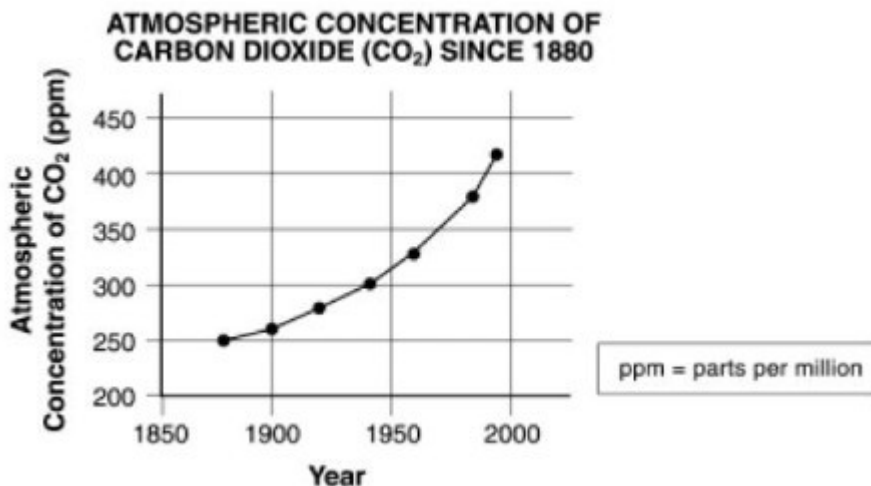


SC.912.N.1.1 – Nature of Science – Example 3 Answer

The graph below shows atmospheric carbon dioxide levels since the year 1880.



Which of the following conclusions can be drawn from this graph?

- A. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are responsible for global temperature change.**
- B. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have been rising at about the same rate for the past century.**
- C. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have remained the same over the past century.**
- D. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have been rising at an increasingly higher rate as the past century has progressed.**

Answer

D. Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels have been rising at an increasingly higher rate as the past century has progressed.

Because the graph shows a curved line, instead of a straight one, you can conclude that as time has passed (on the x axis) the levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide (on the y axis) have risen at increasingly higher rates. If levels had increased at the same rate, the line would be diagonal from left to right, but it would be straight.