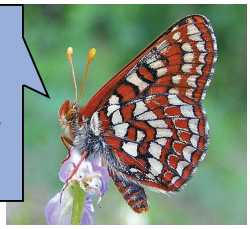
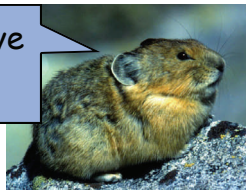
What if...



...the plants that Edith's checkerspot butterfly larvae rely on for survival dry up before the caterpillars are grown.

What if...



...only those pikas living on the cool, isolated mountaintops are able to survive. The lower slopes of the mountains have become too warm for these relatives of rabbits.

What if...

...piñon pine trees are weakened by pine bark beetles and drought.

What if...

...drought causes wildfires in the region to burn larger areas and occur more frequently. Wildfire season lasts longer.

What if...

...the snow pack melts earlier in the spring, leaving alpine areas short on water in the summer.

What if...

...sea levels have risen in California as glaciers and ice shelves melted. Severe storms occur more often.

Will the amount of habitat available for pikas increase or decrease? What does it mean for an animal when it has fewer places to live?	Butterflies feed on nectar from flowers, but how do they help the plants in return? Fewer larvae mean fewer _ _ tt _ _ f _ _ _ s, and could mean fewer p _ _ _ ts.
What will happen to the local lumber industry when grasses grow back in the burned areas instead of trees? What will that mean for the forest animals?	What will fewer piñon pine trees mean for birds and other wildlife that depend on them for food and shelter?
What will higher sea levels mean for buildings, houses, and roads along the coast? For plants, animals, and birds living in low wetlands?	What will less summer water mean for the plants and animals living in alpine areas? What will happen to mountain streams in the summer?

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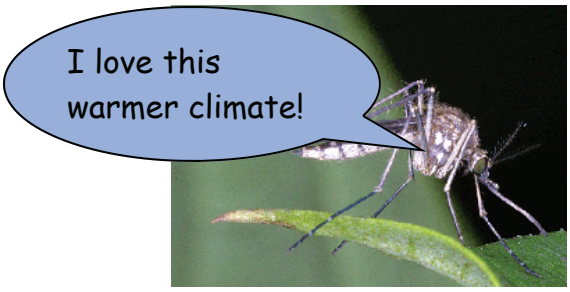

...there are fewer frosts to kill off mosquitos and other pests. There are a lot of bugs!

What if...

...wine grapes are no longer able to thrive under California's hot sunshine.

What if...

...skiers no longer spend their money at ski resorts — the winters are too warm and there has been less snow.

What if...

...people are visiting the doctor's office because diseases, pests, and pollution brought about by the warmer climate are making them sick. There are fewer cold-related injuries and illnesses in the winter, though.

What if...

...spring comes earlier so there are more days when it's warm enough to play, picnic, and hike outside.

What if...

...average temperatures rise by 7°-12°F (3.9°-6.7°C) by 2090 and water evaporates more quickly.

What will that mean for grape growers? For the wineries who turn the grapes into wine to sell across the country?	Can you think of some bugs you would rather *not* see more of?
What will the more frequent summer heat waves mean for people who already have health issues?	What will that mean for ski resorts and shops that rent ski equipment? Will the people living in the higher elevations of the Southwest have more or less snow gear, like boots and coats, in their closets than they do now?
What will higher evaporation rates mean for the water sources in arid regions? What will that mean for farmers and ranchers in the area? For the fish, plants, and animals?	How would you use the extra time to play outside? Hiking? Building sand castles at the beach? Picnicking? Would the extra time outside help people stay healthy? How?

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