

## **GLOBAL WARMING--SCIENCE OR NOT?** (From [www.gotscience.org](http://www.gotscience.org) )

*Read the following quotes and decide if each is true (science) or false (not science). Then go to the bottom for the answers.*

1. "I don't think that anyone disagrees with the fact that we actually are in a cold period that started about nine years ago. Now, that's not me talking, those are the scientists that say that."
2. "The Arctic is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet, and this summer its sea ice is melting at a near-record pace. The sun is heating the newly open water, so it will take longer to refreeze this winter, and the resulting thinner ice will melt more easily next summer."
3. "They're saying to us [that global warming is] going to be a big problem because it's going to be warmer than it usually is; my farmers are going to say that's a good thing since they'll be able to grow more corn. "
4. "It's the most severe winter storm in years, which would seem to contradict Al Gore's hysterical global warming theories."
5. "The existence of monkeys does not disprove evolution. The existence of tadpoles does not disprove the existence of frogs. ...The fact that it is snowing somewhere, anywhere, at any one time, does not tell you any useful thing about the overall climate."

### **ANSWERS**

1. False. That's not science at all!  
That was Senator James Inhofe (R-OK) speaking in July 2010. But the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration reports that the planet just experienced the hottest decade (2000-2009) on record since 1880. Stay tuned as 2010 is on track for being one of the hottest years on record.
2. True. That's science!  
That was Thomas Homer-Dixon, Ph.D., professor of global systems at the Balsillie School of International Affairs in Waterloo, Canada. Melting sea ice is straining arctic ecosystems and is a clear indicator that global warming is already happening.
3. False. That's not science!  
That was Congressman Collin Peterson (D-MN), denying that global warming will present agricultural challenges in his district. But the science says something different. Experts predict that yields from corn crops are likely to diminish over time as a result of unabated climate change.
4. False. That's not science!  
That was Sean Hannity, Fox News anchor, speaking about the February 10, 2010, snowstorm in Washington, D.C. Global warming deniers in politics and media leveraged the snowstorm as part of an attack on climate science, but it's just rhetoric. In fact, rising global temperatures caused by global warming play a leading role in the occurrence of more intense rain and snow storms.
5. True. That's science!  
That was Rachel Maddow speaking about climate change on her show on MSNBC. She was responding to claims by global warming deniers that recent snowstorms in Washington, D.C. disproved theories of global warming—they don't.