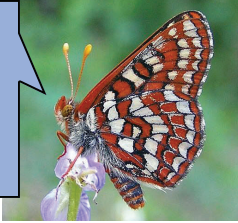


What if...

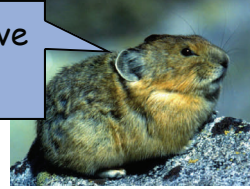
Too bad I don't migrate — I'd find a cooler place to lay my eggs!



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

What if...

Maybe I shouldn't have worn my fur coat...



...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...



This is cooler than a frying pan, but still...

...the streams where bull trout live have become too warm, and in some cases, have slowed to a trickle.

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 low on water in the summer.

What if...

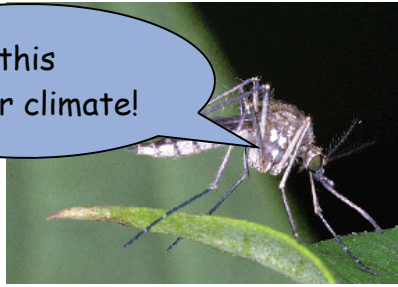


...sea levels have risen as glaciers and ice shelves melted. Severe storms occur more often.

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Will the amount of habitat available for pika increase or decrease?</p> <p>What does it mean for an animal when it has fewer places to live?</p> | <p>Butterflies feed on nectar from flowers, but how do they help the plants in return?</p> <p>Fewer larvae mean fewer flowers and plants without these insects to pollinate them.</p> |
| <p>What will happen to the local lumber industry when grasses grow back in the burned areas instead of trees?</p> <p>What will that mean for the forest animals?</p> | <p>What will that mean for people who fish in those streams?</p> <p>How will that affect the predators that eat bull trout?</p> |
| <p>What will higher sea levels mean for people living along the coast? For plants, animals, and birds living in low wetlands?</p> <p>What will the frequent storms change do to the sand on the beaches?</p> | <p>What will less summer water mean for the plants and animals living in alpine areas?</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...



...wheat loves the higher levels of carbon dioxide in the air from burning fossil fuels and grows like crazy!

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...



...winters are warmer and wetter in the forests and mountains, with rain falling more often than snow.

| | |
|---|--|
| <p>What will it mean for our food supply if farmers are able to grow more wheat?</p> <p>What will it mean for our economy?</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 types of boots will people living in the Northwest in the future wear most often?</p> <p>What will warm, wet winters mean for the plants and animals?</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

Edith's checkerspot butterfly. Credit: USDA Forest Service/Tom Kogut.

Pika. Credit: National Park Service.

Bull trout swimming in the Bull River, Montana. Credit: U.S. Forest Service/Jason Dunham.

Smoke billows from a wildfire viewed from above. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Alpine tundra. Credit: National Park Service.

Roiling ocean. Credit: U.S. Global Change Research Program.

Mosquito. Credit: National Park Service.

Wheat. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.

Ski boot. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.

Doctor checkup. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.

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

Galoshes. Credit: Microsoft Office Software.