

## Lesson Plan

### What Happens in the West

**Book:** *The Climate Crisis in the West*

**Series:** The Climate Crisis in America

**Level:** Navigator

### Objective

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

### Supplies

- Several copies of *The Climate Crisis in the West*
- What Happens in the West worksheet (attached)
- Pencils

### Before the Activity

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

### Activity

Divide students into groups of four or five. Give each group a copy of *The Climate Crisis in the West*, and give each student a copy of the worksheet. Explain that each sentence on this worksheet has at least one missing word or phrase. Students should use the information from the book to fill in each blank. Students may work together. Remind students to pay attention to photo captions, fact boxes, and infographics in addition to the main text.

### Evaluation

Collect the worksheets at the end of class. Use the attached answer key to give each student 1 point for each correct answer, for up to 14 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; 5.1, 5.4; 6.4; 7.4).

# What Happens in the West

Each sentence has missing words or phrases. Use the word bank and information from the book to fill in each blank. Each word or phrase in the word bank is only used once.

air	farming	Pacific
atmosphere	greenhouse gases	snowpack
climate	megadrought	soil
electric	Nevada	two
energy	nutrients	

1. \_\_\_\_\_ describes an area's long-term weather patterns.
2. The West's mountains often block moisture from the \_\_\_\_\_ Ocean.
3. The driest US state is \_\_\_\_\_.
4. Controlled fires can release dead plants' \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_.
5. Burning fossil fuels releases \_\_\_\_\_ into the \_\_\_\_\_.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ is a drought that lasts for decades.
7. Wildfire smoke makes \_\_\_\_\_ unsafe to breathe.
8. Using \_\_\_\_\_ cars can decrease the effects of climate change.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ uses most of the water in the West.
10. Buildings can use cooling systems to save \_\_\_\_\_.
11. Coastal areas tend to have \_\_\_\_\_ seasons.
12. In spring, melting \_\_\_\_\_ flows down the mountains.

# What Happens in the West **ANSWER KEY**

Each sentence has missing words or phrases. Use the word bank and information from the book to fill in each blank. Each word or phrase in the word bank is only used once.

air	farming	Pacific
atmosphere	greenhouse gases	snowpack
climate	megadrought	soil
electric	Nevada	two
energy	nutrients	

1. Climate describes an area's long-term weather patterns.
2. The West's mountains often block moisture from the Pacific Ocean.
3. The driest US state is Nevada.
4. Controlled fires can release dead plants' nutrients into the soil.
5. Burning fossil fuels releases greenhouse gases into the atmosphere.
6. A megadrought is a drought that lasts for decades.
7. Wildfire smoke makes air unsafe to breathe.
8. Using electric cars can decrease the effects of climate change.
9. Farming uses most of the water in the West.
10. Buildings can use cooling systems to save energy.
11. Coastal areas tend to have two seasons.
12. In spring, melting snowpack flows down the mountains.