



## **WHAT IS A DROUGHT? WHY DO THEY HAPPEN ?**

A period of drier-than-normal weather is referred to as a drought.<sup>1157</sup> A drought may endure for several days, weeks, or even years. The environment and agriculture of impacted areas are frequently severely harmed by drought, which also negatively affects the local economy. In the tropics, the occurrence of a drought and consequent wildfires are substantially more likely during the annual dry seasons. Hot weather can make drought conditions much worse by accelerating water vapor evaporation, drying out vegetation, and supplying more fuel for wildfires. Why do droughts happen because streamflows decrease, lake and reservoir levels drop, and the depth of water in wells rises when rainfall is below average for a period of weeks to years. The dry spell could turn into a drought if the dry weather continues and problems with the water supply arise.

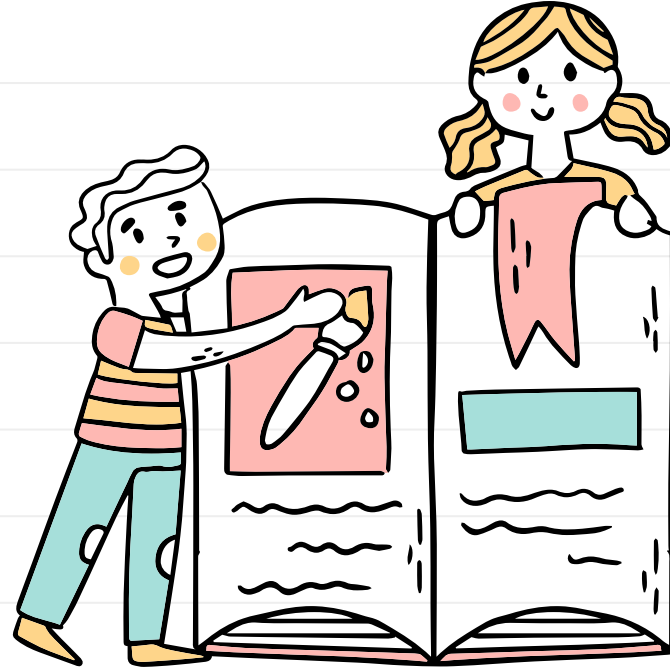


## HOW DOES DROUGHT AFFECT EARTH SYSTEMS?

Drought can endanger water supplies, destroy crops, dry out forests, and diminish the amount of food and water that is available for wildlife and cattle. Effects of drought can swiftly accumulate and have an effect on the economy. It includes and highlights the negative effects of drought on the environment, such as decreased plant growth, an increase in fire and insect outbreaks, slowed rates of carbon, nitrogen, and water cycle, and local species extinctions. A drought increases the already-existing demands on the ecosystem's natural water resources. Water distribution decisions may push an already delicate ecosystem over the point at which it can recover if the ecology's water needs aren't taken into account. The ecosystem will start to operate differently, which will result in a loss of the crucial services it once offered to humans, such as cleaning the air and water, preventing erosion, and offering possibilities for enjoyment.

# EARTH SYSTEMS

Drought is with the earth systems because the outcome of modifications in the global wind patterns that permit widespread high-pressure systems to remain over land for several weeks, months, or even years. Air sinks or subsides in high-pressure environments.



## CAN DROUGHTS BE PREVENTED?



Everyone is responsible for preventing drought, but by using certain common sense strategies, we can preserve our water resources at a safe level. Here are some simple water-saving suggestions that should be helpful if you're worried about preventing drought in your neighborhood. A drought is a stretch of unusually dry weather that lasts long enough to create a major hydrologic imbalance, which can lead to things like agricultural damage and water shortages. The degree of moisture shortage, the length of the drought, and the extent of the afflicted area all impact how severe the drought is.

