

El Niño proves it sets record global temperatures

Planet Earth's global average temperature has topped records this month, note researchers. July's heatwave establishes a new record reaching into the decimal points of 17.18 degrees Celsius. Countries around the world have been gripped by the sudden warmth. Scientists identify a number of causes for this, one being the return of a weather pattern called El Niño.

In Spanish *El Niño* means *The Boy*, and is the term for when the surface water temperature of the Pacific Ocean rises. Because of this marine change, experts hint at even higher temperature fluctuations. Climate researcher Leon Simons acknowledges the record is not encouraging. He warns it is "a significant symbolic milestone in our warming world", and that because of El Niño we are on the threshold of "a lot more daily, monthly and annual records breaking in the next 1.5 years".

This July shattered the previous record temperature of 16.92C from August 2016. Data reveal that this was during the previous El Niño cycle. Other calculations by scientists propose that this July was the hottest in about 125,000 years.

What has also been instrumental to the new record is the increase in carbon dioxide. Societies illustrate this underlying problem with their dependence on vehicles and the exhaust fumes they make. To combat the problem and raise awareness, the phrase *net zero* is often used. This phrase puts forward the aim of no harmful emissions being made by society's actions.

Warm-up activities and vocabulary

Activities:

On a really hot day, what activities can we do that are – *fun*, *sensible*, or *unsafe*.

Describe some words or phrases that can be associated with the word *wave*?

Write a short sentence about the weather. Then rewrite the same sentence using exactly twice as many words.

Vocabulary:

1. Scan the text and find a word or phrase that means:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|------|
| A. <i>beaten</i> (paragraph 1) | t... |
| B. <i>sets</i> (paragraph 1) | e... |
| C. <i>heat</i> (paragraph 1) | w... |
| D. <i>sea</i> (paragraph 2) | m... |
| E. <i>changes</i> (paragraph 2) | f... |
| F. <i>cheerful</i> (paragraph 2) | e... |
| G. <i>broke</i> (paragraph 3) | s... |
| H. <i>suggest</i> (paragraph 3) | p... |
| I. <i>pollution</i> (paragraph 4) | e... |
| J. <i>fight</i> (paragraph 4) | c... |

2. What does the italicised phrase below mean – *end*, *earth*, or *edge*?

we are on the *threshold* of

3. Which word below doesn't belong?

underlying – warmth – temperature – heatwave

Reading comprehension match-up

1. Planet Earth's global average temperature has...
2. July's heatwave establishes a new record reaching...
3. Countries around the world have been...
4. Scientists identify a number of causes for this, one...
5. In Spanish *El Niño* means *The Boy*, and is the term...
6. Because of this marine change, experts...
7. Climate researcher Leon Simons...
8. He warns it is "a significant symbolic milestone in our warming world", and that...
9. This July shattered the previous record...
10. Data reveal that this was during...
11. Other calculations by scientists...
12. What has also been instrumental to the new record is the...
13. Societies illustrate this underlying problem with their dependence on...
14. To combat the problem and raise...
15. This phrase puts forward the aim of no...

- A. ...acknowledges the record is not encouraging.
- B. ...being the return of a weather pattern called El Niño.
- C. ...into the decimal points of 17.18 degrees Celsius.
- D. ...propose that this July was the hottest in about 125,000 years.
- E. ...awareness, the phrase *net zero* is often used.
- F. ...topped records this month, note researchers.
- G. ...the previous El Niño cycle.
- H. ...for when the surface water temperature of the Pacific Ocean rises.
- I. ...harmful emissions being made by society's actions.
- J. ...hint at even higher temperature fluctuations.
- K. ...gripped by the sudden warmth.
- L. ...vehicles and the exhaust fumes they make.
- M. ...because of El Niño we are on the threshold of "a lot more daily, monthly and annual records breaking in the next 1.5 years".
- N. ...temperature of 16.92C from August 2016.
- O. ...increase in carbon dioxide.

Phrases, synonyms, and antonyms match-up

Match the words on the left to their endings to make phrases from the text.

- | | |
|---------------|----------------|
| 1. decimal | A. emissions |
| 2. hint | B. on |
| 3. carbon | C. at |
| 4. harmful | D. by |
| 5. gripped | E. the problem |
| 6. dependence | F. points |
| 7. degrees | G. dioxide |
| 8. topped | H. reveal |
| 9. data | I. records |
| 10. combat | J. Celsius |

Match the words on the left from the text to their synonyms.

- | | |
|----------------|----------------|
| 1. grip | A. event |
| 2. acknowledge | B. final |
| 3. net | C. demonstrate |
| 4. milestone | D. accept |
| 5. illustrate | E. hold |

Match the words on the left from the text to their antonyms.

- | | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| 1. shatter | A. insignificant |
| 2. calculate | B. construct |
| 3. instrumental | C. estimate |

Grammar pairs cloze: reporting verbs

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 1. A. note / B. assume | 6. A. investigates / B. warns |
| 2. A. estimates / B. establishes | 7. A. notes / B. reveal |
| 3. A. identify / B. warn | 8. A. propose / B. assume |
| 4. A. outline / B. hint at | 9. A. illustrate / B. state |
| 5. A. proves / B. acknowledges | 10. A. puts forward / B. illustrates |

Planet Earth's global average temperature has topped records this month, 1. _____ researchers. July's heatwave 2. _____ a new record reaching into the decimal points of 17.18 degrees Celsius. Countries around the world have been gripped by the sudden warmth. Scientists 3. _____ a number of causes for this, one being the return of a weather pattern called El Niño.

In Spanish *El Niño* means *The Boy*, and is the term for when the surface water temperature of the Pacific Ocean rises. Because of this marine change, experts 4. _____ even higher temperature fluctuations. Climate researcher Leon Simons 5. _____ the record is not encouraging. He 6. _____ it is "a significant symbolic milestone in our warming world", and that because of El Niño we are on the threshold of "a lot more daily, monthly and annual records breaking in the next 1.5 years".

This July shattered the previous record temperature of 16.92C from August 2016. Data 7. _____ that this was during the previous El Niño cycle. Other calculations by scientists 8. _____ that this July was the hottest in about 125,000 years.

What has also been instrumental to the new record is the increase in carbon dioxide. Societies 9. _____ this underlying problem with their dependence on vehicles and the exhaust fumes they make. To combat the problem and raise awareness, the phrase *net zero* is often used. This phrase 10. _____ the aim of no harmful emissions being made by society's actions.

Vocabulary gap-fill cloze

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| A. fluctuations | F. shattered |
| B. calculations | G. underlying |
| C. emissions | H. gripped |
| D. combat | I. threshold |
| E. heatwave | J. instrumental |

Planet Earth's global average temperature has topped records this month, note researchers. July's 1._____ establishes a new record reaching into the decimal points of 17.18 degrees Celsius. Countries around the world have been 2._____ by the sudden warmth. Scientists identify a number of causes for this, one being the return of a weather pattern called El Niño.

In Spanish *El Niño* means *The Boy*, and is the term for when the surface water temperature of the Pacific Ocean rises. Because of this marine change, experts hint at even higher temperature 3._____. Climate researcher Leon Simons acknowledges the record is not encouraging. He warns it is "a significant symbolic milestone in our warming world", and that because of El Niño we are on the 4._____ of "a lot more daily, monthly and annual records breaking in the next 1.5 years".

This July 5._____ the previous record temperature of 16.92C from August 2016. Data reveal that this was during the previous El Niño cycle. Other 6._____ by scientists propose that this July was the hottest in about 125,000 years.

What has also been 7._____ to the new record is the increase in carbon dioxide. Societies illustrate this 8._____ problem with their dependence on vehicles and the exhaust fumes they make. To 9._____ the problem and raise awareness, the phrase *net zero* is often used. This phrase puts forward the aim of no harmful 10._____ being made by society's actions.

Writing cloze

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. eahwetav | 6. eogewancdslk | 11.speopor |
| 2. rpidepg | 7. snraw | 12.nratlinusmte |
| 3. nidfieyt | 8. ledhrtsho | 13.lernyguidn |
| 4. thnita | 9. htseredat | 14.oactmb |
| 5. itauntcslfou | 10.ontsalicualc | 15.mseosinsi |

Planet Earth's global average temperature has topped records this month, note researchers. July's 1._____ establishes a new record reaching into the decimal points of 17.18 degrees Celsius. Countries around the world have been 2._____ by the sudden warmth. Scientists 3._____ a number of causes for this, one being the return of a weather pattern called El Niño.

In Spanish *El Niño* means *The Boy*, and is the term for when the surface water temperature of the Pacific Ocean rises. Because of this marine change, experts 4. (two words) _____ even higher temperature 5._____. Climate researcher Leon Simons 6._____ the record is not encouraging. He 7._____ it is "a significant symbolic milestone in our warming world", and that because of El Niño we are on the 8._____ of "a lot more daily, monthly and annual records breaking in the next 1.5 years".

This July 9._____ the previous record temperature of 16.92C from August 2016. Data reveal that this was during the previous El Niño cycle. Other 10._____ by scientists 11._____ that this July was the hottest in about 125,000 years.

What has also been 12._____ to the new record is the increase in carbon dioxide. Societies illustrate this 13._____ problem with their dependence on vehicles and the exhaust fumes they make. To 14._____ the problem and raise awareness, the phrase *net zero* is often used. This phrase puts forward the aim of no harmful 15._____ being made by society's actions.

Fill-in missing letters

Fill-in the text with the five missing letters: l m s w y

P_anet Earth' _ g_oba_ average te_perature ha_ topped record_ thi_ _onth, note re_earcher_. Ju__' _ heat_ave e_tab_i_he_ a ne_ record reaching into the deci_a_ point_ of 17.18 degree_ Ce__iu_. Countrie_ around the _or_d have been gripped b_ the _udden _ar_th. _cienti_t_ identif_ a nu_ber of cau_e_ for thi_, one being the return of a _eather pattern ca__ed El Niño.

In _pani_h *El Niño* _ean_ *The Boy*, and i_ the ter_ for _hen the _urface _ater te_perature of the Pacific Ocean ri_e_. Becau_e of thi_ _arine change, expert_ hint at even higher te_perature f_uctuation_. C_i_ate re_earcher Leon Simons ackno__edge_ the record i_ not encouraging. He _arn_ it i_ "a _ignificant ___bo_ic _i_e_tone in our _ar_ing _or_d", and that becau_e of El Niño _e are on the thre_ho_d of "a _ot _ore dai__, _onth__ and annua_ record_ breaking in the next 1.5 _ear_".

Thi_ Ju__ _hattered the previou_ record te_perature of 16.92C fro_ Augu_t 2016. Data revea_ that thi_ _a_ during the previou_ El Niño c_c_e. Other ca_cu_ation_ b_ _cienti_t_ propo_e that thi_ Ju__ _a_ the hotte_t in about 125,000 _ear_.

hat ha a__o been in_tru_enta_ to the ne_ record i_ the increa_e in carbon dioxide. _ocietie_ i__u_trate thi_ under__ing prob_e_ _ith their dependence on vehic_e_ and the exhau_t fu_e_ the_ _ake. To co_bat the prob_e_ and rai_e a_arene__, the phra_e net zero i_ often u_ed. Thi_ phra_e put_ for_ard the ai_ of no har_fu_ e_i__ion_ being _ade b_ _ociet_' _ action_.

Cool-down discussion, keywords, and game

Discussion questions:

- How can we use nature-friendly modes of transport more?
- What is your favourite season and why?
- What items can you use to keep yourself cool on a hot day?
- What life milestones are there?
- What types of energy sources can you name?

CEFR C1 10 lesson keywords:

(a = adjective / n = noun / v = verb)

calculation (n), combat (n/v), emission (n), fluctuation (n), grip (n/v), heatwave (n),
instrumental (a), shatter (v), threshold (n), underlying (a)

Language game:

How many words can you make from the letters in *heatwave*? Write them below.

Answers

Page 2 Warm-up activities and vocabulary

1. A. topped, B. establishes, C. warmth, D. marine, E. fluctuations, F. encouraging, G. shattered, H. propose, I. exhaust fumes, J. combat
2. edge
3. underlying (the others describe weather)

Page 3 Reading comprehension match-up

1F, 2C, 3K, 4B, 5H, 6J, 7A, 8M, 9N, 10G, 11D, 12O, 13L, 14E, 15I

Page 4 Phrases, synonyms, and antonyms match-up

Phrases 1F, 2C, 3G, 4A, 5D, 6B, 7J, 8I, 9H, 10E
Synonyms 1E, 2D, 3B, 4A, 5C
Antonyms 1B, 2C, 3A

Page 5 Grammar pairs cloze: reporting verbs

1A, 2B, 3A, 4B, 5B, 6B, 7B, 8A, 9A, 10A

Page 6 Vocabulary gap-fill cloze

1E, 2H, 3A, 4I, 5F, 6B, 7J, 8G, 9D, 10C

Page 7 Writing cloze

1. heatwave, 2. gripped, 3. identify, 4. hint at, 5. fluctuations,
6. acknowledges, 7. warns, 8. threshold, 9. shattered, 10. calculations,
11. propose, 12. instrumental, 13. underlying, 14. combat, 15. emissions

For this lesson's interactive exercises, please visit:

<https://www.everybitenglish.com/lesson-20230716-c1-el-nino>

Thanks for using this lesson!