



# HOLOCENE EPOCH **P**RESENT

The Holocene began 10,000 years ago and is the last Epoch of the Cenozoic Era. It is the time in which our current civilizations have developed and lived. The climate during the Holocene has been relatively stable compared to past glacial periods. Today, as in many earlier interglacial periods, we have two great ice sheets, one in Antarctica and one in Greenland. As the global climate has warmed in the last century these ice sheets, and many other smaller glaciers around the globe, are melting. More importantly, humans have become the most powerful force on our planet, moving as much rock and sediment as all the Earth's winds, rivers, and glaciers combined. Nearly all parts of Earth have been impacted by human actions. The landscape and climate of the future remains to be seen.