How to answer a "what if" question:

→ Gather & describe evidence
We've discussed in this class

80% of points

RELEVANT, ACCURATE, DETAILED

→ Use that evidence to make & describe a prediction (the "answer")

20% of points

LOGICAL, BASED ON EVIDENCE

Example:

What would ^you expect to see in a wetland/ riparian area
if it were permanently drained of water and
left alone for [50 years?]

evidence {
- New plants might start to grow
- We might see fewer horsetails, dogwoods, oregon ash, white alder because they prefer wet soil
- We might see more Fir, salal, maple because they prefer drier soil.
- Douglas firs might be coming in but wouldn't have had time to take over.

Prediction: We'd see no horsetail, ash, etc. We'd see your Fir trees...

Example:

What if Native Americans flooded an area that was formerly a prairie? What kinds of vegetation changes might you see?

What kinds of vegetations would we see in the Willamette Valley if it rained 50% less over the past 50 years?

What would vegetation of the Willamette Valley look like if there had never been any human habitation?