

Just 2°C

For humans, a body temperature of 36.5°C is very important. We sweat when it's hot and shiver when it's cold to stay healthy.

But what would happen if your body temperature rose by 2°C?

You would lose all strength in your body. You couldn't eat or play; you would only be able to lie down. If your temperature rises by more than 2°C, it is a very dangerous sign. You need to go to the hospital.

What if the seawater temperature rose by 2°C?

Fish cannot regulate their own body temperature. For them, 2°C is a huge difference, like 20°C for a human. Fish would have to risk their lives to escape the hot water.

In such a sea, plankton would die and coral would disappear. Without coral, small fish would vanish, followed by the larger fish that eat them. A difference of just 2°C can turn a sea full of life into a dead sea.

Long ago, pandas fled to high mountains to survive. They stayed safe by eating bamboo, which stays green all year. But if the temperature rises by 2°C, the bamboo won't grow, and the pandas will have no food!

What about insects?

There will likely be many more insects that love the warmth. These insects might eat all the vegetables and rice in our fields. Then, humans will have trouble finding food, too.

The Earth's temperature has already risen by 1.1°C. The Earth has become ill and has a fever. This illness is called global warming. We must take care of the Earth so its fever doesn't rise any further. If the Earth's temperature rises by 2°C, all living things will be in danger – the plants, the animals, me, and... you.

(286 words)