



Floods And Droughts

Water is very important. All living things need water to survive but water can be dangerous if we have too much or too little.

Too much water can lead to flooding. Flooding is when water builds up in areas it shouldn't be. You may have seen this before. When there have been a lot of rain storms, the roads can become flooded. The roads disappear underwater and the traffic can't pass. Flooding like this is annoying but flooding can also cause much bigger problems.

Floods on farmland can ruin crops and this means there is less food. Flooding in towns and villages can destroy houses. This makes people homeless. Flood water also spreads disease which can make people ill.

E: What is a flood?

I: What kind of weather would cause flooding?

R: Name two problems that flooding can cause.

Too little water can lead to drought. A drought is when there is not enough water. Droughts happen when it has not rained for a long time. They often happen when the weather is very hot. You may have seen this during summer time. When it is hot and dry, the grass dries out and turns brown. The grass is dying because it



doesn't have enough water. You may have heard adults talking about hose-pipe bans. This is when people are asked not to use hose-pipes to water their grass and gardens or wash their cars. This is to save water because there isn't enough to go around.

We don't get many droughts in the UK but around the world they can cause big problems. All living things need water. Plants start to die when there isn't enough water. If farmers' crops die, then there is no food. Dead plants are very dry and they catch fire in the heat. This causes wildfires. The fires cause a lot of damage and are very dangerous. Once Australia had a wildfire that lasted nearly four months!

E: What is a drought?

I: What time of year do droughts often happen?

R: Name two problems that droughts can cause.