

## THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW



PRODUCTION: USA 2004  
 DIRECTOR: Roland Emmerich  
 STARRING: Dennis Quaid (Jack Hall),  
 Ian Holm (Professor Terry Rapson),  
 Jake Gyllenhaal (Jack's son Sam),  
 Emma Rossum (Sam's friend Laura)

### SYNOPSIS

Jack Hall is a paleo-climatologist (a scientist who studies the planet's weather patterns throughout the ages) who is on an expedition at a research station in Antarctica with two colleagues. They are drilling for ice core samples when an enormous ice block breaks off from the rest of the continent. Jack presents his findings on global warming at a UN conference in New Delhi. At the conference, Professor Rapson, who is keeping track of the world's ocean currents, tells Jack that the melting of the polar ice caps has poured fresh water into the oceans and diluted the salt level, which has caused the temperature of the ocean currents to drop, thus disrupting the North Atlantic current. A series of weather-related disasters starts to occur all over the world – violent hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, tidal waves and massive floods.

Jack sees the President and gives him the bad news that his estimate of years is now down to days, before the planet enters a new Ice Age. While survivors in the Northern United States try to evacuate to the warmer climates of the south, Jack heads north to try to rescue his son Sam and his friends who are stuck in New York, but the cold is a powerful adversary.



### BEFORE VIEWING

#### 1 Answer the questions.

1. Do you know where Antarctica is? If not, surf the net to find some information about it.
2. Have you ever seen films/documentaries set in Antarctica research stations?
3. Where is New Delhi?
4. What is UN?
5. Who is usually present at UN conferences?
6. What is meant by "global warming"?
7. What can governments do to help prevent global warming?
8. Do you know what the importance of the North Atlantic current is? If not, surf the net to find information about it.
9. Do you know when the most recent glacial periods took place? If not, surf the net to find some information about it.



## FILM CLIP

**2**  Watch the film clip and fill in the script with the following phrases.

global warming • greenhouse gases • melting the polar ice caps • our children and grandchildren  
 • price of the Kyoto Accord • size of the state of Rhode Island • ten thousand years ago •  
 two centuries • we're burning fossil • when do you think this could happen

*Professor Hall is presenting the findings from his studies of ice samples collected on the ice shelf at the UN Conference on Global Warming in New Delhi:*

**Jack Hall:** What we have found locked in this ice core is evidence of a cataclysmic climate shift, which occurred **1.** ..... The concentration of these natural **2.** ..... in the ice cores indicates that runaway warming pushed Earth into an ice age, which lasted **3.** .....

**Arabian diplomat:** (in simultaneous translation) I'm confused. I thought you were talking about **4.** ....., not an ice age.

**Jack Hall:** Yes, it is a paradox, but global warming can trigger a cooling trend. Let me explain. The Northern Hemisphere owes its typical climate to the North Atlantic Current. Heat from the sun arrives at the Equator and is carried north by the ocean. But global warming is **5.** ..... and disrupting this flow. Eventually it will shut down. And when that occurs, there goes our warm climate.

**Moroccan diplomat:** Excuse me. **6.** ....., professor? When?

**Jack Hall:** I don't know. Maybe in 100 years, maybe in 1000. But what I do know is that if we do not act soon, it is **7.** ..... who will have to pay the price.

**Vice-president Becker:** And who's going to pay the **8.** .....? It would cost the world's economy hundreds of billions of dollars.

**Jack Hall:** With all due respect, Mr. Vice President, the cost of doing nothing could be even higher. Our climate is fragile. At the rate **9.** ..... and polluting the environment, the ice caps will soon disappear.

**Vice-president Becker:** Professor Hall, our economy is every bit as fragile as the environment. Perhaps you should keep that in mind before making sensationalist claims.

**Jack Hall:** Well, the last chunk of ice that broke off was about the **10.** ..... Some people might call that pretty sensational.

**Demonstrators outside:** Stop global warming!



## AFTER VIEWING

**3** Use these quotes from *The Day After Tomorrow* as debate topics.

- Jack Hall: Mankind survived the last ice age. We're certainly capable of surviving this one. All depends on whether or not we're able to learn from our mistakes.
- Vice-President Becker: For years, we operated under the belief that we could continue consuming our planet's natural resources without consequence. We were wrong. I was wrong. The fact that my first address to you comes from a consulate on foreign soil is a testament to our changed reality. Not only Americans, but people all around the globe have become guests in the nations we once called the 'Third World'. In our time of need they have taken us in and sheltered us, and I am deeply grateful for their hospitality.

1. Jack Hall underlies the importance of learning "from our mistakes." Do you share his thesis? Why/Why not?
2. In what "foreign soil" do you think the survivors of the disaster have found shelter?
3. Is there an ethical lesson concerning refugees in Vice-President Becker's words?