Do Changes in Carbon Dioxide Concentration Correlate With Changes in Global Temperature?

Draw a rough graph showing how you think global temperatures changed (or did not change) from 400,000 years ago to the Present. The average temperature over that entire period was about 10°C (50°F).
Correlation of Global Temperature with Carbon Dioxide Levels in the Atmosphere

The most important point is the close correlation between carbon dioxide levels and temperature. When carbon dioxide levels increased, global temperatures increased. When carbon dioxide levels decreased, global temperatures decreased.

The temperature graph can be confusing because the zero value of the temperature scale is not zero degrees C. The zero actually corresponds with the 20th century average global temperature, which was about 14°C (57°F). Climate scientists often graph temperature as a change from an average rather than the actual temperature itself. The minus 8 value of temperature tells us that during the coldest parts of the Ice Ages, the global average temperature decreased about 8°C from that average (a decrease of about 14°F), not that the temperature was minus eight degrees C.