

Thursday, February 6, 2014

## Greenland's Iceberg Maker

*A giant glacier in Greenland melts and creates many icebergs.*

More than 100 years ago, the *Titanic* crashed into an iceberg and sank. The chunk of floating ice that wrecked the big ship likely broke off from a frozen river in Greenland called the Jakobshavn **Glacier**. Now scientists say the giant body of ice is breaking apart faster than ever — making more and more icebergs.

As the planet warms, the Jakobshavn Glacier melts and moves faster toward the sea. In fact, a new study on Monday says it is moving about 150 feet each day. That makes it the fastest glacier in the world! Dr. Ian Joughin, the report's lead author, says it's flowing four times faster than it did in the 1990s.

The fast-flowing glacier holds a *lot* of frozen water. As it carries its ice into the ocean, sea levels can go up. "From 2000 to 2010, this glacier alone increased sea level by about one millimeter," said Joughin. (That's about the thickness of a dime.) And it may keep affecting Earth. "With the additional speed, it likely will contribute a bit more than this over the next **decade**," he added.

Joughin and other scientists believe the glacier is melting more quickly because of **climate change**.

By Russell Kahn (Russ)



The Jakobshavn Glacier flows into the Atlantic Ocean.

### FACT:

The Jakobshavn Glacier is on the western coast of Greenland near the town of Ilulissat.

### ACT:

The glacier may be melting faster because of climate change. You can help by wasting less and reusing more.

### VOCABULARY:

glacier: giant body of ice

decade: 10-year period

climate change: change in the weather of the planet

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Ilulissat,  
Greenland



The city of Ilulissat means "icebergs" in the local language.