Core samples from ice sheets provide archive/timeline of atmospheric/climatic conditions.

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Paleoclimatology_IceCores/>

<http://www.waterencyclopedia.com/Ge-Hy/Glaciers-Ice-Sheets-and-Climate-Change.html>

<http://www.climatechange.umaine.edu/ReedyJourney/index.html>

<http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/Features/Paleoclimatology_OxygenBalance/oxygen_balance.php>