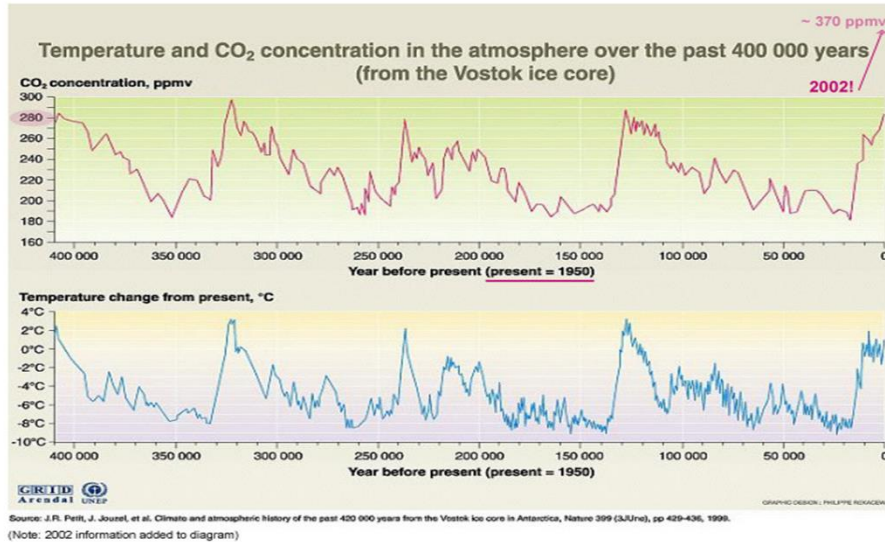


In this activity participants are asked to place these significant milestones in the evolution and history of humanity onto a timeline that also shows how global temperatures and carbon dioxide concentrations have fluctuated over the last 800,000 years.



On the following page are the milestones we use but you may want to research your own that might be more locally or culturally relevant. The 'answers' are also given. The activity demonstrates that the entirety of anything we might call 'civilisation' has occurred in a very stable period climactically, and that the levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere now are unprecedented in the history of human evolution.



This graph, based on the comparison of atmospheric samples contained in ice cores and more recent direct measurements, provides evidence that atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> has increased since the Industrial Revolution.

First signs of simple agriculture & animal domestication	Organised agriculture
First cities (Mesopotamia)	Pyramids
Bronze age	Athenian democracy
Mayan empire	Printing press invented
Industrial revolution	First evidence of purpose built shelters
First evidence of hunting with spears	<i>Homo sapiens</i> emerges
First evidence of long distance trade	'Great Leap Forward' human societies start showing evidence of 'culture' e.g. burying dead, clothing, etc.
Oldest cave art	End of the stone age
First beads and jewellery	First computers

Answers:

First signs of simple agriculture and animal domestication (9,000 – 8,000 years ago)	Organised agriculture (7,000 years ago)
First cities (Mesopotamia) (5,800 years ago)	Pyramids (4,500 years ago)
Earliest known writing (5,000 years ago)	Athenian democracy (2,500 years ago)
Mayan empire (1,500 years ago)	Printing press invented (500 years ago)
Industrial revolution (200 years ago)	First evidence of purpose built shelters (500,000 years ago)
First evidence of hunting with spears (400,000 years ago)	<i>Homo sapiens</i> emerges (195,000 years ago)
First evidence of long distance trade (140,000 years ago)	'Great Leap Forward' human societies start showing evidence of 'culture' e.g. burying dead (50,000 years ago)
Oldest cave art (33,000 years ago)	End of the stone age (5,500 years ago)
First beads and jewellery (110,000 years ago)	First computers (100 years ago)