

Drought

FOCUS QUESTIONS

1. As a class, discuss the BTN *Queensland Drought* story. What were the main points of the discussion?
2. What do the kids like about living on a property?
3. Why can it be hard living on a farm?
4. What percentage of Queensland is in drought?
5. What impact has the drought had on farms in Queensland?
6. How is the state government helping farmers?
7. Angus says that getting rain is like...
8. Where Lochy lives, there has just been _____.
9. What did you learn about drought watching the BTN story?
10. How did this story make you feel?

ACTIVITY

Class Discussion

Watch the *Queensland Drought* story and discuss the information raised as a class. What questions do students have (what are the gaps in their knowledge)? The following questions may help guide the discussion:

- What is drought? Create a class definition.
- What causes drought in Australia?
- Who is affected by drought?
- What impacts does drought have on Australia?
- How can drought be managed?

The following KWLH organiser provides students with a framework to explore their knowledge on this topic and consider what they would like to know and learn.

<i>What do I know?</i>	<i>What do I want to know?</i>	<i>What have I learnt?</i>	<i>How will I find out?</i>

KEY LEARNING

Students will develop a deeper understanding of what drought is and how it impacts on people and places in Australia.

AC AUSTRALIAN CURRICULUM

Science – Year 6

Sudden geological changes and extreme weather events can affect Earth's surface ([ACSSU096](#))

Geography – Year 7

Causes, impacts and responses to an atmospheric or hydrological hazard ([ACHASSK187](#))

The quantity and variability of Australia's water resources compared with other continents ([ACHASSK184](#))

Key Words

Students develop a glossary of words and terms that relate to drought. Below are some words to get them started. Add words and meanings to your glossary as you come across unfamiliar words throughout your research. Consider using pictures and diagrams to illustrate meanings.

Drought	Rainfall	Environmental impact
Climate	Weather	Agriculture

ACTIVITY

Impact of Drought

Think about how drought affects people that live in cities. Look at the direct impact of drought and the indirect impact of drought. A direct impact of drought may be that there is less water for growing crops. An indirect impact of drought may be that people in cities may have to pay more for food.

Which of these are direct and which are indirect impacts of drought?

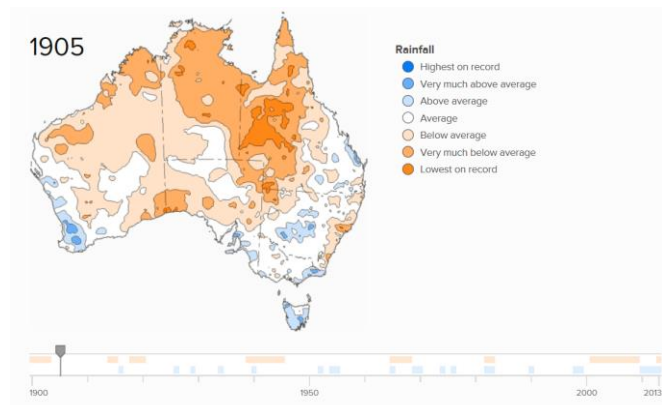
<i>Impact of drought</i>	<i>Direct impact or indirect impact</i>
Wheat crop dying	
Lower water levels in dams	
Tractor sales down	
Farmer loses money	
Anxiety about economic losses	
Loss and destruction of wildlife habitat	
Lack of food and drinking water for animals	
Poor soil quality	
People may have to move from farms to cities	

ACTIVITY

Research

Australia has experienced droughts before. Students use the [ABC's interactive drought map](#) to find a major drought in the country's history and research it. How was the country affected? How did the government react?

Encourage students to hear the stories of people who have lived through droughts. They can listen to audio recordings and look at photographs at the [Culture Victoria website](#)



Images of Drought

Below are photographs depicting drought in Australia. Ask students to look at then respond to the following questions:

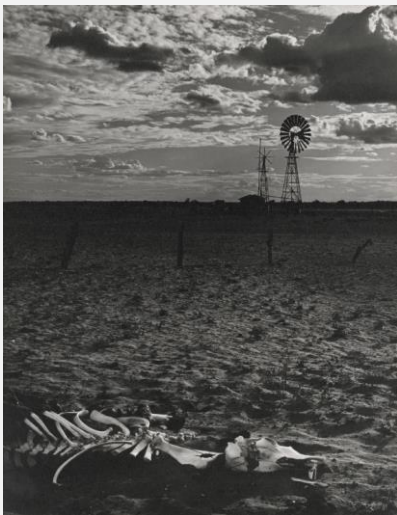
- What is happening in the image?
- What question/s would you like to ask about the image?
- How does the image make you feel?
- Create a caption for each image.
- What does the image tell you about the effects of drought?



[Source: Flickr](#)



[Source: National Geographic Society](#)



[Source: National Gallery Victoria](#)



[Source: Australia.gov](#)

ACTIVITY

The BTN [Drought Doco story](#) tells the story of Ellen and her family who were affected by drought. Students watch the story then answer the following questions:

1. Why did Ellen decide to make a video about her Grandpa's farm?
2. Where is her grandpa's farm? Locate using Google Maps.
3. What caused the drought?
4. How did the drought affect her grandpa's animals?
5. How has Ellen's family been helping all the cattle survive during the drought?
6. Drought is expensive. What does this mean?
7. How did Ellen's story help you understand more about drought?



DROUGHT DOCO

USEFUL WEBSITES

ABC News – Drought declared in more southern Queensland regions after hot, dry summer

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2017-03-13/drought-declared-in-more-southern-queensland-regions/8349056>

BTN – Drought Doco

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s4186862.htm>

BTN – Drought Help

<http://www.abc.net.au/btn/story/s3953562.htm>

ABC News -Your Say: Living Through Drought

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2016-10-24/your-say-living-through-drought/7959706>

ABC News – Interactive: 100 years of drought in Australia

<http://www.abc.net.au/news/2014-02-26/100-years-of-drought/5282030>