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Activities

Overflowing Seas

Name: _____ Date: _____

A liquid takes the shape of its container. If you fill it over the top, it overflows. What happens when oceans overflow their "container"? Thanks to global warming and rising sea level, we're just starting to find out. You'll explore the problem in this Planet Diary activity.

Directions

- Look at this NASA graph global sea level. Read the text below it, then answer Workspace question 1.
- Why is rising global sea level a problem? Go to Rising Sea Level to learn about its impact. Answer question 2.
- Are coasts of the United States at-risk? Go to Coastal Area Impacts. Read down the page and look closely at the pictures, then answer question 3.
- Is sea level rise the same everywhere? Go to NOAA's Sea Level Online. Up-pointing arrows are areas with rising sea level, with red or orange showing the greatest rise per year. Click these arrows to see their locations and amount of the rise. Answer question 4.
- Sea level has actually dropped in locations with down-pointing arrows. Look at the color key to find out how much. Explore the arrows showing the biggest drop (purple). Then answer question 5.
- How could sea level rise in some areas and fall in others? Read What Is Sea Level? then continue to *Local Sea Level*. Answer the last question.

Workspace

1. What factors contribute to rising sea level?

2. List the problems linked to global sea level rise.

3. Describe the ways that climate change could affect coastal areas of the U.S.

4. Name the three locations with the biggest sea level rise (red or orange arrows).

5. Name the three locations with the biggest sea level drop (purple arrows).

6. Explain why local sea level trends can differ from global sea level trends.

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