

Lesson Plan

The Southwest Situation

Book: *The Climate Crisis in the Southwest*

Series: The Climate Crisis in America

Level: Navigator

Objective

To help students practice finding, recalling, and synthesizing key details from a text about the climate crisis in the Southwest.

Supplies

- Several copies of *The Climate Crisis in the Southwest*
- The Southwest Situation worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

Before the Activity

Print a copy of the worksheet for each student. Read *The Climate Crisis in the Southwest* out loud as a class, or assign it to students to read on their own.

Activity

Divide students into groups of three or four, and give each group a copy of *The Climate Crisis in the Southwest*. Then, give each student a copy of the worksheet. Explain that they should write 4 to 5 sentences to answer each question on the worksheet. Remind students to use specific details from the book in their answers.

Students can share the book as they complete the worksheet, but each student should complete the worksheet on their own.

Evaluation

Collect the worksheets at the end of class. Could students accurately and thoroughly answer the questions about the climate crisis in the Southwest? Give up to 5 points for each question, for up to 15 points total.

Standards

This lesson may be used to address the Common Core State Standards' reading standards for informational text, grades 4–7 (RI 4.1, 4.4, 4.7; 5.1, 5.4; 6.1, 6.4, 6.7; 7.4) and writing standards (W 4.2, 4.4, 4.8–9; 5.2, 5.4, 5.8–9; 6.2, 6.4, 6.9; 7.2, 7.4, 7.9).

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Answer the following questions regarding the climate crisis in the Southwest. Each answer should be four to five sentences long and include specific details from the book.

1. Describe the normal climate of the Southwest.
2. How is climate change affecting the region?
3. How are people trying to address the problems of climate change in the Southwest?

The Southwest Situation **ANSWER KEY**

Answer the following questions regarding the climate crisis in the Southwest. Each answer should be four to five sentences long and include specific details from the book.

1. Describe the normal climate of the Southwest.

Students can mention details including: warm and dry, varied precipitation, cooler and rainier at higher elevations, periods of drought

2. How is climate change affecting the region?

Students can mention details including: greenhouse gases, more heat, less rain, longer droughts and heat waves, less water in reservoirs, loss or change of some plant and animal life, wildfires

3. How are people trying to address the problems of climate change in the Southwest?

Students can mention details including: Navajo Water Project, renewable energy from wind and sunlight, conserving water, raising fewer cattle, controlled burns, planting trees in cities, protecting vulnerable groups