

PROBLEM SOLVING ACTIVITY: CHECKING THE TEMPERATURE

BACKGROUND: Temperature changes predicted by climatologists might be enough to make the Earth feel like an over efficient greenhouse. They think that as warms, the upper latitudes will warm more noticeably than areas near the equator. Also heat will cause the oceans to expand and the level to rise.

TASK:

1. On the following page are two computer images showing the temperature around the globe. Figure A shows temperature conditions in July 1987. The areas without numbers were not experiencing any change in climate at the time. Areas with the number 1 were cooling; areas numbered 2-4 were warming from 2-9 °C. Figure B shows possible future changes in temperature predicted by scientists.

- Create a color key for both maps.
- Using colored pencils and color in the areas of the map indicating temperature changes.

2. Imagine that you live on an island somewhere in the world and that your family supports itself through fishing. As the sea level rise, what kinds of changes will take place? Write a letter to a friend in Colorado describing the problems your family is having. Be sure to include the following information:

- Where will you family go?
- How will they earn a living?
- What will happen to birds and other shoreline animals? To buildings, roads and homes?
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If you live in a city, write about what would happen there:

- How would people get in and out of building?
- What would the streets be like?
- How would you get from one place to another?
- What would happen to trains, buses and subways?
- Would your parents' jobs be affected?

Use illustrations to support your letter.

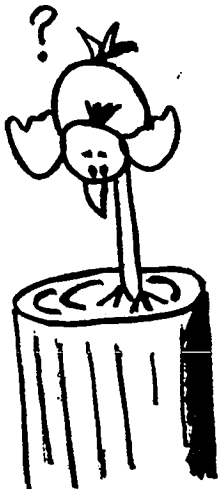
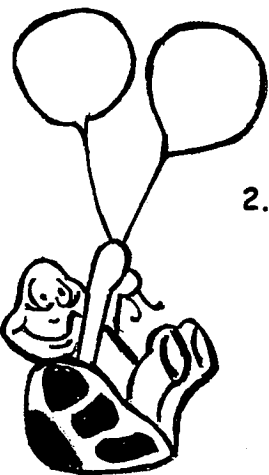
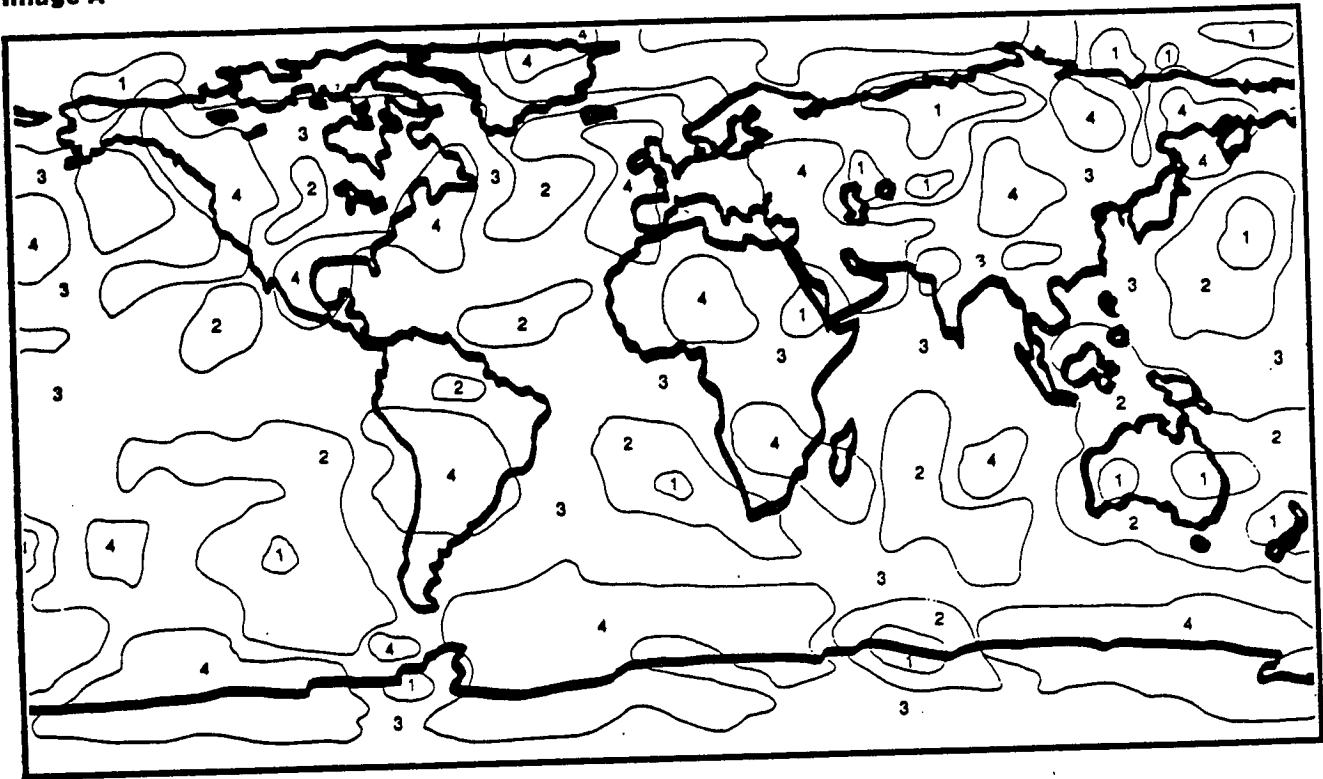


Image A



Whiteno change
1	Bluecooling
2	Yellowwarming
3	Orange.....increasing warmth
4	Redwarmest

Image B

