

What if...



...more intense tropical storms and hurricanes destroy many mangrove trees along the water's edge.

What if...



...when it rains, it rains heavily!
Droughts are also more common and there is less rainfall overall.

What if...



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

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...



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

What if...

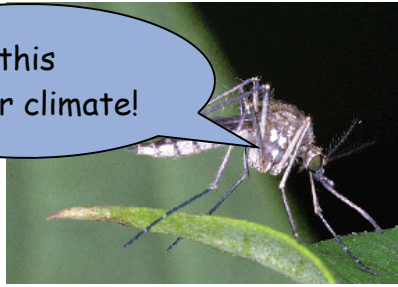


...sea levels rise 13" by 2100, causing flooding along the flat coastal plains.

<p>How will floods impact people living along rivers?</p>	<p>If the mangroves are knocked down, what happens to the fish that live in their roots and the birds that nest in their branches?</p>
<p>What will the more frequent summer heat waves mean for people who already have health issues?</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 sea levels mean for people living along the coast? For plants, animals, and birds living in low wetlands?</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...



...along the Gulf Coast, winters are warmer by 3°-5°F (1.7°-2.8°C) and summers by 3°-7°F (1.7°-3.9°C).

What if...



...hurricanes are more intense.

What high temperature might be typical in one of your team's four cities on July 30? On January 30? How do they compare with the temperatures you recorded from last year on those dates?

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

Can you think of some bugs you would rather *not* see more of?

Damaged buildings, houses, and roads are expensive to repair. How will that affect the economy?

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Mangrove forest. Credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Rain. Credit: U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Poison ivy. Credit: National Park Service.

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

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

Mosquito. Credit: National Park Service.

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