



Discussion Questions

How can climate change cause population extinctions?

Use the following questions to have a discussion with a friend, or record your own thoughts in a science journal.

1. What does pristine mean? Are there any truly pristine or undisturbed areas left?

Consider both seen (garbage, cities, light) and unseen (particles in the air, nutrients, sound) human impacts on the Earth.

2. Dr. Parmesan makes some detections (what is going on) and some inferences (why these things are happening). She concludes that climate change, through false springs and timing mismatches, has led to the extinction of certain butterfly populations.

What are some factors that could confound Dr. Parmesan's hypothesis (e.g. what are some *other* potential causes of butterfly extinctions in these areas?) How could you test this?