

## Title: A Disaster Called Drought

### Word Study

Fill in the blanks using the words.

desert	disaster	drought	environment	spark
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1. Throwing away plastic bottles is bad for the environment.
2. A spark fell on his shirt and set it on fire!
3. Because of the drought, people are not allowed to wash their cars.
4. We need to bring a lot of water with us to walk in the desert.
5. The dam breaking and flooding the town was a(n) disaster.

## Reading Comprehension

### A. Circle T for true or F for false.

1. Plants die during droughts. T / F
2. Droughts can make people's drinking water taste bad. T / F
3. Most droughts start because of humans. T / F
4. Droughts are only bad for animals and people. T / F
5. There are things we can do to stop droughts. T / F

### B. Circle the correct word(s).

1. Droughts are a (man-made / natural) disaster.
2. One cause of droughts is (air / water) flow around the world.
3. Humans made the Dust Bowl worse by (overusing / over-watering) the soil.
4. During droughts, there is an increased risk (of fires / from dangerous animals).
5. (Short showers / Baths) are good because they don't use much water.

### C. Choose the best answer.

1. How long does a drought need to last to cause damage to crops?

- a. A week
- b. Two weeks
- c. One month
- d. One year

2. Which season makes droughts worse?

- a. Spring
- b. Summer
- c. Fall
- d. Winter

3. What was the Dust Bowl?

- a. It was a place where a lot of dust collected.
- b. It was an old stadium in the United States.
- c. It was a time of extreme drought in the 1930s.
- d. It was the name of a very bad storm in America.

4. What happens when less food is grown?

- a. People want to eat vegetables more.
- b. People have to pay more for food.
- c. People have to travel to get food.
- d. People want to drink more water.

5. Which is NOT mentioned in the book about how to use less water?

- a. Taking shorter showers
- b. Turning off the water while brushing your teeth
- c. Collecting water in a rain barrel
- d. Growing less food on farms

## Summary

Fill in the blanks with the words.

crops	deforestation	barrels	weather	shortage
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A drought happens when there is not enough rain for a long time. It is an extreme water shortage that hurts plants and animals. It can mean humans have less water. It can also make their water taste bad. The weather and environment cause droughts. Air flow can keep rainclouds away. Hot weather can make rain that falls disappear. Humans can make droughts worse. When we use too much water, droughts happen more easily. This happened in the 1930s Dust Bowl. People in America planted too many crops. This made the drought worse. The loose soil became dust in the air. Humans are also the main cause of deforestation. This could create another Dust Bowl. Droughts can also cause other problems, such as fires. There are things we can do to help. We can use less water. We can also save rain in barrels and use it to water plants.