

Kids' postcards blanket Alpine glacier in eco-friendly stunt

By Jamey Keaten, Associated Press on 11.21.18

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Image 1. A postcard of approximately 2,500 square meters, made of contributions from more than 125,000 individual postcards containing messages aiming to combat climate change, is pictured on the Aletsch Glacier in Switzerland, November 16, 2018. Photo by: Valentin Flauraud/Keystone via AP

ALETSCHE GLACIER, Switzerland — Kids across the world expressed concerns about global warming by joining forces to create what organizers say is the world's biggest postcard on a glacier in the Swiss Alps.

Bearing messages of hope and commitment, more than 125,000 colorful handwritten postcards from kids around the world have emblazoned a glacier in Switzerland to create one giant one, half the size of a football field.

It's a cry for help — from New Orleans to Hong Kong, from sub-Saharan Africa to India — ahead of an upcoming U.N.-backed climate conference in Poland next month.



The Swiss development and cooperation agency and partners unfurled Friday, November 16, a "compound postcard," on top of the threatened Aletsch Glacier, the longest and deepest in the Alps and which is on track to melt to nonexistence by the end of this century if global warming trends continue.

Organizers say the individual postcards, delivered to the 3,400-meter height near Switzerland's famed Jungfrauoch, aimed to set a Guinness World Record for the "postcard with the most contributions."

Guinness, though, said the attempt has not been registered. The current record is only 16,000.

Pinned down with clamps and nets, and laminated in long glued-together strips to protect them from the ice and snow, the postcards bore messages of efforts to fight climate change and help the environment: limiting water use, promising to use public transportation, and recycling old goods before buying new ones among them.



"They are asking us and their leaders to take action to preserve the planet Earth for them to have a future on it," said Oceane Dayer, founder of Swiss Youth for Climate.

Ever mindful of the impact, organizers are calculating the CO₂ footprint caused by sending so many postcards — often through Swiss diplomatic posts — and preparing to double the offset, or compensation.

Drones equipped with cameras buzzed overhead as bright sunshine bounced off the white mountainside.

Overhead, cards spelled out "Stop global warming" and "#1.5C" — an allusion to the goal of keeping global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit).

Organizers want to launch a "Global Climate Change Youth Movement" to play into the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice, Poland, known as COP24, next month.

And organizers plan to use a snapshot of the giant compound postcard to make, well, a postcard.

Quiz

- 1 Read the conclusion below.

Young people can be activists for important causes such as reducing the effects of climate change on the environment.

Which sentence from the article provides the BEST support for the statement above?

- (A) Kids across the world expressed concerns about global warming by joining forces to create what organizers say is the world's biggest postcard on a glacier in the Swiss Alps.
- (B) Organizers say the individual postcards, delivered to the 3,400-meter height near Switzerland's famed Jungfrauoch, aimed to set a Guinness World Record for the "postcard with the most contributions."
- (C) "They are asking us and their leaders to take action to preserve the planet Earth for them to have a future on it," said Oceane Dayer, founder of Swiss Youth for Climate.
- (D) Organizers want to launch a "Global Climate Change Youth Movement" to play into the U.N. Framework Convention on Climate Change in Katowice, Poland, known as COP24, next month.

- 2 Which sentence from the article shows Aletsch Glacier's MAIN problem?

- (A) ALETSCHE GLACIER, Switzerland — Kids across the world expressed concerns about global warming by joining forces to create what organizers say is the world's biggest postcard on a glacier in the Swiss Alps.
- (B) Bearing messages of hope and commitment, more than 125,000 colorful handwritten postcards from kids around the world have emblazoned a glacier in Switzerland to create one giant one, half the size of a football field.
- (C) The Swiss development and cooperation agency and partners unfurled Friday, November 16, a "compound postcard," on top of the threatened Aletsch Glacier, the longest and deepest in the Alps and which is on track to melt to nonexistence by the end of this century if global warming trends continue.
- (D) Pinned down with clamps and nets, and laminated in long glued-together strips to protect them from the ice and snow, the postcards bore messages of efforts to fight climate change and help the environment: limiting water use, promising to use public transportation, and recycling old goods before buying new ones among them.

- 3 Which answer choice accurately characterizes how the participants of the "compound postcard" event feel about climate change?
- (A) Their primary focus was setting a Guinness World Record and they did not think much about climate change.
 - (B) They want to scare the rest of the world into doing more to prevent climate change.
 - (C) They feel committed and hopeful about their efforts to raise awareness about climate change.
 - (D) They think world leaders are not doing enough to stop climate change from melting Aletsch Glacier.
- 4 What is MOST likely the reason the author included the quote from Oceane Dayer?
- (A) to show how dedicated the country of Switzerland is to Aletsch Glacier
 - (B) to show how youth organizations inspire kids to take on climate change
 - (C) to show how much of an impact children can make on the world
 - (D) to highlight the message that kids were trying to send with their postcards