Climate change impact around the world

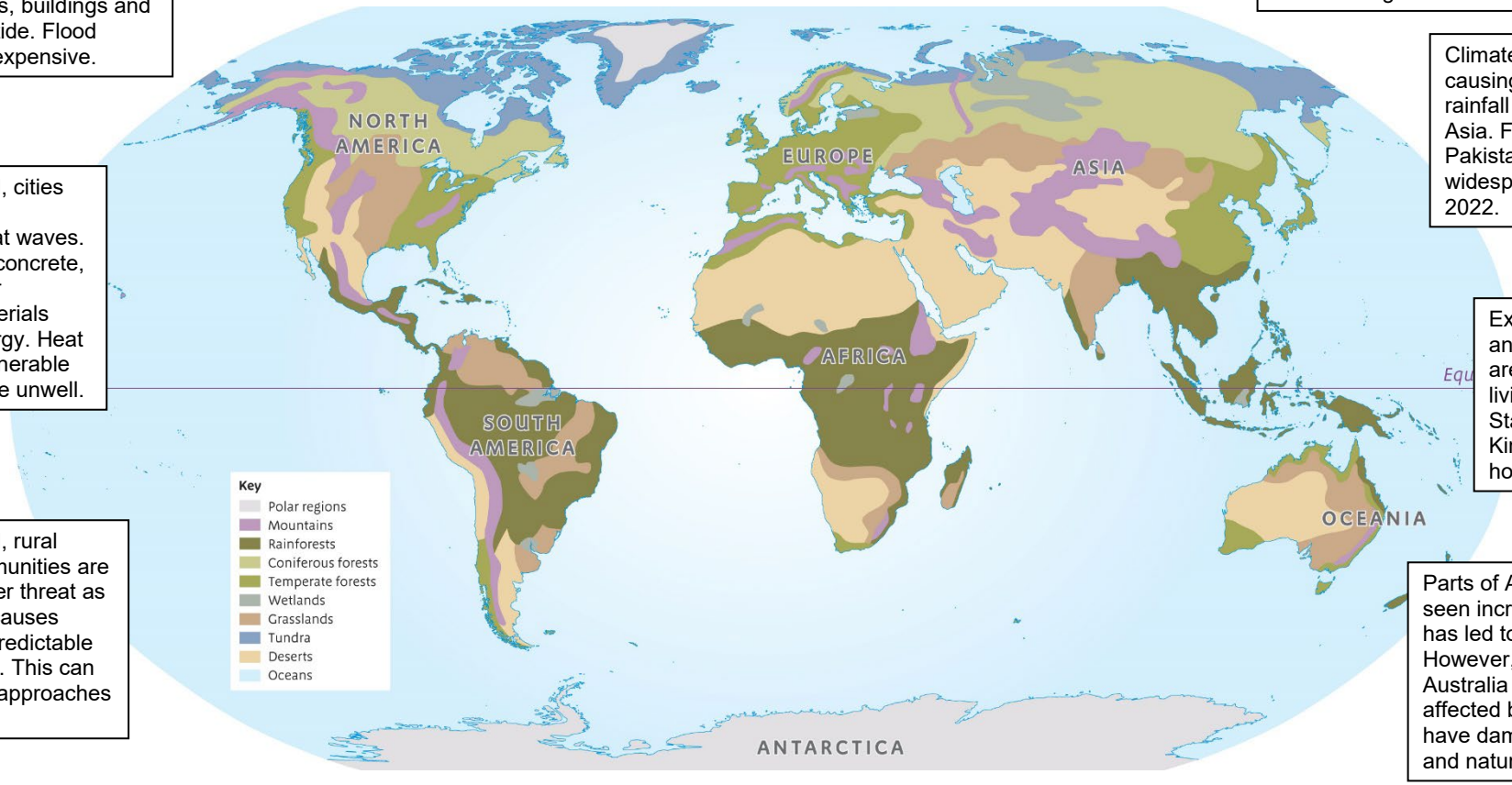
In North America, sea level rise is increasingly affecting coastal communities. The city of Miami now experiences increased flooding of streets, buildings and services at high tide. Flood management is expensive.

Europe is seeing increasingly extreme weather. Summer heatwaves, as well as variable rainfall, have caused droughts in some places but also severe flooding elsewhere. For example, Germany had severe flooding in 2021 and the UK experienced a drought in 2022.

In northern Africa, climate change is causing desertification. The Sahara Desert is spreading southwards as some areas dry out. This is causing damage to savannah ecosystems, and creating problems for farmers and communities.

The Arctic is currently the fastest-warming region on Earth. Sea ice cover is decreasing, and permafrost is melting. When permafrost melts it releases methane, a greenhouse gas. This leads to even more global warming.

Around the world, cities are increasingly vulnerable to heat waves. This is because concrete, tarmac and other construction materials absorb heat energy. Heat waves cause vulnerable people to become unwell.



Climate change is causing increased rainfall in some parts of Asia. For example, Pakistan experienced widespread flooding in 2022.

Extreme weather and sea level rise are forcing people living in Small Island States such as Kiribati to leave their homes.

Around the world, rural indigenous communities are increasingly under threat as climate change causes variable and unpredictable weather patterns. This can affect traditional approaches to agriculture.

Parts of Australia have seen increased rainfall that has led to flooding. However, other areas in Australia have been affected by wildfires that have damaged property and natural forests.

In Antarctica, climate change is causing sea temperatures to warm and sea ice to melt. As the sea ice melts, more glaciers on land slip into the sea. Warming temperatures harm the habitats of penguins and plankton.

In the Himalayas, mountain glaciers are melting. These large ice masses provide fresh water that supports the lives of millions of people. If the glaciers melt entirely there will be shortages of fresh water in the region.

In coral reefs, such as the Great Barrier Reef, marine life is threatened by warming ocean temperatures and ocean acidification. Around the world, millions of people depend upon coral reefs for food.

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