

Year 5 Geography Knowledge Organiser - Why is California so thirsty?

Facts about California

1. California is on the west coast of the United States of America.
2. Millions of people live in California in big cities like Los Angeles.
3. In 2011 there was a drought and California began to run out of water.
4. 75% of the rain that falls in California falls north of the city of Sacramento.
5. 75% of the water used is in the south of California.
6. Most of California has a warm Mediterranean climate which means a lot of water is used for drinking, washing people and clothes and irrigation on farms. 80% of the water used is for irrigation.
7. California is famous for the almonds that it grows.

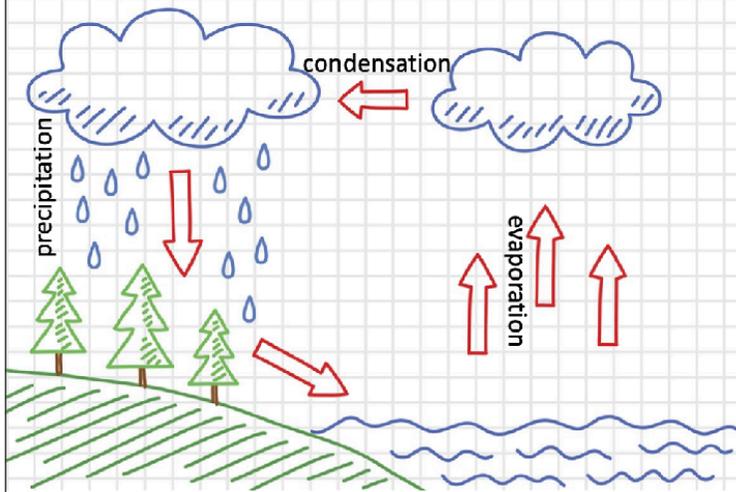
Where is California?



Vocabulary

1. Precipitation	The name given to water falling from the clouds when it rains.
2. Water cycle	The process of precipitation, evaporation and condensation.
3. Treated	Making water safe to drink.
4. Reservoir	A place to store water that is built by humans.
5. Irrigation	Applying water to crops to help them to grow.
6. Drought	When rain does not fall and water supply is less.
7. Groundwater	Water that is deep underground.
8. Almonds	A type of nut that is grown in California. Almonds need a lot of water to grow.
9. Factors	Reasons.
10. Aqueduct	Built to transport water from one place to another.
11. Water supply	Ways of getting water, for example, from rainfall or from groundwater.

Water Cycle



Effects of Drought



Folsom Lake

1. Folsom Lake is east of Sacramento.
2. Water is stored in the lake when rain falls.
3. Water is sent to the south of California for people to drink and used to grow crops.
4. In 2011, rain did not fall and the water level in Folsom Lake got lower and lower.
5. Water could not be sent south any longer.

California Aqueduct

1. **Built in the 1960s to transport water from the north of California to the south of California.**
2. **444 miles long.**
3. **Reservoirs were too empty to transport water in the worst time of drought.**

When and why did the drought end?

1. The drought lasted for 7 years, finishing in March 2019.
2. In 2017 there was more rainfall which started to fill reservoirs.
3. In 2018-19 the winter was colder which meant there was snow which melted and helped to fill the rivers.

What would you choose?

California will experience drought again and people will be asked to consider these things:

1. Taking shorter showers
2. Not washing cars
3. Not watering grasses and gardens and less irrigation of land

What you choose as being the most important for saving water? Why?