

## What if...



...lakes, rivers, and wetlands are evaporating and their water is becoming warmer.

## What if...



...when it rains, it rains heavily!

## 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...



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

## What if...

Whew! It's too hot!



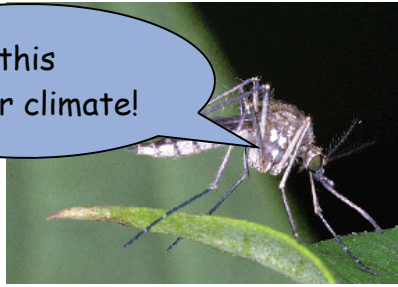
I love it!

...conifers and other cold-loving trees are unable to tolerate the heat. They are now found to the north.

<p>How will floods impact people living along rivers?</p>	<p>If some of the waterways of the Midwest dry up, what will that mean for boats used for shipping and recreation?</p> <p>As the water warms up, what will that mean for the fish that live there?</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>With fewer conifers taking up space and shading the forest floor, what is able to grow there?</p> <p>In the future, will forests in the Midwest be made up of the same kinds of trees as they are now?</p>	<p>Soy can be used to make ink for printing newspapers. What can cotton be made into?</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.

## What if...



...lake trout move to deeper and colder waters. Their shallower habitats in the Great Lakes have gotten too warm.

## What if...



...spring arrives sooner, so local birds nest earlier.

<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>	<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>In what ways might thunderstorms disrupt the daily lives of those living in the High Plains?</p>
<p>What happens to the local food supply when the baby birds hatch?</p> <p>Migratory birds then arrive looking for food. Do they find enough?</p>	<p>What will that mean for the bears, eagles, and other predators that depend on them for food?</p> <p>What will happen to populations of invasive species, like sea lampreys, when the deeper waters become warm enough for them to live there?</p>

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Flood. Credit: National Park Service.

Poison ivy. Credit: National Park Service.

Prairie potholes. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Cotton. Credit: U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Wisconsin forest. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.

Mosquito. Credit: National Park Service.

Doctor checkup. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.

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

Lightning. Credit: U.S. Global Climate Research Project.

Lake trout. Credit: National Park Service.

Yellow-rumped warbler. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.