

DROUGHTS

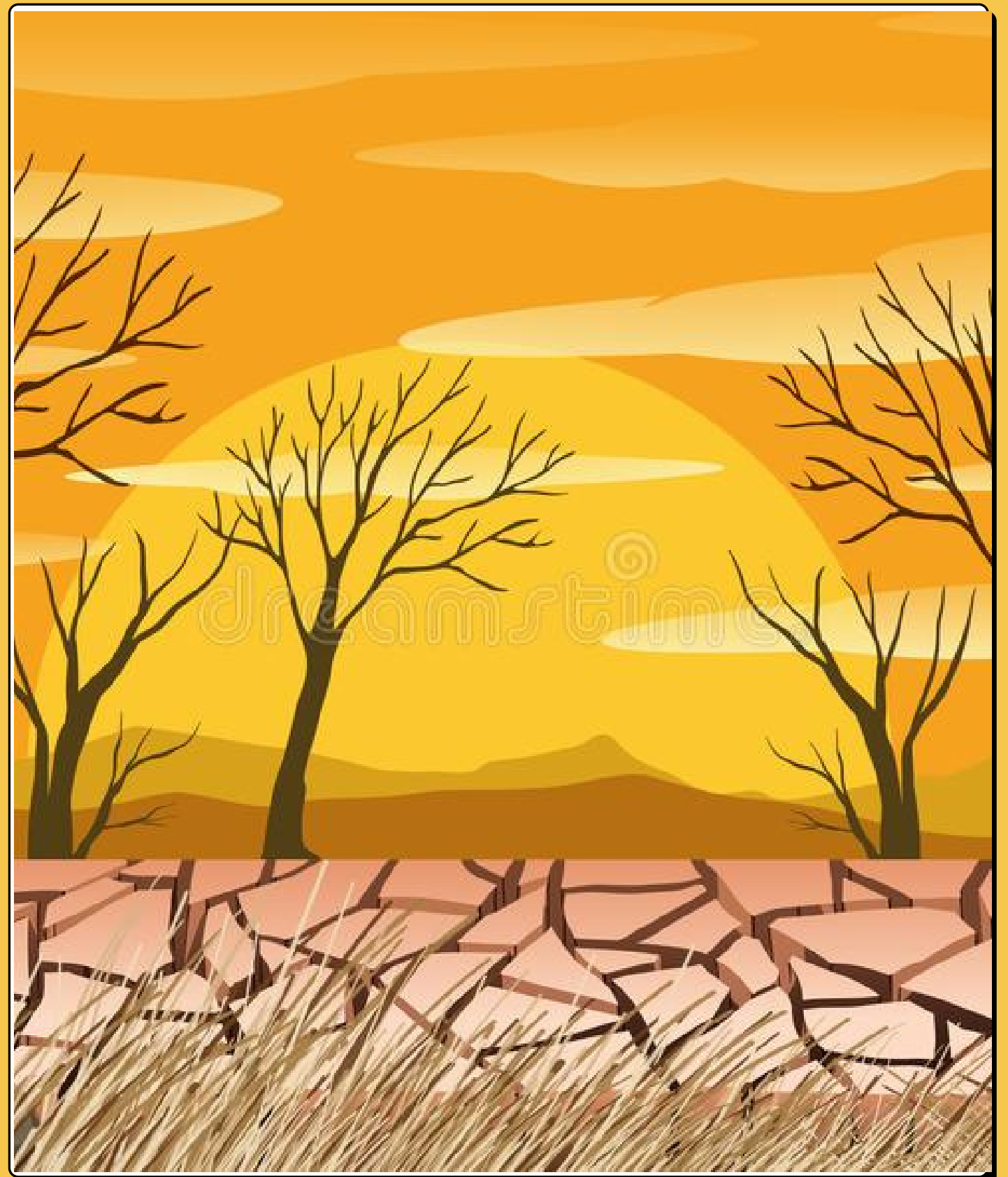
A drought is a period of time when an area or region experiences below-normal precipitation. The lack of adequate precipitation, either rain or snow, can cause reduced soil moisture or groundwater, diminished streamflow, crop damage, and a general water shortage.

Why They Occur

When rainfall is less than normal for a period of weeks to years, streamflows decline, water levels in lakes and reservoirs fall, and the depth of water in wells increases. If dry weather persists and water supply problems develop, the dry period can become a drought.

Where They Occur

It's hard to detect the beginning of a drought. They begin gradually and unfortunately end gradually as well. In the U.S droughts usually occur in the South and Midwest.



Do's

During a drought, the goal is to conserve as much water as possible.

- comply with city burn-rules
- store water in the refrigerator instead of letting the tap run cool water.
- collect water used for fruits and veggies and use it as plant water
- do at least one thing to conserve water daily

Don'ts

things not to do during droughts

- overwater lawns and landscapes
- take long showers
- leave the sink running while brushing your teeth
- use the toilet as a wastebasket for tissues, bandaids, etc.

Resources

(USGS Science for a changing world, n.d.)

(USGS Science, n.d.)

(Carlyle, n.d.)