

## Frontiers of Science: Seminar Activity Following Broecker's Second Lecture

The purpose of this activity is to use maps to assess how an increase in global sea level could impact five major cities in the United State (Houston TX, Miami FL, New Orleans LA, New York NY, and San Francisco CA).

Two maps for each of these regions:

1. A standard roadmap (courtesy of Yahoo). It shows the locations of major population centers, roads, parks, etc.
2. A map showing how the coastline would change if sea level were to rise by five meters (the light grey region is the land that would be flooded). This amount of sea level rise might possibly occur in about 200 years, at least according to one of the more extreme IPCC scenarios.

The idea here is to divide the seminar into five groups, one for each region. If any students have first-hand experience with a region (e.g. having lived there) then they ought to be in that region's group. Each group should assess and report upon the impact of the sea level rise on:

1. Urban and suburban population centers;
2. Transportation infrastructure;
3. Recreation, parkland and ecology;
4. Overall, how you might expect life to change in each region.