Extreme change (key stages 3 and 4)

What the photo says
This image of the Perutz Glacier in Antarctica, taken in the 1988/1989 season, is an ideal illustration for an examination of climate change, and the starter exercise below encourages students to think creatively about the future impact of climate change on one example of an extreme environment.

Lesson idea
Context: Extreme environments, cold environments, glaciation

Other resources
- access to ICT facilities, if using a photo editing application such as Photoshop
- paper, pencils and coloured crayons.

Suggested activity
This exercise assumes that students have an understanding of cold environments, the processes associated with the landscape, and climate change.

Display the image, and ask students to imagine the landscape in a hundred years’ time. How would it look? Ask students to draw a sketch, or adapt the photograph using a photo editing application. They could also annotate changes to the landscape, or new features they have introduced. Then they can repeat the exercise, imagining how it would look in a thousand years’ time.

Students can now discuss the impacts of climate change on these extreme environments, and also begin to consider the wider impacts of such changes.

Curriculum opportunities
Global dimension: Understanding the interconnections between places in the world.
Sustainable development: The impact of our actions on the environment.

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