

What happens to global sea levels during an ice age?

Sea levels drop globally during an ice age (also called a glacial period) as seawater is taken up in the ice sheets. There is decreased evaporation during an ice age and therefore less rain. Ice ages (also called glacial periods) are therefore usually, but not always, associated with an increase in aridity (dryness). Because conditions become drier and more arid there is usually an increase in the amount of dust in the air. These drier and dustier periods may frequently be traced in cores taken from the ocean floors and may be used to record cooler, or glacial periods.



The Langebaanweg fossils are thought to have been laid down during a marine transgression – that is a time period when the sea level was rising.

