

Little Ice Age: Big Chill

1. What was the Little Ice Age? When did it begin? For how many centuries did it continue? When was it at its strongest (coldest)?
2. What was the average change in global temperature due to the Little Ice Age? How can this global average be deceiving?
3. How do scientists use the ocean in order to record data on specific temperature ranges from the Little Ice Age?
4. What are some of the characteristics of the Medieval Warming Period? Was this a good period or bad period for those who relied on farming and crop production?
5. What were the consequences of almost five years of straight rain starting in Europe in 1315? Is grain vulnerable to heavy rains? If so, why?
6. What are the properties of the Oceanic Conveyor Belt and Thermohaline Circulation? Would the world be better off without the conveyor belt? What purpose does it serve?
7. How were the Vikings in Greenland affected by the Little Ice Age? How did they cope with the colder climate? What could they have learned from the native tribe, the Inuits, on Greenland?
8. What is the Maunder Minimum? Why is it relevant and imperative to understanding the Little Ice Age?
9. What happened to Napoleon Bonaparte's troops beginning in the fall of 1812? Where were the troops? What were they doing?
10. What happened in the summer of 1816? What is that summer commonly nicknamed by historians? What evidence, besides the freezing cold in the United States, is there of the Little Ice Age?
11. What are some theories that explain the end of the Little Ice Age? Pick the theory you think is correct and elaborate on your answer in a one-page response. Be sure to answer why you picked this theory? What has led you to agree with the scientific evidence supporting it?
12. Do you believe that the potential conflicts resulting from global climate change (theorized in the end of the documentary) could actually happen? Explain.