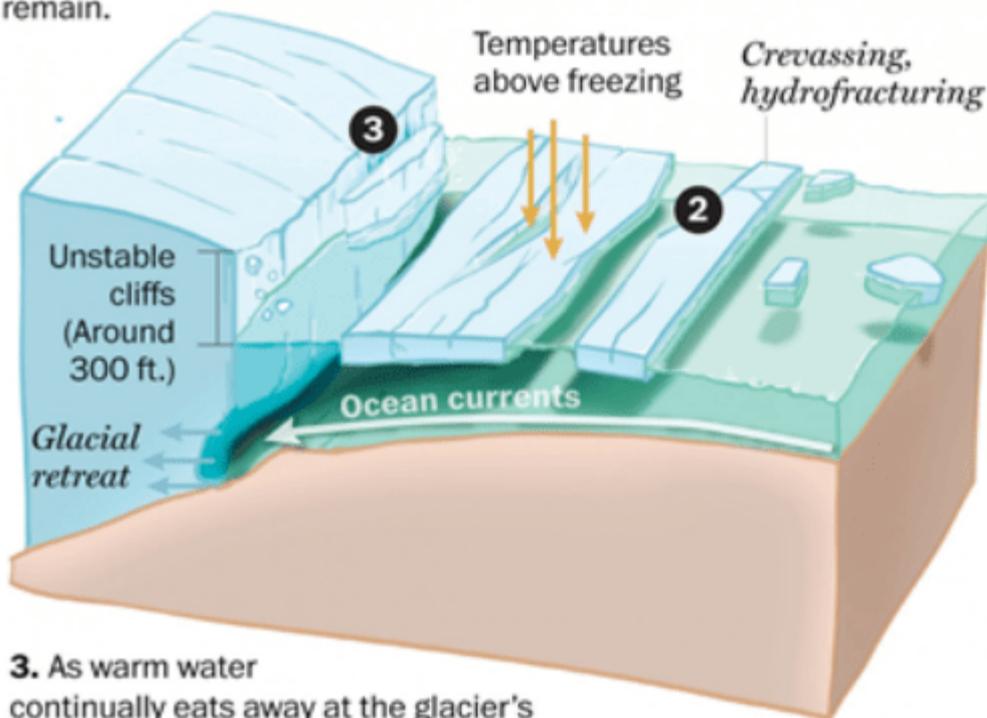


## Shearing from cliffs

Now, researchers have identified two new processes that can make this still worse.

**2.** Warm air, rain and meltwater cause fissures in the shelf, which breaks away from the glacier in large swaths. Eventually, only vertical ice cliffs remain.



**3.** As warm water continually eats away at the glacier's base, the unstable cliff faces above the water line shear off under their own massive weight.

Source: "Contribution of Antarctica to Past and Future Sea-Level Rise," by Robert M. DeConto and David Pollard, in *Nature*

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