Droughts in Australia Worksheet

Login to World Book Online and navigate to Kids. Use the keyword search to look up 'Droughts in Australia'. Click on the article and read to answer the questions below.

1. What is a drought?

Circle the correct answer.

A drought is a long period with:

- A. Lots of rain
- B. Very little rain
- C. Heavy snow

2. What can happen during a drought? Draw a line to match each effect to the correct result.

Effect	Result
1. Very little rain	A. Crops and animals may die
2. Dry farms	B. Rivers and waterholes may dry up
3. Dry plants and hot weather	C. Bushfires may become more dangerous

3. True or false? Write **T** for true or **F** for false.

a) Droughts can make it harder for farmers to grow food. _____

b) During a drought, people should waste as much water as they like. _____

c) First Nations peoples developed ways to find and save water. _____

4. Caring for water: Write down **two ways** people can save water during a drought.

1. _____
2. _____

5. Learn from the past:
The Millennium Drought, also called the Big Dry, lasted from around 1996 until 2012.

How might a long drought affect people, animals and plants?

_____

_____

6. Think and explain

First Nations peoples used their knowledge of the land to find and store water. Name **one way** Aboriginal people found or saved water.

_____

KIDS Droughts in Australia: Teacher Answer Sheet

1. What is a drought?

B. Very little rain

2. What can happen during a drought?

1. Very little rain — B. Rivers and waterholes may dry up
2. Dry farms — A. Crops and animals may die
3. Dry plants and hot weather — C. Bushfires may become more dangerous

3. True or false?

a) Droughts can make it harder for farmers to grow food. T

b) During a drought, people should waste as much water as they like. F

c) First Nations peoples developed ways to find and save water. T

4. Caring for water

Accept any two sensible answers, such as:

- Turn off the tap while brushing your teeth.
- Take shorter showers.
- Reuse water when it is safe to do so.
- Fix leaking taps.
- Avoid wasting drinking water.

5. Learn from the past

Possible answer: A long drought can cause plants to dry out, animals to lose food and water, crops to fail and farmers to lose money. Rivers and water supplies may also become low.

6. Think and explain

Accept any one of the following:

- Finding trees that store water in their roots or hollows.
- Covering claypans with stone lids to help keep water in.
- Creating or using rock wells to collect rainwater or underground water.

Curriculum connection: Australian Curriculum – Year 3 HASS, Geography. Students explore how people use and care for places and environments, and how people respond to environmental challenges. The worksheet also supports sustainability and First Nations perspectives.