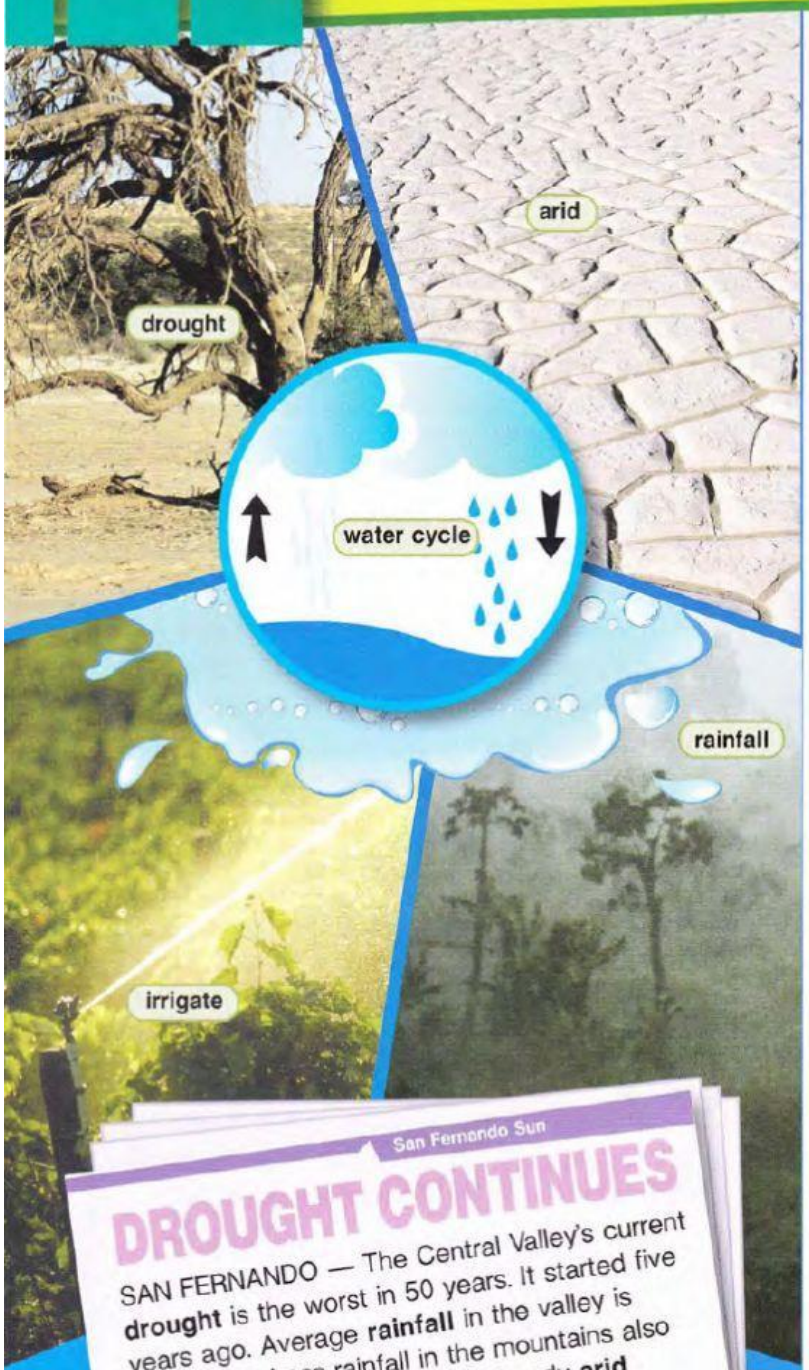
5 Water



San Fernando Sun

DROUGHT CONTINUES

SAN FERNANDO — The Central Valley's current **drought** is the worst in 50 years. It started five years ago. Average **rainfall** in the valley is down 35%. Less rainfall in the mountains also limits the **water cycle** in this already **arid** region as well.

Many **rain-fed** crops are dying. Recently, many farmers dug ditches to **irrigate** them. They used extra **groundwater** from their wells, too. Many experts say that will create water **shortages** in the future.

Expect higher prices for many fruits and vegetables this summer. Peaches and nectarines are an exception. Local farmers are growing **drought-resistant** varieties of those crops.

Get ready!

1 Before you read the passage, talk about these questions.

1 Where do farmers get water?

2 How do water shortages hurt farmers?

Reading

2 Read the article from the San Fernando Sun newspaper. Then, choose the correct answers.

1 What is the article mostly about?

A a crop shortage
B a lack of rainfall
C new irrigation methods
D new types of crops

2 According to the article, what will cause a water shortage in the future?

A raising rain-fed crops
B using extra groundwater
C farming in arid locations
D planting crops in the mountains

3 What is true of the peaches and nectarines?

A They will not be damaged by the drought.
B They will be more expensive this year.
C They will need more water than most fruits.
D They will be grown by out of town farmers.

Vocabulary

3 Read the sentence pair. Choose where the words best fit the blanks.

1 **ditch / groundwater**

A Irrigate the crops by digging a _____.
B Areas with a lot of _____ are ideal for farming.

2 **shortage / rainfall**

A With so much _____, Dawn didn't have to water her plants.
B Many crops died due to the water _____.

3 **rain-fed / drought-resistant**

A Linda prefers _____ crops since she lives in an arid region.
B Andrew doesn't irrigate; his crops are _____.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

4 **Match the words (1-4) with the definitions (A-D).**

1 __ water cycle 3 __ arid
2 __ drought 4 __ irrigate

A to guide water to plants
B the pattern of water moving and changing form
C receiving little rainfall
D a period of unusual dryness

5 **Listen and read the article from the San Fernando Sun newspaper again. Why has the fact that there has been less rainfall in the mountains affected the region?**

Listening

6 **Listen to a conversation between two farmers. Mark the following statements as true (T) or false (F).**

1 __ The man's vegetable crop died.
2 __ The woman might expand her irrigation system.
3 __ The woman does not have drought-resistant crops.

7 **Listen again and complete the conversation.**

Farmer 1: I'm worried. My vegetables won't **1** _____ if this drought continues.
Farmer 2: I feel the same way. My lettuce and cucumbers aren't doing well.
Farmer 1: What are you going to **2** _____ _____ it?
Farmer 2: I might **3** _____ my irrigation system.
Farmer 1: That **4** _____ _____ very expensive.
Farmer 2: I agree. But I don't know what else to do.
Farmer 1: You could always plant **5** _____ - _____ vegetables next year.
Farmer 2: That's a good idea. It will cost less. But it **6** _____ _____ this year.

Speaking

8 **With a partner, act out the roles below based on Task 7. Then, switch roles.**

USE LANGUAGE SUCH AS:

My ... aren't doing well.
You could always ...
That's a good idea.

Student A: You are a farmer during a drought. Talk to Student B about:
- your crops
- irrigation
- other solutions

Student B: You are a farmer during a drought. Discuss solutions with Student A.

Writing

9 **Use the conversation from Task 8 to fill out the farm report.**

FARM REPORT

Date: _____

Crops Planted: _____

_____

Crop Condition: _____

_____

Water Problems: _____

_____

Possible Solutions: _____

_____

LIVEWORKSHEETS