

Sea Level Rise

Watch the video and answer the questions below

Heating H₂O: The Chemistry of Sea Level Rise

California Academy of Sciences

youtu.be/0BkJtggkW60?

1. Explain how melting sea ice does not raise the sea level but melting land ice does.

2. What is thermal expansion?

3. How could sea level rise impact people and animals that live near the coast?

Sea Level Rise **Answers**

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1. Explain how melting sea ice does not raise the sea level but melting land ice does.

When land ice melts, water is added to the ocean from the land. This increases the overall volume of the ocean and raises the sea level. When sea ice melts, there is no increase in sea level because the ice was already impacting the sea level. The amount of water that melts from the ice is equal to the weight of the ice before it melts.

2. What is thermal expansion?

Thermal expansion is when a material's temperature increases, its volume increases. The same mass of material takes up a larger volume.

3. How could sea level rise impact people and animals that live near the coast?

As the sea level rises, people who live near the coast may have to move inland. Many beaches and marshes along the water may be destroyed, leaving wildlife with less habitat.

