



# DROUGHTS

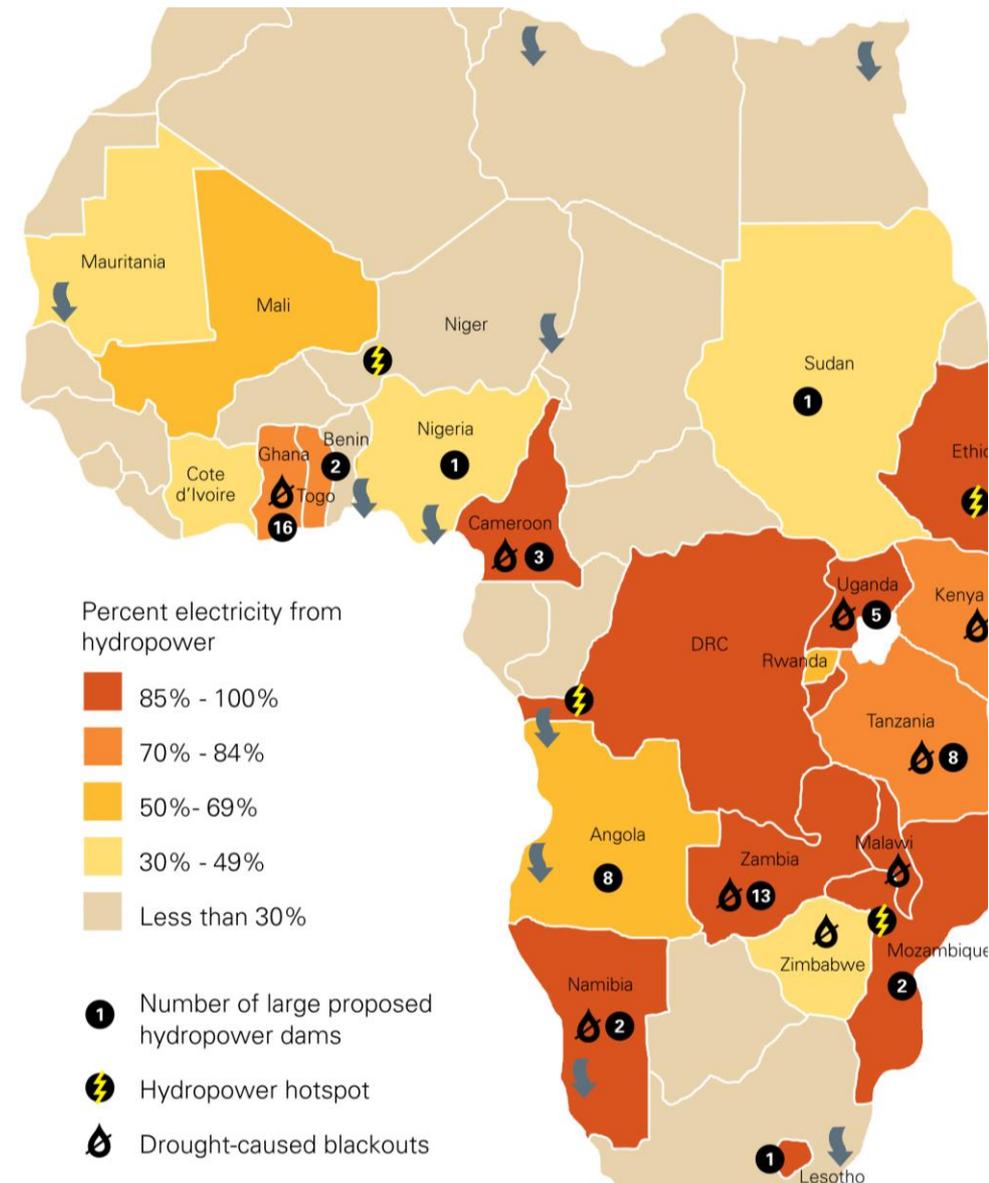
By Cecilia Curran



# A is for AFRICA

- **Droughts** are very common in parts of Africa because of its dry and has a **scarcity** or lack of rain. This lack of rain can lead to the deaths of many plants and animals and humans, which will lead to a great drop in the economy and the devastation of the ecosystem where the drought hit. The crops will wither and die which will lead to the bankruptcy of many farmers. Then the small businesses, then lastly, the big businesses and their clients.

## Africa



Africa has a lot of poor people, so they are greatly affected by the drought. They can not buy themselves food from another country. They can also not travel away, because they do not have the money to buy a flight. Since they do not have the money to buy a flight or buy foreign food, they are very affected.

# B is for BARREN

- A drought will cause the once **glorious** land to become barren, or dry and lifeless. This dry and lifeless land is bad for people plants, animals, and the economy. The animals that eat plants (the prey) will not have anything to eat because the plants have all died, which will lead to their death. Then the animals that eat them (the predators) will not have their prey to hunt/eat so they will die. Then the farmers will die because their crops have been killed, and they will not be able to buy food to feed themselves and their family. After the farmers are gone the small businesses that relayed on them will parish then finally, the large businesses will crumble to the ground from the loss in economy. Deserts like the Sahara (in Africa)



# C is for CROPS

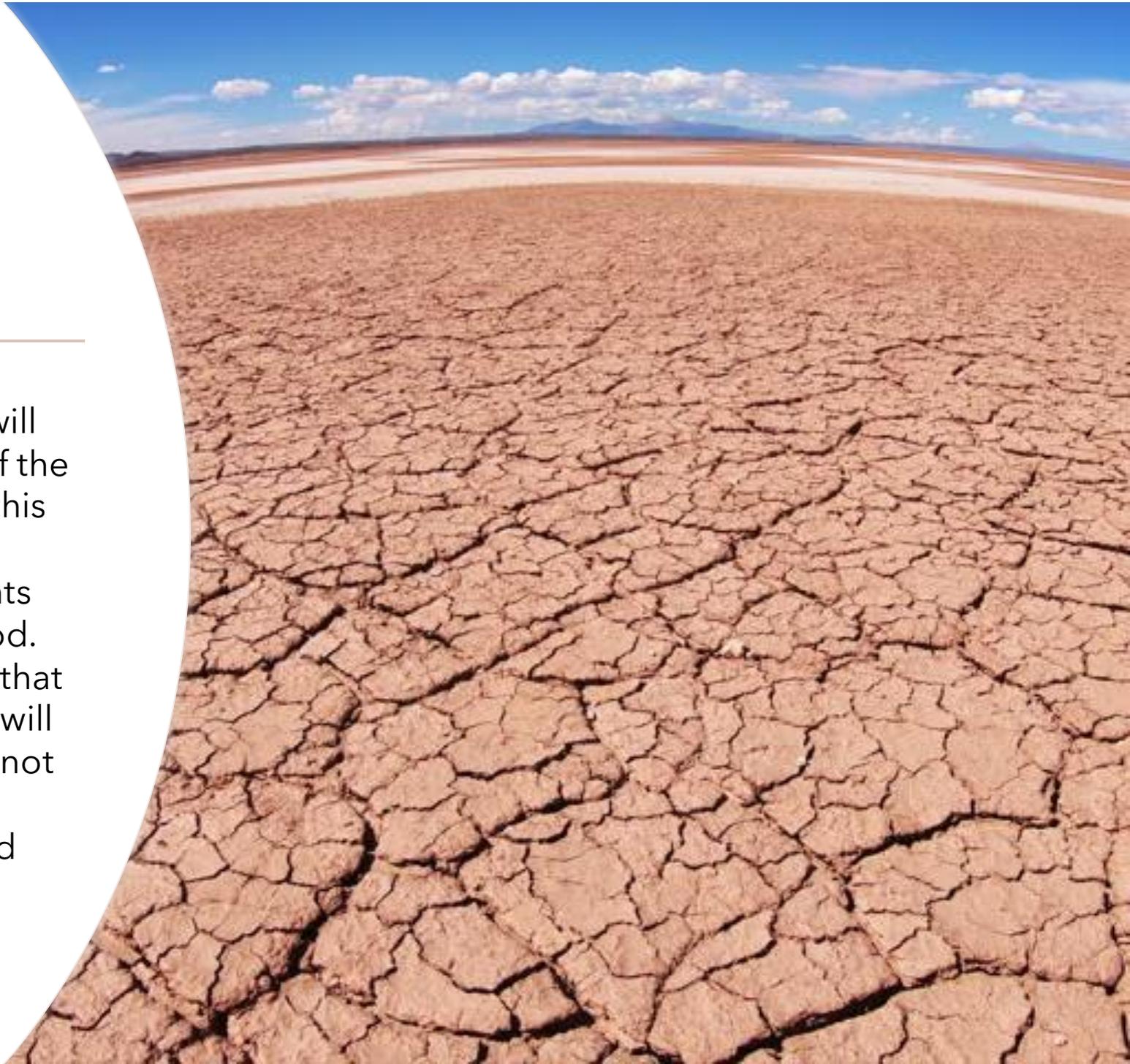
- The crops in an area where a drought hit will wither and die affecting the economy and starving people. The animals that eat the plants/crops that die will **depopulate**. Also the farmers that grew the crops will be devastated, they will not have enough money to stay in businesses and feed their family. When all the farmers and their businesses die the small shops and markets the farmers sold to will go bankrupt. Then lastly the large businesses will be destroyed, and the world will be effected by one drought.



A community losing its crops can lead to starvation and a great drop in the economy. This will lead to that community's downfall in money and population. Also droughts can really affect poor people, they barely have enough money to start with now with the drop in food they won't be able to eat. Rich people don't have that problem, they can just fly away or buy food shipped from other countries.

# D is for DRY

- When a drought comes, the land it hits will usually become dry as a **desert** because of the hot temperatures and sometimes fire. All this dryness can be very bad for an ecosystem/economy, the ecosystem's plants and animals will perish from the lack of food. The economy will drop because the crops that probably helped the economy get money will die. The poor are affected greatly, they do not have the money to leave the place of the drought or buy food that has been shipped from another country.



# E is for ECOSYSTEMS

- Many ecosystems are devastated and destroyed because of the lack of food and hot temperatures. The ecosystem that the drought hit will most likely be home to thousands of animals. The animals that lived in the ecosystem will be forced to move because there will not be enough food/water in the area that the animals live. The plants aren't so lucky, they do not have legs to run away on. They have to rely on the limited food/water that is available.



# F is for FAMINE

- Famine is when there is little or no food, which will cause people to starve or die of a lack of food. Poor people are especially effected, they do not have the money to leave the place of the drought. Since they do not have the money to travel the will have to resort to stealing or begging for money. Famine is really a fancy word for **starvation** (when you go without food for too long). Famine is also very common in Africa because there are a lot of poor people.



Starving people in Africa

## G is for GET HELP

- If you are ever caught in a drought, you need to GET HELP and get inside. Things like **dehydration**, heat sickness, and fire can be very dangerous for your health. Heat sickness can have dangerously drastic effects. Once you get out you should also help anyone that you know that might be in the drought that you have just escaped.



As well as getting help you need to keep yourself safe in the drought from dehydration and all heat related sicknesses. Also remember that you need to get inside an AIR-CONDITIONED building not just any old building.

# H is for HEAT WAVE

A heat wave is a period with very high temperatures and sometimes high humidity. Heat waves can cause droughts, come during droughts, or come way after a drought. Heat waves are a type of weather so most of the time we can predict them and tell about them on weather channels.



Map/diagram of a severe drought in the U.S

# I is for ILL

- When a drought comes people if they do not follow safety precautions then they might fall ill from heat related illnesses, which can lead to death. Heat sicknesses can put you in a lot danger because they can vary in size and **symptoms**. It's also very hard to catch some sicknesses because there beginning symptoms are everyday things you do when your hot like get thirsty and sweat a lot more than they usually do. If you can't spot the sickness in time it might make you really ill.



Heat sicknesses include the following: heat stroke, heat exhaustion, heat cramps, heat sycopes (fainting), heat rash. Most of these sicknesses are very dangerous and can cause you harm.

# J is for JET STREAMS

Are fast flowing **narrow** meandering air currents in our atmosphere. Jet streams can flow through the upper **troposphere**. Earth is not the only planet that has jet streams though, did you that Jupiter has them too? Jet streams flow from the West to the East. The strongest one is the **polar** jet stream. The subtropical jet is higher in the atmosphere and weaker.

## ... if jet stream is 'blocked'

... other scientists have  
... covered a mysterious and  
... times deadly pattern in which  
... streams – air currents circling the  
... – stall out over a region.

## ... h's four jet streams

... altitude air streams;  
... 3 mph (247 km/h), often  
... an 57 mph (92 km/h)

... ners often fly at the  
... altitude as jet streams

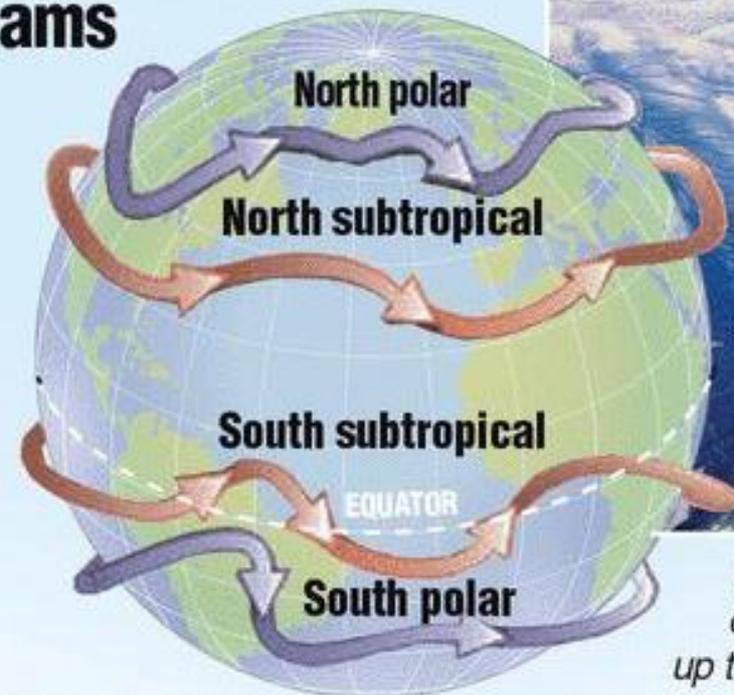
... w from west to east  
... se of Earth's rotation

... old air flowing from poles  
... rd Equator makes streams  
... der in "Rossby waves";  
... eam sometimes splits



The north polar  
jet stream in action

Photo of a jet stream



Hundreds of miles  
or kilometers wide;  
up to 3 mi (5 km) thick

## Trouble develops when a jet stream backs up

Unusual, long-lasting ... Deep loops in jet stream develop when the stream becomes blocked

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# K is for KILL

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- Droughts can kill many things including plants, animals, humans, and lead to drops in the market and economy. These horrible things all start when the plants start to die, the animals that eat the plants will die. Then the animals that eat the animals that eat the plants will die. Then just like that you have a bunch of animals dead and the humans that eat the plants/animals will die. This is called a chain reaction.



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## L is for LIVESTOCK

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- Livestock are devastated when a drought comes because of the extreme heat and lack of water. After they are dead the farmers that had them will lose a lot of money and may have to resort to stealing or have a starving family. Also the farmers probably sold most of the food they grew, so the places/people that they sold the food to might start to decline in money. The places that the farmers sold the food to most likely had employees, so they will have to lay-off the workers because they do not have the money to pay them.



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## M is for MASSIVE

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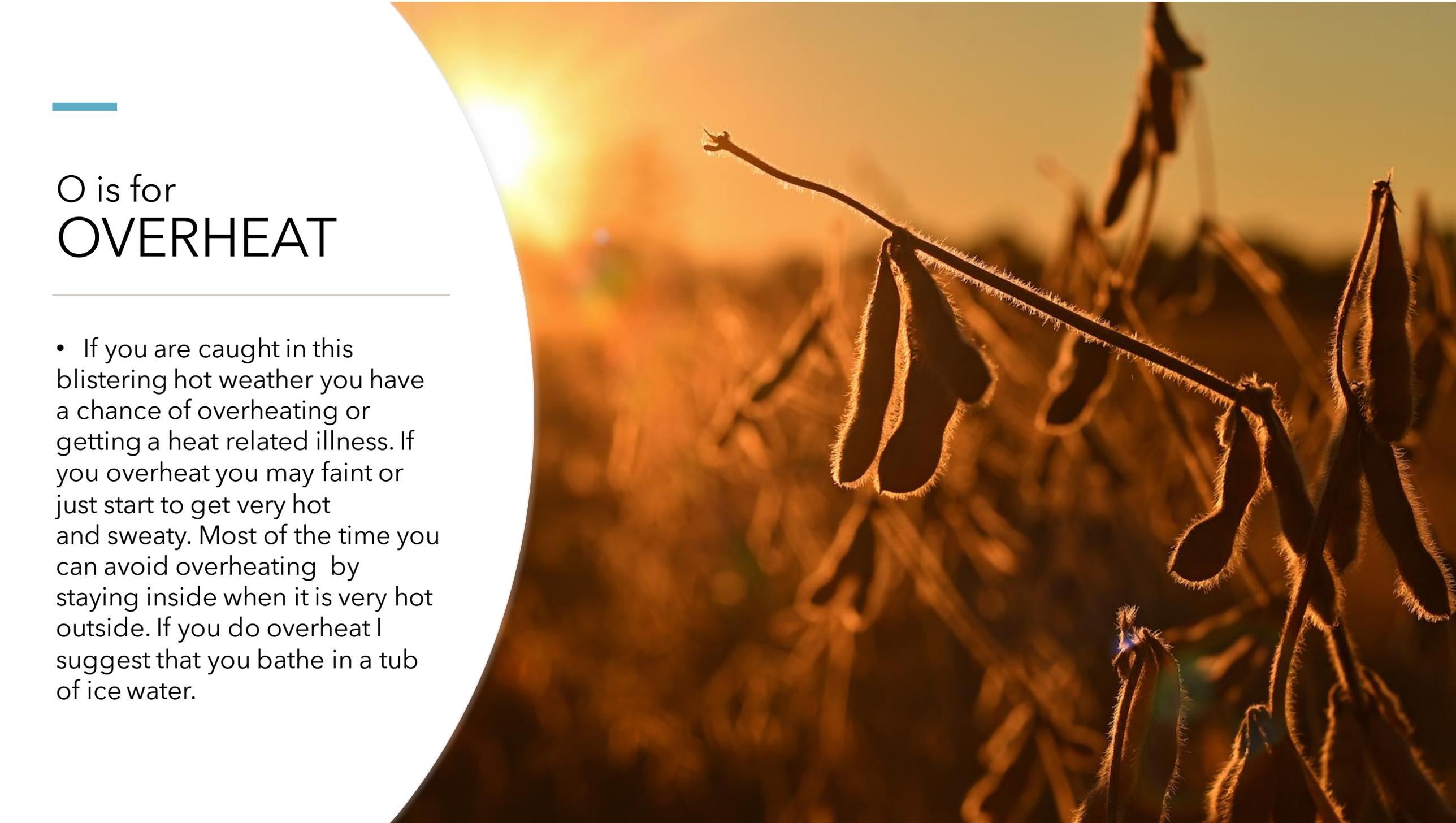
- Droughts can be massive, the longer time with no rain the more massive the drought is. A massive drought can lead to the deaths of people, plants, and animals. A smaller drought (shorter) will have less of an impact, you will probably just have to use less water. In **Georgia** we have had a couple of those.



## N is for NOTHING LEFT

- A drought will leave nothing left but withered and dry plants. This will lead to a drop in the economy and many, many starving people. Also the animals that might sneak into the farm and eat some of the crops will die. This will lead to the death of the animals that eat the animals that eat the crops. Then the humans that eat the animals/crops will starve. Finally the farmers will go bankrupt because they will not be able to make money.





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## O is for **OVERHEAT**

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- If you are caught in this blistering hot weather you have a chance of overheating or getting a heat related illness. If you overheat you may faint or just start to get very hot and sweaty. Most of the time you can avoid overheating by staying inside when it is very hot outside. If you do overheat I suggest that you bathe in a tub of ice water.

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## P is for PEOPLE

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- People can starve, overheat, or get heat illness, and in some cases even be killed in droughts from starving or any of the things above. Also people that own farms, markets, or any other place that relies on freshly grown food will be affected because the farmers will not be able to grow food. The businesses that rely on the food will go out of business. It will also affect the employees working at the places that rely on the farmers, they will be laid-off because the business will not have enough money to pay them.

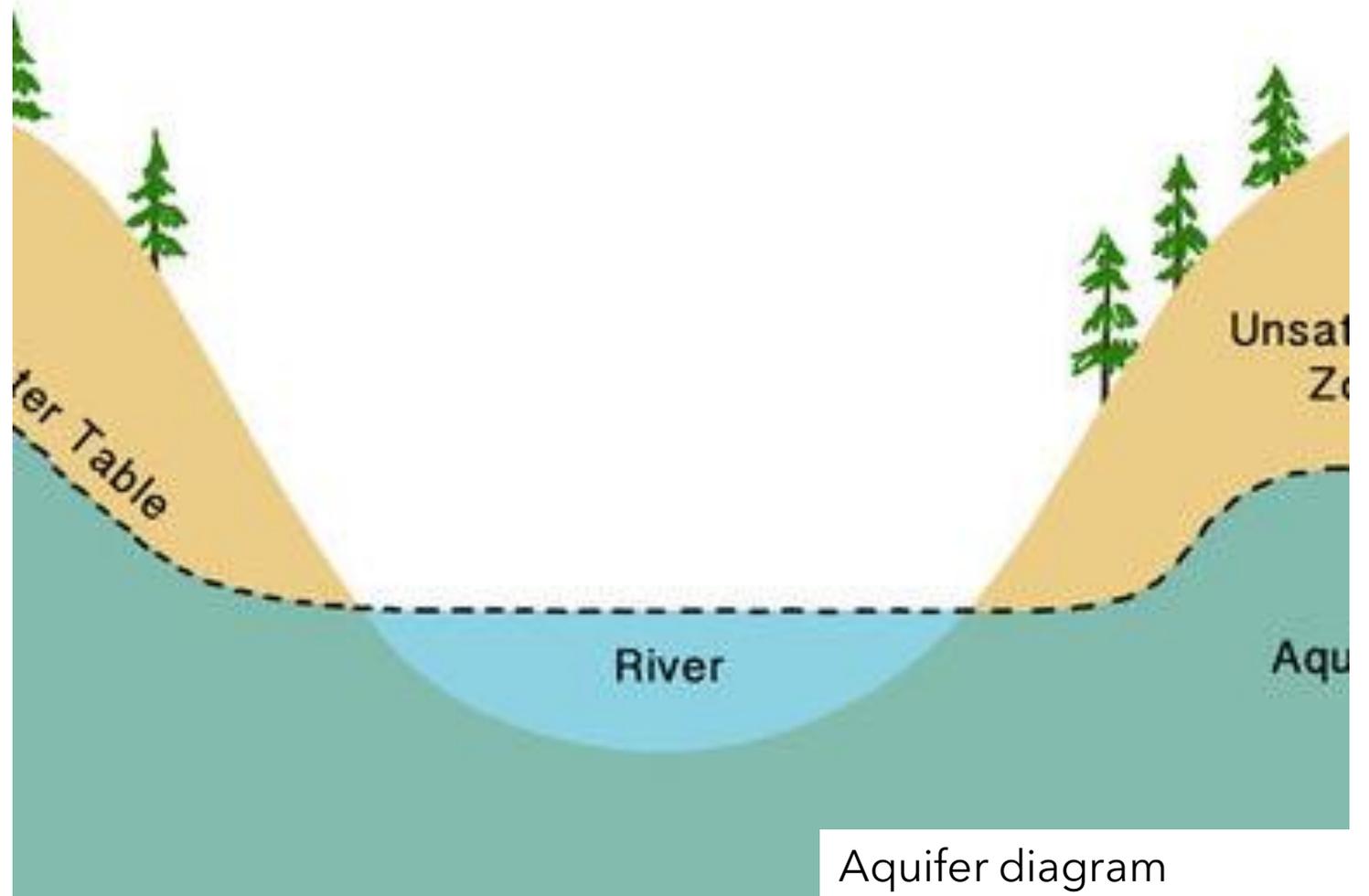


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## Q is for AQUIFERS

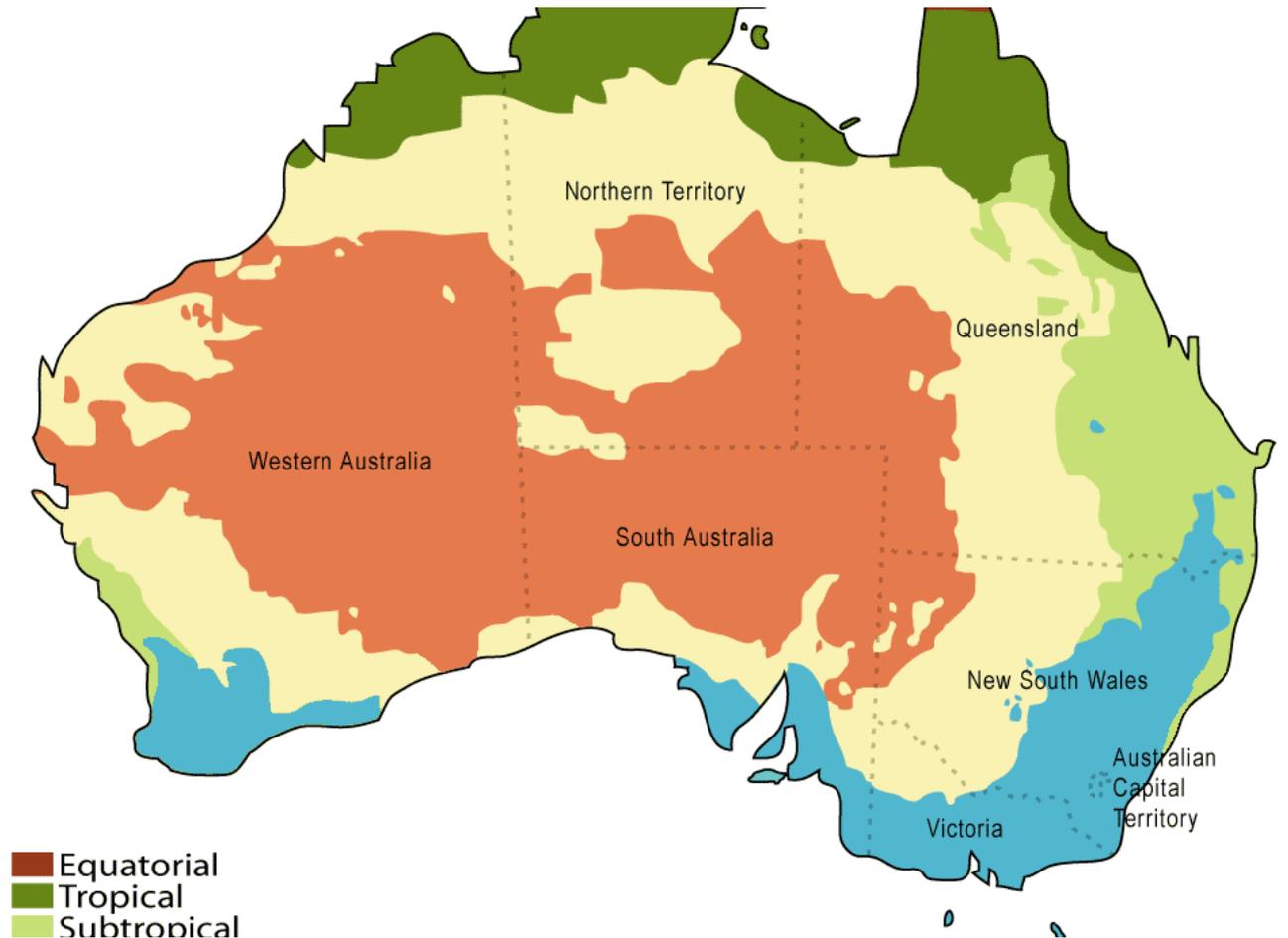
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- An aquifer is something that helps get water from an area with rain to an area that is experiencing a drought. They work by taking the water from the area that does not have a drought and then taking the water to a nearby place that needs it. Once the water is there the people in the area of the drought will have water. This is really important because it helps the people in a drought a lot.



# R is for RAIN

No rain can lead to no water. Most of the you need rain to bring natural water. Once all the rain is gone people will have to really on bottled water, which will probably be scarce because people in the area of the drought will have bought all of it. Since you will probably not be able to get water you have a chance of dying.



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## S is for SATELLITE

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- Satellites catch where droughts are happening to help scientists study the drought and collect **data**. This data can really help scientists make a pattern and find out where a drought might happen next. If they find out where the drought will happen and when it will happen they can help protect the people that will be caught in the drought by giving them warnings. If you are given a warning you should begin to prepare immediately.



# T is for TREACHEROUS

- Drought can be very treacherous if they last for a very long time bringing hot and rain lacking conditions. A treacherous drought can have bad affects. Some of them are people dying from starvation or heat illness. Animals/plants also are greatly affected. Lastly, the economy will be devastated. All of these can last for a long time or short time depending on the severity of the drought.



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## U is for UNITE

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- We all need to unite to protect the people, plants, and animals that are put in the situation of a drought. If you go onto the internet (with adult supervision) you can probably find a website that you donate money to for the people in a drought. They need this money so they can buy food and/or get out of the area with a drought. There are also probably a couple of government websites such as F.E.M.A.



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## V is for **VERY**

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- Droughts have a very bad impact on the ecosystems, economies, people, plants, and animals living in the place that is suffering from a drought. Droughts can vary in size too. The longer the drought is the more severe the drought is. Think of it this way, the long droughts have "very" bad affects.



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# W is for WILDFIRES

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- Wildfires can come after or during a drought because of the dry ground, rainless conditions, and dry plants. Also ash can get into the air and can really affect your health. Did I forget to mention that all of the animals stuck in the fire can die? Animals dying can really affect the humans that eat them. I do love a yummy chicken breast! Fires can also cause **deforestation.**



Wildfires can devastate a forest. They can be caused by the dry trees and leaves in the ecosystem that the drought was in and that there is a wildfire in now. Wildfires are not always that bad. After they hit they can leave room for lots of new trees and other types of wildlife. They also admit ash into the air which can be bad for breathing and may block the sun from plants so they can't grow. Did you know about the raging wildfires in Australia, and that thousands maybe more koalas that have died? It's so sad!

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## X is for **EXTREME HEAT**

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- Droughts can bring extreme heat that may lead to the death of thousands of plants, animals, and humans from the heat related illnesses, and the heat itself. Also sometimes the extreme heat can cause the drought. Extreme heat is very dangerous because it can also sometimes cause wildfires. It can cause wildfires because the heat will dry up the leaves and trees so the fire can catch more easily.

Click to add text



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## Y is for YOU

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- Only YOU can keep yourself safe in a drought, keep inside an air-conditioned building, drink plenty of water, get out of the area of the drought. also watch out for heat sickness. If you are caught in a drought any of these things can happen to you. It is up to YOU to make sure that YOU are safe.

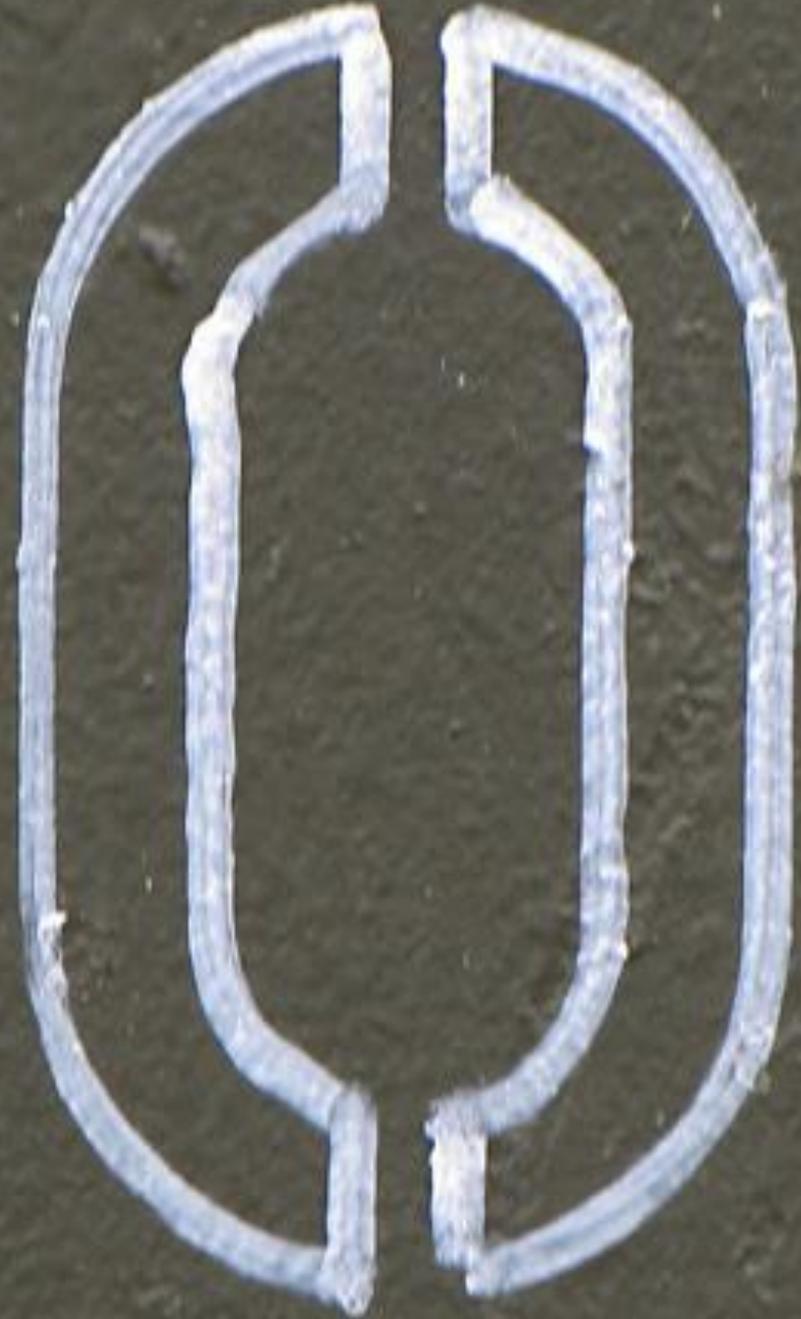


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# Z is for ZERO

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- A drought will bring lots of rainless weather which will lead to Zero rain, which means Zero water, and since every living thing needs water that means Zero life. Zero life means that the area where there used to be beautiful wildlife and millions of animal grazing happily, will become a dry barren wasteland. This dry barren wasteland probably used to be home to millions of plants and animals which will have to go to different places to so they can survive, this will lead to **overpopulation**/depopulation in the areas that the animals must travel to get their food. Also after the animals go to the new area, they will start to eat the food of the animals/plants that already lived there, so they will die.



# BIBLIOGROPHY

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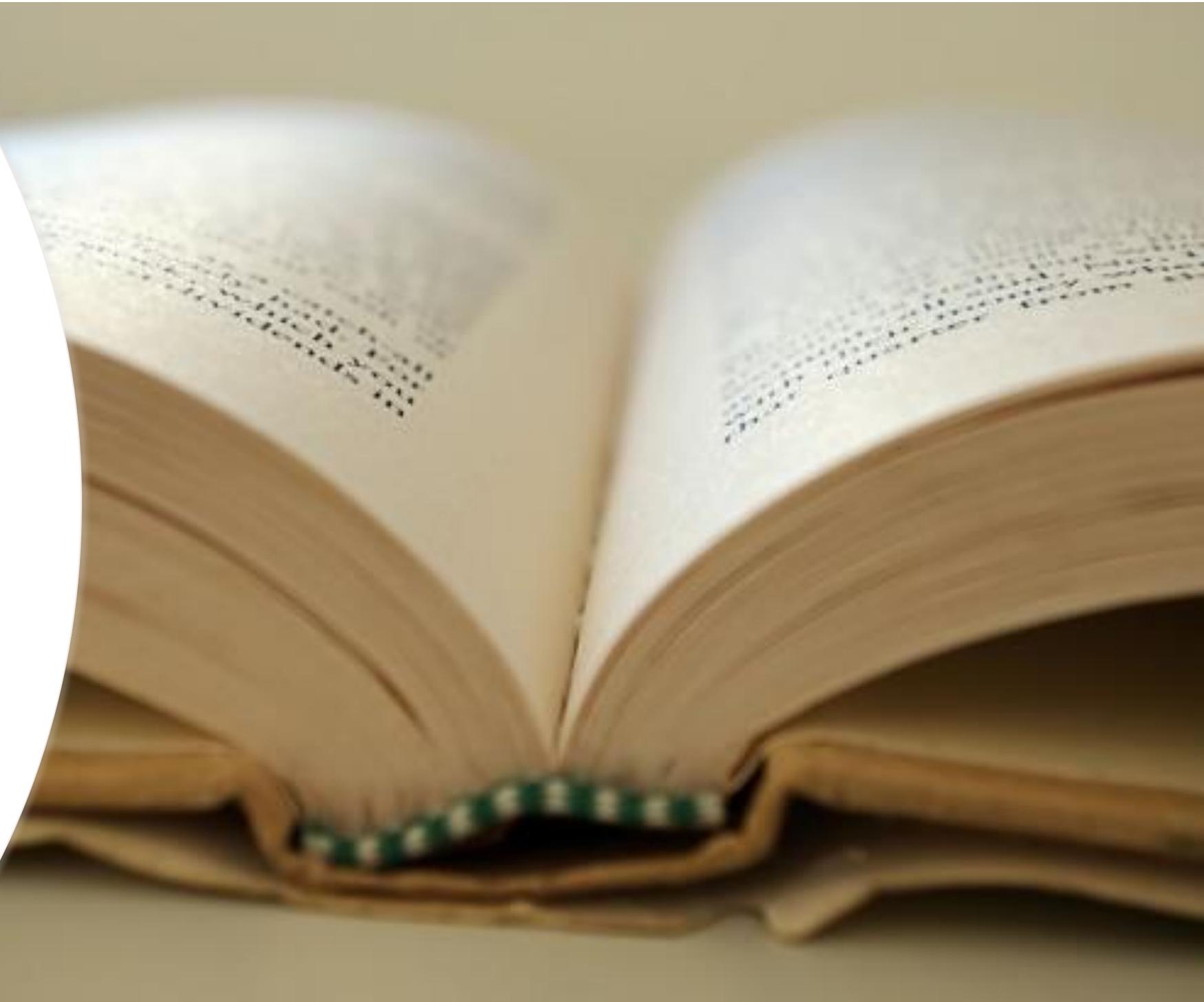
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- [Dreadful Droughts](#) (book)
- [Droughts](#) (Nat Geo book)
- [Wikipedia](#) (Ms. Hecker's page)
- [Witness to Disaster](#) (book)
- [Bing](#) (photo credits)

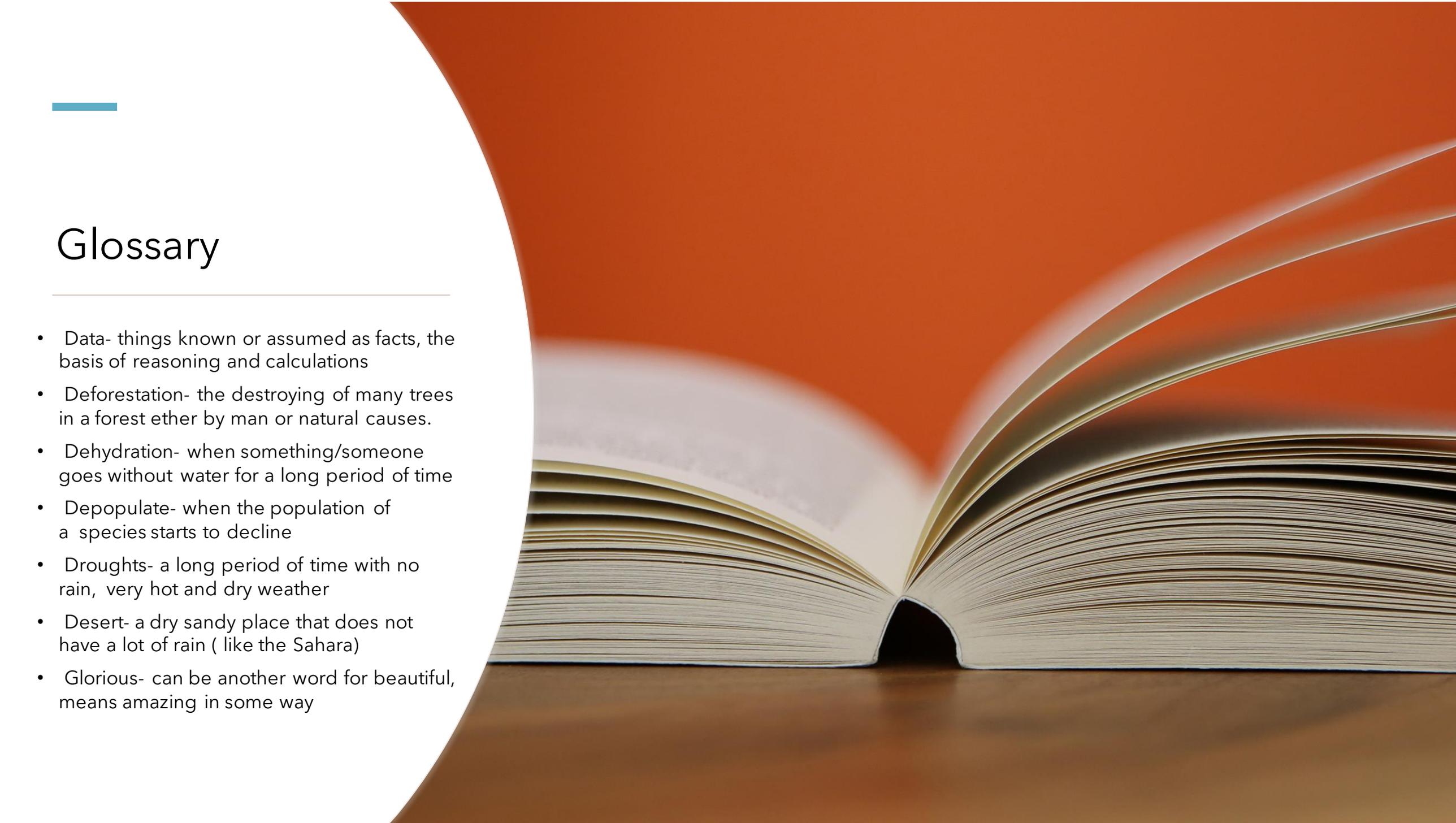


# Glossary (continued)

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- Georgia- a state in the south-east of the U.S
- Narrow- very thin or small (a narrow passage)
- Overpopulation- the opposite of depopulation, too much of a living thing in an area.
- Polar- a place with mostly cold temperatures & climate
- Scarcity- a big loss of something, it will make that thing scarce or not a lot of the it
- Starvation- when you something or someone with
- Symptoms- the affects that the thing that is happening to someone (usually from sickness)
- Troposphere- the lowest region of the atmosphere to about 3.7-6.2 mi of the surface of the Earth





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# Glossary

- Data- things known or assumed as facts, the basis of reasoning and calculations
- Deforestation- the destroying of many trees in a forest either by man or natural causes.
- Dehydration- when something/someone goes without water for a long period of time
- Depopulate- when the population of a species starts to decline
- Droughts- a long period of time with no rain, very hot and dry weather
- Desert- a dry sandy place that does not have a lot of rain ( like the Sahara)
- Glorious- can be another word for beautiful, means amazing in some way