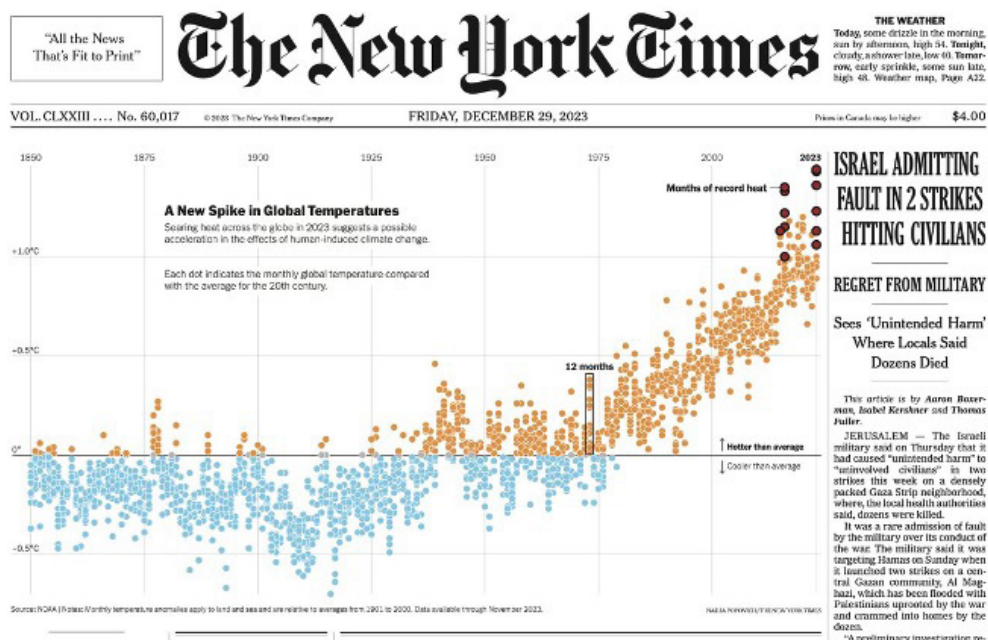
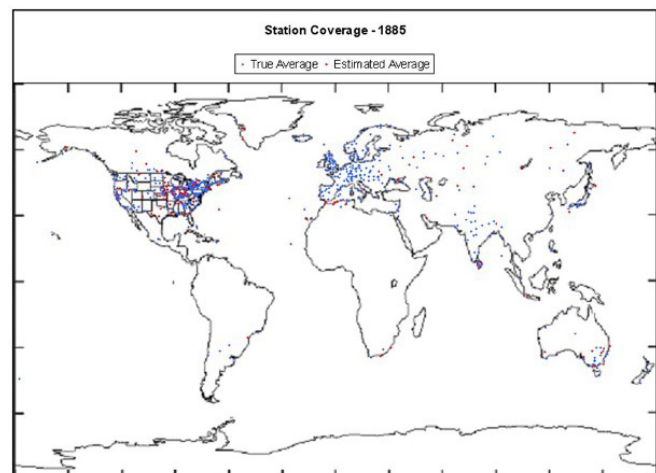


CLIMATE FACT CHECK: DECEMBER 2023 EDITION

December ended with the so-called “newspaper of record” running with this graph of infamy:



This graph is [artwork](#), not science. First, there is no such record of “global temperatures.” Because there is no physical meaning to the notion of “global temperature,” it cannot be measured. At best, this is a graph of fantasy guesstimates. These guesstimates have absolutely no basis in reality before 1979, when the satellite era started. Note, for example, that the New York Times graph begins in 1850. But check out the sparse and hardly “global” surface temperature station coverage as of [1885](#). [Read more...](#)



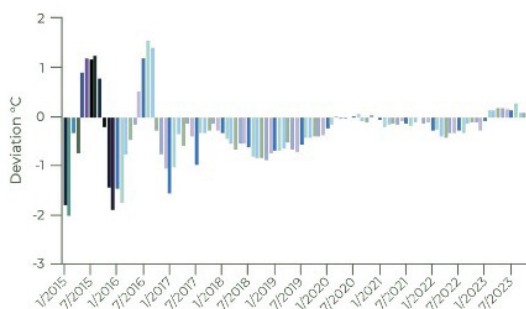
Moreover, the *New York Times*' claimed spike in "global temperature" for 2023 is not evident in the "global temperature" as calculated from today's global network of surface temperature stations that measure actual temperatures and report them in real time.

2023 does seem to have been a relatively warm year, as we [predicted](#) would happen in the event of an El Niño. And guess what? That's what [happened](#).

Since El Niños are natural phenomena that have nothing to do with emissions, the *New York Times* claim (on the graph) that, "Searing heat across the globe in 2023 suggests a possible acceleration in the effects of human-induced climate change," is also without a basis in reality.

Now, on to the December fact checks.

GLOBAL TEMPERATURE



Average (Jan 2015-Dec 2023): -0.264°C

Source: Temperature.Global

Data: NOAA global METARs 2015-current

NDBC global buoy reports 2015-current

MADIS Mesonet Data, NOAA OMOs

<https://temperature.global>

BEAM [venngage.com/beam](https://www.venngage.com/beam)

The Washington Post

Democracy Dies in Darkness

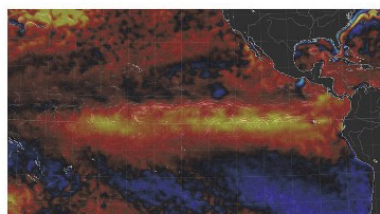
El Niño is nearing historic strength. What this means and when it will end.

This could be one of the strongest El Niño events observed over the past 75 years, new data shows



By Scott Dance

December 15, 2023 at 1:55 p.m. EST



Sea surface temperature differences from normal show abnormally warm waters over the eastern and central tropical Pacific Ocean, indicating strong El Niño conditions. (earth.nullschool.net)

OCTOPUS DNA MEANS CLIMATE DOOM?

The *New York Times* reported in "[This Antarctic Octopus Has a Warning About Rising Sea Levels](#)" that similarities in 120,000 year-old octopus DNA found at various spots around the West Antarctic ice sheet (WAIS) means that 120,000 years ago (an interglacial period when global temperature is estimated to have been about as warm as today) that the WAIS did not exist and that sea levels were 5 to 10 meters higher than today. "If climate change melts the West Antarctic ice sheet entirely, sea levels could rise by an average of up to five meters, or 16 feet," the NYTimes warned.

The New York Times

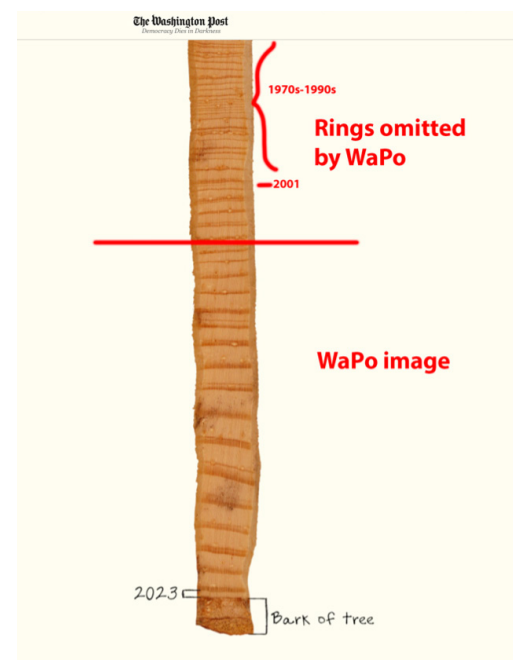
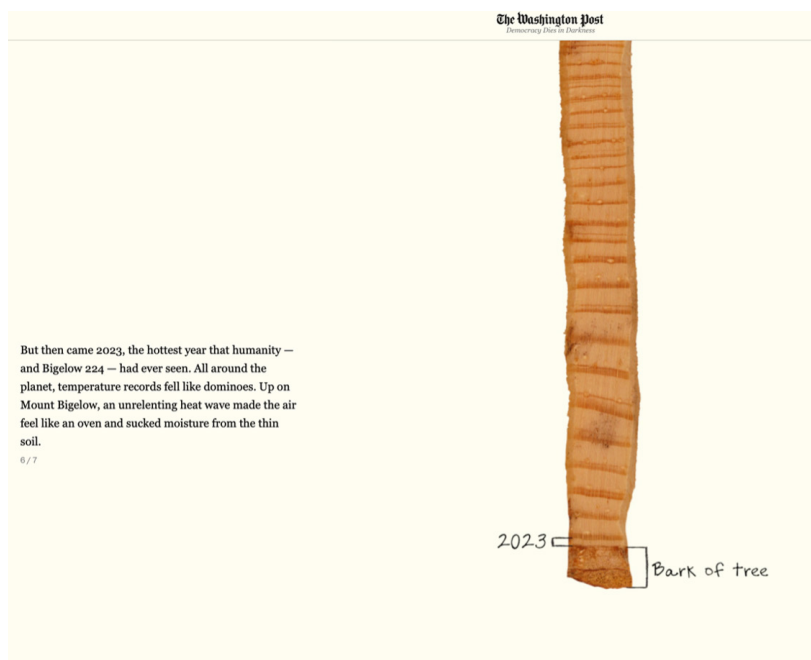
Fact Check. The other way to look at these circumstances is that, because it is as warm today as it was when the WAIS did not exist 120,000 years ago, current warming (whatever the cause) has nothing to do with the WAIS, which is currently 1.32 million square miles in size. It might also be worth noting that there were no fossil fuel power plants or internal combustion engines 120,000 years ago when the West Antarctic was ice free, suggesting that the present warming may be entirely natural, a regular trend during interglacial periods. Keep in mind, as we reported last month, new research indicates that the WAIS has been [cooling](#) since the late 1990s and that there is [volcanic activity](#) under the WAIS. The octopus DNA might be an interesting finding, but it has no relevance to the future of the WAIS.

ARIZONA TREE-RING MEANS CLIMATE DOOM?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Written in the Wood](#)" that: "Deep in the Sonoran Desert, high on a mountain's wind-swept peak, there lives a tree known as Bigelow 224. With its stout orange trunk and long, graceful needles, the tree looks like any other ponderosa pine growing on Mount Bigelow. But a sliver of its wood, taken amid Earth's warmest year on record, shows that this tree has a story to tell — and a warning to offer... But then came 2023, the hottest year that humanity — and Bigelow 224 — had ever seen. All around the planet, temperature records fell like dominoes. Up on Mount Bigelow, an unrelenting heat wave made the air feel like an oven and sucked moisture from the thin soil."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. The *Washington Post* article scrolls and eventually lands on an image (top) spotlighting (or gas lighting) the relatively thin 2023 tree ring produced by the "hottest year that humanity — and Bigelow 224 — had ever seen." But a screenshot taken before the scroll landed on the image on the left shows a full-image (bottom, annotated) that goes back to the 1970s. Clearly, the thin 2023 tree ring is actually thicker than the tree rings from the 1970s through 1990s, none of which were the "hottest year that humanity — and Bigelow 224 — had ever seen."



GLOBAL WARMING CAUSES RECORD COLD IN CHINA?

Reuters reported in "[Weakened polar vortex seen as likely culprit behind China's big chill](#)": "Over the past 30 years, the Arctic Circle has experienced the fastest warming globally, known as the 'Arctic amplification' phenomenon," said Shao Sun, a climatologist at the University of California, Irvine. 'Warming leads to a weakening of the polar vortex in the Arctic, making it easier for cold air within the vortex to move southward, contributing to the occurrence of cold wave events.'



REUTERS

Fact Check. Long-time climate alarmist Kevin Trenberth admits that the notion that warming weakens the polar vortex is the reverse of what is actually observed: "If Arctic warming were to blame, the effect should be the strongest in the northern hemisphere's summer and fall, says Kevin Trenberth, a climate scientist at the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colorado. Moreover, Trenberth says, it is unclear how this seasonal warming effect would persist into the dead of winter" [reported Nature](#) in 2014.

MEXICAN TOWN DESTROYED BY CLIMATE CHANGE?

The Associated Press reported in "The last residents of a coastal Mexican town destroyed by climate change": "People moved to El Bosque in the 1980s to fish. Setting out into the Gulf of Mexico in threes and fours, fishermen returned with buckets of tarpon and long, streaked snook. There was more than enough to feed them, and build a community — three schools, a small church and a basketball court on the sand. Then climate change set the sea against the town. Flooding driven by some of the world's fastest sea-level rise and by increasingly brutal winter storms has all but destroyed El Bosque, leaving piles of concrete and twisted metal rods where houses used to line the sand."



Associated Press

Fact Check. The town of El Bosque was built on a peninsular sandbar that was struck by a 2019 storm that reshaped the sandbar and rapidly increased erosion. As emissions don't cause storms, the demise of El Bosque has nothing to do with climate change. [Read more...](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE KILLING ELEPHANTS?

The *Washington Post* [reported](#) in "At least 100 elephants die in drought-stricken Zimbabwe park, a grim sign of El Nino, climate change": "At least 100 elephants have died in Zimbabwe's largest national park in recent weeks because of drought, their carcasses a grisly sign of what wildlife authorities and conservation groups say is the impact of climate change... Authorities warn that more could die as forecasts suggest a scarcity of rains and rising heat."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. [Zimbabwe has periodically experienced drought](#) since record-keeping began. Elephants [commonly die](#) during droughts in Zimbabwe. Drought has [nothing to do with emissions](#).

CONTRAILS DAMAGE THE CLIMATE?

The *Washington Post* [reported](#) in "Cleaning up contrails might clear up some of aviation's climate damage": "As millions of Americans prepare to fly home for the holidays, their biggest planet-warming impact may not come from the carbon burned in their planes' engines but the thin, wispy clouds that trail behind their flights."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. "Contrails or condensation trails, [are essentially human-made clouds](#); they are trails of condensed water vapor created by jet engines." The contrails-related climate hypothesis is that they reflect sunlight during the day (so as to reduce warming), but at night they reflect heat back to the Earth (so as to increase warming). Contrails only last a few hours as they disperse. The claim that contrails cause a small amount of warming is based on unverified and unverifiable computer modeling. If a hypothesis cannot be verified, it falls short of science.

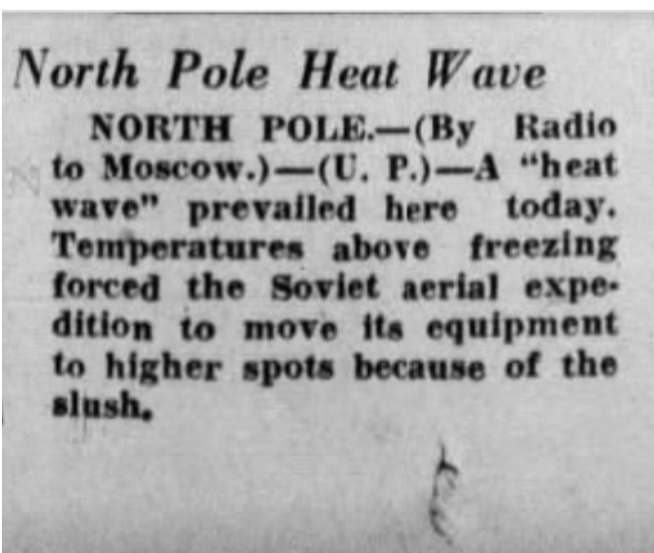
HOTTEST ARCTIC SINCE 1900?

Reuters reported in "[Arctic warming threatens wider world with rising seas - US report](#)": "Summer surface air temperatures in the Arctic were the highest since at least 1900 as the Arctic continues to warm twice as fast as the rest of the globe because of human-caused climate change."

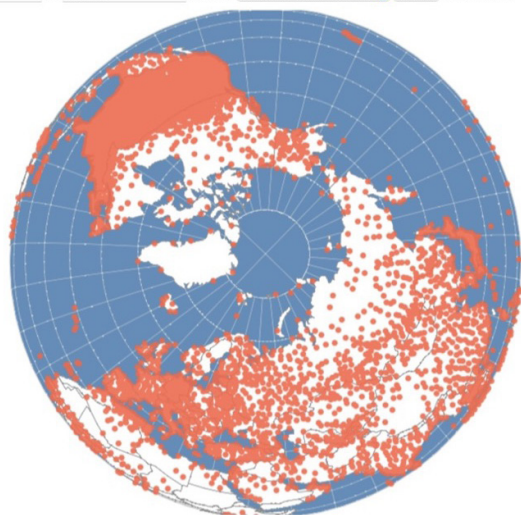


Fact Check. The first people to make it to the North Pole were Russians in 1937. The ice under the temperature station they set up soon melted and their station drifted south. Americans didn't make it to the North Pole until 1952. Temperature estimates for the Arctic before the 1979 satellite era are pure guesswork. Even today, there is very little surface station coverage of the Arctic, per the NASA image below.

The Chattanooga News
09 Jul 1937, Fri ·Page 1



From: 2023-11 To: 2023-11 Dataset: GHCN V4 adj - homogenized Update Stations: 7621

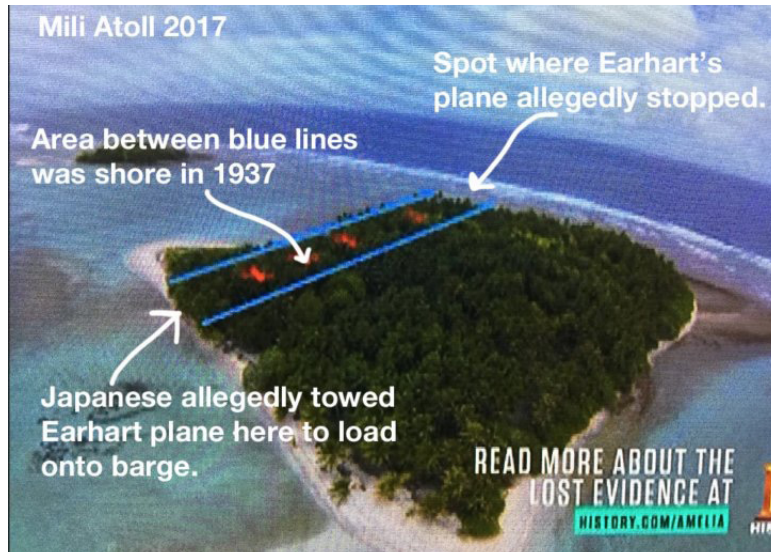


ISLAND NATIONS ENDANGERED BY SEA-LEVEL RISE?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[The two words island nations are begging to see in a global climate pact](#)" that island nations like Niue and the Marshall Islands were in danger of "sinking into the sea."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. The island of Niue sits atop a raised coral reef with its highest point 197 feet above sea level. The Marshall Islands are actually [gaining](#) land area. Check out the image (below) of the Marshall Islands' Mili Atoll, where some hypothesize Amelia Earhart may have [crash-landed](#) in 1937.



NEW YORK CITY MISSING WHITE CHRISTMASES?

The *New York Times* bemoaned another snowless Christmas on its front-page, giving readers the impression that the city has a White Christmas.

The New York Times

Fact Check. Out of the 111 Christmases since 1912, New York City has only had [18 White Christmases](#). In New York City, a White Christmas is the exception and not the rule.



CLIMATE CHANGE IS SPEEDING UP?

The *Washington Post* reported in "[Is climate change speeding up? Here's what the science says](#)": "For the past several years, a small group of scientists has warned that sometime early this century, the rate of global warming [caused by emissions] — which has remained largely steady for decades — might accelerate. Temperatures could rise higher, faster. The drumbeat of weather disasters may become more insistent. And now, after what is poised to be the hottest year in recorded history, the same experts believe that it is already happening."

The Washington Post

Fact Check. While 2023 may be the "warmest" year since the satellite era began in 1979, the implication that that is due to emissions is misplaced and the *Washington Post* knows that. First, just two weeks before the article was published, the *Washington Post* reported: "The climate pattern El Niño that has pushed the planet to record warmth over the past six months is nearing its peak, potentially as one of the strongest El Niño events observed over the past 75 years, new data show."

We'll close out 2023 with this Associated Press photo advertising its climate coverage for 2023. You decide what the image of sheep heading off into the sunset means for media climate coverage.

Until next month and for more great climate fact checks from December 2023, check out:



[ClimateRealism.com](#)

- [Sorry, USA Today, Weather Isn't Getting Weirder or More Extreme](#)
- [Wrong, CNN, Climate Change Isn't the Cause of Rising Bear Attacks in Japan](#)
- [No, Media, 'Catastrophic Climate Tipping Points' are Nothing to Worry About](#)
- [Wrong, Washington Post, Warming Hasn't Harmed African Crop Production](#)
- [Wrong, USA Today, a 1.5° Temperature Rise Is Not a Scientifically Established Climate Threshold](#)

[CO2Coalition.org](#)

- [Natural Disasters Are Not Increasing — Really](#)
- [Brewing Truth: Climate Doomsayers' Cooked up Coffee Crisis](#)

- [Al Jaber Is Right: There Is No Science Showing a Fossil Fuel Phase-Out Will Achieve 1.5C](#)

[WattsUpWithThat.com](#)

- [Voices Of CO2 Doom Dishonestly Alarm Unthinking Worshippers with Correlations - While Downplaying Proven Causations](#)
- [Hottest in 125,000 Years?](#)
- [Antarctic Sea Ice Volume Greater Than The Early 1980s](#)
- [VOX: Winter Has Disappeared Thanks to Climate Change](#)
- [Whatever happened to the Siberian permafrost "tipping point" from 2005?](#)