

# Smart Stuff

with Twig Walkingstick



THE OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
OHIO STATE UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION  
OHIO AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH  
AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER

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**Notes:** Two groups teamed to carry out the Arctic Climate Impact Assessment: the Arctic Council and the International Arctic Science Committee. The 180 scientists who contributed to the effort (all of them called "well-recognized experts in their fields of study") came from 12 countries, including all of the Arctic countries. Some 200 additional scientists from 15 countries conducted a "rigorous and comprehensive" review of the findings. Read more at <http://www.acia.uaf.edu/>. Included are links to free downloads of the full 1,020-page scientific report; a 140-page "synthesis report"; and a 20-page highlights brochure.

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**Q. Dear Twig:** So scientists say that the Arctic ice cap is melting — getting smaller. Two questions: What do they say is the reason? And what do they say is going to happen to the polar bears?

**A.:** Scientists blame **global climate change**, also called **global warming**, for the North Pole ice cap shrinking.

A report called the **Arctic Climate Impact Assessment** says this: that "Earth's climate is changing, with the global temperature now rising at a rate unprecedented ["un-PRESS-uh-den-tid"; unheard-of] in the experience of modern human society. ... **These climate changes are being experienced particularly intensely in the Arctic.**"

What's behind it?

Apparently *Homo sapiens*.

Most of the global

warming of the past 50 years is

due to **human activities**, the

report says, "and there is new and strong

evidence that in the Arctic much of the

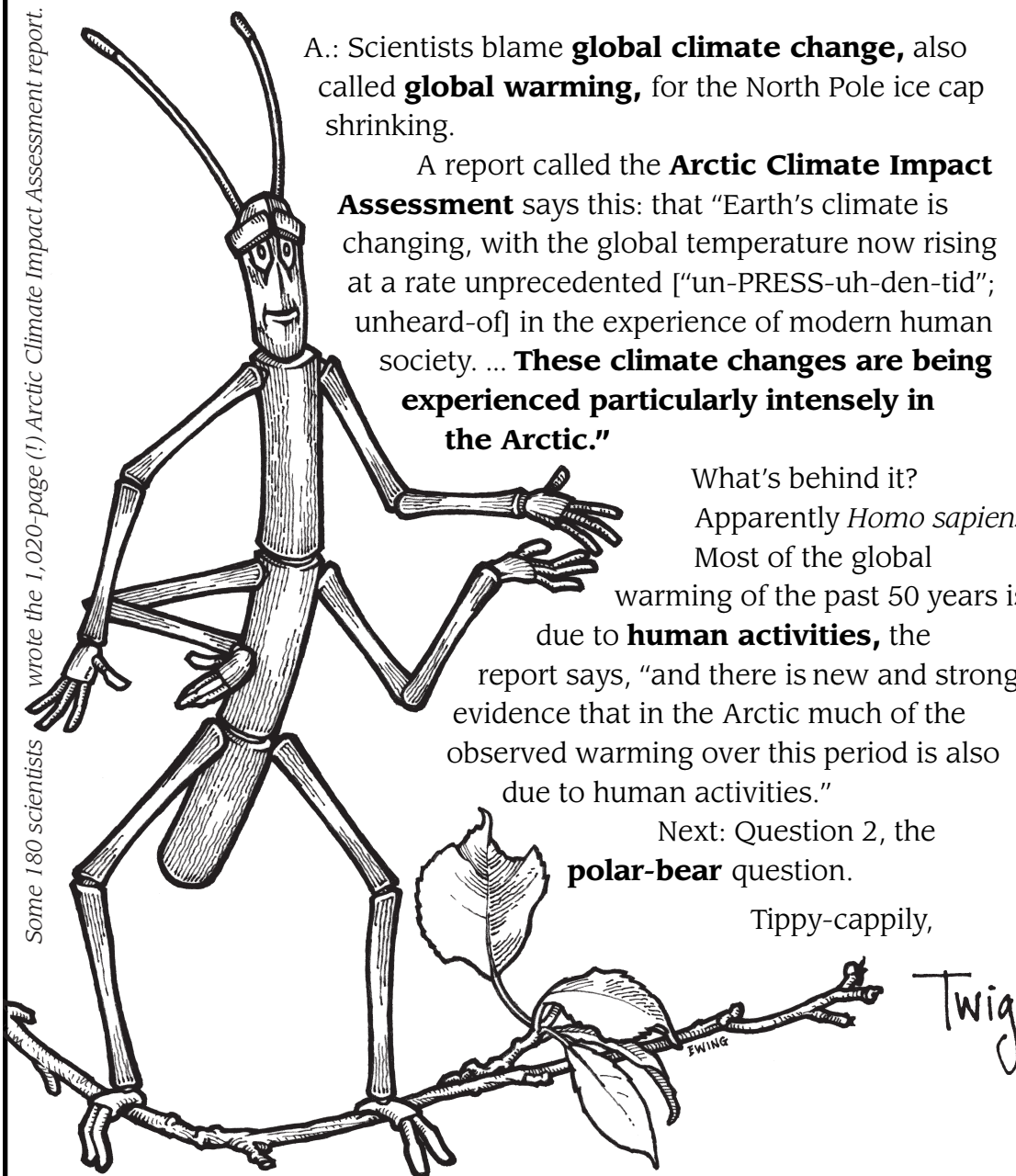
observed warming over this period is also

due to human activities."

Next: Question 2, the

**polar-bear** question.

Tippy-cappily,



Some 180 scientists wrote the 1,020-page (!) Arctic Climate Impact Assessment report.

From your scientific friends at The Ohio State University — specifically, the Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center ([www.oardc.ohio-state.edu](http://www.oardc.ohio-state.edu)) and OSU Extension ([extension.osu.edu](http://extension.osu.edu)).