

## What if...



...shrubs invade the warming Arctic, making it hard for caribou to find their favorite wintertime food, lichens.

## What if...



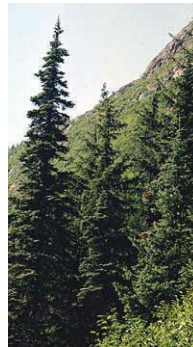
...warmer temperatures have caused the sea ice to melt.

## What if...



...the sea ice where walrus rest and raise their young is all melted away, and they must crowd onto beaches.

## What if...



...trees grow better in the warmer climate, storing more of the carbon dioxide from the air.

## What if...



...Arctic terns breed in the Arctic before flying to Antarctica for the Northern Hemisphere winter.

## What if...

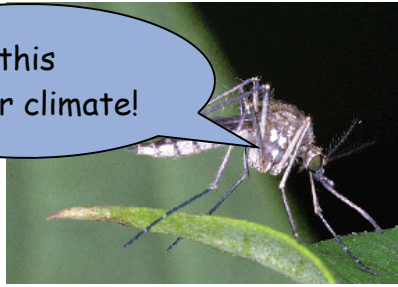


...glaciers are melting.

<p>Native peoples rest and hunt in the sea ice in the Arctic. How will they find food?</p> <p>What animals also hunt on the sea ice?</p>	<p>On the other hand, lots of plants that caribou like to eat are growing better during the summer because of warmer temperatures. What would this mean for caribou calves?</p>
<p>What are trees used to make?</p> <p>More trees would mean more lumber. What affect would that have on the local lumber industry? On the economy?</p>	<p>Walrus normally cruise along with an ice floe, feeding in new areas as they move. What does a crowd of walrus do to the local food supply if they live on the beach for a long period of time?</p>
<p>When glaciers melt, the water flows into the _ c _ _ n (fill in the blanks).</p> <p>This causes the sea level to rise / fall (circle one).</p>	<p>Migratory birds and whales come from all over the Earth to breed and feed in the Arctic. How far away will the changes in the habitats, animals, and plants of the Arctic be felt?</p>

## What if...

I love this warmer climate!



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

## What if...



...there is less sea ice, so ringed seals don't have to rely on holes in the ice to breathe.

## 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...



...white ice melts away, leaving dark ocean. Does this help cool or warm the Earth?

<p>Polar bears lie in wait at breathing holes to catch ringed seals, their favorite prey. How will the loss of sea ice affect mother polar bears trying to feed their polar bear cubs?</p>	<p>Can you think of some bugs that are helpful to farmers?</p> <p>Can you think of some bugs you would rather <i>not</i> see more of?</p>
<p>What will the more frequent summer heat waves mean for people who already have health issues?</p>	<p>What will that mean for ski resorts and shops that rent ski equipment?</p> <p>Will the people living in the Northwest have more or less snow gear, like boots and coats, in their closets than they do now?</p>
<p>What would you rather wear outside on a hot, sunny day: a white tee-shirt or a dark tee-shirt? Why?</p> <p>Which color helps keep the Earth cool (circle one):</p> <p>white (ice) or blue (ocean)</p>	<p>How would you use the extra time to play outside? Hiking? Building sand castles at the beach? Picnicking?</p> <p>Would the extra time outside help people stay healthy? How?</p>

# Image Credits

Caribou march across snowy tundra. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Sea ice. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Pacific walrus crowd on a resting spot. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Spruce. Credit: National Park Service.

Arctic tern. Credit: Wikipedia Commons.

Glacier Bay. Credit: National Park Service.

Mosquito. Credit: National Park Service.

Ski boot. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.

Doctor checkup. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.

Hiker's legs and boots. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.

Ringed seal surfaces for air through a hole in the sea ice. Credit: U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Arctic satellite image. Credit: NASA.