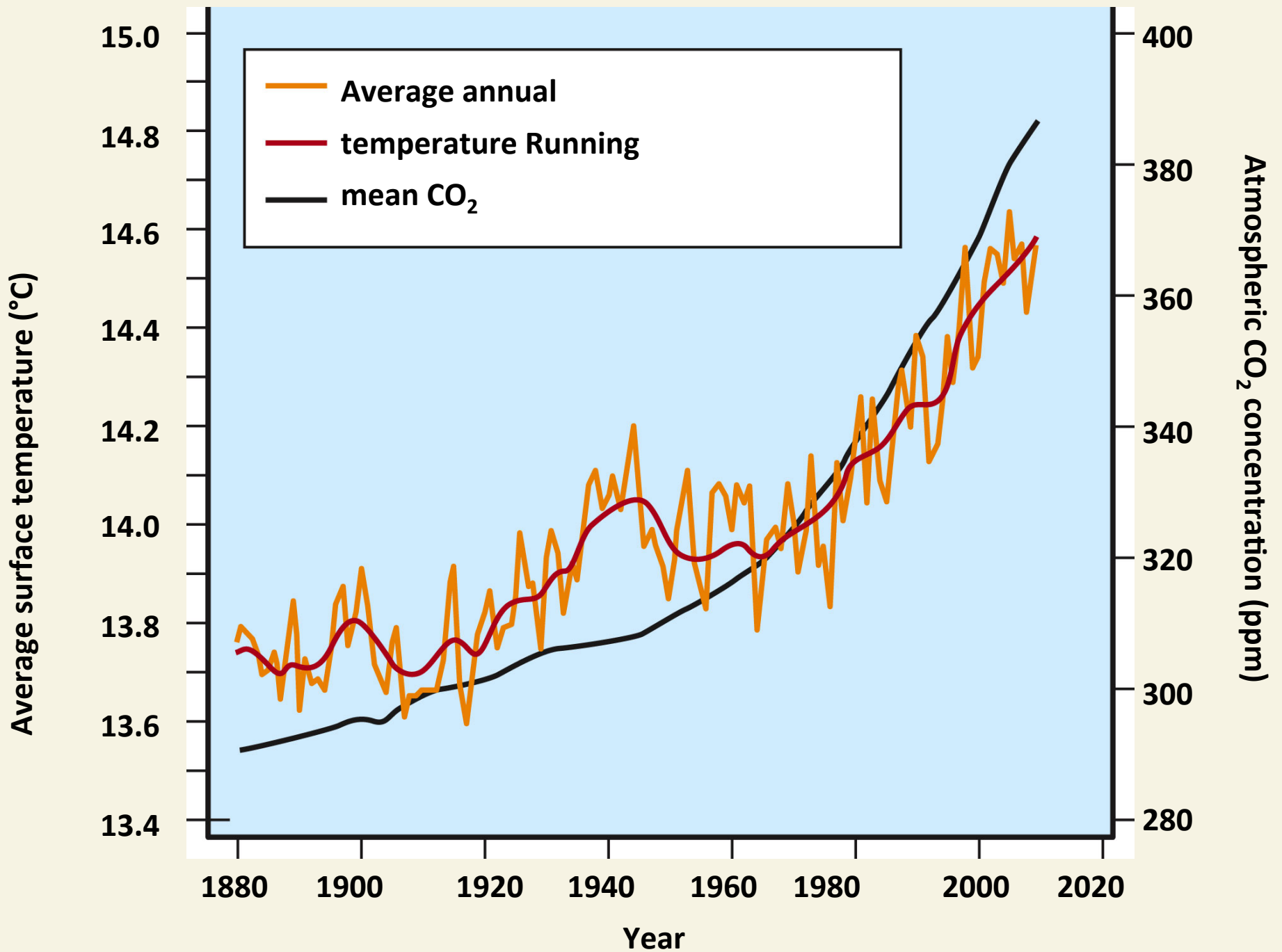


Fig. 19-5, p. 497

# CO<sub>2</sub> Concentrations, 1960-2009

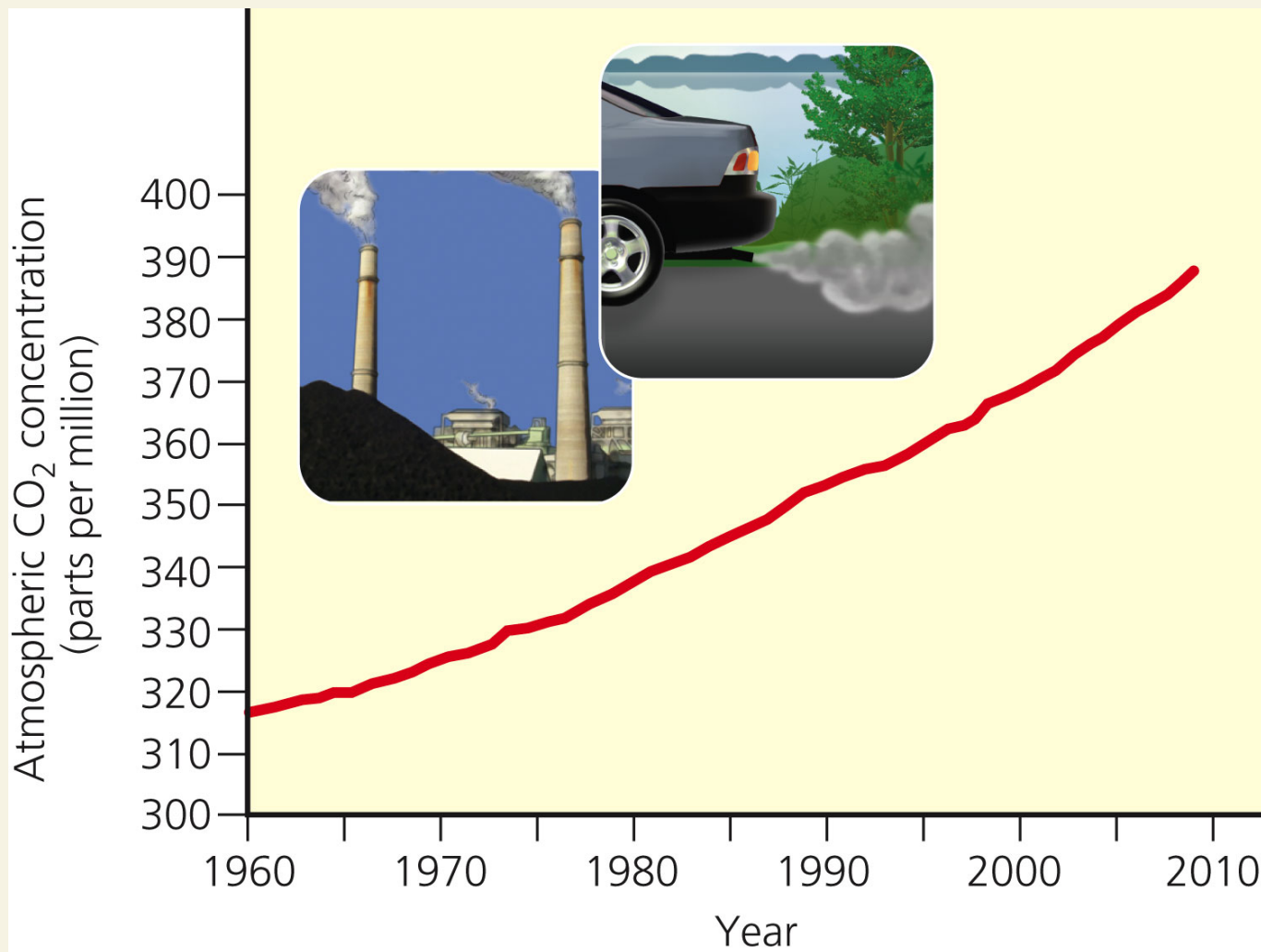


Figure 14, Supplement 9

# Human Activities Play a Key Role in Recent Atmospheric Warming (1)

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with 2010 updates
  - 90–99% likely that lower atmosphere is warming
    - Especially since 1960
    - Mostly from human-caused increases in greenhouse gases
    - Earth's climate is now changing from increased greenhouse gases
  - Increased greenhouse gas concentrations will likely trigger significant climate disruption this century
  - Ecological, economic, and social disruptions

# Human Activities Play a Key Role in Recent Atmospheric Warming (2)

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), with 2010 updates, cont.
  - 1906–2005: Ave. temp increased about 0.74°C
  - 1970–2009: Annual greenhouse emissions from human activities up 70%
  - 2000-2009 warmest decade since 1881
  - Past 50 years: Arctic temp rising almost twice as fast as the rest of the earth
  - Melting of glaciers and increased floating sea ice
  - Last 100 years: sea levels rose 19 cm

# Human Activities Play a Key Role in Recent Atmospheric Warming (3)

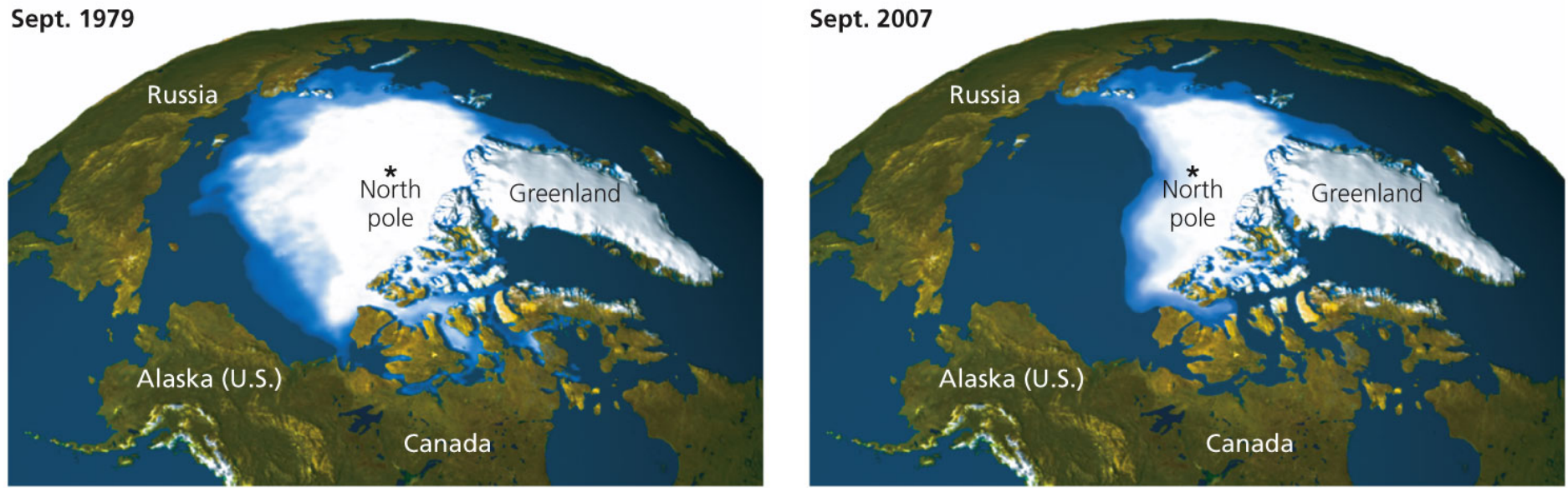
- What natural and human-influenced factors could have an effect on temperature changes?
  - Amplify
  - Dampen

# Melting of Alaska's Muir Glacier between 1948 and 2004





# The Big Melt: Some of the Floating Sea Ice in the Arctic Sea





**2°C (3.6°F) Warming with 450 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> (now unavoidable effects)**

- Forest fires worsen
- Prolonged droughts intensify
- Deserts spread
- Major heat waves more common
- Fewer winter deaths in higher latitudes
- Conflicts over water supplies increase
- Modest increases in crop production in temperate regions
- Crop yields fall by 5–10% in tropical Africa
- Coral reefs affected by bleaching
- Many glaciers melt faster and threaten water supplies for up to 100 million people
- Sea levels rise enough to flood low-lying coastal areas such as Bangladesh
- More people exposed to malaria
- High risk of extinction for Arctic species such as the polar bear

**3°C (5.4°F) Warming with 550 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> (potentially avoidable effects)**

- Forest fires get much worse
- Prolonged droughts get much worse
- Deserts spread more
- Major heat waves and deaths from heat increase
- Irrigation and hydropower decline
- 1.4 billion people suffer water shortages
- Water wars, environmental refugees, and terrorism increase
- Malaria and several other tropical diseases spread faster and further
- Crop pests multiply and spread
- Crop yields fall sharply in many areas, especially Africa
- Coral reefs severely threatened
- Amazon rainforest may begin collapsing
- Up to half of Arctic tundra melts
- Sea levels continue to rise
- 20–30% of plant and animal species face premature extinction

**4°C (7.2°F) Warming with 650 ppm CO<sub>2</sub> (potentially avoidable effects)**

- Forest fires and drought increase sharply
- Water shortages affect almost all people
- Crop yields fall sharply in all regions and cease in some regions
- Tropical diseases spread even faster and further
- Water wars, environmental refugees, terrorism, and economic collapse increase sharply
- Methane emissions from melting permafrost accelerate
- Ecosystems such as coral reefs, tropical forests, alpine and Arctic tundra, polar seas, coastal wetlands, and high-elevation mountaintops begin collapsing
- Glaciers and ice sheets melt faster
- Sea levels rise faster and flood many low-lying cities and agricultural areas
- At least half of plant and animal species face premature extinction

# Science Focus: How Valid Are IPCC Conclusions?

- 2500 scientists working for over two decades to reach consensus on climate change data and likely impact
  - Unanimity impossible to achieve
  - Gaps in data
  - Debate about interpreting data
  - Need for better models
  - 2007 IPCC report and Nobel Prize

# Science Focus: Using Models to Project Future Changes in Atmospheric Temperatures

- Mathematical models used for projections
- Global warming: rapid rate
- Human factors are the major cause of temperature rise over the last 30 years
- Always uncertainty with any scientific model



# Simplified Model of Some Major Processes That Interact to Determine Climate

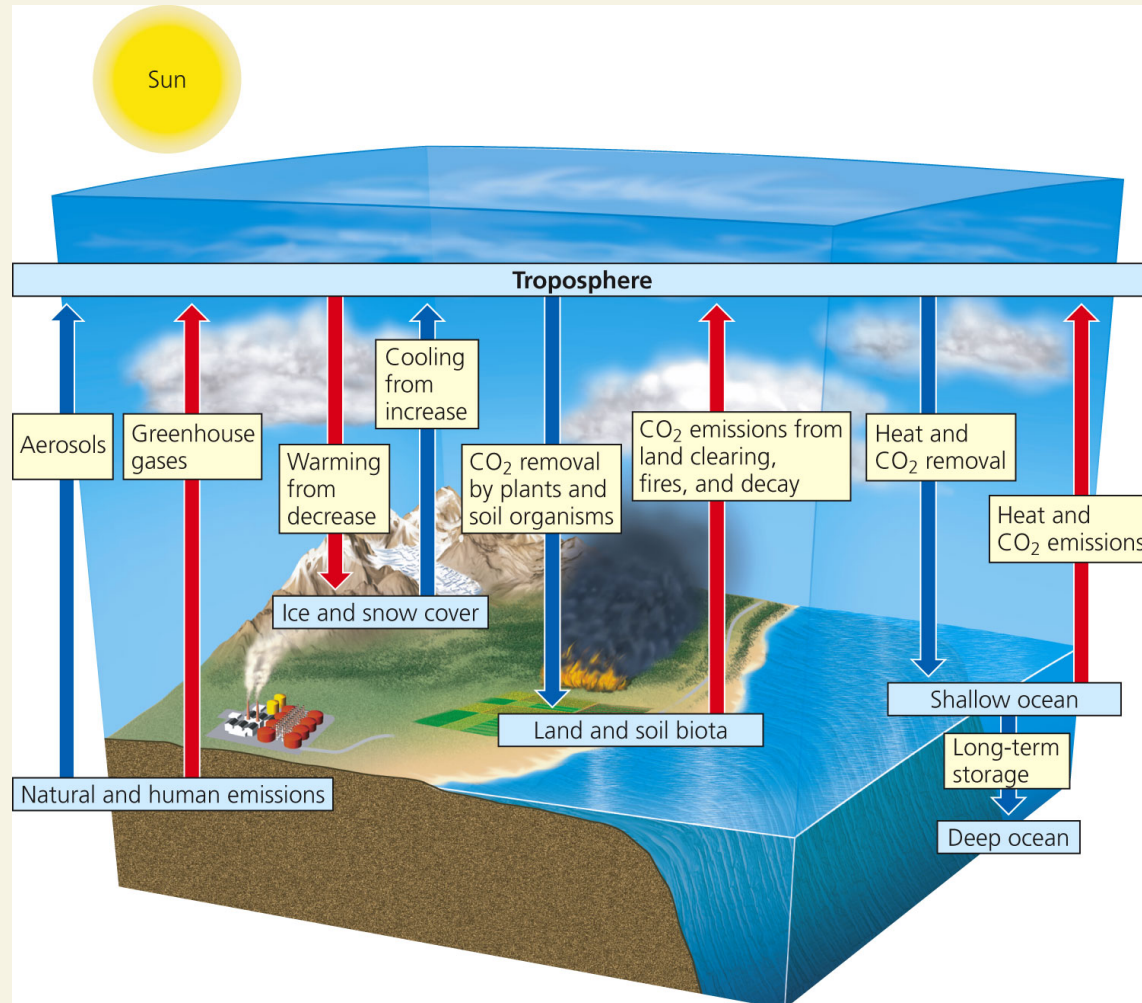


Fig. 19-A, p. 500

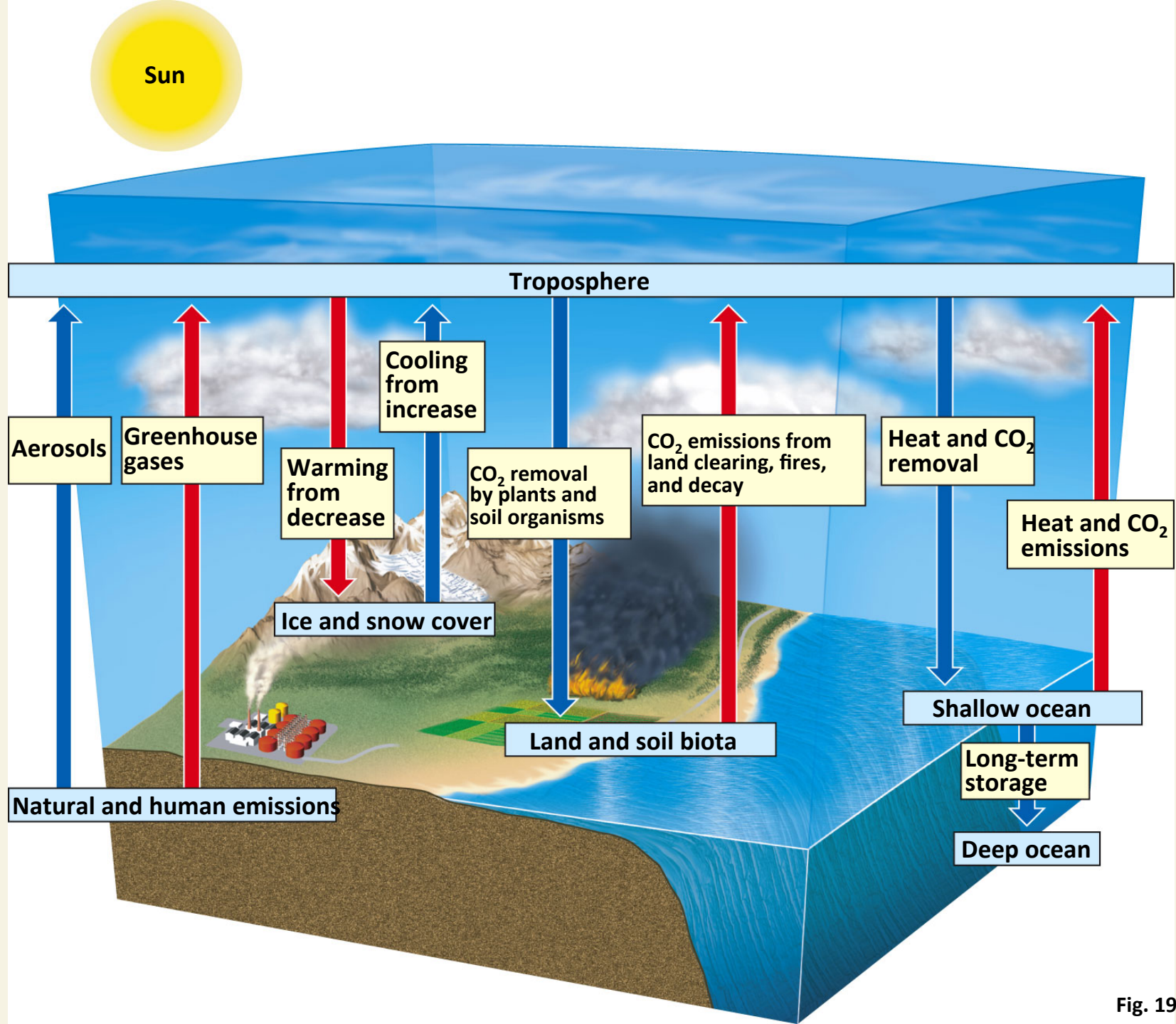


Fig. 19-A, p. 500

# Comparison of Measured Temperature from 1860–2008 and Projected Changes

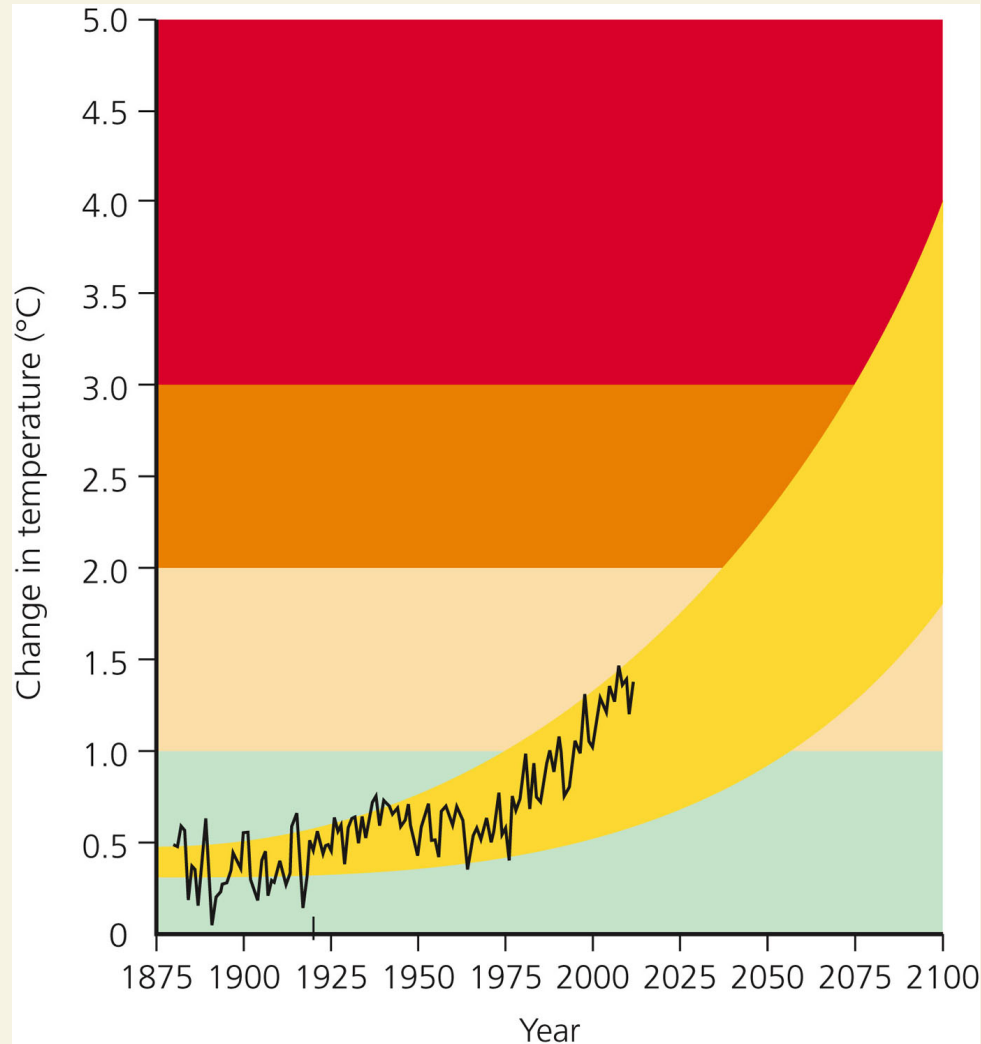


Fig. 19-B, p. 501



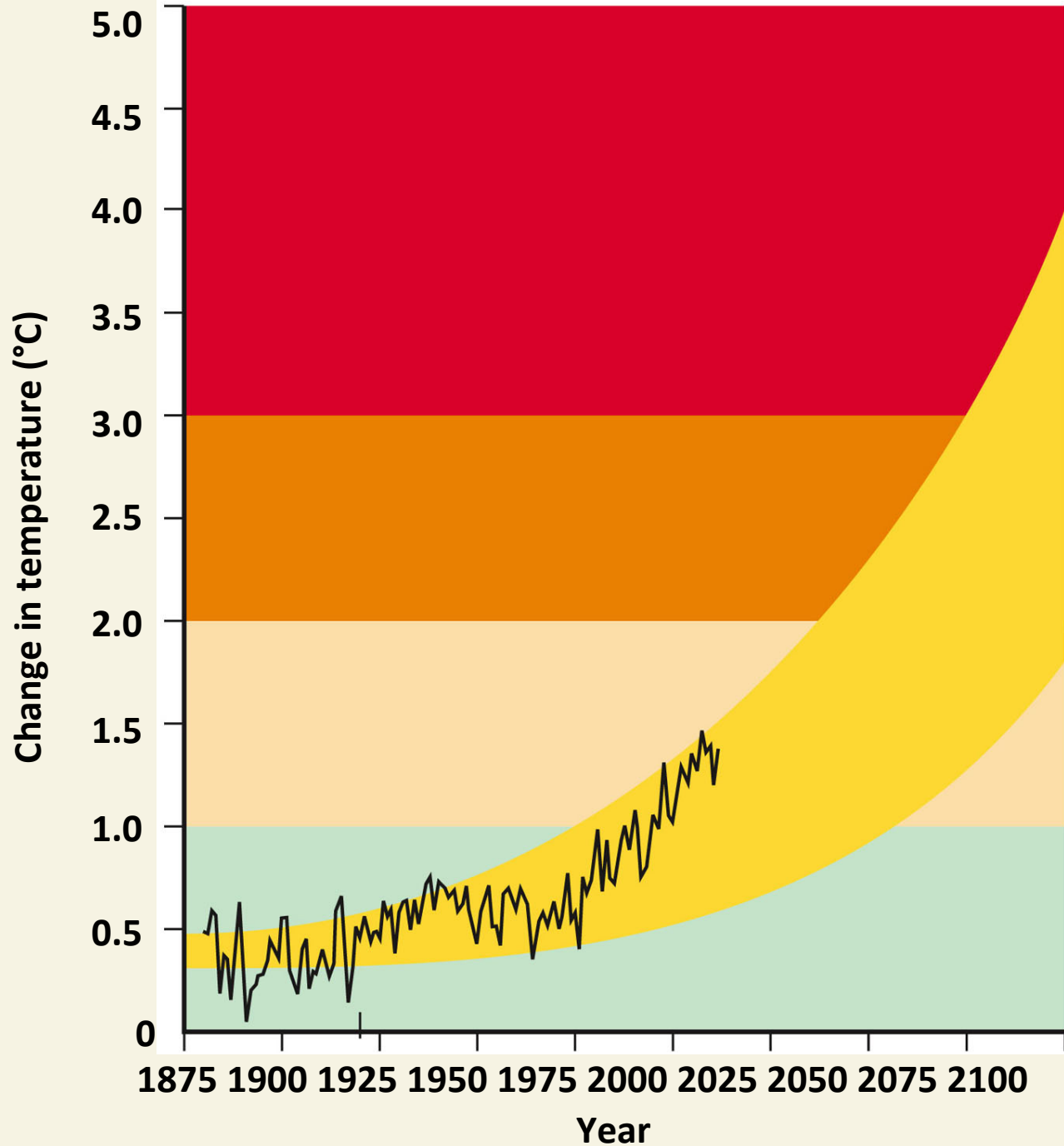


Fig. 19-B, p. 501

# Individuals Matter: Sounding the Alarm – James Hansen

- 1988 appearance before Congress began debate over atmospheric warming
- Promoted creation of IPCC
- Climate scientist at NASA
- Rising levels of greenhouse gases will lead to drastic climate disruption

# James Hansen



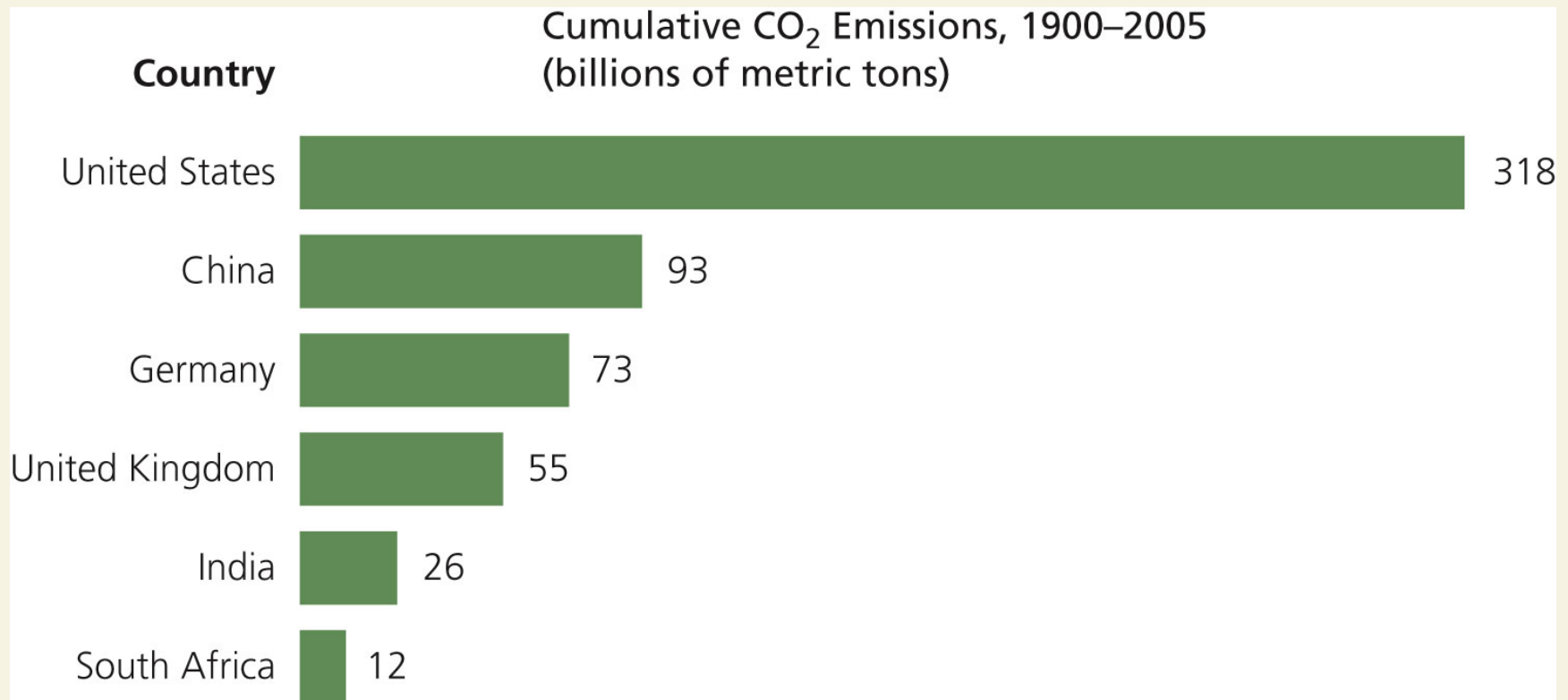
# CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Play an Important Role (1)

- From burning fossil fuels and forests
- Abetted by deforestation; forests remove CO<sub>2</sub> from the atmosphere
- 2010: 389 ppm
- 2050: 560 ppm
- 2100: 1,390 ppm
- 450 ppm as tipping point

# CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions Play an Important Role (2)

- Largest emitters, 2009
  1. China
  2. United States
  3. European Union (27 countries)
  4. Indonesia
  5. Russia
  6. Japan
  7. India

# Cumulative CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, 1900-2005



# Waste Heat Also Plays a Role in Climate Disruption

- Burning any fuel creates heat
- Many sources of heat
  - Power plants
  - Internal combustion engines
  - lights

# What Role Does the Sun Play?

- Researchers think atmospheric warming not due to an increase in energy output from the sun
- Since 1975
  - Troposphere has warmed
  - Stratosphere has cooled
- This is not what a hotter sun would do



# What Role Do the Oceans Play in Projected Climate Disruption?

- Solubility of CO<sub>2</sub> in ocean water
- Warmer oceans
  - Last century: 0.32-0.67C°increase
  - Absorb less CO<sub>2</sub> and hasten atmospheric warming
  - CO<sub>2</sub> levels increasing acidity
  - Affect phytoplankton and other organisms

# There Is Uncertainty about the Effects of Cloud Cover on Global Warming

- Warmer temperatures create more clouds
  - Thick, low altitude cumulus clouds: decrease surface temperature
  - Thin, cirrus clouds at high altitudes: increase surface temperature
- Effect of jet contrails on climate temperature

# Cumulus Clouds and Cirrus Clouds



# Outdoor Air Pollution Can Temporarily Slow Global Warming

- Aerosol and soot pollutants
  - Will not enhance or counteract projected global warming
  - Fall back to the earth or are washed out of the lower atmosphere
  - Reduction: especially in developed countries

## *19-2 What Are Some Possible Effects of a Warmer Atmosphere?*

- **Concept 19-2** *The projected rapid change in the atmosphere's temperature could have severe and long-lasting consequences, including increased drought and flooding, rising sea levels, and shifts in the locations of croplands and wildlife habitats.*

# Enhanced Atmospheric Warming Could Have Serious Consequences

- Worst-case scenarios
  - Ecosystems collapsing
  - Low-lying cities flooded
  - Wildfires in forests
  - Prolonged droughts
  - More destructive storms
  - Glaciers shrinking; rivers drying up
  - Extinction of up to half the world's species
  - Spread of tropical infectious diseases

# Severe Drought Is Likely to Increase

- Accelerate global warming, lead to more drought
- Increased wildfires
- Declining streamflows, dry lakes, lower water tables
- Dry climate ecosystems will increase
- Other effects of prolonged lack of water

# More Ice and Snow Are Likely to Melt (1)

- Why will global warming be worse in the polar regions?
- Mountain glaciers affected by
  - Average snowfall
  - Average warm temperatures
  - 99% of Alaska's glaciers are shrinking
- When mountain glaciers disappear, there will be far less water in many major rivers



# More Ice and Snow Are Likely to Melt (2)

- Glaciers disappearing from
  - Himalayas in Asia
  - Alps in Europe
  - Andes in South America
- Greenland
  - Warmer temperatures

# Shrinking Athabasca Glacier in Canada



Fig. 19-9, p. 506

# Permafrost Is Likely to Melt: Another Dangerous Scenario

- If permafrost in Arctic region melts
  - Methane, a greenhouse gas, will be released into the atmosphere
- Arctic permafrost contains 50-60x the amount of carbon dioxide emitted annually from burning fossil fuels
- Methane in permafrost on Arctic Sea floor

# Projected Decreases in Arctic Tundra in Russia, 2004-2100





Fig. 19-10a, p. 507



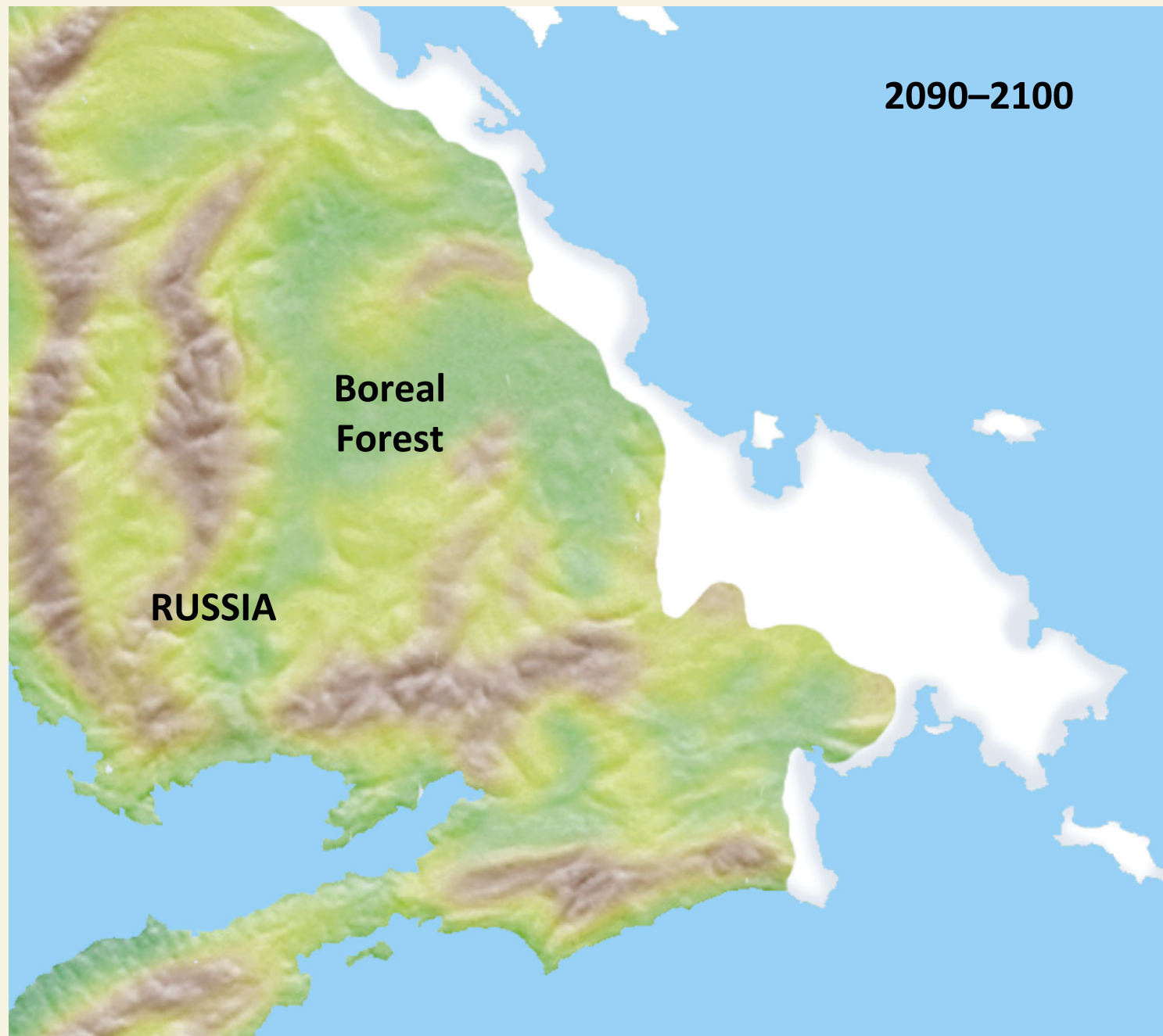


Fig. 19-10b, p. 507



# Sea Levels Are Rising (1)

- 0.8-2 meters by 2100
- Expansion of warm water
- Melting of land-based ice
- What about Greenland?



# Sea Levels Are Rising (2)

- Projected irreversible effect
  - Degradation and loss of 1/3 of coastal estuaries, wetlands, and coral reefs
  - Disruption of coastal fisheries
  - Flooding of
    - Low-lying barrier islands and coastal areas
    - Agricultural lowlands and deltas
  - Contamination of freshwater aquifers
  - Submergence of low-lying islands in the Pacific and Indian Oceans and the Caribbean
  - Flooding of coastal cities

# Areas of Florida to Flood If Average Sea Level Rises by One Meter



Fig. 19-11, p. 507



Fig. 19-11, p. 507

# Low-Lying Island Nation: Maldives in the Indian Ocean



Fig. 19-12, p. 508

# Extreme Weather Is Likely to Increase in Some Areas

- Heat waves and droughts in some areas
  - Could kill large numbers of people
- Prolonged rains and flooding in other areas
- Will storms get worse?
  - More studies needed

# Climate Disruption Is a Threat to Biodiversity (1)

- Most susceptible ecosystems
  - Coral reefs
  - Polar seas
  - Coastal wetlands
  - High-elevation mountaintops
  - Alpine and arctic tundra



# Climate Disruption Is a Threat to Biodiversity (2)

- What about
  - Migratory animals
  - Forests
- Which organisms could increase with global warming? Significance?
  - Insects
  - Fungi
  - Microbes



# Exploding Populations of Mountain Pine Beetles in British Columbia, Canada



Fig. 19-13, p. 509

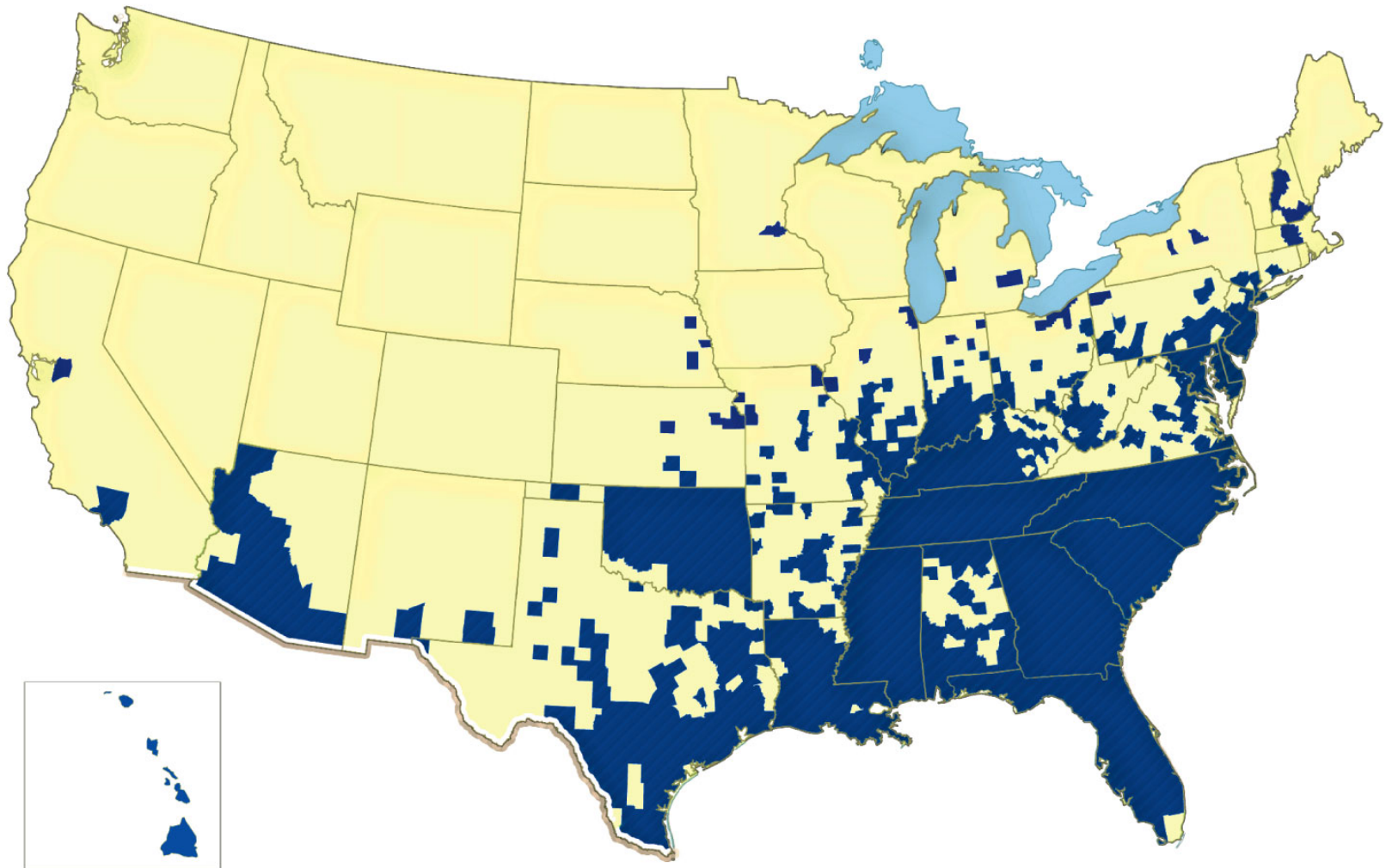
# Agriculture Could Face an Overall Decline

- Regions of farming may shift
  - Decrease in tropical and subtropical areas
  - Increase in northern latitudes
    - Less productivity; soil not as fertile
- Hundreds of millions of people could face starvation and malnutrition

# A Warmer World Is Likely to Threaten the Health of Many People

- Deaths from heat waves will increase
- Deaths from cold weather will decrease
- Higher temperatures can cause
  - Increased flooding
  - Increase in some forms of air pollution, more O<sub>3</sub>
  - More insects, microbes, toxic molds, and fungi

# Detection of Dengue Fever in Mosquitoes, as of 2005





## *19-3 What Can We Do to Slow Projected Climate Disruption?*

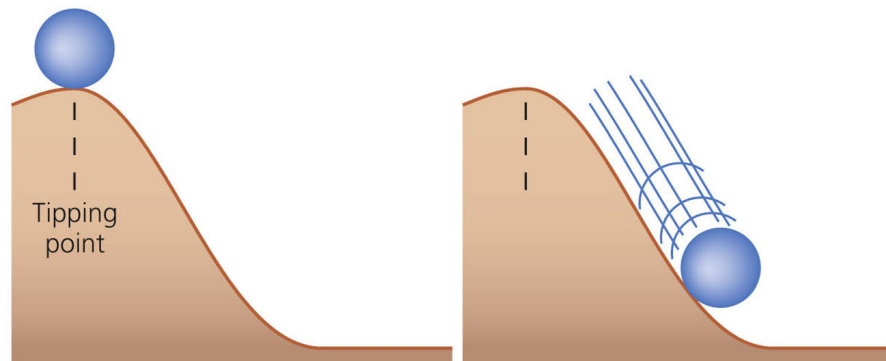
- **Concept 19-3** *To slow the projected rate of atmospheric warming and climate change, we can increase energy efficiency, sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions, rely more on renewable energy resources, and slow population growth.*

# Dealing with Climate Disruption Is Difficult

- Global problem with long-lasting effects
- Long-term political problem
- Harmful and beneficial impacts of climate change unevenly spread
- Many proposed actions disrupt economies and lifestyles
- Humans don't deal well with long-term threats

# Possible Climate-Change Tipping Points

- Atmospheric carbon level of 450 ppm
- Melting of all Arctic summer sea ice
- Collapse and melting of the Greenland ice sheet
- Severe ocean acidification, collapse of phytoplankton populations, and a sharp drop in the ability of the oceans to absorb CO<sub>2</sub>
- Massive release of methane from thawing Arctic permafrost
- Collapse and melting of most of the western Antarctic ice sheet
- Severe shrinkage or collapse of Amazon rainforest



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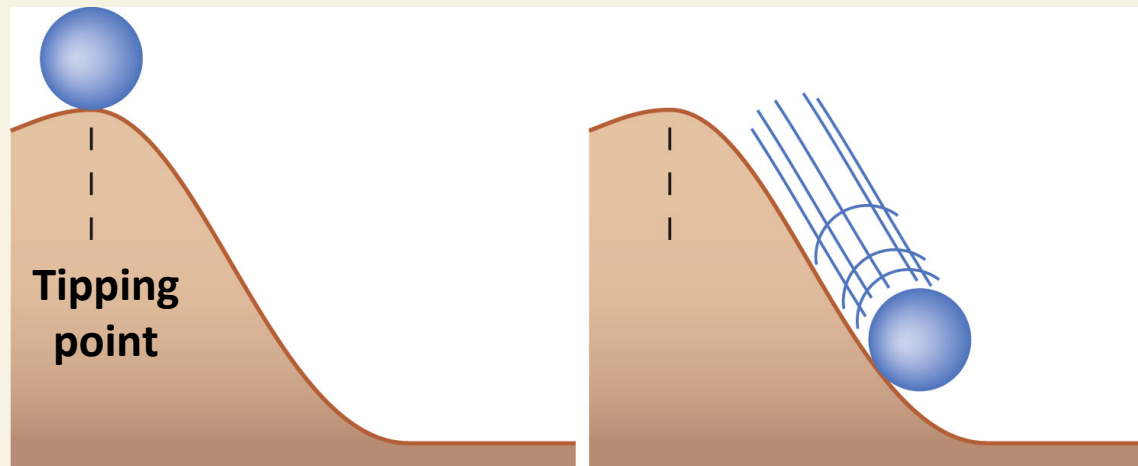


Fig. 19-15, p. 511



# Science Focus: Science, Politics, and Climate

- 2006-2010: increase from 30% to 48% of Americans who think global warming is exaggerated
- Fossil fuel industries
- Play on public's lack of knowledge of
  - How science works
  - Difference between weather and climate

# What Are Our Options?

- Three approaches
  1. Drastically reduce the amount of greenhouse gas emissions
  2. Devise strategies to reduce the harmful effects of global warming
  3. Suffer consequences of inaction

# Solutions: Slowing Climate Disruption

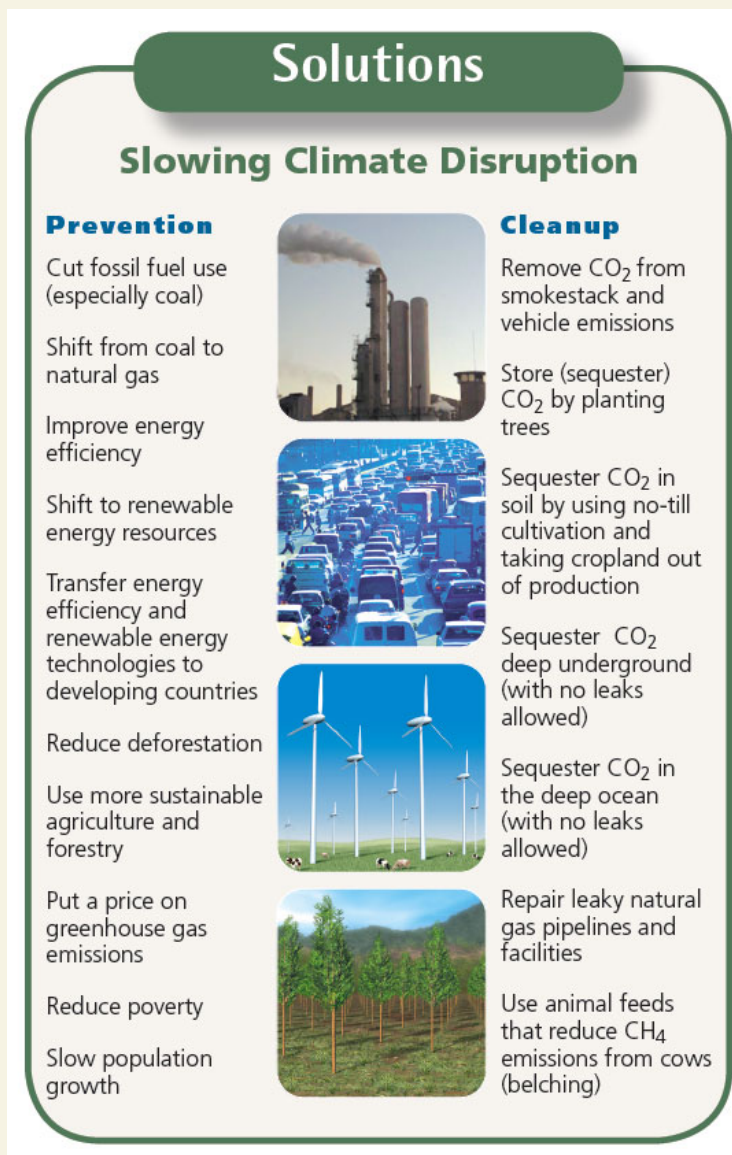


Fig. 19-16, p. 513

# Solutions

## Slowing Climate Disruption

### Prevention

Cut fossil fuel use  
(especially coal)

Shift from coal to  
natural gas

Improve energy efficiency

Shift to renewable  
energy resources

Transfer energy efficiency  
and renewable energy  
technologies to developing  
countries

Reduce deforestation

Use more sustainable  
agriculture and forestry

Put a price on greenhouse  
gas emissions

Reduce poverty

Slow population growth



### Cleanup

Remove CO<sub>2</sub> from  
smokestack and vehicle  
emissions

Store (sequester) CO<sub>2</sub>  
by planting trees

Sequester CO<sub>2</sub> in soil by using  
no-till cultivation  
and taking cropland out  
of production

Sequester CO<sub>2</sub> deep  
underground (with no leaks  
allowed)

Sequester CO<sub>2</sub> in the deep  
ocean (with no leaks  
allowed)

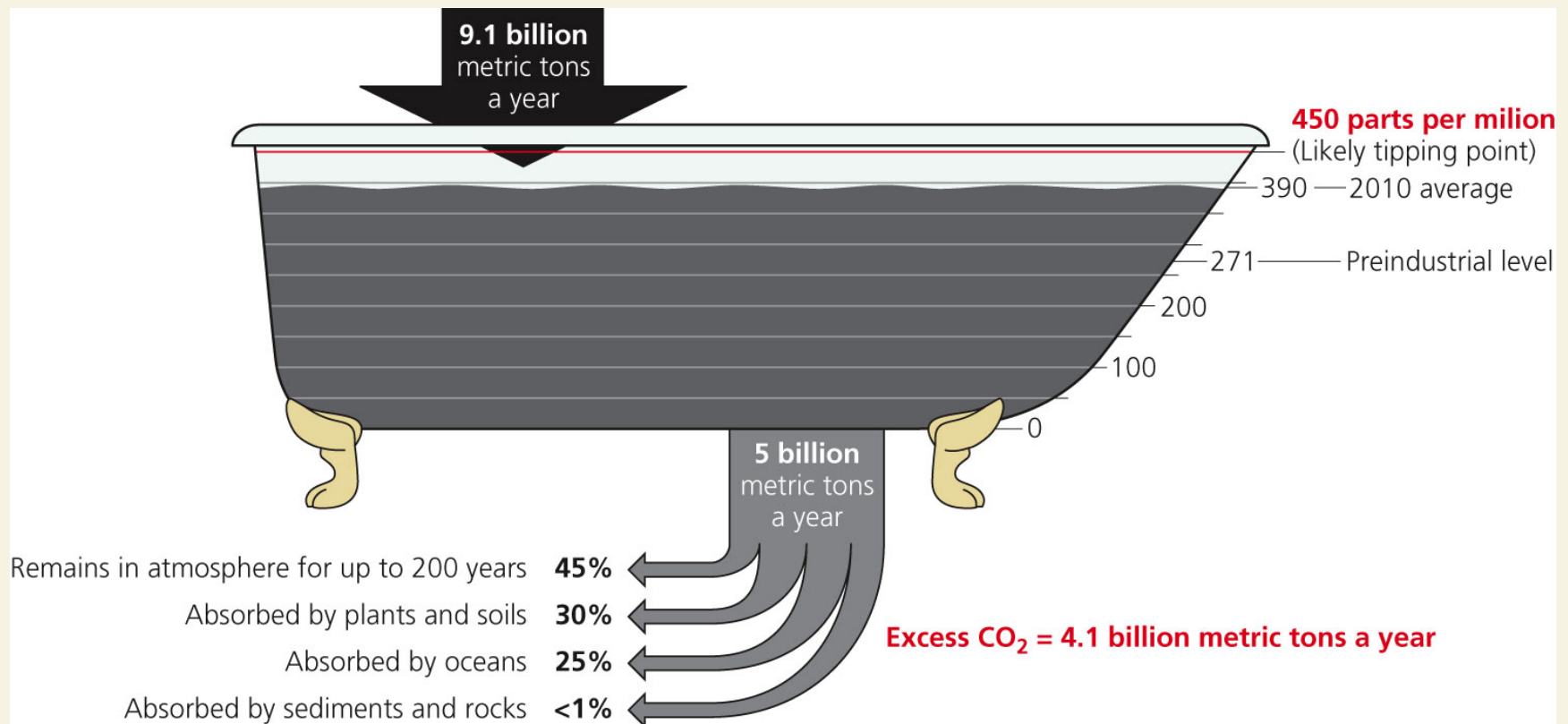
Repair leaky natural gas  
pipelines and facilities

Use animal feeds that reduce  
CH<sub>4</sub> emissions from cows  
(belching)

# Individuals Matter: John Sterman's Bathtub Model

- Atmosphere as a bathtub
- Inputs of CO<sub>2</sub>
- Ways CO<sub>2</sub> is removed from atmosphere

# Bathtub Model of CO<sub>2</sub> in Atmosphere



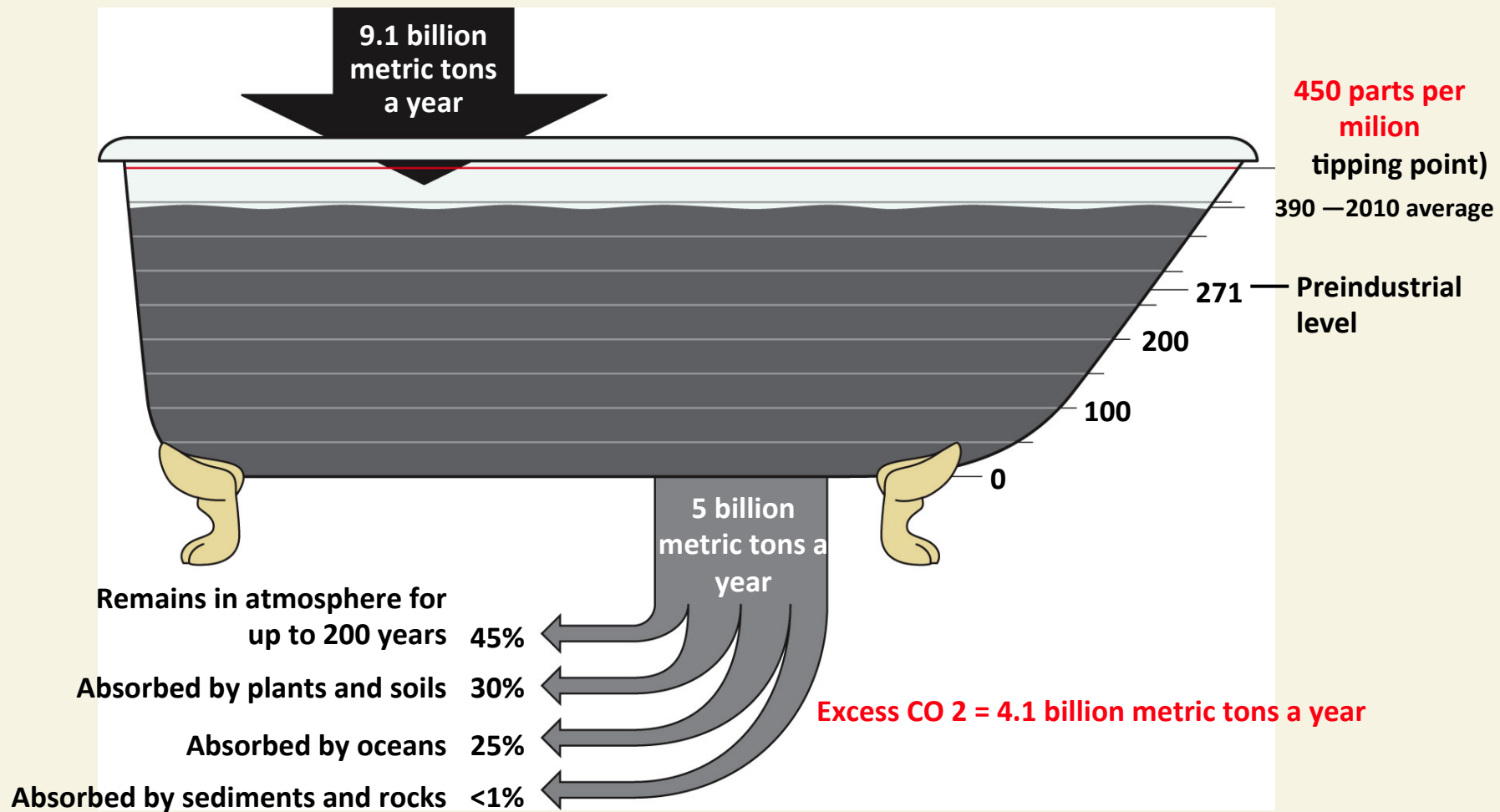


Fig. 19-D, p. 512

# Prevent and Reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions

- Improve energy efficiency to reduce fossil fuel use
- Increased use of low-carbon renewable energy resources
- Stop cutting down tropical forests
- Shift to more sustainable and climate-friendly agriculture



# Collect Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Stash Them Somewhere

- Solutions

1. Massive global tree planting; how many?
2. Restore wetlands that have been drained for farming
3. Plant fast-growing perennials on degraded land
4. Preserve and restore natural forests
5. Promote biochar
6. Seed oceans with iron to stimulate growth of phytoplankton
7. **Carbon capture and storage** – from coal-burning plants

# Science Focus: Is Capturing and Storing CO<sub>2</sub> the Answer?

- **Carbon capture and storage (CCS)**
- Several problems with this approach
  - Large inputs of energy to work
    - Increasing CO<sub>2</sub> emissions
  - Promotes the continued use of coal (world's dirtiest fuel)
  - Effect of government subsidies and tax breaks
  - Stored CO<sub>2</sub> would have to remain sealed forever: no leaking

# Capturing and Storing CO<sub>2</sub>

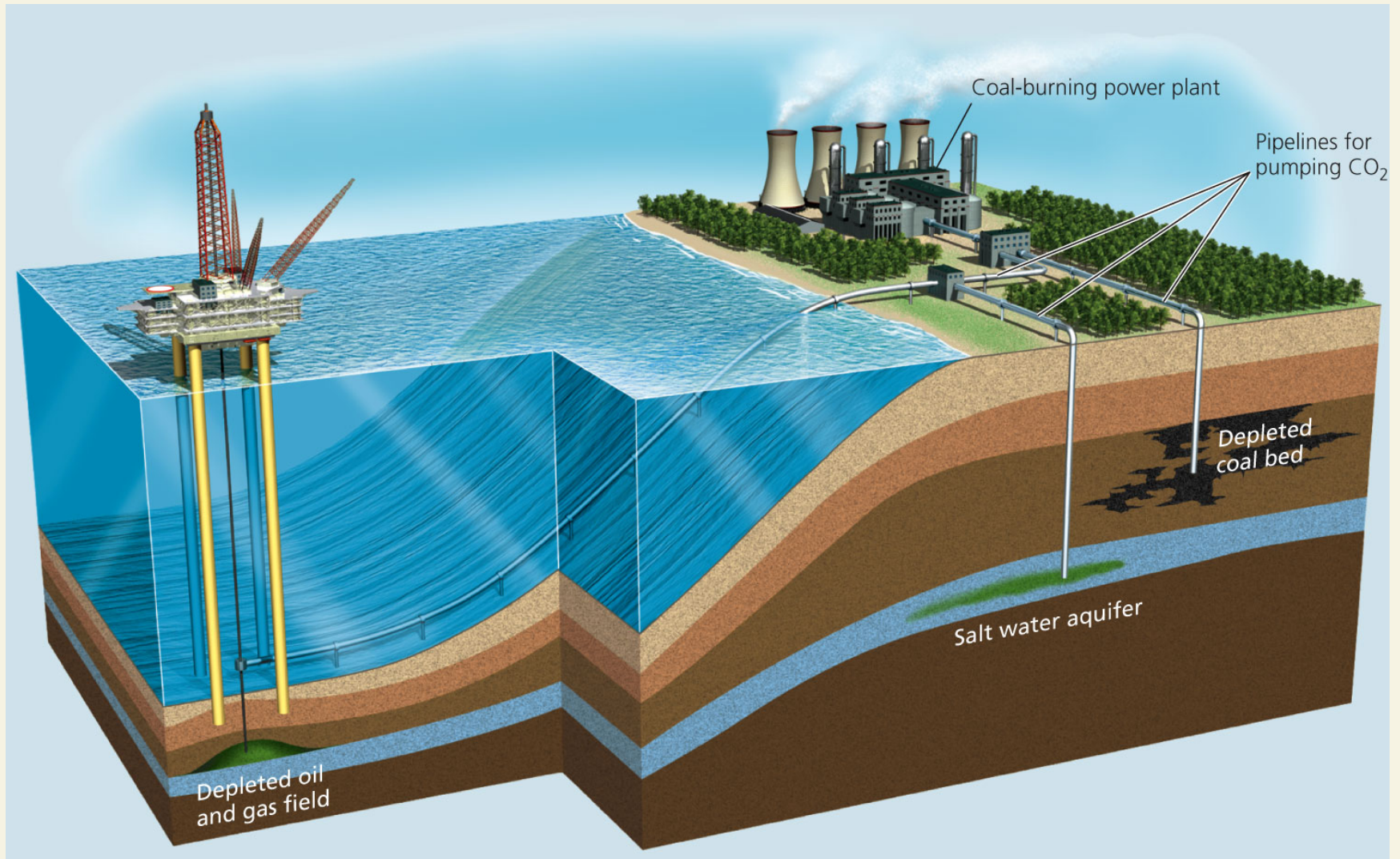


Fig. 19-E, p. 515



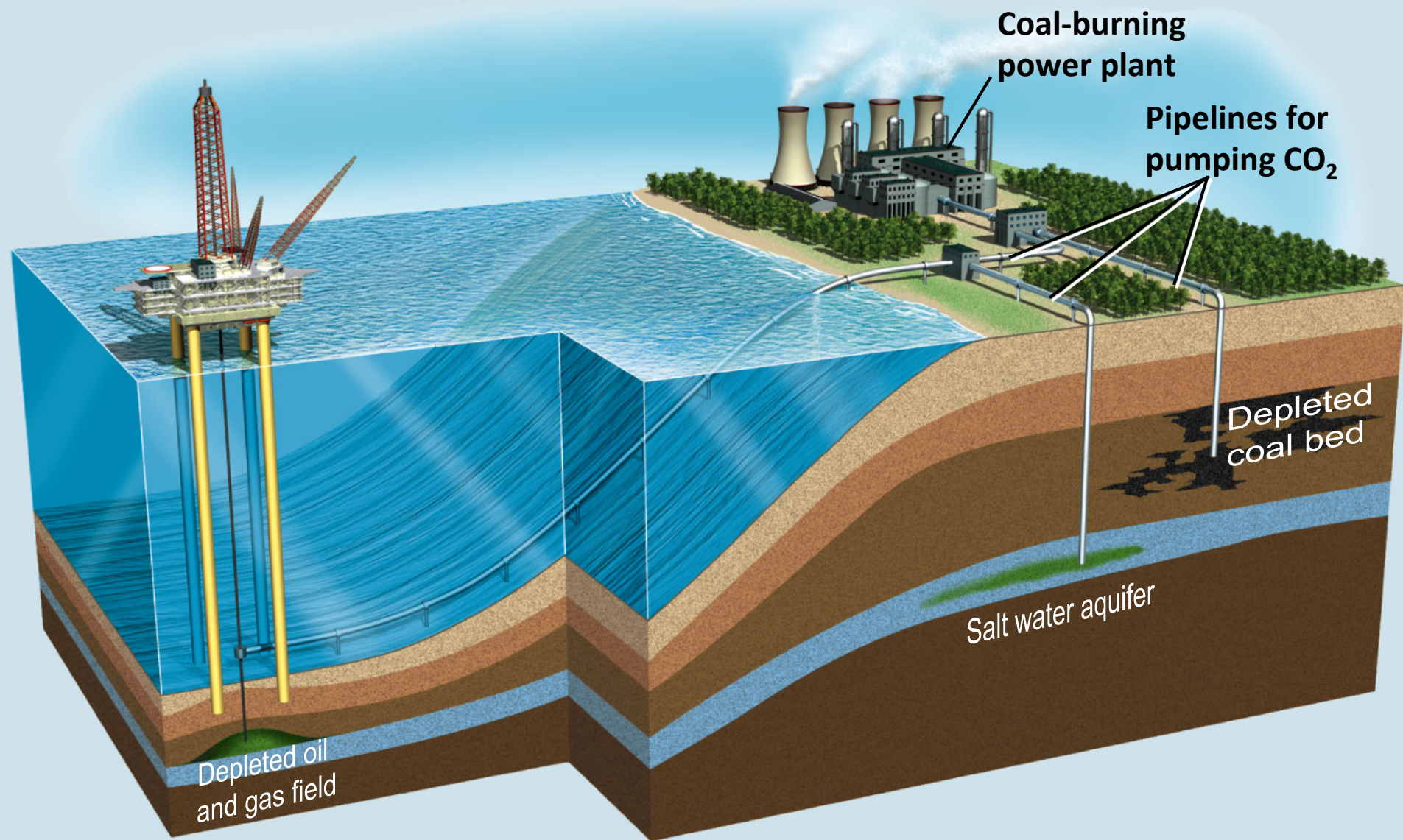


Fig. 19-E, p. 515

# Some Propose Geo-Engineering Schemes to Help Slow Climate Change (1)

- Last resort, if other methods and policies fail
- Injection of sulfate particles into the stratosphere
  - Would it have a cooling effect?
  - Would it accelerate O<sub>3</sub> depletion?
- Giant mirrors in orbit around earth
- Large pipes to bring nutrients from bottom of ocean to top to promote algae growth

# Some Propose Geo-Engineering Schemes to Help Slow Climate Change? (2)

- Doesn't address the continued build-up of CO<sub>2</sub> in the atmosphere
- All depend on costly and complex plans
- If any of these fixes fail, what about a rebound effect?

# Governments Can Help Reduce the Threat of Climate Disruption

1. Strictly regulate CO<sub>2</sub> and CH<sub>4</sub> as pollutants
2. Carbon tax on fossil fuels
3. Cap-and-trade approach
4. Increase subsidies to encourage use of energy-efficient technology
5. Technology transfer

# Trade-Offs: Carbon and Energy Taxes

## Trade-Offs

### Carbon and Energy Taxes

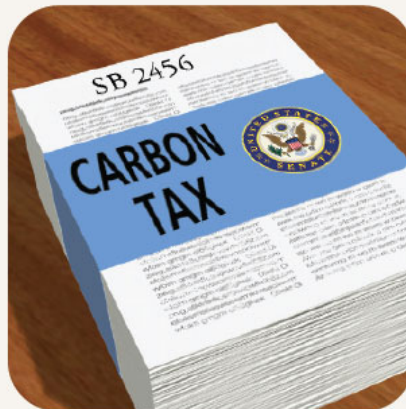
#### Advantages

Simple to administer

Clear price on carbon

Covers all emitters

Predictable revenues



#### Disadvantages

Tax laws can get complex

Vulnerable to loopholes

Doesn't guarantee lower emissions

Politically unpopular



## Trade-Offs

### Carbon and Energy Taxes

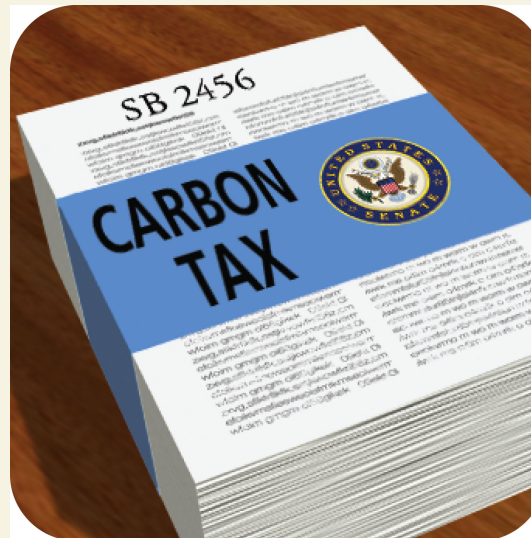
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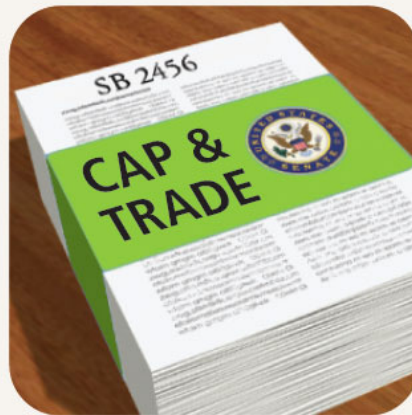
# Trade-Offs: Cap and Trade Policies

## Trade-Offs

### Cap and Trade Policies

#### Advantages

- Clear legal limit on emissions
- Rewards cuts in emissions
- Record of success
- Low expense for consumers



#### Disadvantages

- Revenues not predictable
- Vulnerable to cheating
- Rich polluters can keep polluting
- Puts variable price on carbon

## Trade-Offs

### Cap and Trade Policies

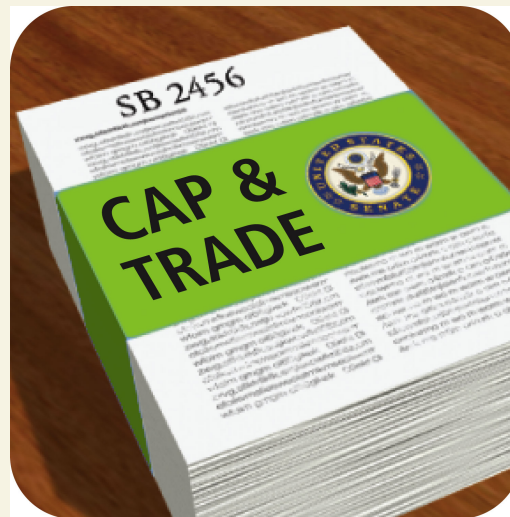
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**Rich polluters can keep polluting**

**Puts variable price on carbon**

# Science Focus: What Is a Pollutant?

- Pollutant:
  - A chemical or any other agent that proves harmful to the health, survival, or activities of humans or other organisms
  - Carbon dioxide now classified as a pollutant
  - Concentration of carbon dioxide as the key factor

# Governments Can Enter into International Climate Negotiations

- The Kyoto Protocol
  - 1997: Treaty to slow climate change
  - Reduce emissions of CO<sub>2</sub>, CH<sub>4</sub>, and N<sub>2</sub>O by 2012 to 5.2% of 1990 levels
  - Not signed by the U.S.
- 2009 Copenhagen
  - Nonbinding agreement

# Some Governments Are Leading the Way

- Costa Rica: goal to be carbon neutral by 2030
- China and India must change energy habits
- U.S. cities and states taking initiatives to reduce carbon emissions
  - California
  - Portland

# Some Companies and Schools Are Reducing Their Carbon Footprints (1)

- Major global companies reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Alcoa
  - DuPont
  - IBM
  - Toyota
  - GE
  - Wal-Mart
    - Fluorescent light bulbs
    - Auxiliary power units on truck fleets

# Some Companies and Schools Are Reducing Their Carbon Footprints (2)

- Colleges and universities reducing greenhouse gas emissions
  - Oberlin College, Ohio, U.S.
  - 25 Colleges in Pennsylvania, U.S.
  - Yale University, CT, U.S.
- What is your carbon footprint?
- What can you do?



# What Can You Do? Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

## What Can You Do?

### Reducing CO<sub>2</sub> Emissions

- Calculate your carbon footprint (see websites listed at left)
- Drive a fuel-efficient car, walk, bike, carpool, and use mass transit
- Reduce garbage by recycling and reusing more items
- Use energy-efficient appliances and compact fluorescent or LED lightbulbs
- Wash laundry in warm or cold water
- Dry clothes on a rack or line
- Use a low-flow showerhead
- Eat less meat or no meat
- Heavily insulate your house and seal all air leaks
- Use energy-efficient windows
- Insulate your hot water heater and set it no higher than 49°C (120°F)
- Plant trees to shade your house during summer
- Buy from businesses working to reduce their emissions

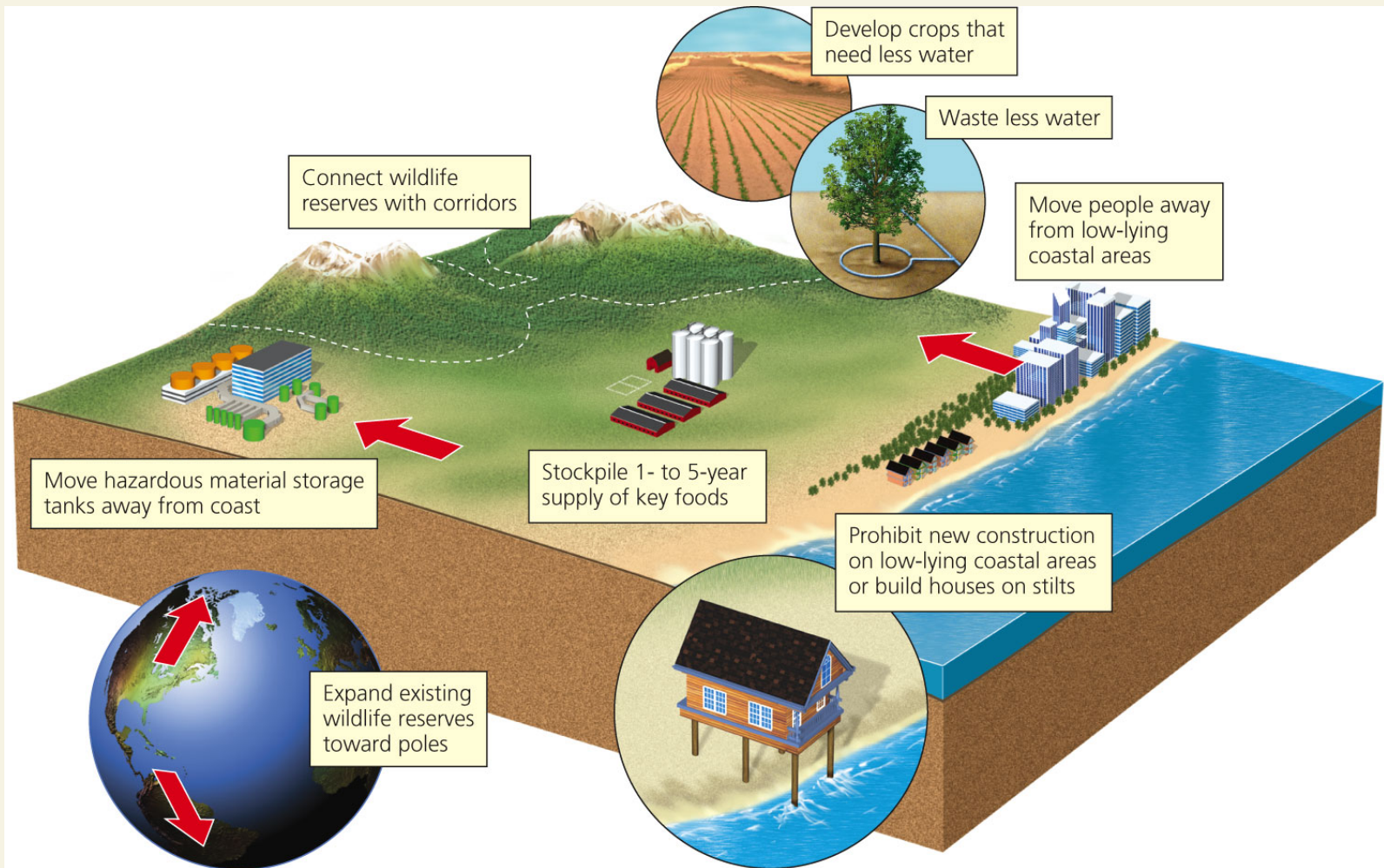
# We Can Prepare for Climate Disruption (1)

- Reduce greenhouse gas emissions as much as possible
- Move people from low-lying coastal areas
- Take measures against storm surges at coast
- Cooling centers for heat waves

# We Can Prepare for Climate Disruption (2)

- Prepare for more intense wildfires
- Water conservation, and desalination plants

# Ways to Prepare for the Possible Long-Term Harmful Effects of Climate Disruption





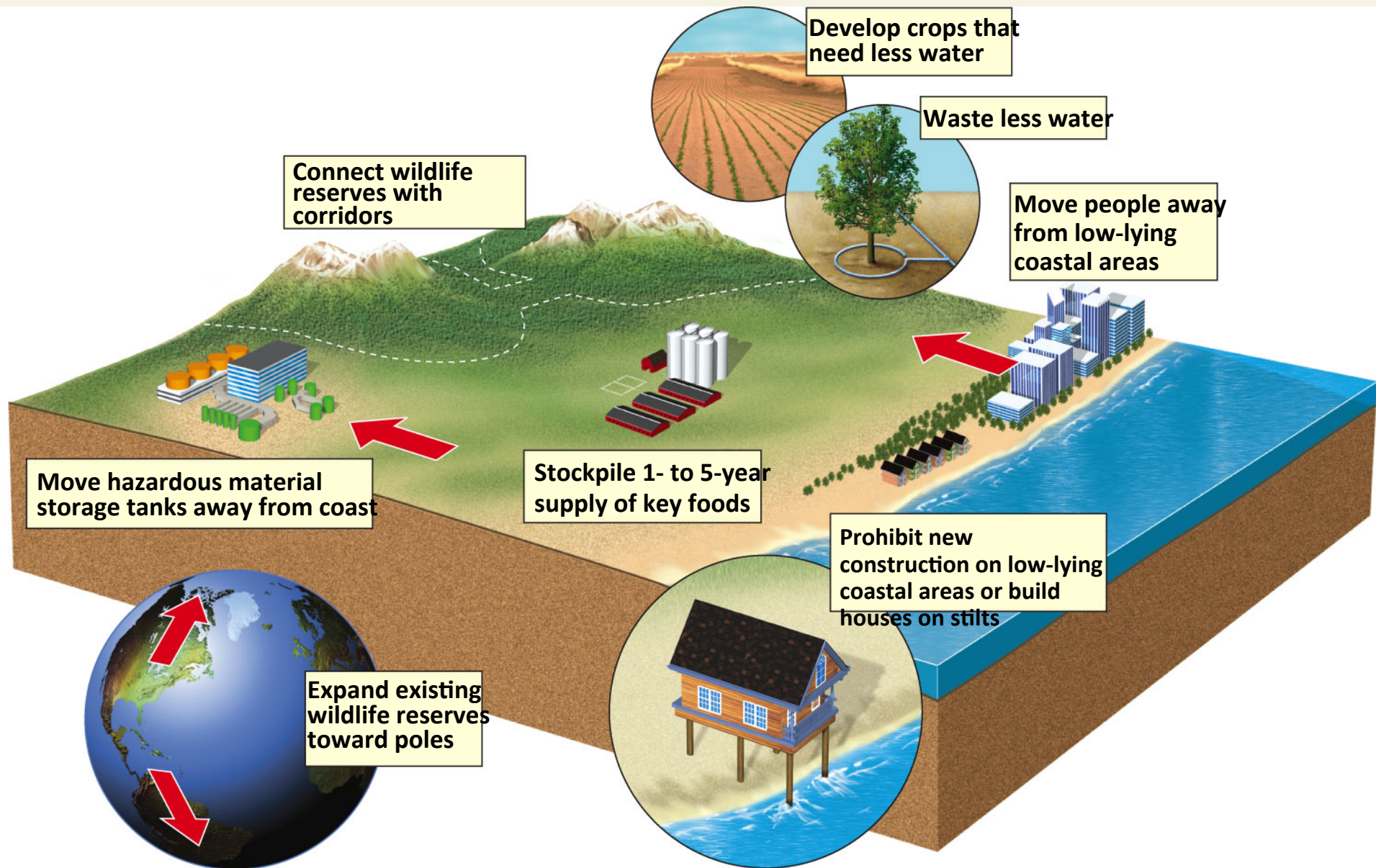


Fig. 19-20, p. 520

# A No-Regrets Strategy

- What if climate models are wrong and there is no serious threat of climate disruption?
- No-regrets strategy
  - Environmental benefits
  - Health benefits
  - Economic benefits
  - Reduce pollution and energy use
  - Decrease deforestation
  - Promote biodiversity

## *19-4 How Have We Depleted O<sub>3</sub> in the Stratosphere and What Can We Do?*

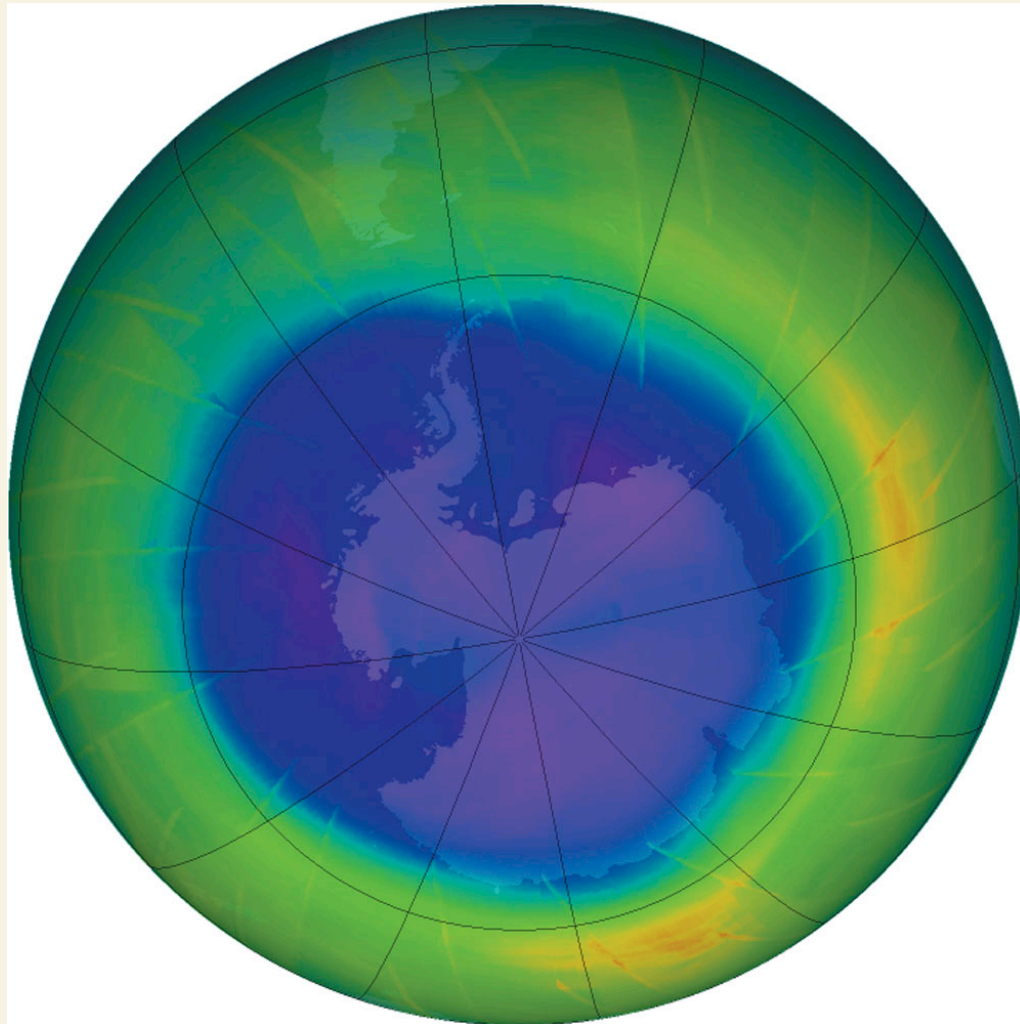
- **Concept 19-4A** *Our widespread use of certain chemicals has reduced ozone levels in the stratosphere, which has allowed more harmful ultraviolet radiation to reach the earth's surface.*
- **Concept 19-4B** *To reverse ozone depletion, we must stop producing ozone-depleting chemicals and adhere to the international treaties that ban such chemicals.*

# Our Use of Certain Chemicals Threatens the Ozone Layer

- Ozone thinning
  - Seasonal depletion in the stratosphere
    - Antarctica and Arctic
    - Affects Australia, New Zealand, South America, South Africa
- 1984: Rowland and Molina
  - CFCs were depleting O<sub>3</sub>
- Other ozone-depleting chemicals



# Natural Capital Degradation: Massive Ozone Thinning over Antarctica in 2009



# Individuals Matter: Rowland and Moline—A Scientific Story of Courage and Persistence

- Research
  - CFCs are persistent in the atmosphere
  - Rise into the stratosphere over 11-20 years
  - Break down under high-energy UV radiation
    - Halogens produced accelerate the breakdown of  $O_3$  to  $O_2$
  - Each CFC molecule can last 65-385 years
- 1988: Dupont stopped producing CFCs
- 1995: Nobel Prize in chemistry

# Why Should We Worry about Ozone Depletion?

- Damaging UV-A and UV-B radiation
  - Increase eye cataracts and skin cancer
- Impair or destroy phytoplankton
  - Significance?

# Natural Capital Degradation: Effects of Ozone Depletion

## Natural Capital Degradation

### Effects of Ozone Depletion

#### Human Health

- Worse sunburns
- More eye cataracts and skin cancers
- Immune system suppression

#### Food and Forests

- Reduced yields for some crops
- Reduced seafood supplies from reduced phytoplankton
- Decreased forest productivity for UV-sensitive tree species

#### Climate Change

- While in troposphere, CFCs act as greenhouse gases

#### Wildlife

- Increased eye cataracts in some species
- Decreased populations of aquatic species sensitive to UV radiation
- Reduced populations of surface phytoplankton
- Disrupted aquatic food webs from reduced phytoplankton

#### Air Pollution and Materials

- Increased acid deposition
- Increased photochemical smog
- Degradation of outdoor paints and plastics

# What Can You Do? Reducing Exposure to UV Radiation

## What Can You Do?

### Reducing Exposure to UV Radiation

- Stay out of the sun, especially between 10 A.M. and 3 P.M.
- Do not use tanning parlors or sunlamps.
- When in the sun, wear protective clothing and sunglasses that protect against UV-A and UV-B radiation.
- Be aware that overcast skies do not protect you.
- Do not expose yourself to the sun if you are taking antibiotics or birth control pills.
- When in the sun, use a sunscreen with a protection factor of at least 15.
- Examine your skin and scalp at least once a month for moles or warts that change in size, shape, or color and sores that do not heal. If you observe any of these signs, consult a doctor immediately.

# We Can Reverse Stratospheric Ozone Depletion (1)

- Stop producing all ozone-depleting chemicals
- 60–100 years of recovery of the O<sub>3</sub> layer
- 1987: Montreal Protocol
- 1992: Copenhagen Protocol
- Ozone protocols: prevention is the key

# We Can Reverse Stratospheric Ozone Depletion (2)

- Substitutes for CFCs are available
- More are being developed
- HCFC-22
  - Substitute chemical
  - May still be causing ozone depletion
  - 2009: U.S. asks UN for mandatory reductions in HFC emissions through Montreal Protocol

# Three Big Ideas

1. Considerable scientific evidence indicates that the earth's atmosphere is warming, mostly because of human activities, and that this is likely to lead to significant climate disruption during this century that could have severe and long-lasting harmful consequences.



# Three Big Ideas

2. Reducing the projected harmful effects of rapid climate disruption during this century requires emergency action to increase energy efficiency, sharply reduce greenhouse gas emissions, rely more on renewable energy resources, and slow population growth.
3. We need to continue phasing out the use of chemicals that have reduced ozone levels in the stratosphere and allowed more harmful ultraviolet radiation to reach earth's surface.