



FROM THE
HORSE'S MOUTH

SCIENTISTS ON THE SCIENCE OF GLOBAL CHANGE

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Discussion Questions

50 Million Years of Earth's Temperature

Discuss these questions with a friend, or record your own thoughts in your science journal.

1. 50 million years ago, the Earth was around 5 °C warmer than it is today. What differences would you imagine on the Earth during that period compared with today in terms of plants, animals, and sea level?

Why would these differences exist?

2. What if our current world were to warm 5 °C in the next century? Recall that the change is not a temperature change for just one location; it is an increase in the overall average temperature of the whole planet. How might our planet be similar to the world of 50 million years ago?

In what ways would it be different than that world even though the temperature is the same?