

What if...



...summer drought is more common and farming shifts northward.

What if...



...snow melts earlier in the year and floods are much more likely in the spring.

What if...



...poison ivy loves the higher levels of carbon dioxide released from burning fossil fuels.

What if...



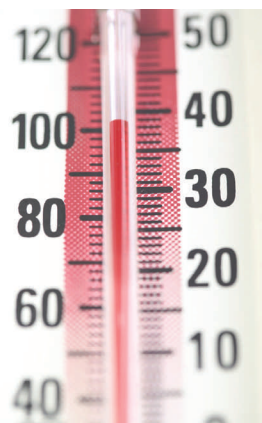
...prairie potholes — small, isolated wetlands — are drying up as their water is used for farming and because of drought.

What if...



...wheat and soybeans grow better with the higher levels of carbon dioxide in the air.

What if...

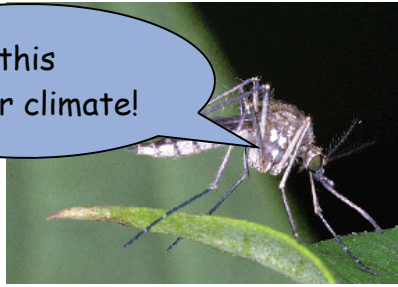


...average temperatures continue to rise faster in the High Plains than in the rest of the United States?

<p>How will springtime floods impact people living along rivers?</p>	<p>How will drought affect the farmers in the High Plains?</p> <p>How will it change our food supply? Our economy?</p>
<p>How will the shrinking prairie potholes change the water supply for nearby farms?</p> <p>What will happen to migrating birds, such as mallard ducks, who use the potholes as "rest stops" and nesting grounds?</p>	<p>What does all the extra poison ivy growing along trails and roadsides mean for hikers and people walking their dogs who brush against it?</p>
<p>What will higher temperatures mean for people, plants, animals, and birds living in the High Plains?</p>	<p>How will more soybeans and wheat help our economy?</p> <p>What foods are made from soy? From wheat?</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...



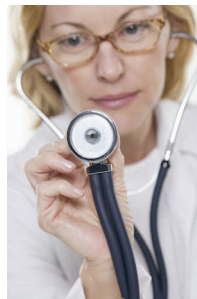
...spring comes earlier so there are more days when it's warm enough to play, picnic, and hike outside.

What if...



...extreme weather events like thunderstorms and tornados happen more often.

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.

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?

Can you think of some bugs that are helpful to farmers?

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?

In what ways might thunderstorms disrupt the daily lives of those living in the High Plains?

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