

Name:

Date:

What Happens When a Drought Strikes?

A drought happens when an area receives much less rain than usual for a long period of time. Without enough rain, the land can become extremely dry.

As a drought continues, rivers, lakes and ponds begin to shrink. Plants struggle to grow because there is not enough water in the soil. Grass can turn brown, crops may fail, and farmers can have difficulty growing enough food.

Animals are affected too. When ponds and streams dry up, wild animals may have to travel much farther to find drinking water. Some animals may even leave their usual habitats in search of food and water.

Droughts can also affect people. Towns may introduce rules that limit how much water people can use. Families might be asked to take shorter showers or avoid watering their gardens.

When rain finally returns, rivers and lakes slowly begin to fill again. Plants start growing, animals find more water, and the dry land gradually recovers.

A lack of rain can cause many changes, showing just how important water is for plants, animals and people.



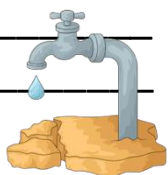
1. What causes a drought?

2. What happens to rivers and lakes during a drought?

3. Why can plants and crops struggle to grow during a drought?

4. What might animals do when ponds and streams dry up?

5. What happens to the environment when rain finally returns?



Answers

1. A long period with much less rain than usual.
2. They begin to shrink and may dry up.
3. Because there is not enough water in the soil.
4. They may travel farther or leave their usual habitats to find food and water.
5. Rivers and lakes begin to fill, plants start growing, and the land gradually recovers.