

World of two halves! Map shows most of Northern Hemisphere is covered in snow and ice

By [Daily Mail Reporter](#)

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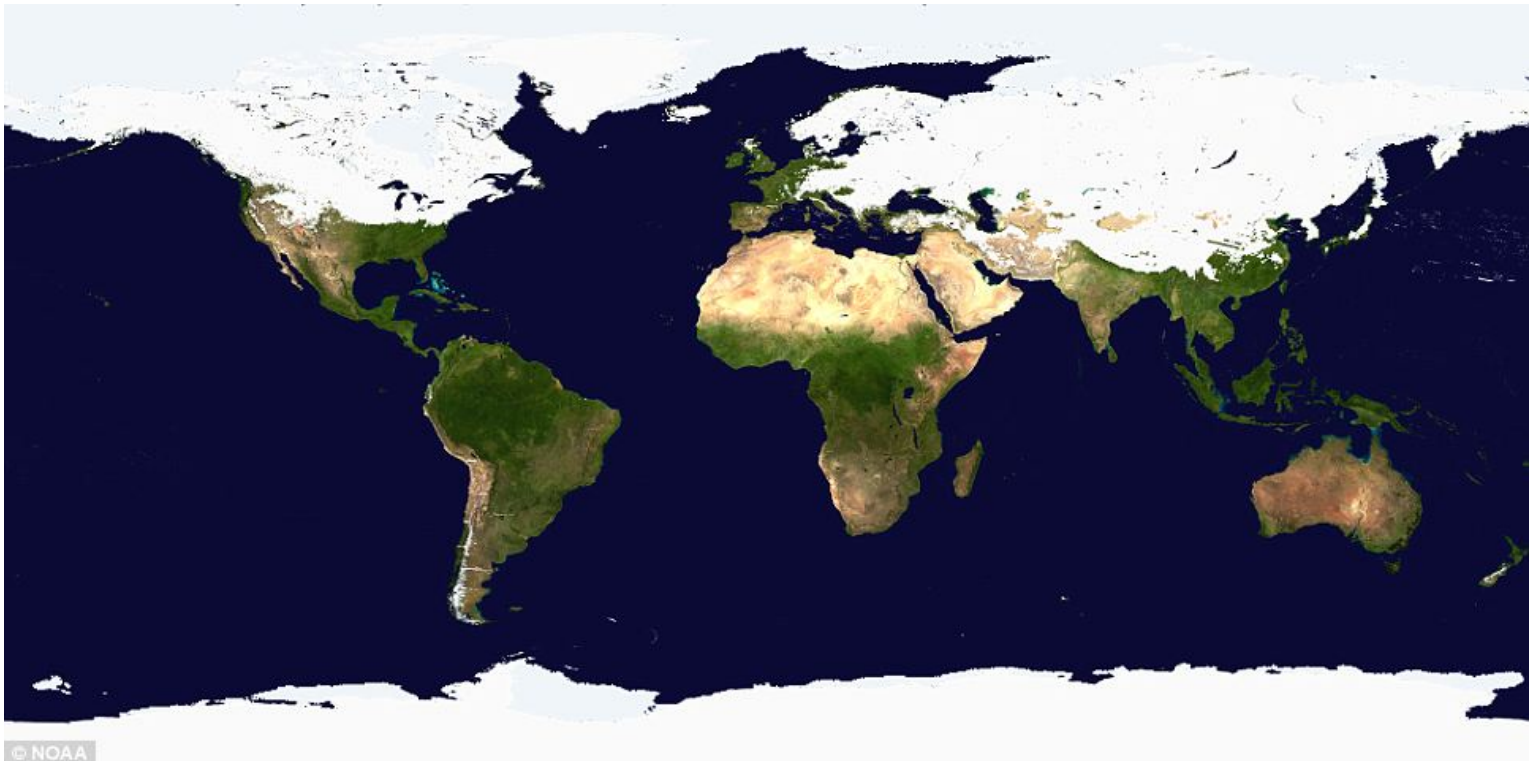
At first glance it looks like a graphic from a Discovery Channel programme about a distant ice age. But this astonishing picture shows the world as it is today - with half the Northern Hemisphere covered with snow and ice.

The image was released by the National Oceanic And Atmospheric Association (NOAA) on the day half of North America was in the grip of a severe winter storm.

The map was created using multiple satellites from government agencies and the US Air Force.

That Antarctica, the Arctic, Greenland and the frozen wastes of Siberia are covered in white comes as no surprise. But it is the extent to which the line dips down over the Northern Hemisphere that is so remarkable about the image.

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© NOAA

A new satellite map by the government agency NOAA shows the extent of the snow blanketing a vast area from the west coast of Canada to eastern China

The shroud of white stretches down from Alaska and sweeps through the Midwest and along to the Eastern seaboard. The bitter cold has reached as far as Texas and northern Mexico where in Ciudad Juarez temperatures today were expected to dip to minus 15C.

In the U.S. tens of millions of people chose to stay at home rather than venture out. In Chicago, 20in of snow fell leading to authorities closing schools for the first time in 12 years. The newspaper for Tulsa, Oklahoma, was unable to publish its print edition for the first time in more than a century.

This particular storm is the result from two clashing air masses which, if not unprecedented, is extraordinarily rare for its size and ferocious strength.

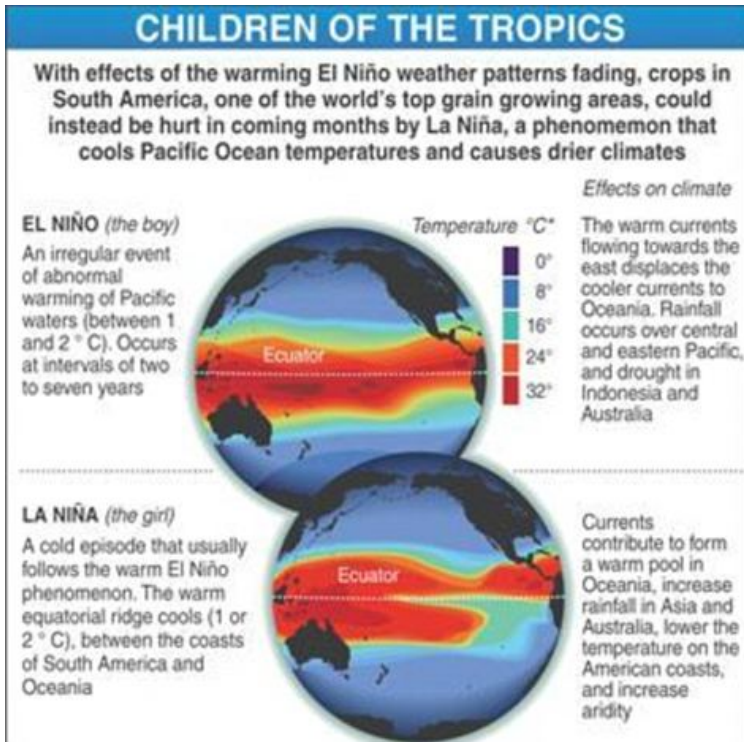
'A storm that produces a swath of 20in snow is really something we'd see once every 50 years - maybe,' said a U.S. National Weather Service meteorologist.

Louis Uccellini, director of the government's National Centers for Environmental Prediction, said the U.S. storm also drew strength from the La Nina condition currently affecting the tropical Pacific Ocean.

La Nina is a periodic cooling of the surface temperatures of the tropical Pacific Ocean, the opposite of the better-known El Nino warming. Both can have significant impacts on weather around the world by changing the movement of winds and high and low pressure systems.



Hundreds of drivers on Lake Shore Drive in Chicago, which was blasted by 20 inches of snow, abandoned their cars in an almost apocalyptic scene as authorities closed the road



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The NOAA image shows how the weather is affecting Scotland and begins in earnest from southern Germany, through Italy and down into Greece, Turkey and Iran. Northern areas of India and China are also affected.

The startling image was released on the same day Al Gore stepped up to defend his claim that global warming causes the bitterly cold weather. Thirty states in America are affected by a two-day blizzard.

Writing in his blog Al's Journal, he said: 'As it turns out, the scientific community has been addressing this particular question for some time now and they say that increased heavy snowfalls are completely consistent with what they have been predicting as a consequence of man-made global warming.'

His response came after Fox News pundit Bill O'Reilly challenged the former Vice President to give his thoughts on 'why southern New York has turned into the tundra'. Generally, the view put forward on global warming is that it would lead to expanding deserts and rising temperatures.

Mother Nature's wrath is not confined to the top half of the world, of course.

Cyclone Yasi, with a destructive core of more than 20 miles wide, smashed into Queensland in north east Australian overnight with 186mph winds. Authorities are calling it the worst storm to hit the country for generations.



© AP

The inside of a pickup truck that was stranded and left open on Lake Shore Drive on Wednesday shows the full ferocity of the blast as the white stuff almost covers the steering wheel



© Getty Images

A scene from sci-fi film *The Day After Tomorrow*? No, these are cars stuck in the northbound lanes of Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, after accidents and drifting snow stranded the drivers during last night's blizzard. As of late morning more than 20in of snow had fallen, making this snowstorm the third largest recorded in the city



© AP

Eileen Black takes pictures inside of a Chicago Transit bus that was stranded overnight. The blizzard caused havoc in a city well used to dealing with big snowfalls



© EPA



© EPA

You waiting? I'm walking! While one man waits for a bus in Chicago, another decides to make his way on foot through a snowstorm. A woman, right, wades through a snow drift in the city that comes up to her waist



© Getty



By foot is the sure way to get to where you want to as this woman (left) and these men found



© Getty Images

Coming through: A snowplough clears a street in a suburban area of Chicago



© AP



From one end of the U.S. to the other the impact of the blizzard has been felt. Left, a woman makes her way along an icy pavement in New York while, right, ice covers a statue in Ciudad Juarez, northern Mexico



Like bizarre creatures rising up out of the ground, these trees are clad in snow and ice after bitterly cold weather in northern Japan. Savouring the unique scenery skiers make their way downhill in at the Zao Onsen ski resort



© CEN

The bitterly cold weather covering the northern hemisphere has meant that the Hei Longjiang river in north-east China has frozen so thickly that lorries can cross it from Russia leading to a boom in trade



The impact of extreme weather is being felt in north-east Australia where Cyclone Yasi has struck along the coast of Queensland. Here, outside Innisfail, motorists wait for water to subside over the Bruce Highway

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Ummmm doesn't the Northern Hemisphere begin at the Equator???? Thats still a lot that is covered with jungle and desert. Not impressed.

- Margaret, Calgary, Canada, 03/2/2011 14:23

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Some very beautiful and awe inspiring photos here! Not sure if I'd be brave enough to drive a truck over a frozen river, though!!

- Lady Scuffington of Iver, Buckinghamshire, 03/2/2011 14:19

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I love these GW guys. If it snows like crazy in wintertime it is because of GW. If there is no snow and above average temps in Winter it is because of GW. If there is normal snowfall in Winter it is because of GW. Is there any weather pattern at all that does NOT prove GW to you guys? It must be great to have a position that is correct no matter what happens?

- karl the Yank, upstate New York, 03/2/2011 14:15

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This is nothing to do with mother nature.....as you well know. Global weather modification is interfering with the natural weather - more people are waking up. The research is out there - credible research. Go do your homework. - Pauline Maria, Manchester, UK, 3/2/2011 ---Credible to YOU.

- Craig, Kent, 03/2/2011 14:15

Click to rate Rating 2

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I know its just a very cold winter, but it is just me or does this remind you of 'The day afer tomorrow'.

- Matt, UK, 03/2/2011 13:57

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In that we're in the middle of the northern hemisphere winter...what is the point to this? If it was the summer than so much snow would be news worthy. Weather patterns for as long as weather has been tracked shows distinct periods, years, of calm weather and periods of extreme weather. When you've been around long enough you can see that for yourself too. The scientific evidence that it has more to do with solar storms more than anything else is very compelling. Major volcanic eruptions also can influence the weather patterns for a while - as it has done in the past.

- Pat, Dorset, 03/2/2011 13:57

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