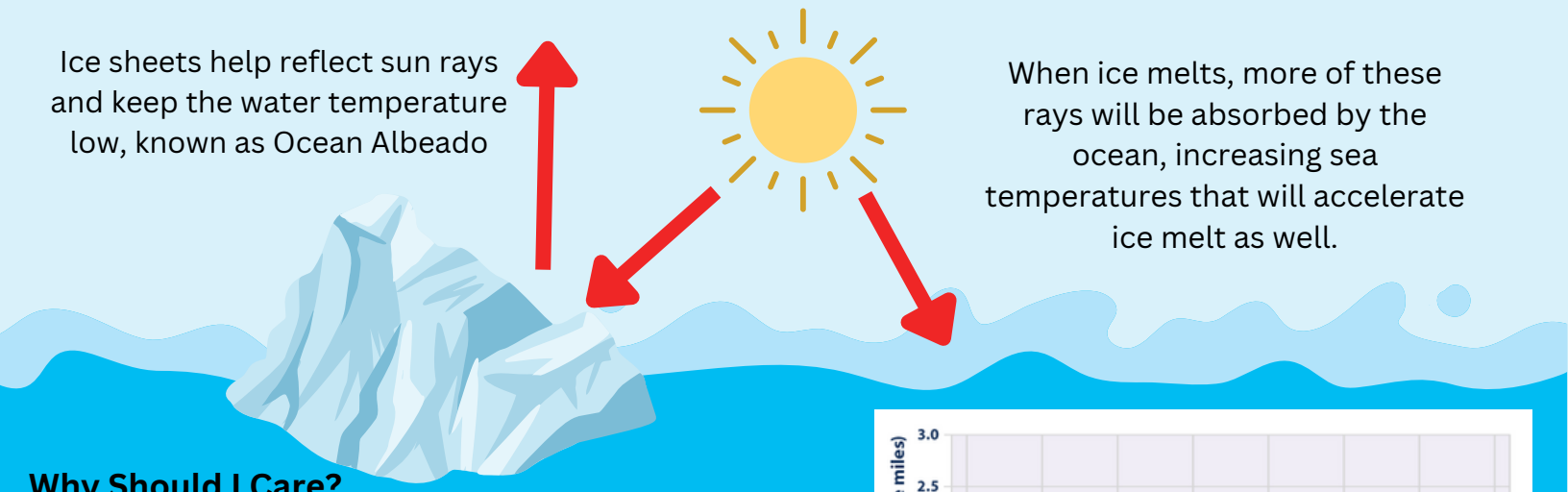
Combatting Arctic Ice Melt

Arctic sea ice is ***shrinking at a rate of 12.6% per decade***. This increased melting has major implications and impacts on both local and global environmental health.

How is this happening?

Temperatures in the arctic has more than doubled compared the global average. Factors like increased greenhouse gases have fueled this warm up which has kickstarted this ice melt.

Ice sheets help reflect sun rays and keep the water temperature low, known as Ocean Albeado

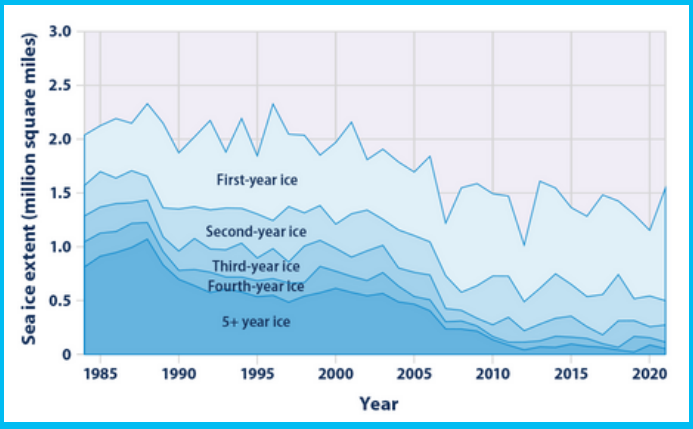


When ice melts, more of these rays will be absorbed by the ocean, increasing sea temperatures that will accelerate ice melt as well.

Why Should I Care?

This graph shows the rapid decrease in Arctic Sea ice, especially of older ice (5+ years) that is typically thicker and stronger.

Increased ice melt will continue to increase air and sea temperature which in turn increases habitat loss and threatens species. This directly impacts indigenous culture, fishing, and tourism that depend on this land and these species. This melt and increased temperatures will also impact the polar jet stream that influences climate across the globe.



https://www.epa.gov/climate-indicators/climate-change-indicators-arctic-sea-ice

What are the Current Solutions to Help Combat this Ice Loss?

Scientists are experimenting with creating artificial glaciers, increasing ice artificially, spraying the ice to keep it reflective, and covering it was glass beads to reflect.

Using glass beads to reduce ice melt works by increasing how reflective the ice is which stops it from melting. They are the most effective and least environmentally damaging solution currently being implemented.

So What Can I Do?

- Try to eat less meat per week
- Use other methods of transportation (bike, bus, carpool, walk)
- Switch from plastic to glassware
- Donate to organizations like The World Wildlife Fund, Greenpeace, and The Arctic Ice Project

Scan the QR to learn more about this issue and what we can do.