

THE GLOBAL WARMING TEST

Question 6:

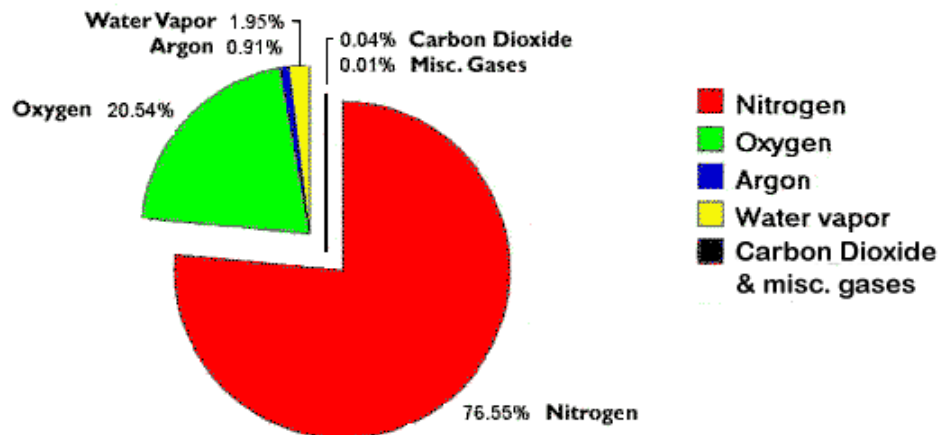
How much Carbon dioxide (CO₂) is in Earth's atmosphere today?

- a) 10% or greater
- b) 2% to 10%
- c) less than 1/10th of 1%

Sorry ... that is incorrect

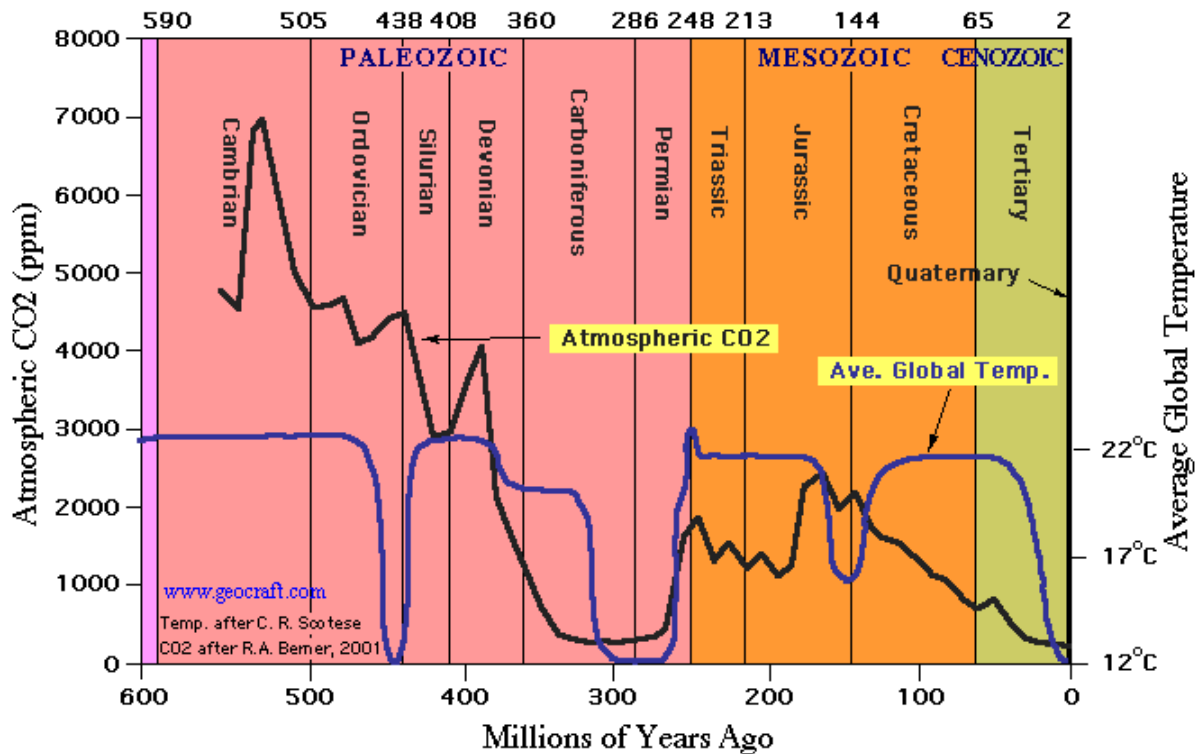
Carbon dioxide is such a small component of Earth's atmosphere (380 ppm or "parts per million") that it shows up on the chart below as only a thin line (shown at 2x actual thickness, just so you can see it!) Compared to former geologic times, Earth's atmosphere is "CO₂ impoverished."

The Gases That Comprise Earth's Atmosphere



In the last 600 million years of Earth's history only the **Carboniferous Period** and our present age, the **Quaternary Period**, have witnessed CO₂ levels less than **400 ppm**.

Global Temperature and Atmospheric CO₂ over Geologic Time



Late Carboniferous to Early Permian time (315 mya -- 270 mya) is the only time period in the last 600 million years when **both** atmospheric **CO₂** and **temperatures** were as low as they are today (**Quaternary Period**).

Temperature after C.R. Scotese <http://www.scotese.com/climate.htm>
CO₂ after R.A. Berner, 2001 (GEOCARB III)

There has historically been much more CO₂ in our atmosphere than exists today. For example:

- During the **Jurassic Period** (200 mya), average CO₂ concentrations were about **1800 ppm** or about 4.7 times higher than today.

- The highest concentrations of CO₂ during all of the Paleozoic Era occurred during the **Cambrian Period**, nearly **7000 ppm** -- about 18 times higher than today.

- The **Carboniferous Period** and the **Ordovician Period** were the only geological periods during the Paleozoic Era when **global temperatures were as low as they are today**. To the consternation of global warming proponents, the Late Ordovician Period was also an **Ice Age** while at the same time CO₂ concentrations then were nearly 12 times higher than today-- **4400 ppm**.

According to greenhouse theory, Earth should have been exceedingly hot. Instead, global temperatures were no warmer than today. Clearly, other factors besides atmospheric carbon influence earth temperatures and global warming.



Question 7

[Repeat Question 6](#) || [Articles](#) || [Table of Contents](#) || [Next](#)