

Why is California so thirsty?

Prior Learning:

In Early Years, I explored how water moved. In Year 2, I learnt about the River Mersey when learning about our nearest major city Liverpool and also the River Nile. In Year 4, we learnt about population and how the distribution changes.

Key Vocabulary

abundant	having a very large amount of something
scant	a very small amount or barely enough to get by
drought	when a specific area doesn't get enough rain or snow for a long period. This makes the ground very dry, causes rivers and lakes to shrink, and makes it hard for plants, animals, and humans to get water.

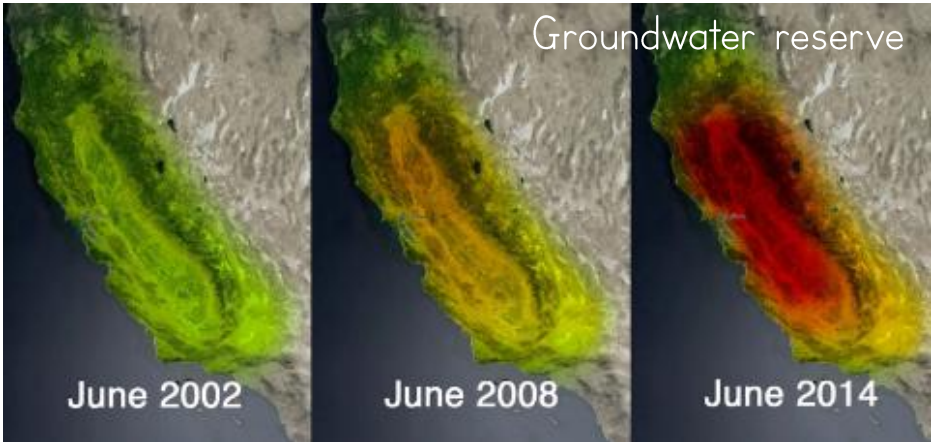
Key Places



California

Key Learning

Why is precipitation a problem in California?
What is the distribution and use of reservoirs in California?
Why is California running out of water?
What are the causes of drought in California?
How did the drought affect people's lives in California?
What challenges will California face in the future?



The Big Question

What challenges does California face?

Visual Vocabulary



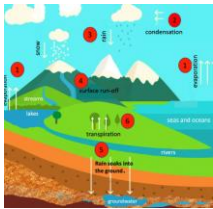
These rugged mountains are in the Sierra Nevada. The landscape in California is very varied.



This is the California aqueduct. The long, wide channel was built to transport water in the 1960s.



Almond farming is a massive source of income for California (\$5.8billion). Almonds need a lot of water to grow.



You should remember this diagram from year 3. It shows how rainwater reaches the ground and is used by plants.

Cross Curricular Links

Mutual Respect

Maths – Statistics and data handling
PSHE – Sustainability and global citizenship

Oceans

Prior Learning:

In Year 1, children learnt about the characteristics of Southport as a seaside town. In Year 2, pupils learnt to name and locate the seven continents and five oceans, use maps and globes, and recognise physical features such as seas, oceans and coasts. In Year 3, through Climate and Biomes, they revisited the five oceans and learnt that oceans cover approximately 70% of the Earth's surface. They explored how oceans influence climate, what ocean currents are, and how the Gulf Stream helps to keep western Europe relatively mild. In Year 4, through Coastal Processes and Landforms, pupils developed their understanding of seas and coastlines, learning how waves shape coastlines through erosion and deposition, and how people use coastal environments.

Key Vocabulary

Maritime trade	The transport of goods between countries by sea
Ocean current	A continuous movement of ocean water in a particular direction
Climate change	Long-term changes in Earth's climate, caused largely by increased greenhouse gases

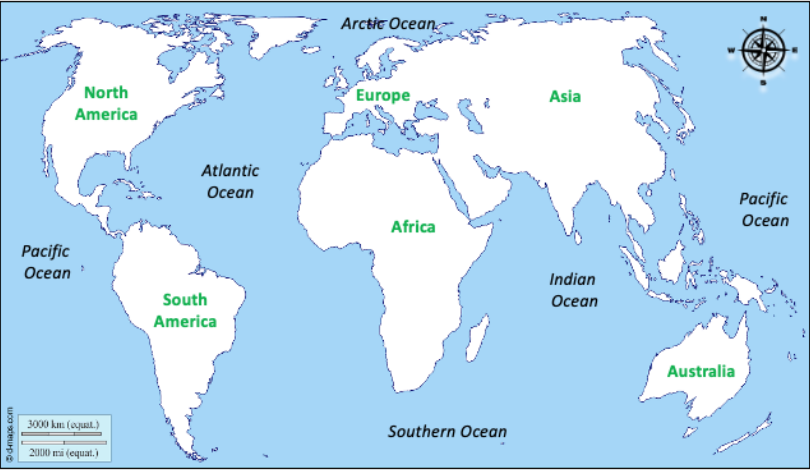
Key Places

The Maldives



Key Learning

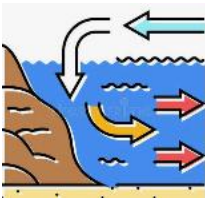
- What is the difference between an ocean and a sea?
- Why are oceans important for trade?
- How do oceans affect climate?
- How do oceans affect people living on different coasts?
- How are oceans linked to climate change?
- How do people affect the oceans?



The Big Question

How do people and oceans affect each other?

Visual Vocabulary

salinity		The amount of salt dissolved in water
Container ship		A large ship used to transport goods around the world.
Gyre		A huge circular movement of ocean currents
Phytoplankton		Tiny ocean plants that produce oxygen

Cross Curricular Links

Togetherness

History – the importance of rivers and seas for transport, trade and territory control (Egypt, Ancient Greece and The Roman Empire)