Clip Activity: Understanding the Graph
50 Million Years of Earth’s Temperature

Take a close look at the graph Dr. Kiehl shows in this clip:

Graph Questions:
1. For each emissions scenario shown (the dotted lines), what is the range of global temperatures that might occur for each?

2. Why is the range for the pink dotted line larger than that for the blue lines?

Hints:
- The x-axis indicates time between the present (left) and 100 million years ago (right).
- There are two different y-axis labels: the one on the left shows change in temperature from the present in degrees C. The right shows the same thing, but in degrees F.
- The red line shows a reconstruction of how much warmer temperatures were in the past than they are today.
- The dotted lines indicate which past conditions future conditions might equal. The year the represented is listed in the key, the equivalent period in the past can be found on the x-axis.