



Pre-Reading Activities

A: Prediction

Read the headline of today's article:

Australian Thieves Steal Water

steal - to take something secretly that doesn't belong to you

In groups, think about today's article and answer the questions below:

1. What is the weather like in Australia? What is it like in summer?
2. Why are the thieves stealing water?

B: Vocabulary

Match the words with their meanings below.

crime; century; drought; authorization; fine; damage

1. A long period of time without any rain.
2. To have the authority or power to do something.
3. To break or harm something.
4. 100 years.
5. Something that someone does that is against the law.
6. Money that you must pay because you have done something wrong.

Reading Activities

A: Reading for Gist

Read the first part of today's article and answer these questions:

1. Who are the thieves selling the water to?
2. Why?

Australian Thieves Steal Water

SYDNEY Tue Nov 26 (Reuters) - Thieves are stealing water from rivers and selling it to Australian farmers. The farmers are fighting one of the worst droughts in a century, officials said on Tuesday. (Continued/...)

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B: Using Pictures

1. Look at the picture below. What does it show? Work in pairs and talk about it.
2. Now answer these questions using the whole article.
 - a. What do the thieves carry the water in?
 - b. How much will the thieves have to pay if the police catch them?
 - c. Where in Australia are the thieves stealing the water?

Australian Thieves Steal Water

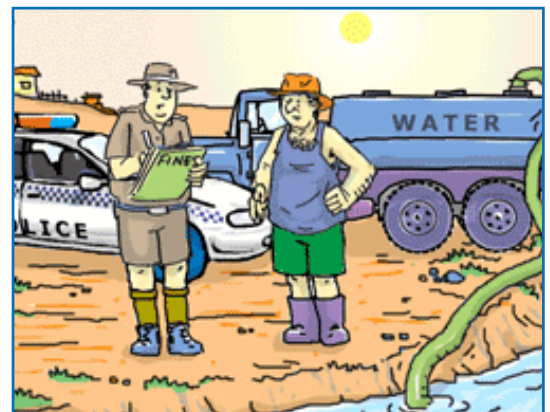
SYDNEY Tue Nov 26 (Reuters) - Thieves are stealing water from rivers and selling it to Australian farmers. The farmers are fighting one of the worst droughts in a century, officials said on Tuesday.

Queensland state Natural Resources Minister Stephen Robertson said his department was checking 146 complaints. He said there were reports of some people filling tanker trucks with water to sell to farmers in areas of drought.

Taking water without authorization is a crime in Queensland with a fine of A\$124,000 (US\$69,000).

A very serious drought has damaged farms. It has halved the winter wheat crop and it may stop the planting of the summer sorghum crop. The drought may last into 2003.

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C: Categories

Read the article again and find all the words to do with crime and farming and list them below. (You may use your dictionary if you need to.)

| |
|-----------------|
| Crime: |
| Farming: |

Compare your list in pairs.

D: Reading for Detail

Read the words from today's article and choose the best answer for each question.

"The farmers are fighting **one of the worst droughts in a century**, ..."

1. **...one of the worst droughts in a century** in this sentence means...
 - a. in a hundred years there has been one very bad drought.
 - b. in a hundred years there have been no bad droughts.
 - c. in a hundred years there have been some very bad droughts and this is one of those droughts.

"...said his department was checking 146 **complaints**."

2. **complaints** in this sentence means...
 - a. to dislike something.
 - b. when people say or write that they don't like something or are angry about something.
 - c. to finish something that you didn't like doing.

"...there were **reports** of some people filling tanker trucks with water..."

3. **reports** in this sentence means...
 - a. the news.
 - b. a person.
 - c. things that someone says or writes about things that have happened.

"Taking water without authorization is a crime in Queensland with a **fine** of A\$124,000 (US\$69,000)."

4. **fine** in this sentence means...
 - a. nice weather.
 - b. to feel good.
 - c. to pay money as a punishment.

"**A very serious drought** has damaged farms."

5. **a very serious drought** in this sentence means...
 - a. a very good drought.
 - b. an important drought.
 - c. a very bad drought.

"It has halved the winter wheat crop and it may stop the planting of the summer sorghum **crop**."

6. **crop** in this sentence means...
 - a. to cut somebody's hair short.
 - b. plants that are grown for food.
 - c. a stick.
7. **it may stop the planting of the summer sorghum crop** means...
 - a. the sorghum crop will be planted this summer.
 - b. the sorghum crop may not be planted this summer.
 - c. the sorghum crop will be planted in winter this year.

E: True or False

Read the article again and decide if the statements are true **T** or false **F**.

1. Thieves are selling water to farmers.
2. Farmers in Australia are having problems with drought.
3. In Queensland everybody can take as much water as they want.
4. The winter wheat crop is bigger than last year's crop.
5. Farmers may have the same problems in 2003.



Post-Reading Activities

You may do one or more of these.

A: Language

Here is today's article but there are some gaps. Fill in the gaps with the words below. Don't look back at the article until you have finished.

a, a, a, the, the, the, and, and, of, of, of, from, in, with

Thieves are stealing water (1)____ rivers (2)____ selling it to Australian farmers. The farmers are fighting one of (3)____ worst droughts in (4)____ century, officials said on Tuesday.

Queensland state Natural Resources Minister Stephen Robertson said his department was checking 146 complaints. He said there were reports (5)____ some people filling tanker trucks (6)____ water to sell to farmers (7)____ areas (8)____ drought.

Taking water without authorization is (9)____ crime in Queensland with (10)____ fine of A\$124,000 (US\$69,000).

A very serious drought has damaged farms. It has halved (11)____ winter wheat crop (12)____ it may stop the planting (13)____ the summer sorghum crop. (14)____ drought may last into 2003.

B: Word Find

Find these words from today's article in the Word Find Puzzle below.

steal, crime, drought, fine, damage, century, farmer, crop, river, check

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Y | P | C | R | I | M | E | B | E |
| L | R | O | B | R | O | F | N | T |
| E | G | U | R | K | P | I | H | S |
| R | K | C | T | C | F | G | M | T |
| E | K | S | F | N | U | H | P | E |
| M | C | B | V | O | E | N | Y | A |
| R | E | X | R | D | T | C | J | L |
| A | H | D | U | R | E | V | I | R |
| F | C | X | E | G | A | M | A | D |

C: Discussion

Answer these questions in small groups.

1. Drought is a serious problem for Australia. What weather problems does your country have?
2. How do people try to solve these problems?
3. What things can cause a drought?
4. The crops in Queensland, Australia are poor because of the drought. Who will be affected by this?

TEACHERS' NOTES AND ANSWER KEY

Pre-Reading Activities

A: Predicting - Notes

You may like to do this activity as a class discussion if you find your students have difficulty with predicting-type activities. Accept a range of answers and do not tell students if they are right or wrong at this stage.

A: Predicting - Answers

1. Answers will vary. Students may know that some parts of Australia have a serious problem with drought.
2. Answers will vary.

B: Vocabulary - Answers

1. drought, 2. authorization, 3. damage, 4. century, 5. crime, 6. fine.

Reading Activities

A: Reading for Gist - Answers

1. Farmers.
2. Because there is a very serious drought.

B: Using Pictures - Answers

2. a. Tanker trucks
b. A\$124,000 (US\$69,000)
c. Queensland

C: Categories - Notes

Students look through the article and find all the words related to the two given topics. They may only find some of them. You could then give them a chance to compare answers in pairs and then go through the words with them quickly.

C: Categories - Suggested Answers

Crime: thieves, stealing, complaints, crime, reports, fine.

Farming: farmers, drought, water, winter wheat crop, planting, farms, summer sorghum crop

D: Reading for Detail - Answers

1. c, 2. b, 3. c, 4. c, 5. c, 6. b, 7. b.

E: True or False - Answers

1. True
2. True
3. False - (people must have authorization)
4. False - (the crop has been halved)
5. True

Post-Reading Activities

A: Language - Answers

1. from, 2. and, 3. the, 4. a, 5. of, 6. with, 7. in, 8. of, 9. a, 10. a, 11. the, 12. and, 13. of, 14. the.

B: Word Find - Answers

