Name _____ Date _____ Class _____

Is Earth's Climate Getting Warmer?

The table below lists the average global temperature on Earth every year from 1961 to 1995. Use the table to answer questions 1 and 2.

Average Global Temperatures, 1961–1995

Year	Temp. (°C)	Year	Temp. (°C)	Year	Temp. (°C)	Year	Temp. (°C)	Year	Temp. (°C)	Year	Temp. (°C)	Year	Temp. (°C)
1961	15.08	1966	14.95	1971	14.93	1976	14.84	1981	15.29	1986	15.16	1991	15.36
1962	15.02	1967	14.99	1972	15.00	1977	15.11	1982	15.08	1987	15.27	1992	15.11
1963	15.02	1968	14.93	1973	15.11	1978	15.06	1983	15.24	1988	15.28	1993	15.14
1964	14.74	1969	15.05	1974	14.92	1979	15.09	1984	15.11	1989	15.22	1994	15.23
1965	14.88	1970	15.02	1975	14.92	1980	15.18	1985	15.09	1990	15.38	1995	15.39
Average 61–65 _____		Average 66–70 _____		Average 71–75 _____		Average 76–80 _____		Average 81–85 _____		Average 86–90 _____		Average 91–95 _____	

1. Calculate the average global temperature for each block of 5 years. (*Hint:* Add the 5 temperatures for 1961 through 1965, and divide that total by 5. Repeat for each of the other 5-year blocks.) Write your answers in the table.
2. Use the 5-year average temperatures you just calculated to make a line graph on a sheet of graph paper. Plot the temperatures on the vertical axis. Plot the years on the horizontal axis.

Answer the following questions on a separate sheet of paper.

3. Examine your graph. What overall change do you see in Earth's average temperatures between 1961 and 1995?
4. Describe the theory that explains this change.
5. Suppose this pattern continues. Predict what the average global temperature would be for the 5-year block 1996–2000.
6. Predict what the average global temperature would be in the year 2095. Explain your prediction.