



Dear Whatcom County Fourth Graders,

The North Cascades surround Mt. Baker and are home to the greatest population of glaciers in United States after Alaska. However, the glaciers are melting and we worry that we will lose the glaciers in our own backyards if something is not done. Before we can do something about it, we need to know why they are melting. As scientists, your mission is to construct a model that will help explain why our glaciers are disappearing.

You will have 15 minutes to construct a model that will melt ice. The ice will represent the glaciers in the North Cascades. You will compare your melting ice to an ice cube with no influence (the control) and make observations about how fast the ice is melting and why. BUT you have some restrictions:

1. The ice must be touching the ground at all times. Glaciers form on mountains. In order to best represent a glacier, the ice you are melting must also not leave the ground.
2. You must be able to see the ice cube so that you can make observations throughout the course of this experiment.
3. You must only use the engineering kits provided by your teacher. Giving you a limited amount of supplies will help isolate what is happening to each glacier. You are not required to use all the material, but must not use anything additional.

Thank you for taking on this mission. We eagerly await your report.

Good luck!

Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Association

Sketch your model

Fold along dotted line

Name your model

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Group letter

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