Clouds and Climate Impacts

After watching the NOVA Video: *The Climate Wild Card*, reflect on the questions below that NASA scientists are working hard to answer. Answer the questions on another sheet of paper.

1. How will clouds respond as the planet warms?
2. Could we see an increase in reflecting clouds, which would help to slow the global warming trend?
3. Or will there be an increase in absorbing clouds, which could dramatically speed up the warming?
4. How would this warming affect the polar regions and in turn affect coastal areas?

As a class, brainstorm how the polar regions and coastal areas might be affected if there is an increase in absorbing clouds. Fill in the chain of events on the next page that might occur if the percentage of absorbing clouds increases.
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Percentage of Absorbing Clouds Increases

Warming of Atmosphere

Ice at the Polar Regions

Sea Level

Coastal Areas

This would result in the following impacts on humans: