

Powerful volcanic eruptions in the Tropics cool the climate

Small changes to the Sun and the Earth's orbit around the Sun cool the climate

Many killed by warfare and slavery

New diseases such as small pox and 'flu kill millions.

Wild plants and trees turn farmland into forest.

The greenhouse effect becomes less effective and the climate cools.

Wild plants and trees store more carbon.

Crop failure and famine around the world.

1492 Christopher Columbus arrives in the Americas.

The number of people living in the Americas falls by around 90%

Arable land is abandoned.

The amount of carbon dioxide, a greenhouse gas, in the atmosphere, falls.

The temperature falls in a period known as the Little Ice Age.

When the amount of Carbon Dioxide in the atmosphere falls, the amount taken up by the oceans, vegetation and soil falls too.

When the temperature falls, more carbon is taken up by the oceans, vegetation and soils.