

# 5 Water



## 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 \_\_\_\_\_.

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: \_\_\_\_\_