

## G2. Droughts

### Droughts

Droughts are prolonged periods of unusually dry weather when there is a severe shortage of water. These natural disasters can have significant impacts on the environment, agriculture, and the overall well-being of communities.



Droughts occur when an area receives consistently below-average precipitation, such as rain or snow, for an extended period. They can affect small regions or cover vast areas, lasting for months or even years. Droughts are a normal part of the Earth's climate cycle, but they can become more severe and frequent due to factors such as climate change and human activities.

When droughts strike, water sources like rivers, lakes, and reservoirs can dry up, leaving communities and wildlife without access to essential water supplies. Crop yields can plummet as plants wither and die without enough water for growth. This can lead to food shortages and economic hardships for farmers and those dependent on agriculture.

Droughts also impact the environment. Reduced water levels in rivers and lakes can disrupt aquatic ecosystems and threaten fish and other wildlife. Wildfires are more likely to occur during droughts because dry vegetation becomes fuel for the flames. The lack of water can also lead to soil erosion and desertification, turning once fertile lands into barren deserts.

Communities and governments often implement water conservation measures during droughts. These may include restrictions on water usage, encouraging the recycling of water, and promoting the use of drought-resistant crops. Additionally, water can be transported from areas with more abundant water resources to drought-affected regions.

To mitigate the effects of droughts, it is essential to focus on long-term water management strategies. This includes investing in water storage and distribution systems, promoting sustainable agriculture, and raising awareness about water conservation.



Climate change can exacerbate drought conditions by altering weather patterns and increasing the frequency of extreme weather events. Therefore, addressing climate

change and its root causes is crucial to reducing the severity and impact of droughts on a global scale.

In conclusion, droughts are prolonged periods of dry weather resulting from significantly reduced precipitation. They can have devastating effects on water supplies, agriculture, and the environment. To cope with droughts, communities must implement water conservation measures and develop long-term water management strategies. Addressing climate change is also vital to mitigating the impact of droughts and ensuring the sustainable use of water resources.

1. What are droughts?
  - A) Prolonged periods of unusually wet weather
  - B) Prolonged periods of unusually dry weather with a severe shortage of water
  - C) Sudden and severe floods
  - D) Periods of extreme cold temperatures
2. What causes droughts to occur?
  - A) Consistently above-average precipitation
  - B) Consistently below-average precipitation for an extended period
  - C) Frequent and heavy rainfall
  - D) Changes in wind patterns
3. How long can droughts last?
  - A) A few days to a week
  - B) Several months to a year
  - C) Decades or even centuries
  - D) Droughts have no specific duration
4. What happens to water sources during droughts?
  - A) They overflow and cause floods
  - B) They dry up, leaving communities and wildlife without access to essential water supplies
  - C) They remain unchanged
  - D) They freeze due to extremely low temperatures
5. How do droughts impact agriculture?
  - A) Crop yields increase due to less water availability
  - B) Crop yields remain the same as during normal weather conditions
  - C) Crop yields plummet as plants wither and die without enough water for growth
  - D) Droughts have no impact on agriculture
6. Why do wildfires become more likely during droughts?
  - A) Dry vegetation becomes fuel for the flames
  - B) Rainfall helps to prevent wildfires
  - C) Wildfires only occur in wet weather conditions
  - D) Droughts have no impact on the occurrence of wildfires

7. What is desertification?
- A) The process of transforming wetlands into deserts
  - B) The process of turning fertile lands into barren deserts due to soil erosion and lack of water
  - C) The process of creating artificial deserts for recreational purposes
  - D) The process of reversing the effects of droughts
8. What are some water conservation measures implemented during droughts?
- A) Encouraging the use of water without restrictions
  - B) Promoting the use of water-intensive crops
  - C) Encouraging water recycling and restrictions on water usage
  - D) Using water without considering its scarcity
9. Why is addressing climate change crucial in mitigating the impact of droughts?
- A) Climate change has no impact on droughts
  - B) Climate change can lead to more rainfall, reducing the severity of droughts
  - C) Climate change can exacerbate drought conditions by altering weather patterns
  - D) Droughts have no relationship with climate change
10. What is essential for reducing the impact of droughts on a global scale?
- A) Developing more water-intensive crops
  - B) Implementing short-term water management strategies
  - C) Addressing climate change and promoting long-term water management
  - D) Ignoring the severity of droughts and their consequences



## ANSWERS & EXPLANATIONS

1. B) Prolonged periods of unusually dry weather with a severe shortage of water
  - The passage defines droughts as prolonged periods of unusually dry weather with a severe shortage of water.
2. B) Consistently below-average precipitation for an extended period
  - The passage states that droughts occur when an area receives consistently below-average precipitation, such as rain or snow, for an extended period.
3. B) Several months to a year
  - The passage mentions that droughts can last for months or even years.
4. B) They dry up, leaving communities and wildlife without access to essential water supplies
  - The passage explains that water sources like rivers, lakes, and reservoirs can dry up during droughts, leaving communities and wildlife without essential water supplies.
5. C) Crop yields plummet as plants wither and die without enough water for growth
  - The passage states that during droughts, crop yields can plummet as plants wither and die due to lack of water for growth.
6. A) Dry vegetation becomes fuel for the flames
  - The passage explains that dry vegetation becomes fuel for wildfires during droughts.
7. B) The process of turning fertile lands into barren deserts due to soil erosion and lack of water
  - The passage defines desertification as the process of turning once fertile lands into barren deserts due to soil erosion and lack of water.
8. C) Encouraging water recycling and restrictions on water usage
  - The passage mentions water conservation measures during droughts, including encouraging water recycling and implementing restrictions on water usage.
9. C) Climate change can exacerbate drought conditions by altering weather patterns
  - The passage highlights that climate change can worsen drought conditions by altering weather patterns and increasing the frequency of extreme weather events.
- 10.C) Addressing climate change and promoting long-term water management

- The passage emphasizes that addressing climate change and promoting long-term water management strategies are essential for reducing the impact of droughts on a global scale.