



Year 5

Why is California so thirsty?

Key vocabulary

precipitation	Water that falls from the clouds towards the ground, usually as rain or snow.
water treatment	Any process that improves the quality of water.
reservoir	Similar to a lake but is built by humans to store water.
drought	A long period where there is little or no rain.
groundwater	Water found deep underground. It can be brought to the surface using a pump.
factor	A reason for something happening.
water supply	The water available for an area.
aqueduct	A channel of water built by people to transport water to other places.
irrigation	The supply of water to land or crops to help growth, typically by means of channels.

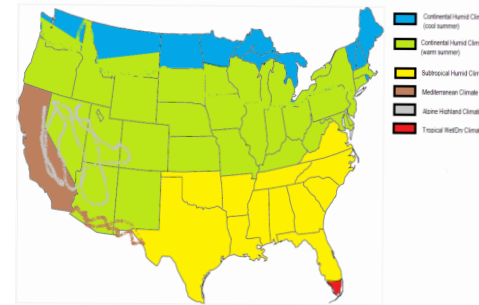
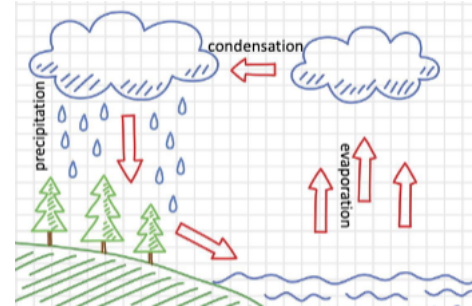


California is a state on the west coast of the United States of America (USA). Millions of people live here in big cities like Los Angeles (LA).

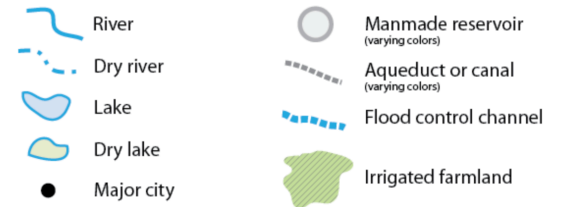


75% of the rain in California falls north of the city Sacramento. However 75% of the overall water is used in the south of California. The water is running out.

The water cycle



Cartographers are people who make maps. They often create map keys that show symbols for important features on a map. They help map readers to find features quickly. These are some common symbols used for bodies of water and human features.



The California Aqueduct was built in the 1960s to transport water from the wetter north of the state to farms in the south.

California has a Mediterranean climate and some parts are hot desert. Lots of water is needed. California is highlighted in brown on this climate map of the USA.



80% of the water in California is used for irrigation to help farmers grow their crops.



80% of the world's almonds are grown in California but to produce one almond it takes 4 and half litres of water.