

Illustration 10.2 - Heatwaves

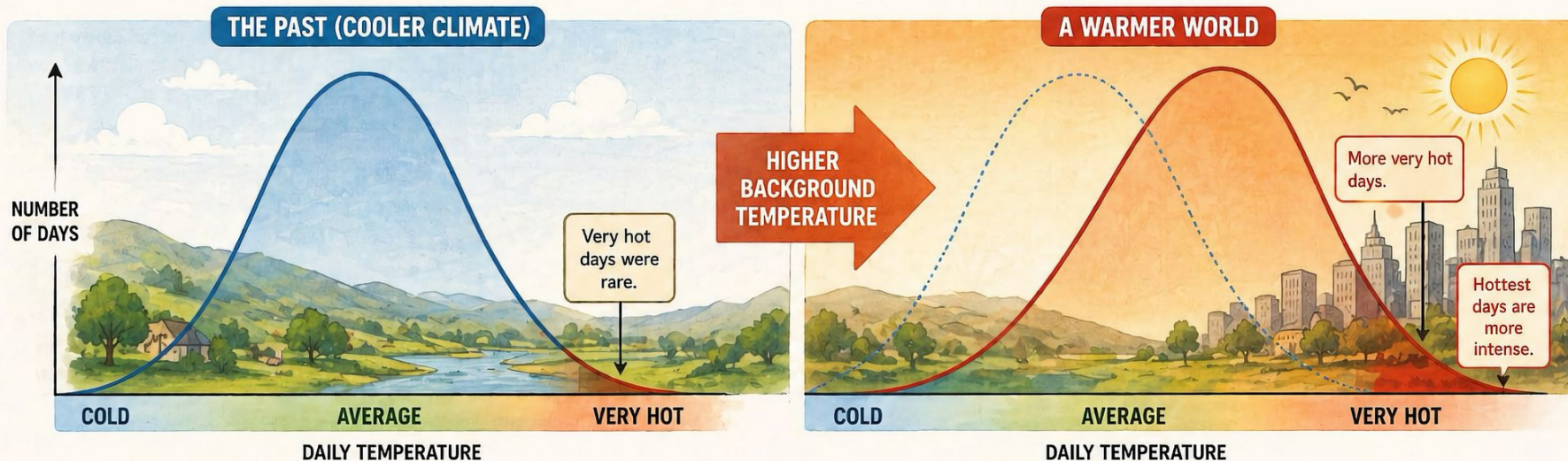
10.2 HEATWAVES: A SHIFTED PATTERN

As the background temperature rises, very hot days become more common and more intense.

Most days are near normal.
Extreme heat days are rare.



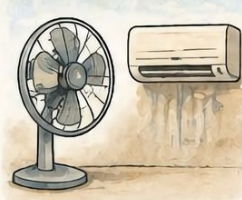
In a warmer world,
extreme heat days happen
more often and are hotter.



WHAT THIS MEANS



Heat affects our bodies
Very hot days and hot nights can be dangerous, especially for some people.



More demand for cooling
People use fans and air conditioning more, which can increase electricity use.



Impacts on places
Roads can soften, railway tracks can buckle, and building materials can wear out faster.



Rivers and wildlife
Warmer water can stress fish and other wildlife, especially for longer periods.



Cities get hotter
The urban heat island effect means cities can have more very hot days than nearby countryside.

KEY IDEA

A warmer climate does not make every day hot.

But it shifts the odds.

Very hot days become more common.

The hottest days become more intense.