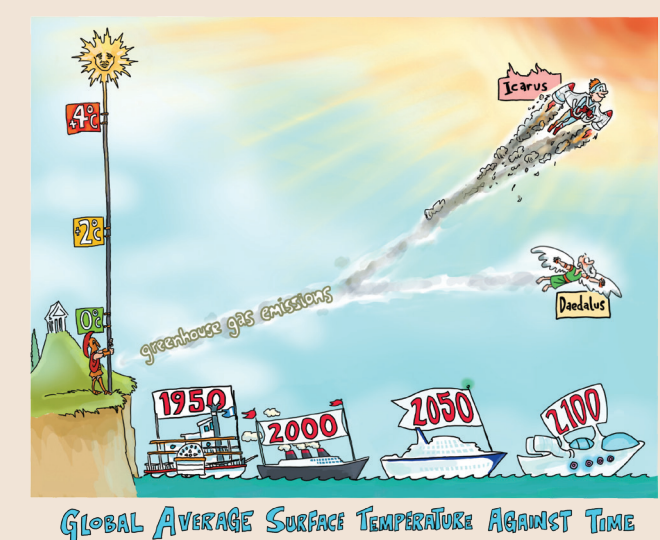


Water, drought and you: find out more...

All droughts are different...



Droughts are more 'hidden' than flooding, usually affecting specific regions in the UK. In 1984, drought occurred in Scotland and in 1995, drought was centred in Yorkshire.



What are the four types of drought?

Meteorological drought



A period with little or no rainfall

Agricultural drought



When the levels of water in the soil are low

Hydrological drought



When the water levels in rivers and lakes are low



When drought impacts on the water supplied to our taps

Will we have more droughts?

Predictions are

- wetter winters
- drier summers
- higher average temperatures for the UK!



Read more: <https://dryutility.info/2080>

Past droughts in the UK

We have had severe droughts in the past but they are not often talked about.

Drought can be 'hidden' unless it impacts on things you are doing - like gardening, fishing, canoeing...



How does drought impact the environment?

Water shortages can have many negative effects

- Some animals find it hard to find food when soil is baked hard



• Salmon cannot migrate when rivers are low

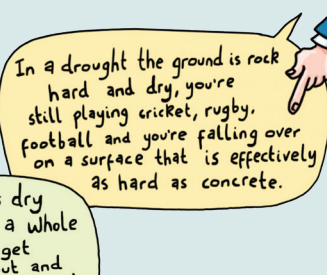
Find out more: <https://dryutility.info/trout>

How can drought affect our health and well-being?

Kath, Eden River Catchment

Find out more: <https://dryutility.info/jobs>

Andrew, Pang River Catchment



Drought affects buildings, too

Total drought costs are often not revealed until later!



Chris in Yate, S. Gloucestershire

Read more: <https://dryutility.info/crack>

Drought myth-busters

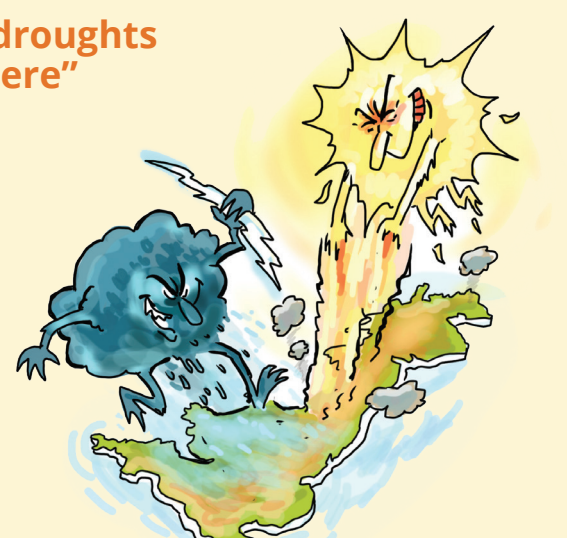
Myth 1 "Water is infinite and free"

Water is relatively cheap as a utility. But water availability varies by location in the UK, season and year. Cleaning and distributing water uses electricity - both have a carbon footprint.



Myth 2 "Britain is wet: droughts don't happen here"

Britain is often thought of as a green, wet island, but as well as being subject to flooding, it is also susceptible to drought.



Myth 3 "Drought only occurs in the summer, when it's hot"

Drought can occur at any time during the year, including in winter when skies are grey...



Myth 4 "Drought is when rivers and reservoirs run dry"



Drought impacts can pass unnoticed

- Hidden under woodlands, soil moisture may be drying up
- Underground, natural stores of water that supply some of our taps may be dwindling

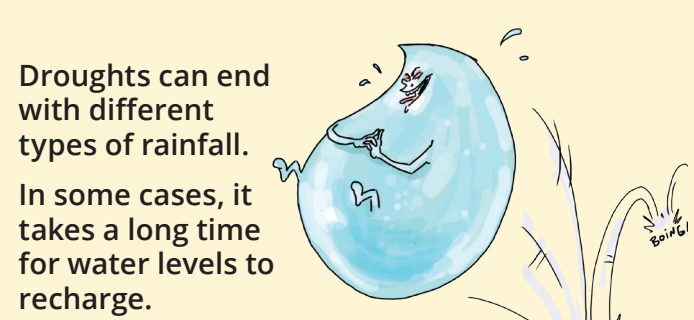
Myth 5 "Rain spells the end of drought"

Substantial and effective rainfall is needed to end a drought. Rain can run quickly off baked soil surfaces.



Myth 6 "All droughts finish with heavy rainfall"

Droughts can end with different types of rainfall. In some cases, it takes a long time for water levels to recharge.



Myth 7 "Floods and droughts cannot occur at the same time"



Myth 8 "Droughts are only short-term problems"



Myth 9 "If you cannot see impending drought, there is no risk or impact"



Drought can be a hidden hazard that sneaks up on people until its impacts become more clearly visible (e.g. green lawns turning yellow).

Myth 10 "Costs of flooding are greater than drought"

Drought can cause severe and costly damage across large regions.

Claims for building subsidence after summer 2018 were four times the previous year.

Read more: <https://dryutility.info/cost>



Myth 11 "Droughts only happen in other countries"

Drought is not just about Australia, California, South Africa - as seen on TV. Different kinds of drought can impact the UK.



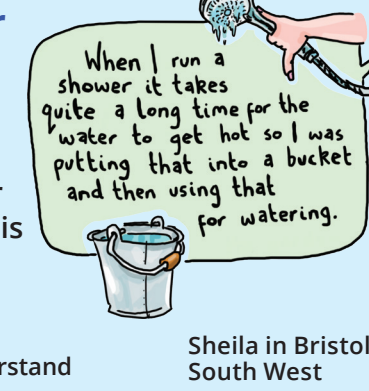
14 ways you can help avoid a drought

1. Shower with a timer rather than bathe!

3 min shower = 42 litres
10 min shower = 140 litres

Flow rates for a power shower could be doubled - so 10 mins is equivalent to a bath!

Read more: <https://dryutility.info/understand>



Sheila in Bristol, South West

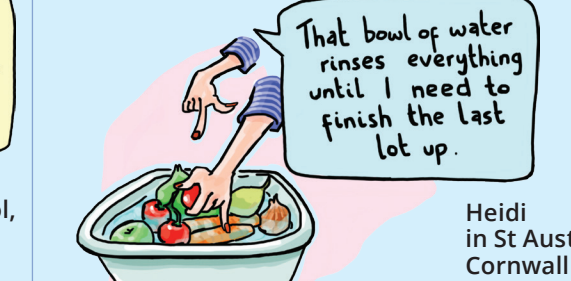
2. Be aware of direct and hidden water use



Rachel in Bristol, South West

Find out more: <https://vimeo.com/383495779>

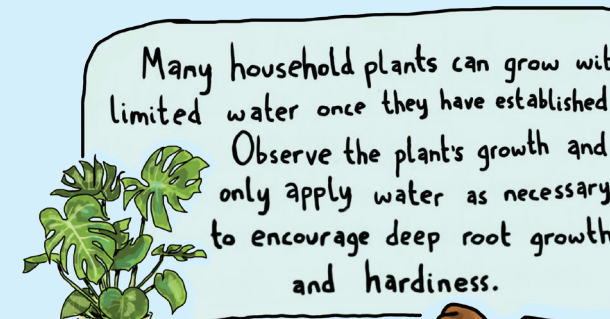
3. Use one bowl of water to wash your fruit and veg, and then water your plants with it



Heidi in St Austell, Cornwall

Read more: <https://dryutility.info/breakfast>

4. Choose drought resistant house plants



Read more on growing plants: <https://dryutility.info/allotment>

5. Want a green lawn in prolonged dry weather?



Read more: <http://dryproject.co.uk/blog>



6. Help farmers - buy wonky veg!

Up to 25% of vegetables are still wasted on appearance grounds.



Read more: <https://dryutility.info/market>

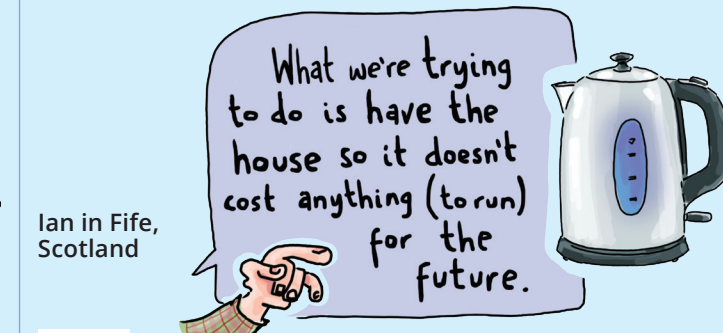
7. What is your water footprint?

Did you know every household item (e.g. food, clothing, furniture, etc.) requires water to manufacture? This quantity of water is the item's 'water footprint'. For example:



Read more: 'Hidden water' quiz <https://dryutility.info/learning>

8. Save on your energy and water bills. Only heat the water you need. Consider water and energy together.



Read more: <https://dryutility.info/bill>

9. Listen to how people from other cultures use and value water



Read more with Bharat's guide to water saving in the garden: <https://dryutility.info/saving>

10. Store water in your garden

Rainwater can be collected and stored in a wide variety of ways from garden water butts to ponds that also help wildlife. That water can then be used to water plants!

Read more: <https://dryutility.info/mitigate>

11. How to save water in the garden

- Avoid using a hosepipe which uses 1,000 litres of water per hour
- Use a watering can and direct water to the base of the plant
- Watering in the early morning and late afternoon reduces evaporation
- Add mulch around plants to save water

Additional resources for growers: <https://dryutility.info/allotment>

12. Neighbourhood solutions: Vegetation can help with water storage



SuDS schemes can help 'slow the flow'. This helps both flooding and droughts.

Read more: <https://dryutility.info/manage>

13. Neighbourhood solutions: Why is watering community trees important?

- Young trees and shrubs (less than 5 years old) need watering in dry periods
- Give young local trees some love during dry periods by watering them regularly

Read more: <https://dryutility.info/trees>

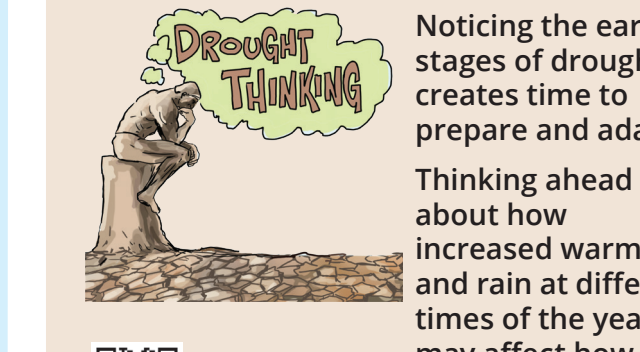
14. How do you look after pets in drought and heatwaves?

- Keep pets in cool, shady areas
- Provide plenty of fresh, cool water
- Warmer weather is a prime time for fleas and ticks



Read more: <https://dryutility.info/dog>

What is 'drought thinking'?



Read more: <https://dryutility.info/cracks>

We can all play our part

The Waterwise campaign 'Water's worth saving' aims to raise awareness of the importance of water and the role everyone plays in protecting it. Find out more at: watersworthsaving



Read more: <https://dryutility.info/waterwise>

Share the DRY Primary book #DRYPrimarybook

Read how an ordinary schoolgirl in the UK transforms into a water superhero when a summer and winter with little rainfall lead to drought. What can you do to save water?

The book can be downloaded in English or Welsh for free from: <https://dryutility.info/learning>



Household Quiz*

How much water do you use:

- Q1. Flushing the toilet?
- Q2. Taking a shower?
- Q3. Washing clothes?
- Q4. Using the dishwasher?
- Q5. Total household consumption in a week?

Check your water meter or do some calculations. Make some comparisons...

Read more: <https://dryutility.info/appliances> (see Appendix)

Look at our resources for schools

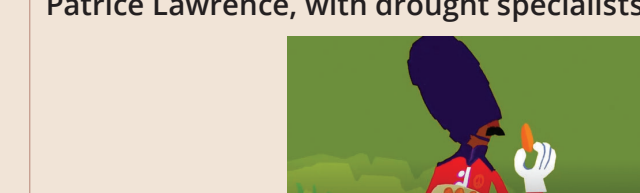
DRY worked with the Geographical Association to develop learning resources about UK drought. These promote creative thinking about how to reduce water use at home and in school.



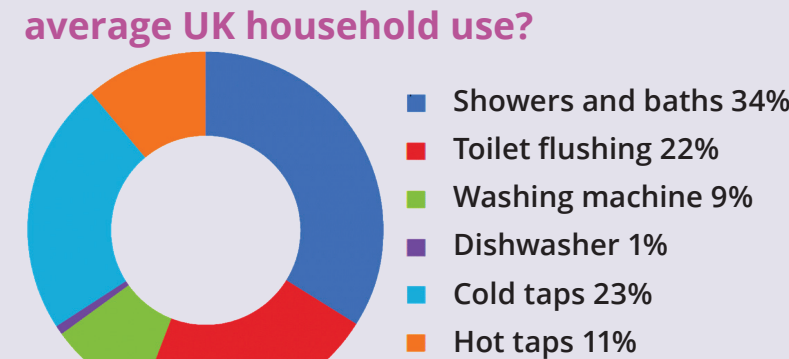
Read more: <https://dryutility.info/school>

Read a drought story: 'Day Zero and Chips'

DRY collaborated with the Hay on Wye Literary Festival to communicate the possible impacts of UK droughts to a wide audience. This involved pairing award-winning author, Patrice Lawrence, with drought specialists.



How much water does the average UK household use?



Read more: <https://dryutility.info/appliances>

Save on bills with water efficient products



Read more: <https://dryutility.info/meter>



Want to hear more drought stories?

Search the DRY Story Bank which contains hundreds of stories about drought and water behaviours collected from across the UK:

<https://dryutility.info/story-bank>

#MapYourDrought

In the DRY project, we want to understand how different activities and places in the UK experience dryness and drought.

Why not upload your photographs of what dryness looks and feels like in your local area?

Upload to: <https://dryutility.info/mapmydrought>

* Results for average UK household; A1. 7 litres per flush; A2. 42 litres per shower; A3. 50 litres per cycle; A4. 15 litres per load, A5. 2,500 litres per week

