

Drought



Droughts occur when there has not been enough rainfall and the water levels get low. They can happen anywhere in the United States, and droughts increase the risk of other hazards like wildfires, flash floods, and possible landslides or debris flows.

Am I at risk?

Droughts can happen anywhere in the United States.

Did you know?

The water that exists today is the same water that existed a billion years ago! That's why it is called a limited renewable resource. It's always on the move, traveling through the oceans, rivers, ground, and atmosphere.



FACT CHECK

- Water covers more than ____ % of our earth and is found in oceans, lakes, rivers, and even frozen in ice caps and glaciers, and underground.
a. 80 b. 97 c. 50
- ____ % of the earth's water is saltwater – which people and animals cannot drink, and is not good for many plants. That leaves ____% freshwater!
- True or False?** Of the remaining 3% of freshwater, nearly 75% of that is frozen in ice caps and glaciers.
- ____ % of water use happens in the bathroom. Average toilets can use up to ____ gallons of water per flush!

(1) A (2) 97%; 3% (3) True! See why it's a limited resource? (4) 45%; 7 gallons. That's why you should not flush unless necessary during a drought!

ANSWERS



For more facts and info on drought visit
<http://www.ready.gov/kids/know-the-facts/drought>
<http://drought.unl.edu/DroughtforKids.aspx>
http://waterwatch.usgs.gov/index.php?id=ww_drought



Drought

Be Prepared

BEFORE

Here are some easy ways to conserve water and avoid drought:

- ✓ Don't pour water down the drain! There may be another use for it, like watering indoor plants.
- ✓ If you want to play in the sprinkler, or water the lawn, try not to water the driveway or sidewalk.

DURING

- ✓ Listen to the rules from authorities. They want to make sure there's enough water for the things we really need.
- ✓ Take short showers, not baths. Showers use less water.
- ✓ Don't let the water run when you brush your teeth.
- ✓ Take a break from using your outdoor water toys. When the drought ends, you can play with them again.

WORDS TO KNOW

Conservation Saving and protecting a natural resource, like water

Natural Resource Something we need that comes from nature like water, trees, and air

Limited Resource A natural resource (like water) that is limited in supply and cannot be replaced if it is used up

Reservoir A natural or manmade lake that collects and stores water



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