

THE SECRET LIFE OF GLACIERS

WORLD WATER DAY 2025: INFOGRAPHIC

1. FROM SNOW TO ICE

Glaciers form when snow piles up over many years, compressing into solid ice.



It can take up to 100 years for snow to turn into glacier ice!

3. SLOW BUT STEADY

Glaciers move slowly under their own weight, carving landscapes as they go.



Some glaciers move as slowly as a few centimetres a year, while others can surge several metres in a day!

4. CHANGING WITH THE CLIMATE



As temperatures rise, glaciers melt faster than they can form, leading to retreat.



About 10% of Earth's land surface is still covered by glaciers, but they are shrinking.

2. DIFFERENT TYPES AROUND THE WORLD

Glaciers come in many forms depending on where they are.

• Ice Sheets:

Cover large areas like Greenland and Antarctica.



• Mountain Glaciers:

Found in high mountains like the Himalayas, Rockies, and Andes.



• Tidewater Glaciers:

Flow directly into the sea.



• Piedmont Glaciers:

Spread out at the foot of mountains, forming large lobes.



Mountain glaciers exist on every continent except Australia.

5. GLACIERS AND WATER

Glaciers store approximately 70% of the world's fresh water, making them the largest reservoir of fresh water on Earth.



As glaciers melt, they release water that feeds rivers and provides drinking water for millions of people.