

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Beetle Infestation May Impact Climate Change, 04/28/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/health/jan-june08/beetle_4-28.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How are pine beetles destroying forests in Western Canada? How large is their impact?
2. What is a carbon sink?
3. What role has climate change had in creating the beetle problem?
4. What estimated impact will the pine beetles have on carbon emissions? How does this compare to human activity?
5. What solution to the beetle problem is attractive to the logging industry? Why? What do critics say about this idea?
6. Why might the pine beetle population collapse?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. What solution(s) do you think are best for dealing with the pine beetle problem? Why?

2. Much of the evidence for human impact on climate temperatures relies on complex computer models. How much do you understand about these models? Is it important to understand them? Do you trust or distrust the information coming from scientists about global warming? Who do you trust? Why?

3. The beetle story demonstrates the impact of a bug on global climate change. What impact do you think you and the way you live have on global climate change? Are there things you could be doing differently? Explain.

Extension Activity

Write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.